**On Recertification of**

**ComSoc Data Storage Technical Committee**

The Technical Committees Recertification Committee (TCRC) supports recertifying the Data Storage TC. This TC has a good history of activity in a niche area for ComSoc. We will make a formal recommendation to the BoG at *Globecom.*  There are, however, some minor issues that we suggest you address, if possible, in the next couple of weeks. Long term, it would be useful for the TC to brainstorm to devise an approach for increasing the visibility of the TC, both within ComSoc and the IEEE, as well as in the more general DS community.

***WEBSITE***

1.) The website is good and contains useful information for members. The navigation is a bit awkward, and would benefit from an overhaul of the design.

2.) The ComSoc and IEEE logos should be added to the homepage.

3.) The “Call for Papers” page needs updating (the last conference listed is *ICC 2012*).

4.) There is no mention of standards activities on the website. The TCRC suggests adding a section on Standards Activities, and task the Standards Liaison with updating this section.

***MEMBERSHIP***

1.) Your response on the questionnaire leads the TCRC to believe that you just started counting members in 2012. We suggest that the Secretary be charged with making a count of mailing list members on January 1 of each year. The constant number of members is also surprising in light of the recent developments in cloud computing, thin clients, content delivery networks, and software-defined networks. All these topics are strongly related to data storage in carrier networks, and should have a significant impact on the TC and your membership.

2.) The TCRC is concerned that the full list of members (names, email addresses, street addresses in some cases) is available on a public website; no other TC does this. Member privacy is a serious issue, and you should discuss this with ComSoc IT Staff.

3.) What percentage of members are active? Especially given that, on average, there are only 15 attendees at TC meetings.

***CHARTER/POLICIES & PROCEDURES***

No issues.

***CONFERENCES***

No issues.

***PUBLICATIONS***

No issues.

***STANDARDS/INDUSTRY***

There are no industry or standard activities provided on the questionnaire (Question #19), which is surprising given the nature of data storage. The TC should make a strong effort to get more involved in standards activities and to actively recruit industry participation in the TC. At a minimum, the Standards Liaison should provide, a couple of times per year, a report of her interactions with the ComSoc Standards Activities Board.

***COLLABORATION***

No issues.

***AWARDS***

Other TCs have initiated career and service awards. The TC should consider starting similar awards for presentation at TC meetings.

***OTHER***

ComSoc IT Staff will help with your requests for a website template, and with a more visible (and logical) URL. Please contact them directly.