

2026 Election for USENIX Board of Directors

Candidates' Statements



USENIX

THE ADVANCED COMPUTING
SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

Candidate for President



William Enck

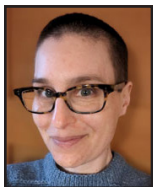
I am honored to be nominated to serve as the next President of the USENIX Board of Directors. As Vice President, I led and co-led many initiatives to define and refine policies and guidelines for USENIX's academic conferences. I also served as the USENIX representative on the Computing Research Association (CRA) Board of Directors. As President, I will build on this foundation of knowledge and experience as I consider the organization as a whole.

The computing community is in a state of uncertainty and change, and conference attendees are becoming more strategic about which events they attend. Simultaneously, submissions to USENIX's academic conferences continue to rise. As an organization, we must continue to hold the best events. While doing so, we must be creative and explore ways to ensure financial sustainability, avoid volunteer burnout, and uphold USENIX ideals.

I cannot pretend to have the answers to these hard questions. However, I can promise unwavering dedication to the organization, openness to ideas, and collaboration with the USENIX staff. I seek your support not only in this election, but also in ensuring USENIX's vibrancy for years to come.

Biography: William Enck is the Goodnight Distinguished Professor in Security Sciences in the Department of Computer Science at the North Carolina State University where he is co-director of the Secure Computing Institute (SCI) and director of the Wolfpack Security and Privacy Research (WSPR) Lab. His research uses a range of systems design, program analysis, and empirical studies to demonstrate how novel techniques and tools can improve the security of computing systems.

Candidate for Vice President



Lea Kissner

USENIX is a critically valuable community to our field and to the world because it brings together people and their ideas from different sectors (academia, industry, civil society, and government), different backgrounds, and strives to give all of us access to share with and learn from the smartest people in our field. That's a legacy to be honored and built on.

USENIX must continue to focus on sustainability. If you look at our numbers, the change in conference attendance has been deeply challenging, even after the lockdowns finished. Economic headwinds for industry and funding challenges for academia make this even more challenging to handle. At the same time, we should build on the history of supporting access to conferences and publications for people for whom they would otherwise be out of reach, including grants and a robust, truly open access policy.

I have run multiple USENIX conferences, including everything from fundraising to chairing a PC. I am the co-founder of PEPR, the first conference about privacy engineering in practice, have served as the co-chair of the PC for Enigma, as well as having been on the PC, and published in multiple other USENIX conferences.

Biography: Lea is the CISO of LinkedIn. They work to build respect for users into products and systems through deeply integrated security and privacy. They were previously the CISO and Head of Privacy Engineering at Twitter, Global Lead of Privacy Technology at Google, came in to fix security and privacy at Zoom, CISO of Lacework, and CPO of Humu. They earned a Ph.D. in computer science (with a focus on cryptography) at Carnegie Mellon University and a B.S. in electrical engineering and computer science from UC Berkeley.

Candidate for Secretary



Sujata Banerjee

It has been my honor to serve the USENIX community as a board member for the last two years, which included the important milestone of USENIX turning 50! I have long experienced USENIX events from the other side—as a research paper author, conference participant, NSDI co-chair, and steering committee member. As a board member, I have increased appreciation for USENIX's important role as well as the challenges in the dynamic computing research ecosystem. USENIX's role in fostering innovation and inclusion, providing open access to research results, and strengthening ties between industry, academia, and other research focused organizations such as ACM, IEEE, and CRA, remains as important as ever. Computing research conferences continue to be very important forums to gather our community members and make progress on challenging research problems. However, their nature is evolving as the research community grows to include new topics, finds new ways to collaborate, and addresses interdisciplinary problems. USENIX will need to continue to adapt and evolve in collaboration with the overall research ecosystem in this changing world. I am particularly excited about growing our community to bring in voices from other fields to work together on the most important technical problems for the good of society. As board secretary, I commit to working with the board and our stakeholders to serve, sustain, and grow the computing research community by upholding and further strengthening USENIX's mission.

Biography: Sujata Banerjee leads the Systems and Networking group at Microsoft Research. Prior to Microsoft, she led research teams at Broadcom, VMware, and HP. Her main area of expertise is networked systems, and she has had the honor of co-chairing the NSDI, SIGCOMM, and the Symposium of SDN Research conferences. She is currently co-chairing the Computing Research Association's Committee on Widening Participation (CRA-WP) and the APNet workshop. Her alma maters include the University of Southern California and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

Candidate for Treasurer



Michael Rembetsy

I am honored to be nominated for the position of USENIX Treasurer. Throughout my career, I have been dedicated to the long-term stability and growth of the technical communities USENIX supports. I intend to bring that same commitment to the organization's fiscal health.

