

Message from the USENIX ATC '15 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 2015 USENIX Annual Technical Conference

This year's program committee has put together a program of 47 refereed papers and 15 practitioner talks. These papers and talks span a wide range of topics covering both novel research contributions and practical ideas in storage systems, networking, memory management, data analytics, parallel and distributed systems, mobile computing and consumer electronics, security, reliability, and virtualization.

We introduced a new track for industrial practitioners to submit talk proposals this year and received 17 talk proposals submitted by practitioners from 13 different industrial organizations. Of these, we selected 15 talks to present at the conference.

For the traditional refereed papers track, we received a near-record number of paper registrations and submissions this year. Authors registered 312 abstracts, of which 221 were submitted as complete papers. Of the submitted papers, 32 were short papers, which had to be at most five pages long plus references, and the other 189 were full-length papers, which had to be at most 11 pages long plus references.

Reviewing was single-blind, done by the program committee in two rounds, with a few external reviews. In the first round, each of the 221 submitted papers received two reviews. Papers receiving at least one "weak accept" or better (i.e., "accept" or "strong accept") review moved on to the second round. In total, 139 papers moved on, and 82 papers were tentatively rejected. In the second round, each paper received two more reviews on average. Altogether, 724 reviews were completed.

After two phases of review, an online discussion was conducted among reviewers, during which the program committee decided to accept 14 highly ranked papers and to further discuss 61 papers during the in-person program committee meeting. The meeting was held in April in Chicago. One PC member called in; the other members all attended in person. Over a period of nine hours, the committee decided to accept 35 papers, including the 14 papers that were accepted earlier. Among these 35 papers, two are short papers. In addition, a total of 15 papers entered the reject-resubmission process. These 15 papers appeared to contain interesting ideas but could not be accepted in their submitted form. Therefore, the authors were given the option to resubmit a revised version of the paper within one month. Each such paper was assigned a PC contact who helped the authors understand the committee concerns. For 14 out of these 15 papers, the authors took advantage of this option and resubmitted. The original reviewers read and re-reviewed each resubmitted version over a period of two weeks and decided to accept 12 out of 14 resubmissions. For most of these papers, all original reviewers were engaged in evaluating the resubmitted version.

The committee was comprised of 30 members, including the two co-chairs. Thirteen of them were affiliated with industrial organizations, and 17 were affiliated with academic organizations. Program committee members were allowed to submit papers. The two co-chairs did not submit any papers. We followed conventional rules for handling conflicts of interest: conflicted members (or co-chairs) left the room during discussion of conflicted papers.

In addition to the authors that submitted their work for consideration, the program committee, and the external reviewers, we would like to thank the USENIX staff that took care of all organizational details. Their help made our jobs a lot easier and allowed us to focus on reviewing papers and putting together the technical program.

We hope that you enjoy the conference, and thank you for participating in the USENIX ATC community.

Shan Lu, *University of Chicago*
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USENIX ATC '15 Program Co-Chairs