

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

### **SunCEC2007 Day 1: 3rd breakout - Myths in networking by Radia Perlman**

There is a special track at the CEC that is called "Luminaries". It's reserved for colleagues that are really capacities on their field. One of these luminaries is person known in the whole industry: Radia Perlman. Most of you will know her as the inventor of the most annoying but equally most butt-saving feature of Ethernet ... the spanning tree protocol.

Her talk was a really enlightening about the past, present and the future in networking. But the best were the endless amount of good examples and stories (i'm only able to paraphrase them):

- Ethernet is not a network ... it's a shared access link layer.
- It's was a good idea that ISO didn't substituted TCP/IP ... because one them is a standard body, the other a protocol.
- She hates HTTP. She thought ASN.1 is too complicated until she saw XML. In her opinion, it's even more complicated than ASN.1 from a computing perspective. Thus any protocol transporting XML over HTTP combines the two most insulting protocols.
- The trend to tunnel much communication about port 80 to be more firewall friendly is indeed firewall hostile, as it prevents the firewalls from properly do it's task
- You should know the problem before you try to solve it. Her best example: When her son was three he cried about a problem with his hand. She kissed it several times and asked him about the problem. He peed on his hand.

It was a really exciting presentation. Many insights from a woman which really knows her stuff.

PS: One of the last point was really insightful, too ... End2End encryption in the Internet would be the end of the world ... well at least the end of the Internet as we know it. The reason is obvious. With encryption you wouldn't be able to look into the communication between a spammer and it's target mail account, thus antispam techniques other than filtering on the client would have no vector to work as they can't look into the mail or mailheaders There wouldn't enough bandwidth to transport the SPAM otherwise filterered out before reaching to many hops in the internet.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, suncec2007 at 06:35

sigh i would love a video from this one  
Anonymous on Oct 11 2007, 14:32

Yes, this talk was really good and insightful. As far as i know all sessions were audio-recorded ...  
Anonymous on Oct 11 2007, 17:33