



Announcement and Call for Participation

21st Large Installation System Administration Conference (LISA '07)

Sponsored by USENIX and SAGE

<http://www.usenix.org/lisa07>

November 11–16, 2007

Dallas, TX, USA

Important Dates

Extended abstract and paper submissions due: *May 14, 2007*

Invited talk proposals due: *May 21, 2007*

Notification to authors: *June 27, 2007*

Final papers due: *August 20, 2007*

Poster proposals due: *September 3, 2007*

Notification to poster presenters: *September 17, 2007*

Conference Organizers

Program Chair

Paul Anderson, *University of Edinburgh*

Program Committee

Charlie Catlett, *NSF Teragrid Project*

William Cheswick, *Consultant, cheswick.com*

Alva Couch, *Tufts University*

Æleen Frisch, *Exponential Consulting*

Peter Baer Galvin, *Corporate Technologies, Inc.*

Andrew Hume, *AT&T Labs—Research*

William LeFebvre, *Independent Consultant*

Adam Moskowitz, *Menlo Computing*

Sanjai Narain, *Telcordia Technologies*

Melanie Rieback, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Kent Skaar, *Bladelogic*

Chad Verbowski, *Microsoft Research*

Invited Talk Coordinators

Rudi van Drunen, *Competa IT/Xlexit*

Doug Hughes, *D.E. Shaw Research, LLC*

Workshops Coordinator

Lee Damon, *University of Washington*

Guru Is In Coordinators

Philip Kizer, *Estacado Systems*

John “Rowan” Littell, *California College of the Arts*

Hit the Ground Running Track Coordinator

Adam Moskowitz, *Menlo Computing*

Work-in-Progress Reports and Posters Coordinator

Brent Hoon Kang, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

Overview

For twenty years, the annual LISA conference has been the foremost worldwide gathering for everyone interested in the technical and administrative issues of running a large computing facility. The distinctive blend of principles and practice makes this the meeting place of choice for a wide range of participants:

- Experienced administrators meeting their peers to discuss the latest tools and techniques, or junior administrators taking tutorials from worldwide experts.

- Practicing system administrators, managers, consultants, educators, and students.
 - Researchers in computer science or human factors looking to test their ideas on real-world problems.
 - People from business, government, or academia, in over 30 different countries.
 - Specialists in areas such as security, configuration, networking, or autonomies, as well as general system administrators.
 - People working at sites with tens of machines or tens of thousands of machines.
 - Administrators working with a wide range of operating systems from Linux and the BSD releases to vendor-specific systems such as Solaris, Windows, Mac OS, HP-UX, and AIX.
- All of these people have a role to play in contributing to the unique character of the LISA conference, and there are many ways for you to participate:

- Submit a draft paper or extended abstract for a refereed paper.
- Propose a tutorial topic.
- Suggest an invited talk speaker or topic.
- Share your experience by leading a Guru Is In session.
- Submit a proposal for a workshop.
- **New!** Submit a poster.
- Present a Work-in-Progress Report (WiP).
- Organize a Birds-of-a-Feather (BoF) session.
- Email an idea to the program chair.

Refereed Papers

Effective administration of a large site requires a good understanding of modern tools and techniques, together with their underlying principles—but the human factors involved in managing and applying these technologies in a production environment are equally important. Bringing together theory and practice is an important goal of the LISA conference, and practicing system administrators, as well as academic researchers, all have valuable contributions to make. A selection of possible topics for refereed papers appears in a separate section below, but submissions are welcome on any aspect of system administration, from the underlying theory of a new configuration technique to a case study on the management of a successful site merger.

Whatever the topic, it is most important that papers present results in the context of current practice and previous work: they should provide references to related work and make specific comparisons where appropriate. Papers should also contain work that is different from anything that has been published previously. Careful searching for publications on a similar theme will help to identify any possible duplication and provide pointers to related work; the USENIX site contains most previous LISA conference proceedings,

which may provide a starting point when searching for related publications: <http://www.usenix.org/events/byname/lisa.html>.

Proposal and Submission Details

Anyone who would like help in writing a proposal should contact the program chair at lisa07chair@usenix.org. The conference organizers are keen to make sure that good work gets published, and we are happy to help at any stage in the process.

Proposals may be submitted as draft papers or extended abstracts.

