

Message from the FAST '18 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 16th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies. This year's conference continues the FAST tradition of bringing together researchers and practitioners from both industry and academia for a program of innovative and rigorous storage-related research. We are pleased to present a diverse set of papers on topics such as reliability, flash and persistent memory, cloud and distributed storage, coding and hashing, and traditional file systems. Our authors hail from ten countries on three continents and represent academia, industry, and the open-source community.

FAST '18 received 139 submissions. Of these we selected 23, for an acceptance rate of 17%. The Program Committee used a two-round online review process and then met in person to select the final program. In the first round, each paper received at least three reviews. For the second round, 56 papers received at least two more reviews. The Program Committee discussed 40 papers in an all-day meeting on December 8, 2017, at Samsung Research Laboratory in Mountain View, California. We used Eddie Kohler's superb HotCRP software to manage all stages of the review process, from submission to author notification.

As in the previous years, we included a category of short papers. Short papers provide a vehicle for presenting completed research that does not require a full-length paper to describe and evaluate. We received 26 short paper submissions of which 2 were accepted. In what we hope will become a new FAST tradition, we again included a category of deployed-systems papers, which address experience with the practical design, implementation, analysis or deployment of large-scale, operational systems. We received 10 deployed-systems submissions, of which we accepted 3.

We wish to thank the many people who contributed to this conference. First and foremost, we are grateful to all the authors who submitted their work to FAST '18. We would also like to thank the attendees of FAST '18 and the future readers of these papers. Together with the authors, you form the FAST community and make storage research vibrant and exciting. We extend our thanks to the USENIX staff, especially Casey Henderson, Hilary Hartman, and Michele Nelson, who have provided outstanding support throughout the planning and organizing of this conference with the highest degree of professionalism and friendliness. Most importantly, their behind-the-scenes work makes this conference actually happen. We would like to thank the Poster and Work-in-Progress session Chairs, Anirudh Badam and Gala Yadgar, and the Test of Time Awards Chairs, Bianca Schroeder and Eno Thereska. Our thanks also go also to the members of the FAST Steering Committee, who provided invaluable advice and feedback, and to our Steering Committee Liaison, Keith Smith, for his guidance and encouragement on many issues, large and small, over the past year.

Finally, we wish to thank our Program Committee for their many hours of hard work reviewing and discussing the submissions and for taking time from their busy schedules to travel from around the globe to attend our PC meeting in person. Together with a few external reviewers, they wrote 535 thoughtful and meticulous reviews. HotCRP recorded over 186,000 words in reviews and comments (excluding HotCRP boilerplate; 377K when included). The reviewers' evaluations, and their thorough and conscientious deliberations at the PC meeting, contributed significantly to the quality of our decisions. Finally, we also thank Mohammad Ataur Rahman Chowdhury, the scribe for the PC meeting. We look forward to an interesting and enjoyable conference!

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