

Message from the OSDI '18 Program Co-Chairs

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the 13th USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI '18), held in Carlsbad, CA, USA! This year's technical program matches OSDI '16 in including 47 exceptionally strong papers; these papers represent the many strengths of our community and cover a wide range of topics, including file and storage systems, networking, scheduling, security, formal verification of systems, graph processing, system support for machine learning, programming languages, fault-tolerance and reliability, debugging, and, of course, operating systems design and implementation.

OSDI '18 received 257 paper submissions, which the program committee reviewed in multiple rounds. Our program committee consisted of 49 reviewers with a mixture of academic and industrial research and practical experience. The PC was divided into 24 "light" and 25 "heavy" members. All papers received three reviews in the first round; based on those reviews, 122 papers were selected to proceed to the second round. Second round papers received a minimum of two additional reviews from heavy PC members. For a small number of papers, where opinions were divided or where a paper was particularly specialized, we solicited additional expert reviews. In total, the PC and external reviewers wrote over 2[^]10 reviews.

As in previous OSDI review cycles, this year's process included a response period in which authors could answer reviewer questions and address factual errors in the initial reviews. Authors of 191 papers submitted a response. Responses had a measurable impact on both our online and in-person discussions, and the author responses and ensuing online discussion influenced some PC members to adjust their reviews and reconsider their ratings. Overall, we believe author responses helped improve the quality of the selected program.

After more than a week of online discussion across the full PC, we picked 83 papers for the heavy PC members to discuss at a 1.5-day PC meeting held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI, USA. Almost all heavy PC members were able to attend in person, with just one person calling in remotely. As PC chairs, we strove to ensure that all the discussed papers received full and fair consideration, coming to a consensus agreement in most cases. Papers were placed into high-level categories according to their main topic so that similar papers could be discussed together at the PC meeting. All discussed papers received a summary of the PC discussion written by a heavy PC member. In the end, the PC selected 47 papers for presentation at the conference, resulting in an 18% acceptance rate. Each of the accepted papers was allocated an additional two pages and shepherded by a member of the heavy PC to help the authors address the reviewers' comments in their camera-ready versions.

After finalizing the program, we created a separate committee to decide the Jay Lepreau Best Paper Awards composed of PC members with no conflicts with the papers under consideration. PC members could nominate papers for these awards in their reviews or directly to us. We selected six papers with at least two votes for best paper as candidates for the award. After reading the nominated papers and considering the reviews from the full PC, the awards committee agreed on three Jay Lepreau Best Paper Awards.

As PC co-chairs, we stand on the shoulders of so many who did a tremendous amount of hard work to make OSDI '18 a success. First, we thank the authors of all submitted papers for choosing to send their work to OSDI. Thanks also to the program committee for their hard work in reviewing and discussing the submissions and in shepherding the accepted papers. We particularly thank Yiyang Zhang and Vijay Chidambaram for organizing an extensive poster session of more than 83 posters to be presented across two evenings. We are also grateful to the external reviewers who provided additional perspectives. We thank the USENIX staff, who have been fundamental in organizing OSDI '18. Finally, OSDI wouldn't be what it is without our attendees—thank you for listening to our speakers, asking challenging and insightful questions, sharing your ideas with others, and networking with one another in the hallways!

We hope you will find OSDI '18 interesting, educational, and inspiring!

Andrea Arpaci-Dusseau, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Geoff Voelker, *University of California, San Diego*
OSDI '18 Program Co-Chairs