Technology 2010: Prospect and Inventory

Summary Document

Full document (55 pages) submitted to ACBL Technology Committee.

Summary Document submitted to bod@acbl.org

Full document available to qualified parties on request.

ACBL Technology Committee, 2010.

Richard DeMartino, ACBL President
Ex Officio member

Sandy Arlinghaus, Chair
Bill Arlinghaus, Vice-Chair
Paul Janicki
Claire Jones
Ken Monzingo
Jeff Taylor

The purpose of the full document is to provide a broad view of where the ACBL is at the present time (in terms of technology), what ideas might be considered to improve technological advancement of bridge, and styles of interaction that might lead to such advancement. Thus, this document serves initially as a basis for drawing on the considerable expertise present on this committee to unify suggestions and ideas, and later as a basis to communicate with national/international leaders in the technological world. Long-range planning of the broad technological base is critical if smaller projects within that framework are to move forward effectively and keep pace with the moving target of today's and tomorrow's opportunities.
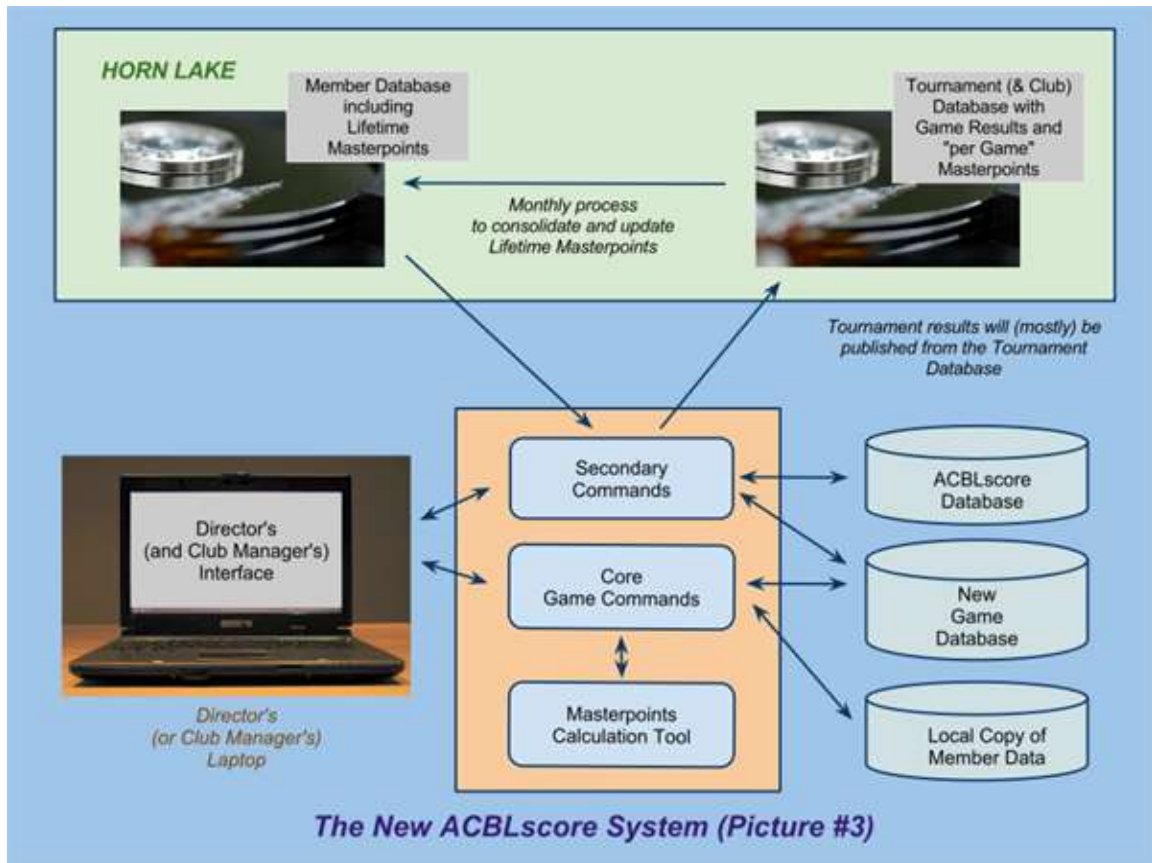
Table of Contents of the Full Document

The full document is structured in modules so that one might read sections of interest and skip over ones of not great interest. Different people will have different interests; technology is a rapidly moving target. Board members have already seen all the materials in the "Inventory" section. Here, they are grouped together for archival reference purposes.

Basically, there are three broad items the Technology Committee dealt with during 2010.