While my historical engagement has been rooted in the LISA and SREcon communities, my priority as a board member is to ensure the financial resilience and content excellence of the entire USENIX portfolio. The post-pandemic conference landscape presents unique challenges, from geopolitical shifts to evolving corporate spending patterns. Navigating these requires an adaptable financial strategy. I believe in a collaborative approach to board governance—exploring diverse perspectives to find the most sustainable path forward for the organization and the members who rely on us.

Furthermore, I am passionate about the continued evolution of SREcon. As the industry shifts, we must cultivate new voices while maintaining the high-caliber content our community expects. I am particularly interested in exploring 'cross-pollination'—bringing diverse speakers and topics across different USENIX conferences—to drive membership growth and provide greater value to our global technical community.

Biography: Michael is the Global Head of Network Engineering and Operations at Bloomberg. His teams are responsible for everything from physical hardware to SREs who focus on global connectivity for customers. Before Bloomberg, Michael was the VP of Infrastructure at Etsy. Michael has spoken around the world, participated in various industry program committees, and is a past conference program chair for LISA and SREcon. Additionally, he has served on advisory boards throughout his career.

Candidates for Director



Thorsten Holz

As a computer security researcher and long-time member of the USENIX community, I am excited to run for another term on the USENIX Board of Directors. USENIX has been a defining part of my professional career since I first became involved in 2007, and I am committed to ensuring it remains the home of

outstanding systems research. Over the years, my work in USENIX has shown me what makes it unique: technical excellence, open science, and a culture that values rigor and integrity. As our field evolves rapidly, mainly driven by machine learning, emerging security threats, and new ways of collaborating, I believe USENIX can play an even stronger role in connecting researchers, accelerating innovation, and supporting the next generation of researchers. I have long advocated for open access and reproducibility, and I care deeply about mentorship, knowledge sharing, and building an inclusive community where diverse perspectives are valued. Great conferences are not only about great contributions, but they are about the people, the discussions, and the opportunities they create. If re-elected, I will focus on strengthening the impact and visibility of USENIX conferences and ensuring USENIX continues to address the key challenges we face today. My goal is to help USENIX continue to lead, inspire collaboration, and set the gold standard for our field in the years to come.

Biography: Thorsten is a Scientific Director at the Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy (MPI-SP) in Bochum, Germany. His research focuses on secure systems, with an emphasis on systems security, software security, and the intersection of machine learning and computer security. He served as Program Co-Chair for the USENIX Security Symposium in 2016.



Eddie Kohler

I'm honored to be nominated for the USENIX Board of Directors. USENIX has been an important organization for computing systems research and practice for 50 years now. As computing systems have radically transformed, USENIX has transformed itself, from a user group to a publisher of the best of computing systems research and from a local community to a worldwide one. USENIX serves society as well as its members, and some decisions USENIX has made, like immediate public open access for all published works, have benefited society while reducing the value provided to members. These difficult, honorable choices are part of what makes me so proud to be a member. But USENIX must also serve its own future. I'm running for USENIX board because I care about USENIX as an ongoing concern, and I think it's important to openly talk about the different ways that USENIX could transform itself to thrive for another 50 years.

Biography: Eddie Kohler is Microsoft Professor of Computer Science at Harvard University and an open-source developer. Research projects adopted by industry have included the Click modular router, the Masstree and Silo in-memory databases, and the HotCRP conference management system. In 2018 he was awarded the USENIX Flame.



Jay Lorch

I'd be honored to be elected to represent you, the members of USENIX, on the USENIX board. I've been involved with USENIX throughout my career, and the more involvement I have with USENIX the more I come to appreciate the huge number of ways in which USENIX provides extraordinary value to our communities.

So I want to do my best to contribute to sustaining and expanding its positive role.

What I'm most proud of in my USENIX service is my introduction, with my co-chair Minlan Yu, of multiple deadlines and one-shot revision to NSDI '19. We did this in the hope of improving the experience of both authors and reviewers, as well as research quality and timeliness. We've gathered a lot of positive feedback about this change, as well as several ways in which it can be improved upon, which has been valuable as we've seen it become a permanent fixture of NSDI and also spread to several other conferences.

Through all this, I've learned a lot about how to solicit a broad range of perspectives and use them to turn an imperfect initial proposal into a worthier and more robust final implementation plan. I also bring both an industry and academic perspective, from my experiences at an industrial research lab and my collaborations with people at several universities. So I look forward, if you choose to appoint me, to working with the board to fulfill your aspirations for what USENIX should be.

Biography: Jay Lorch is a Senior Principal Researcher in the Systems Research Group at Microsoft Research (MSR) in Redmond, WA, USA. He's been a researcher at MSR since obtaining his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. Within USENIX, he served as PC co-chair for NSDI '19 and OSDI '21, a member of both of those conferences' steering committees since then, a frequent PC member, and liaison between the NSDI steering committee and its PC chairs.



