



Announcement and Call for Participation

20th Large Installation System Administration Conference (LISA '06)

Sponsored by USENIX and SAGE

<http://www.usenix.org/lisa06>

December 3–8, 2006

Washington, D.C., USA

Important Dates

Extended abstract and paper submissions due: *May 23, 2006*

Invited talk proposals due: *June 1, 2006*

Notification to authors: *July 12, 2006*

Final papers due: *September 12, 2006*

Conference Organizers

Program Chair

William LeFebvre, *Independent Consultant*

Program Committee

Narayan Desai, *Argonne National Laboratory*

Peter Galvin, *Corporate Technologies, Inc.*

Trey Harris, *Amazon.com*

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

Adam Moskowitz, *Upromise, Inc.*

Mario Obejas, *Raytheon*

Tom Perrine, *Sony Computer Entertainment America*

W. Curtis Preston, *GlassHouse Technologies*

Amy Rich, *Tufts University*

Marc Staveley, *SOMA Networks, Inc.*

Rudi Van Drunen, *Leiden Cytology and Pathology Labs*

Alexios Zavras, *IT Consultant*

Invited Talk Coordinators

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

Doug Hughes, *Global Crossing*

Guru Is In Coordinator

Philip Kizer, *Estacado Systems*

Workshops Coordinator

Luke Kanies, *Reductive Labs*

Work-in-Progress Session Coordinator

Esther Filderman, *Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center*

Get Involved!

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

- 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.
- Present a Work-in-Progress Report (WiP).
- Organize or suggest a Birds-of-a-Feather (BoF) session.
- Email an idea to the Program Chair: lisa06ideas@usenix.org.

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 appear 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/lisa06/cfp>, has references to several resources and collections of past papers.

Proposal and Submission Details

Anyone who wants help writing a proposal should contact the Program Chair at lisa06chair@usenix.org. The conference organizers want to make sure good work gets published, so we are happy to help you at any stage 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 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 (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 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. Proposals must be submitted using a Web form located on the LISA '06 Call for Papers Web site, <http://www.usenix.org/lisa06/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.
- 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, program committees may share information about submitted papers with other conference chairs and journal editors to ensure the integrity of papers under consideration. 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, lisa06chair@usenix.org, or the USENIX office, submission-spolicy@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/lisa06/cfp/guidelines.html>.

Proposals are due May 23, 2006.

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, 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. 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 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 lisa06it@usenix.org. **Invited talk proposals are due June 1, 2006.**

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 lisa06guru@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.

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 lisa06workshops@usenix.org.

Work-in-Progress Reports (WiPs)

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 lisa06wips@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.

Suggested Topics for Authors and Speakers

Challenges

- Architecture: Keeping an infrastructure up to date
- Autonomic computing: Self-repairing systems, zero administration systems, fail-safe design
- Configuration management
- Content and collaborative systems: Building them, managing them, growing them
- Data center design: Modern methods, upgrading old centers
- Scaling: Dealing with a doubling in storage, backup, networking, address space, database, etc.
- Spam: Will we ever be able to control it?
- Virtualization: Benefit or bane?
- Viruses: Preparing for the onslaught of UNIX viruses

Profession

- Information flows: Creating, understanding, and applying them
- Management: Transitioning from technical to managerial, “managing” your manager, measuring return on investment
- Metrics: Inventing and applying meaningful metrics
- Outsourcing/offshoring system administration: Is it possible?
- Proactive administration: Transitioning from a reactive culture
- Problem-solving: Training sysadmins to solve problems
- Quality: Control, measurement, and quality assurance
- Standardizing methodologies: IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL), best practices, practical use, applicability

Technologies

- IPv6: Deployment, large-scale implementation
- Peer-to-peer networking
- Scripting languages
- VoIP
- XML: Usage for configuration management, other potential applications

Tools

- Content and collaborative systems
- Diagnostics: Tools that explain what’s wrong
- Google tools: Making use of them in system administration
- Tools for system administration: Implementation, use, and applicability

Case Studies

- Practical implementations and deployments of ideas or tools
- Scaling and expanding an infrastructure
- Theory meets practice

Contact the Chair

The Program Chair, William LeFebvre, is always open to new ideas that might improve the conference. Please email any and all ideas to lisa06ideas@usenix.org.

Final Program and Registration Information

Complete program and registration information will be available in September 2006 at the conference Web site, <http://www.usenix.org/lisa06>. 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 sponsorship@usenix.org.