1. ACBL website. Kitty Munson Cooper is now working with Management to take the work submitted by the Technology Committee and produce a new home page based on the navigation and ideas offered in that document. The process is an ongoing one. We foresee a new site that has improved navigation and makes more efficient use of screen real estate. It will also be such that movement from the home page to linked pages will not be jarring to the user; the look and feel will be familiar. Future steps will involve automating the updating of material, now all done by hand. Once automation is in place, and staff trained to manage and maintain the somewhat modified site, then more options can be discussed. Usability tests may also come in the next year to determine any gaps in the generally improved site navigation (with most items one click away from the home page). Kitty is currently working on our site and we expect to see more drafts from her in the near future. This arrangement seems to working well.

2. ACBLscore. Steve Bailey, professional systems analyst, is creating an initial study for management concerning a total revision of ACBLscore that will see an improved version of its score keeping capability that functions well in the current technological environment. He is also looking at other creative options for its use. A strong new program can have the capability to do far more than score keeping. It can serve as the digital heart of the organization. Carefully thought out initial specifications are critical in program development. Steve is an expert in these matters with many years of experience. The image below shows a visual overview of the process. A Steering Committee, appointed by Jay Baum, serves to oversee the development.   The Technology Committee deals broadly with a number of technological issues; the Steering Committee has a single special charge. The Chair of the Technology Committee sits on the Steering Committee so that there is full interaction between these two different, but partially overlapping, committees. The Members of the Steering Committee are: Sandy Arlinghaus, Rich DeMartino, Bill Arlinghaus, Fred Gitelman, Richard Oshlag, Peter Marcus, Doug Grove, Nancy Boyd. Adam Wildavsky serves as a consultant to this Committee.

HORN LAKE

Member Database including Lifetime Masterpoints

Tournament (& Club) Database with Game Results and "per Game" Masterpoints

Monthly process to consolidate and update Lifetime Masterpoints

Tournament results will (mostly) be published from the Tournament Database

Director's (and Club Manager's) Interface

Secondary Commands

Core Game Commands

Masterpoints Calculation Tool

Director's (or Club Manager's) Laptop

ACBLscore Database

New Game Database

Local Copy of Member Data

The New ACBLscore System (Picture #3)

Documents that Steve has created are made available, on appropriate demand, through Google Docs. The collection is quite extensive; some are works in progress while others are more complete. The listing of titles is:

> *Moore's Law, 2015 News Release, Building the New System, Initial Study First Steps, Forum-Open Source Software, Proposal for Rules for Sharing, ACBL Servers, How Do I Save This, Guidelines for Using Google Docs, Open Office, Suggestion Box, New System Picture #1, New System Picture #2, Agile Manifesto, Forum-The Big Printer Question, Forum-Masterpoints Calculation, Masterpoints Calculation, Building the Masterpoints Tool, A Little Browser Magic, Masterpoints Facts, ACBL Score, Initial Study Report #1, Proposal for an Initial Study, Trip Plan, Masterpoints Calculation Data Items, Masterpoints Calculation Data Items [more], Gizmos, Java Apache Derby Database, Building the Director's Interface, Masterpoints Facts Rev., Game-Commands in ACBLScore, The Economist, Bridge Scoring Programs, ACBLscore Picture #1, New System Picture #3, ACBLscore in Two Parts, Data item list, New Game Database Size, What is a Database?, Deploying the New System, Deploying the New System Rev, Project Estimate #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, Chronology, Building a Smaller System, Club Needs.*

3. Chief Technology Officer. Jay Baum agrees that having such a person to oversee ACBL Technology issues, needs, and desires, is an important idea. That person need not relocate but might well take advantage of the fine infrastructure available throughout

our nation as well as in the new building in Horn Lake. A brief conversation among Sandy, Bill, and Fred Gitelman elicited this response in regard to the wisdom of the ACBL adding a Chief Technology Officer, who would oversee all tech matters from ACBL Score, to websites, to…use imagination!

> Hi Sandy,
>
> It was nice to meet you in person in Orlando.
>
> I also agree that the ACBL would rate to benefit from having a CTO-type on staff. One thing to consider is how important (or if it is important at all) that candidates know something about bridge.
>
> Of course I would be happy to look over the job description Jay comes up with….
>
> Regards, Fred

The Technology Committee did not address the matter of funding such a position as that is not really within our purview.   Our concern was to recommend the need for such a position to Management and we have done that—we do not think that such an individual would need to relocate in order to be effective. We also offer communication aid in contacting talented ACBL members who might assist in evaluating a position announcement or in suggesting potential candidates. To that end, Gitelman (and perhaps others he knows) are valuable contacts. To get a general idea of what such a job ad might be, look online for job descriptions of this sort; a typical example is linked [here](#). Be sure, also to factor in a statement requiring (or not requiring) some level of knowledge of duplicate bridge.

There is a great deal of extra information available. This summary represents the tip of the iceberg. Moving forward in constructive and creative ways in our exciting technological world is now, and will continue to be, an important challenge.