Message from the Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 2008 USENIX Annual Technical Conference in Boston! ATC continues to be a venue where researchers and system builders submit their top work in computer systems, resulting in an exciting technical program with a practical flavor.

This year the program contains 34 excellent papers—28 regular and 6 short papers—selected from a total of 176 submissions. This is around 30% more than previous years and conforms with the trend of an increasing number of worthy papers being submitted to premier system conferences. The topics range from memory and buffer management to handling flash crowds from your garage. The program also features two invited speeches: a keynote from David Patterson about the current parallel revolution, and a plenary closing session by Matthew Melis about the Columbia accident investigation and returning NASA's spaces shuttle to flight.

As always, the success of this conference is dependent on the guidance and help provided by the outstanding USENIX staff, who have been a great pleasure to work with. We were also blessed with a hard-working and thorough program committee of 24 leading researchers in the field, including 11 representatives from various industrial companies and labs. Due to the unexpectedly large number of submissions, each PC member reviewed about 33 papers, for a total of 782 reviews. Similarly to other recent conferences, we divided the submission process into two stages. The first stage assigned three reviews for each paper; based on these reviews, we rejected 49 papers. The second stage assigned two more reviews for each of the remaining 127 papers. Although each PC member was responsible for all their assignments, we did solicit about 70 reviews from external experts. Among all 34 accepted papers, only four are PC-authored papers.

We thank USENIX staff members, PC members, and reviewers for their hard work under time pressure during this process. Their contributions are very valuable, not only to authors by providing useful feedback, but also to the community by building a high-quality program. Special thanks are due to Eddie Kohler for the paper submission and reviewing system, and to Shan Lu and Joseph Tucek for hosting it at UIUC. In addition, Ellie Young has provided essential guidance throughout and, with Dan Klein, has also assembled a set of great invited talks. We also thank Sam King and Emre Kıcıman for organizing the poster session.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to our industry sponsors for their help in making this event possible and enjoyable. In particular we thank Google, Microsoft Research, HP Invent, and WhiteOak Technologies, Inc., for their generous support.

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USENIX '08 Co-Chairs