



Overview of Annual Conference Changes for 2016

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Introduction

Whether you are a first time attendee or a conference veteran, there are several changes this year intended to make your conference experience even more valuable through a more unified conference. Changes are based on feedback from prior conferences in support of that goal.

Summary of changes

1. A single abstract submission site instead of separate sites for ISERC and Applied Solutions
2. Standard abstract selection criteria for all abstracts
3. Consolidated and unified track listing
4. Increased use of meta tags and better search capability
5. All activity in session rooms requires an abstract
6. Standard presentation durations
7. Reduced number of pages for ISERC papers

Change 1: A single abstract submission site instead of separate sites for ISERC and Applied Solutions

Based on feedback from previous conferences, many attendees don't even realize there are two types of sessions. Industrial and Systems Engineering Research Sessions (ISERC) sessions are a forum for exchanging knowledge and discoveries in the industrial and systems engineering research community. Applied Solutions sessions present proven solutions from applications of industrial and systems engineering principles from industry.

This year, whether an industry submitter or from academia, you'll log into the abstract site from a single prompt. Returning submitters can use the same credentials as last year. New submitters can quickly create a new account. These credentials are required to submit an abstract, make changes, and upload your presentation, if accepted.

Change 2: Standard abstract selection criteria for all abstracts

Last year, to insure consistency in the review process, the Applied Solutions conference chairs began using evaluation criteria to objectively score each submitted abstract. This year the criteria have been modified to work for both Applied Solutions and ISERC. Abstracts will be graded on the following attributes as track chairs evaluate whether to accept or reject abstracts:

- Significance of Results / Call to Action
- Contribution to IE Discipline / IE tools used
- Methodology
- Overall Impression

The intention of adding these criteria is to help authors better organize their abstracts to improve quality and help reviewers to make targeted/constructive comments. ISERC abstracts will be evaluated primarily based on the research content (same as past years), while Applied Solution abstracts will be evaluated based on their industry applicability (same criteria used last year). We do not intend for the new criteria to make it more difficult to get an abstract accepted, but believe these changes will help to improve the quality of abstracts and their associated presentations.

Change 3: Consolidated and unified track listing

Feedback from past conferences indicates attendees sometimes struggle to choose which sessions to attend since each session is scheduled in only one track. For example, a talk in the aerospace track might discuss simulation, but may only attract people interested in aerospace by virtue of the track designation. Similarly, the range of track themes (industries, topics, and groups) creates pockets of special interest that may divert from the main focus of the conference: industrial engineering.

This year, both Applied Solutions and ISERC will use a common set of 21 “tracks” that align to industrial engineering capabilities and/or societies and divisions within the institute. This new process helps keep the main focus of the conference on industrial engineering and will be used primarily to assist conference chairs in the scheduling process.

Change 4: Increased use of meta tags and better search capability

Feedback from the 2015 annual conference was not kind to the conference app’s lackluster search capability. This year, search functionality will work across all fields submitted with an abstract. In addition to tracks, submitters will choose an application area and a topic from two separate drop-down lists. Application areas can also be thought of as industry sector. Select the application area that best represents your topic. If the subject of the talk can be applied to multiple sectors, select the one corresponding to the ideal audience. The topic selector allows abstracts to be associated to informal groups within IIE or to other skills not specific to industrial engineering such as leadership.

This should make finding a talk of interest to you easier than ever—especially if you are using the conference app. Since application area and topic are separate meta tags, attendees have more ways to search and can use a combination of author, application area, topic, and group affiliation. Talks that would have been previously unseen using a single track assignment will now be displayed based on search results, using multiple criteria.

In addition to structured meta tags, there is also an opportunity to add additional presentation keywords separated by commas. In order to maximize your presentation’s exposure in search results, it is recommended that you use keywords not already selected in one of the structured categories.

Change 5: All activity in session rooms require an abstract

In past years, oral presentations were mixed together on the schedule with special sessions like panel discussions and town hall meetings. Town hall meetings were often scheduled separately from other talks and thus did not have abstracts. With enhanced search capabilities made possible by the web and smart phone apps, all activity taking place in a session room during the conference must be represented by an abstract. This insures that all activity is scheduled, avoids double booking a room, and makes it easier to find special sessions in searches. Submitters will make this designation by selecting a presentation type.

Change 6: Standard presentation durations

Standardizing conference activities becomes more important as we create a more unified attendee experience. In the past, sessions of 75 minutes contained talks of varying durations. The durations were not always consistent between ISERC and Applied Solutions. This year, standard oral presentations will default to 17 minutes for ISERC and 35 minutes for Applied Solutions. Only special session talks will be scheduled for 75 minutes.

Change 7: Reduced number of pages for ISERC papers

The maximum numbers of pages of ISERC papers are now reduced to six (6) pages. In the past, 10-page papers were very detailed and often hard to convert to journal-quality papers without self-plagiarism. In fact, it was discovered that many authors were unknowingly self-plagiarizing. We are asking authors to write their papers concisely while addressing the major criteria described above in change 2.

[Submit your abstract now!](#)