

SRE CON[®] — AMERICAS

BROOKLYN, NY, USA • March 25–27, 2019



Sponsored by USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association

Important Dates

- Proposals for talks and workshops due:
Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 11:59 pm EST
- Notification to talk and workshop presenters:
Monday, December 10, 2018
- Proposals for lightning talks due:
Friday, February 15, 2019, 11:59 pm EST
- Notification to lightning talks presenters:
Saturday, February 23, 2019

Overview

This year, SREcon Americas will focus on *comprehension, understandability, and predictability*. We'll pursue this theme across the *technical landscape, foundational principles, culture and values, and organizational aspects* of the profession. How do we observe our systems? How do we tackle complexity through being able to see into our systems? How do we understand our systems' interactions with each other? How do we interact together and collaborate as groups of people? And how do our systems impact people's lives?

SREcon attendees want to discuss robust solutions to system engineering problems, particularly in high-stakes environments. Beyond simply presenting new approaches and solutions, explain your reasoning behind them—what principles did you work from? How did those principles guide and shape the solution? If you're presenting a case study, how did you learn and improve from your experience?

The best talks share a team's take on a new idea, or inspire the audience to think beyond the challenges they know. We also welcome sessions about SRE philosophy, and this year we may be offering hands-on workshops, which could range from introductory to advanced topics. New speakers are encouraged to submit talks; many of our past best talks have come from people with new experiences to share.

Please join us in creating an excellent program for our sixth year of SREcon Americas, which will be the twelfth SREcon event globally. In 2018, we had over 700 attendees from over 230 companies, with backgrounds ranging from small startups, through tech giants with tens of thousands of employees, to finance and enterprise sector companies adopting or expanding SRE in their organizations.

Proposals

We are looking for proposals in the following formats:

- **Talks:**
 - 15-minute talks with 5 minutes for Q&A
 - 30-minute talks with 10 minutes for Q&A
- **Workshops:**
 - Speakers are invited to submit workshops ranging in length from shorter deep dives to longer introduction workshops. Please specify what technical level your workshop is targeted at.
- **5-minute lightning talks** with auto-advancing slides:
 - You can submit proposals for lightning talks starting in January 2019 (at which time we'll provide more details about submission parameters).

We will accept talk and workshop proposals until **November 6, 2018** via the submission form linked from the Call for Participation web page. We'll evaluate all submissions and get back to you by December 10, 2018. Accepted speakers will be required to confirm their plan to present along with their presentation information by January 7, 2019.

We will schedule practice sessions for all presenters, regardless of experience, because they help speakers adapt their message to our audience and improve the experience for attendees. Along with confirming their plan to present, speakers agree to participate in the practice sessions (details will be included in the acceptance notices).

Both presenters and organizers may withdraw or decline proposals for any reason, even after initial acceptance. Speakers must submit their own proposals; third-party submissions, even if authorized, will be rejected.

If you have questions about this Call for Participation, feel free to drop us a message at srecon19americas_chairs@usenix.org.

Suggested Topics

- Fundamentals
 - Designing and building reliable systems
 - Measuring reliability
 - Automation and managing operational work
 - Using failure as a learning event

Continued on next page →

- Technical Professional Development
 - Hybrid cloud workloads
 - Taming technical complexity and improving understandability of systems
 - Engineering resilience against complex systems failures (chaos) and sentient attackers
 - The role of machine learning in reliable, resilient systems; and how to measure the reliability of machine learning systems
 - Building internet scale vs financial scalable systems
- Culture/people
 - Leveraging diversity to enhance reliability and responsiveness
 - How to cultivate, recruit, and retain SREs
 - Catalyzing great SRE teams with a mixture of roles, including Program Manager, Tech Writer, UX design, and others
 - Ethics and the impact of our systems upon people
- Extending SRE culture to networking, security, privacy, and other facets of technology

Background

SREcon is a gathering of engineers who care deeply about site reliability, systems engineering, and working with complex distributed systems at scale. Our purpose is to be inclusive as we bring together ideas representative of our diverse community, whether its members are focusing on a global scale, launching new products and ideas for a small business, or pivoting their approach to unite software and systems engineering. SREcon challenges both those new to the profession as well as those who have been involved in SRE or related endeavors for years. The conference culture is based upon respectful collaboration amongst all participants in the community through critical thought, deep technical insights, continuous improvement, and innovation.

For more information on the themes and programs of past conferences, see the list of past conferences at www.usenix.org/srecon.

For more detail about how the program committee evaluates and selects proposals, see www.usenix.org/blog/srecon17-america-program-selection-process.

Conference Organizers

Program Co-Chairs

Liz Fong-Jones, Google
Mike Rembetsy, Bloomberg

Program Committee

Kurt Andersen, LinkedIn
Blake Bisset, Dropbox
David Blank-Edelman, Microsoft
Fatema Boxwala, Facebook
Tammy Butow, Gremlin
André Henry, Venmo
Jonah Horowitz
Nora Jones, Netflix
Arundhati Kogekar, Bloomberg, LP
Bridget Kromhout, Microsoft
James Meickle, Quantopian
Gordon Radlein, Etsy
Tanya Reilly, Squarespace
Casey Rosenthal, Backplane
Emil Stolarsky, DigitalOcean
Kate Taggart, HashiCorp
Seth Vargo, Google
Avleen Vig, Facebook
Salim Virji, Google
Heidi Waterhouse, LaunchDarkly
Vanessa Yiu, Goldman Sachs

Steering Committee

Kurt Andersen, LinkedIn
Narayan Desai, Google
Sabrina Farmer, Google
Andrew Fong, Dropbox
Liz Fong-Jones, Google
Casey Henderson, USENIX Association
John Looney, Facebook
Fernanda Weiden, Facebook

