

## Message from the USENIX ATC '17 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 2017 USENIX Annual Technical Conference

We are awed by the effort devoted by so many in our community to making ATC '17 a success. Along the process of creating this year's program, we were exposed to high doses of technical expertise, experience in research, passion for building systems, fairness, competence, and kindness.

The incredible dedication by this year's program committee resulted in a program of 60 refereed papers and two invited talks. These papers and talks present novel research contributions and practical insights that advance the state-of-art in systems from a wide range of perspectives, demonstrating new capabilities or improvements for a variety of platforms and application scenarios. Given the spectrum of topics covered in the program, you are likely to find interesting ideas addressing your favorite areas and challenges.

For the traditional refereed papers track, we received a record number of paper registrations and submissions this year. Authors registered 305 papers, of which 283 were complete submissions. The program co-chairs rejected six papers up front due to serious format violations. Of the submitted papers, 29 were short papers, which had to be at most five pages long (plus references), and the other 254 were full-length papers, which had to be at most 11 pages long plus references. We were very pleased with the high number of submissions and with the program committee's positive attitude under such heavy reviewing load.

The program committee had 35 members, including the two co-chairs. Thirteen of them had affiliations with industrial organizations, and 22 with academic organizations. The committee represented three continents and seven countries. Program committee members were allowed to submit papers. The co-chairs did not have any submissions. We followed standard rules for handling conflicts of interest: conflicted members (or co-chairs) left the room during discussion of conflicted papers. There was one paper with which both co-chairs were conflicted, and Fred Douglass (a PC member) managed its review process.

Reviewing was single-blind, done by the program committee in two rounds, with a few external reviews. In the first round, each of the 283 submitted papers received at least two reviews. Two classes of papers moved to the second round: (a) papers receiving at least one "weak accept" or better (i.e., "accept" or "strong accept") review and (b) papers where none of the reviewers rated their expertise level as "knowledgeable" or "expert." In total, 176 papers (62% of submissions) moved on. In the second round, each paper received at least two more reviews.

Altogether, we had more than 920 reviews.

After two phases of review, an online discussion was conducted among reviewers, during which the program committee decided to accept 21 highly-ranked papers, tentatively reject 85 more papers, and to further discuss 70 papers during the in-person program committee meeting.

The PC meeting was held on April 20-21 at the VMware campus in Palo Alto, CA; 31 PC members attended the meeting in person, two called in, and two could not participate. During the meeting 39 papers were accepted, resulting in the 21 papers accepted earlier in a total of 60 accepted papers. Among these 60 acceptances, three were short papers.

We added to the program two invited talks, chosen from recommendations made by members of the USENIX community. We also continued the tradition of inviting best-of-the-rest talks from the best papers at other USENIX-sponsored conferences. We have invited talks from FAST, OSDI, and USENIX Security.

We are very grateful to all who contributed to ATC'17. 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 for their outstanding conference management. By taking care of all organizational details, they enabled us to focus on building a strong program. We would also like to thank VMware for their generosity in hosting the PC meeting.

We hope that you enjoy the conference. Thank you for participating in the USENIX ATC community!

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