Sam H. Noh

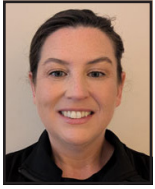
I am honored to be considered for a position on the USENIX Board of Directors. USENIX has played a significant role not only in my own career but also in the careers of countless researchers and practitioners. Having spent most of my professional life in Korea before recently relocating to the United States, I

found USENIX conferences to be invaluable venues where ideas were exchanged, collaborations formed, and long-standing professional relationships established. These experiences strengthened my appreciation for USENIX as a community that meaningfully bridges researchers, practitioners, and educators across diverse technical domains.

If elected, I hope to contribute to USENIX's continued fulfillment of its core mission while also helping broaden its global visibility. Although it may not yet be the time to expand USENIX events extensively across international locations, I believe we can and should strengthen awareness of USENIX within the global systems research community. In regions such as Asia, where I spent most of my career, USENIX's impact and reputation are not as well recognized as they deserve to be, especially compared to organizations like ACM SIGOPS, which has established greater visibility through its international chapters. Building global recognition is a long-term effort, but I would welcome the opportunity to help USENIX take meaningful first steps toward stronger international recognition.

Biography: Sam is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech. Before joining VT in 2023, he spent nearly 30 years in academia in Korea. Within USENIX, he has served as co-chair for USENIX HotStorage '16 and FAST '20 and currently serves on the FAST steering committee. He continues to serve on program committees for USENIX and other leading conferences.

Candidates for Director (continued)



Laura Nolan

USENIX conferences, and the communities that sustain them, play a unique and vital role in our field. As the broader conference ecosystem continues to evolve under financial pressure, changing expectations, and industry uncertainty, USENIX's long-standing focus on practitioner- and researcher-led content, independence from vendor influence, and open access to research has only grown in importance.

My involvement with USENIX has been shaped largely through SREcon and LISA, where I have participated as an attendee, speaker, co-chair, and committee member. These experiences have been formative for me professionally, and they have also given me insight into the care, effort, and institutional support required to run conferences that genuinely serve their communities. Over the past two years, I have continued to work closely with SREcon chairs, offering support and continuity as they take on demanding volunteer leadership roles and helping them to implement initiatives driven by the Steering Committee to improve the quality and diversity of content. I have also spearheaded the introduction of the popular Discussion Track.

I have served on the USENIX Board of Directors since 2020, during a period marked by significant disruption and change. During my tenure, the Board has focused on maintaining USENIX's stability, supporting volunteers and staff, and adapting our conferences to meet new realities while staying true to our mission. The challenges facing professional societies are not behind us, and I believe experience and institutional memory will continue to matter.

If re-elected, I will remain committed to strengthening USENIX as a sustainable, community-driven organization, and to supporting the conferences and volunteers that are at the heart of its success.

Biography: Laura Nolan is a Software Engineer and Site Reliability Engineer based in Ireland. She has contributed to *Site Reliability Engineering: How Google Runs Production Systems*, *Seeking SRE*, and *97 Things Every SRE Should Know*. She holds an MA in Ethics in addition to qualifications in computing. Laura currently works at Reddit.



Divya Sharma

I am honored to be considered for the USENIX Board of Directors. USENIX conferences have helped shape my career, both as a graduate student and as an industry practitioner, by providing a supportive community and an invaluable forum for exchange of ideas. I am excited to serve this community and pay it forward.

I have been involved with USENIX most recently through my work with PEPR, the premier conference on privacy engineering in practice, where I served as program co-chair and now serve on the steering committee. I have witnessed the USENIX team's deep commitment as we navigated difficult decisions around costs and travel constraints amid industry shifts. This is an area I am passionate about, and if elected, I will work with the board to ensure USENIX's long-term financial stability while keeping conferences accessible. I am also excited by the opportunity to strengthen bridges between academia and industry. The fields of privacy and security have benefited immensely from this cross-pollination of ideas; as we embrace emerging technologies, fostering these connections becomes even more critical. I believe in USENIX's mission of promoting open access and elevating diverse perspectives. I would be honored to contribute to solutions that sustain the collaborative communities that define USENIX.

Biography: Divya Sharma is a technical leader at the intersection of privacy engineering, user trust, and AI safety. She currently leads efforts building foundational signals for a safer and more diverse web and AI ecosystem as part of Google Search Quality. Previously, she served as Tech Lead for privacy engineering efforts across Google Search, AI Healthcare Research, and Assistant. Divya earned her Ph.D. in computer engineering (focus on privacy and security) at Carnegie Mellon University. She serves on the steering committee for USENIX PEPR.