

TO: IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board – February 2022

FROM: Martin Schulman, vTools Committee Chair
Vera Lee Sharoff, MGA Director, Information Management

SUBJECT: vTools Committee Report

Committee Scope

The vTools Committee works with the MGA ITCO and MGA Geographic Unit Operations Support (GUOS) Committees to develop solutions to assist geographic unit volunteers, develop and deliver training modules for developed solutions, and migrate solutions to normal IEEE IT operations. Additionally, it provides technical support to all MGA committees as requested.

Committee Composition

- vTools Chair - **Martin Schulman** (R2, USA)
- vTools Past Chair - **Adriaan Van Wijngaarden** (R1, USA)
- vTools Member - **Augusto Jose Herrera** (R9, Argentina)
- vTools Member - **Andreas Koltes** (R8, Germany)
- vTools Member - **Kung Chi Cinnati Loi** (R7, Canada)
- vTools Member - **Kimball Williams** (R4, USA)

2022 Goals

- Hold joint ITCO/vTools virtual meetings to strengthen cooperation and align technology projects with committees' goals.
- Carry on with work on the vTools portfolio - enhance and grow portfolio, increase adoption of the vTools Collaborate community.
- Investigate ways to assist other IEEE OUs (TAB, Societies, etc.) with vTools and new projects in a shared cost model.
- Research, develop, and pilot new tools to support needs identified by MGA and volunteers.

Accomplishments to Date (Q1, 2022)

General Committee Work

- Welcomed new 2022 vTools committee members. Scheduled a joint ITCO/vTools 2022 kick off meeting with committees' members;

- Continued bi-weekly project status meetings with ITCO and vTools leadership and MGA Director of Information Management.

vTools**Local Groups**

A new system developed to support IEEE Local Groups. First release introduced a web portal for members to request creation of a Local Group:

- Members can [submit a form](#) to request a new Local Group
- Requires section ExCom approval (automated functionality pending)
- Staff receives request, to complete creation of a Local Group

Nominations

A new application to help section volunteers select eligible candidates to be on the ballot for an upcoming election. Features include:

- Section ExCom ability to appoint members to the nomination committee
- Nomination committee to select designations for nominations, and chart the timeline of the nomination process
- Members to self-nominate, and self-petition
- Automated communication with section membership

Events

vTools.Events v6.13.0 has been released on 20 January 2022 and includes the following enhancements:

- Event Report Reminders - following an event, event administrators will receive a reminder to report the event at 3 days and 7 days following the event, with a link directly to report the event
- Event Activity dashboard now supports showing event activity statistics for societies
- ExCom CCs on event report confirmations - when reporting an event, the reporter now has the option of CCing organizational unit and/or section ExCom officers
- Numerous bug fixes and minor improvements

Officer Reporting

- Ability to extend officer term end date
- Allow HKN officers to have 10-year term limit rather than 6

eNotice

- Users can send emails to all or select volunteers of the OU

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Schulman
vTools Committee Chair