



Announcement and Call for Participation

19th Large Installation System Administration Conference (LISA '05)

Sponsored by USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association, and SAGE, the People Who Make IT Work

<http://www.usenix.org/lisa05/cfp>

December 4–9, 2005

San Diego, California, USA

Important Dates

Draft papers, extended abstracts, and invited talk and workshop proposals due: *May 10, 2005*

Notification to authors: *June 2005*

Final papers due: *September 27, 2005*

Conference Organizers

Program Chair

David N. Blank-Edelman, *Northeastern University CCIS*

Program Committee

Gerald Carter, *Samba Team/Hewlett-Packard*

Strata Rose Chalup, *VirtualNet Consulting*

Lee Damon, *University of Washington*

Rudi van Drunen, *Leiden Cytology and Pathology Labs*

Joe Gross, *Independent Consultant*

Jason Heiss, *Overture, a Yahoo! company*

Tom Limoncelli, *Cibernet Corp.*

John “Rowan” Littell, *Earlham College*

Tom Perrine, *Sony Computer Entertainment America*

Yi-Min Wang, *Microsoft Research*

David Williamson, *Tellme Networks*

Elizabeth Zwicky, *Acuitus*

Invited Talk Coordinators

William LeFebvre, *Independent Consultant*

Adam S. Moskowitz, *Menlo Computing*

Guru Is In Coordinator

Philip Kizer, *Texas A&M University*

Workshops Coordinator

Luke Kanies, *Bladelogic, Inc.*

Training Program Coordinator

Daniel V. Klein, *USENIX*

Overview

The annual LISA conference is the meeting place of choice for system, network, database, storage, security, and all other computer-related administrators. Administrators of all specialties and levels of expertise meet at LISA to exchange ideas, sharpen old skills, learn new techniques, debate current issues, and meet colleagues and friends.

People come from over 30 different countries to attend LISA. They include a wide range of administration specialties. They hail from environments of all sorts, including large corporations, small businesses, academic institutions, and government agencies. Attendees are full-time, part-time, student, and volunteer admins, as well as those who find themselves performing “admin duties” in addition to their day jobs. They support combinations of operating systems ranging from open source, such as Linux and the BSD releases, to vendor-specific, including Solaris, Windows, Mac OS, HP-UX, and AIX.

Refereed Papers

Refereed papers explore techniques, tools, theory, and case histories that extend our understanding of system and network administration. They present results in the context of previous related work. The crucial component is that your paper present something new or timely; for instance, something that was not previously available, or something that had not previously been discussed in a paper. If you are looking for ideas for topics that fit this description, the Program Committee has compiled a list of some good open questions and research areas, which appears in a separate section below. This list is not meant to be exhaustive; we welcome proposals about all new and interesting work.

It is important to fit your work into the context of past work and practice. LISA papers must provide references to prior relevant work and describe the differences between that work and their own. The online Call for Papers, <http://www.usenix.org/lisa05/cfp>, has references to several resources and collections of past papers.

Proposal and Submission Details

Our submission requirements this year are a bit different from prior years, so please take a moment to read these new guidelines.

Anyone who wants help writing a proposal should contact the Program Chair at lisa05chair@usenix.org. The conference organizers want to make sure good work gets published, so we are happy to help you at whatever stage we can in the process.

Proposals can be submitted as draft papers or extended abstracts. Draft papers are preferred. Like 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

Get Involved!

Experts and old-timers don't have all the good ideas. This is your conference, and you can participate in the planning in many ways:

- Submit a draft paper or extended abstract for a refereed paper.
- Suggest an invited talk speaker or topic.
- Share your experience by leading a Guru Is In session.
- Propose a tutorial topic.
- Organize or suggest a Birds-of-a-Feather (BoF) session.
- Email an idea to the Program Chair.

previously or subsequently published elsewhere for a certain period of time.

Draft papers: 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 (500–1500 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 of draft papers, so your abstract must be as helpful as possible in this process to be considered for acceptance.

General submission rules:

- All submissions must be electronic, in ASCII or PDF format only. ASCII format is greatly preferred. Proposals must be submitted using a Web form located on the LISA '05 Call for Papers Web site, <http://www.usenix.org/lisa05/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 outside reviewers.
- Submissions whose main purpose is to promote a commercial product or service will not be accepted.
- Submissions can 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.

