CrossCheck and Conference Proceedings:
What Conference Organizers Need To Know About Accessing and Using CrossCheck

To help protect the quality reputation it is known for, IEEE has agreed that all periodical and conference content intended for publication in IEEE Xplore must be screened for possible plagiarism. To assist conference organizers and publication editors fulfill this required policy, IEEE provides free access to CrossCheck, an easy to use, premier plagiarism detection tool. Organizers are encouraged and requested to check all submissions prior to review.

1. What is CrossCheck?

CrossCheck is a plagiarism detection tool that compares submitted manuscripts against a very large database of published technical papers (in addition to over 6 billion Web pages), and provides editors with a summary report that highlights the similarity to previously published work. The publisher can then follow up to isolate and review the high-scoring papers as necessary.

Plagiarism detection systems are only as effective as the amount and quality of the source content within them. CrossCheck’s significant advantage over all other similar services is that it includes the indexed, full-text content of participating CrossCheck member publishers.

2. How can conference organizers get to use CrossCheck?

There are two ways conference organizers can take advantage of CrossCheck:

1. Through a vendor’s paper management system or
2. Via direct use of the IEEE CrossCheck Portal (see below for more info).

3. Why are conference organizers encouraged to use CrossCheck as early as possible during the manuscript review process?

Because CrossCheck detects similar content that may turn out to be problematic, IEEE strongly suggests that organizers screen their authors’ manuscripts at the time of submission. This will allow organizers to:

1. Respect the time and energy of volunteers involved in the review and the conference organization process (reviewers, the program committee, and the conference organizing committee) by allowing them to put their efforts into handling legitimate papers.
2. Ensure the quality of the conference proceedings that is distributed to attendees.
4. What could happen if CrossCheck is not used at submission?
If a conference organizer should choose not to use CrossCheck at manuscript submission time, the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Office staff will be required to run CrossCheck when the final conference content is submitted to IEEE Xplore. This entails several potential downsides:
- Any cases of plagiarism that are discovered at this point must be investigated while the suspected papers are withheld from IEEE Xplore. Full investigations can typically take up to 10 hours of a volunteer’s time, not to mention all the worry and work that usually goes into a full review.
- This can compromise the integrity of a conference, due to the discrepancy between the papers published in the proceedings and those appearing in Xplore.
- Waste of precious reviewer’s time to review a paper which may end up not being posted in IEEE Xplore.
- Plagiarized content was allowed to be presented at an IEEE conference, with obvious damage to the reputation of the event and the organizers.
- When a paper is removed in a pre-Xplore check, even if investigation recommends reinstatement, the paper will no longer be handled by a third-party indexing service.

5. Who is available to help?
IEEE IPR Office staff is ready to help review the results of your manuscript submissions to CrossCheck. The IEEE IPR Office has dedicated staff to assist in the review of all similarity results. In particular, IPR staff will provide conference organizers with a thorough summary of the types of problems found (such as plagiarism or multiple submissions) and advise on any actions that may need to be taken.

Where can conferences organizers find more information?

Learn about CrossCheck and register to access the IEEE CrossCheck Portal

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