- **Draft papers:** This is the preferred format. A draft paper proposal is limited to 16 pages, including diagrams, figures, references, and appendices. It should be a complete or near-complete paper, so that the Program Committee has the best possible understanding of your ideas and presentation.
- **Extended abstracts:** An extended abstract proposal should be about 5 pages long (at least 500 words, not counting figures and references) and should include a brief outline of the final paper. The form of the full paper must be clear from your abstract. The Program Committee will be attempting to judge the quality of the final paper from your abstract. This is harder to do with extended abstracts than with the preferred form, draft papers, so your abstract must be as helpful as possible in this process to be considered for acceptance.

Paper authors are also invited to submit posters, as outlined below, to accompany their presentations; these provide an overview of the work and a focal point for delegates to meet with the author.

As with most conferences and journals, LISA requires that papers not be submitted simultaneously to more than one conference or publication and that submitted papers not be previously or subsequently published elsewhere for a certain period of time.

General submission rules:

- All submissions must be electronic, in ASCII or PDF format only. Proposals must be submitted using the Web form located on the LISA '07 Call for Papers Web site, <http://www.usenix.org/lisa07/cfp>.
- Submissions containing trade secrets or accompanied by nondisclosure agreement forms are not acceptable and will be returned unread. As a matter of policy, all submissions are held in the highest confidence prior to publication in the conference proceedings. They will be read by Program Committee members and a select set of designated external reviewers.
- Submissions whose main purpose is to promote a commercial product or service will not be accepted.
- Submissions may be submitted only by the author of the paper. No third-party submissions will be accepted.
- All accepted papers must be presented at the LISA conference by at least one author. One author per paper will receive a registration discount of \$200. USENIX will offer a complimentary registration for the technical program upon request.
- Authors of an accepted paper must provide a final paper for publication in the conference proceedings. Final papers are limited to 16 pages, including diagrams, figures, references, and appendices. Complete instructions will be sent to the authors of accepted papers. To aid authors in creating a paper suitable for LISA's audience, authors of accepted proposals will be assigned one or more shepherds to help with the process of completing the paper. The shepherds will read one or more intermediate drafts and provide comments before the authors complete the final draft.
- Simultaneous submission of the same work to multiple venues, submission of previously published work, and plagiarism constitute dishonesty or fraud. USENIX, like other scientific and

technical conferences and journals, prohibits these practices and may, on the recommendation of a program chair, take action against authors who have committed them. In some cases, to ensure the integrity of papers under consideration, program committees may share information about submitted papers with other conference chairs and journal editors. If a violation of these principles is found, sanctions may include, but are not limited to, barring the authors from submitting to or participating in USENIX conferences for a set period, contacting the authors' institutions, and publicizing the details of the case. Authors uncertain whether their submission meets USENIX's guidelines should contact the program chair, lisa07chair@usenix.org, or the USENIX office, submissionspolicy@usenix.org.

For administrative reasons, every submission must list:

1. Paper title, and names, affiliations, and email addresses of all authors. Indicate each author who is a full-time student.
2. The author who will be the contact for the Program Committee. Include his/her name, affiliation, paper mail address, daytime and evening phone numbers, email address, and fax number (as applicable).

For more information, please consult the detailed author guidelines at <http://www.usenix.org/events/lisa07/cfp/guidelines.html>.

Paper and extended abstract submissions are due May 14, 2007. Authors will be notified by June 27 whether their papers have been accepted.

Training Program

LISA offers state-of-the-art tutorials from top experts in their fields. Topics cover every level from introductory to highly advanced. You can choose from over 50 full- and half-day tutorials ranging from performance tuning through Linux, Solaris, Windows, Perl, Samba, network troubleshooting, security, network services, filesystems, backups, Sendmail, spam, and legal issues, to professional development.

To provide the best possible tutorial offerings, USENIX continually solicits proposals and ideas for new tutorials. If you are interested in presenting a tutorial or have an idea for a tutorial you would like to see offered, please contact the Training Program Coordinator, Daniel V. Klein, at tutorials@usenix.org.

Invited Talks

An invited talk discusses a topic of general interest to attendees. Unlike a refereed paper, this topic need not be new or unique but should be timely and relevant or perhaps entertaining. A list of suggested topics is available in a separate section below. An ideal invited talk is approachable and possibly controversial. The material should be understandable by beginners, but the conclusions may be disagreed with by experts. Invited talks should be 60–70 minutes long, and speakers should plan to take 20–30 minutes of questions from the audience.

Invited talk proposals should be accompanied by an abstract of less than one page in length describing the content of the talk. You can also propose a panel discussion topic. It is most helpful to us if you suggest potential panelists. Proposals of a business development or marketing nature are not appropriate. Speakers must submit their own proposals; third-party submissions, even if authorized, will be rejected.