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/lisa05/cfp/guidelines.html>. **Proposals are due May 10, 2005.**

Training Program

LISA offers state-of-the-art tutorials from top experts in their fields. Topics cover every level from introductory skills to highly advanced. You can choose from over 50 full- and half-day tutorials covering everything from performance tuning, through Linux, Solaris, Windows, Perl, Samba, TCP/IP troubleshooting, security, networking, network services, 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
Tel: +1.412.422.0285
Email: dvk@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. 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 45–60 minutes long, and speakers should plan to take 30–45 minutes of questions from the audience.

Invited talk proposals should be accompanied by an abstract 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 lisa05it@usenix.org. **Invited talk proposals are due May 10, 2005.** All abstract submissions must be electronic, in ASCII or PDF format only. ASCII format is greatly preferred.

The Guru Is In Sessions

Everyone is invited to bring perplexing technical questions to the experts at LISA's unique The 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 lisa05guru@usenix.org.

Workshops

One-day workshops are hands-on, participatory, interactive sessions where small groups of system administrators have discussions ranging from highly detailed to high-level. The primary goal of workshops is to provide a forum for system administrators to define and develop a given topic in depth. Topics that develop into a community with mailing lists and yearly workshops are especially desirable. Previously successful workshops have focused on configuration management, system administration education, and AFS.

A workshop proposal should include the following information:

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

Please email your proposal to lisa05workshops@usenix.org.

Workshop proposals are due May 10, 2005.

Work-in-Progress Reports

A Work-in-Progress report (WiP) is a very short presentation about work you are currently undertaking. 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 your short report, send email to lisa05wips@usenix.org or sign up the first day of the technical sessions.

Suggested Topics for Authors and Speakers

Want to write a refereed paper for LISA or give an invited talk, but don't have an idea for a topic? Here's a list of open questions and research areas that the LISA '05 organizers and a few colleagues created as a good starting place. We're especially interested in papers and talks that address the following topics, but we welcome proposals about all new and interesting work.

- Are all our sites really that different? Are we missing a more standardized methodology? Or are we just all rugged individualists who are causing our own problems (e.g., the account management problem)?
- Can you architect an infrastructure that won't be obsolete in 3+ years?
- Case studies: How do we move from reactive to proactive?
- Case studies: Sometimes we need to see the overall, integrated result, instead of yet another new tool to do the same thing some older tool already does
- Designing machine rooms for the next 3+ years
- DIY-IT (the "IT Garage Trend")
- Dynamic building of coalitions/collaborative environments
- Exploring collaborative tools and "social software"
- Exploring P2P, VoIP, and XML
- How can we design systems that fail-safe by default?
- How do people manage their personal email?
- How do you "manage" your manager?
- How do we train sysadmins to solve problems
- Improving tools for diagnosing problems with systems: Why can't our systems do a better job of explaining what's wrong with them?
- Information sharing: Need to know vs. publish and flag
- Innovative ways to exploit ticket systems
- Intel has suggested it's hit the limit with a 4Ghz processor; how do we deal with this cap?
- It's 2005: Why do we still have computer viruses?
- Managing content and collaborative systems for our customers: We are increasingly being asked to create and manage systems for our users to then expand and "grow." Consider the business use of blogs, wikis, and other systems that can have open-ended growth and change at the hands of "non-professional sysadmins" (i.e., users). Do these have special challenges for sysadmins?
- Metrics
- Outsourcing/offshoring system administration: Is it possible?
- People management: More and more "classic sysadmins" are being pushed into first- and second-level management. How do we teach these high-geek people to manage people without growing pointy hair? What should sysadmins be learning to prepare for the day when they wake up managing 3-10 rugged individualist sysadmins (that were likely their peers the day before)?
- Real system administration tools: Why does every sysadmin/site have to roll its own tools?
- Scaling: How do you deal with the next 2x in storage, backup, networking, address space, database, productivity, etc.?
- Scripting languages (stuff around them)
- Selling sysadmin to management: What is your personal ROI? How do we measure it?
- Spam
- The "scaling problem": How do we scale (share) successful tools and processes, content creation and system extensions, and sysadmin experience?

- Tools for understanding information flows in networks and systems
- Virtualization: Benefit or bane?
- What can big sites learn from small sites?
- What have/haven't we learned about picking defaults?
- XML usage for configuration (management)
- Zero administration systems: Why not?

Thanks to Marcus Ranum, Rob Kolstad, and the LISA '05 organizers for contributing to this list.

Contact the Chair

The Program Chair, David Blank-Edelman, is always open to new ideas that might improve the conference. Please email any and all ideas to lisa05chair@usenix.org.

Final Program and Registration Information

Complete program and registration information will be available in September 2005 at the conference Web site, <http://www.usenix.org/lisa05>. 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 which heavily influences the purchasing decisions of your targeted prospects. For more details please contact sales@usenix.org.