Please email your proposal to lisa07it@usenix.org. **Invited talk proposals are due May 21, 2007.**

The Guru Is In Sessions

Everyone is invited to bring perplexing technical questions to the experts at LISA's unique Guru Is In sessions. These informal gatherings are organized around a single technical area or topic. Email suggestions for Guru Is In sessions or your offer to be a Guru to lisa07guru@usenix.org.

Workshops

One-day workshops are hands-on, participatory, interactive sessions where small groups of system administrators have an opportunity to discuss a topic of common interest. Workshops are not intended as tutorials, and participants normally have significant experience in the appropriate area, enabling discussions at a peer level. However, attendees with less experience often find workshops useful and are encouraged to discuss attendance with the workshop organizer.

A workshop proposal should include the following information:

- Title
- Objective
- Organizer name(s) and contact information
- Potential attendee profile
- Outline of potential topics

Please email your proposal to lisa07workshops@usenix.org.

New in 2007: Posters

This year's conference will include a poster session. This is an opportunity to display a poster describing recent work. The posters will be on display during the conference, and fixed times will be advertised when authors should be present to discuss their work with anyone who is interested. This provides a very good opportunity to make contact with other people who may be interested in the same area. Student posters, as well as practitioners sharing their experiences, are particularly welcome. For further information or to submit details of a poster, send email to lisa07posters@usenix.org before September 3, 2007. Accepted poster authors will be notified by September 17, and completed posters will be required by the start of the conference. Poster presenters who would also like to give a short presentation may also register for a WiP (see below).

Work-in-Progress Reports (WiPs)

A Work-in-Progress Report (WiP) is a very short presentation about current work. It is a great way to poll the LISA audience for feedback and interest. We are particularly interested in presentations of student work. To schedule a short presentation, send email to lisa07wips@usenix.org or sign up on the first day of the technical sessions.

Birds-of-a-Feather Sessions (BoFs)

Birds-of-a-Feather sessions (BoFs) are informal gatherings organized by attendees interested in a particular topic. BoFs will be held in the evening. BoFs may be scheduled in advance by emailing bofs@usenix.org. BoFs may also be scheduled at the conference.

Possible Topics for Authors and Speakers

Technical Challenges

- Authentication and authorization: "Single-signon" technologies, identity management
- Autonomic computing: Self-repairing systems, zero administration systems, fail-safe design
- Configuration management: Specification languages, configuration deployment
- Data center design: Modern methods, upgrading old centers

- Email: Mail infrastructures, spam prevention
- Grid computing: Management of grid fabrics and infrastructure
- Mobile computing: Supporting and managing laptops and remote communications
- Multiple platforms: Integrating and supporting multiple platforms (e.g., Linux, Windows, Macintosh)
- Networking: New technologies, network management
- Security: Malware and virus prevention, security technologies and procedures
- Standards: Enabling interoperability of local and remote services and applications
- Storage: New storage technologies, remote filesystems, backups, scaling
- Web 2.0 technologies: Using, supporting and managing wikis, blogs, and other Web 2.0 applications
- Virtualization: Managing and configuring virtualized resources

Professional Challenges

- Communication: Tools and procedures for improving communication among administrators and users
- Consolidation: Merging and standardizing infrastructures and procedures
- Devolution: Managing dependence on devolved services (calendars, mail, Web 2.0, etc.) and users
- Flexibility: Responding effectively to changes in technology and business demands
- In-house development: The (dis)advantages and pitfalls of in-house technology development
- Legislation: Security, privacy
- Management: The interface and transition between "technical" and "managerial"
- Metrics: Measuring and analyzing the effectiveness of technologies and procedures
- Outsourcing/offshoring system administration: Is it possible?
- Proactive administration: Transitioning from a reactive culture
- Standardizing methodologies: Sharing best practice
- Training and staff development: Developing and retaining good system administrators
- User support: Systems and procedures for supporting users

Contact the Chair

The program chair, Paul Anderson, is always open to new ideas that might improve the conference. Please email any and all ideas to lisa07ideas@usenix.org.

Final Program and Registration Information

Complete program and registration information will be available in August 2007 at the conference Web site, <http://www.usenix.org/lisa07>. If you would like to receive the latest USENIX conference information, please join our mailing list at <http://www.usenix.org/about/mailling.html>.

Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities

The oldest and largest conference exclusively for system administrators presents an unparalleled marketing and sales opportunity for sponsoring and exhibiting organizations. Your company will gain both mind share and market share as you present your products and services to a prequalified audience that heavily influences the purchasing decisions of your targeted prospects. For more details please contact exhibits@usenix.org.