

## Message from the FAST '19 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 17th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies, FAST '19. This year's conference continues the 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 persistent memory systems, deduplication, erasure coding and reliability, and traditional file systems. Submissions to the conference came from 20 countries on 4 continents, from authors representing academia, industry, and the open source community.

FAST '19 received 145 submissions—a record high number. Of these, we accepted 26 papers, for an acceptance rate of 18%. 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, 96 papers received at least two more reviews. The Program Committee discussed 58 papers in an all-day meeting on December 3, 2018, at Google in Sunnyvale, CA. We used Eddie Kohler's excellent 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 27 short paper submissions, of which 2 were accepted. Also in line with previous years, we 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 12 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 '19. We would also like to thank the attendees of FAST '19 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 entire USENIX staff, especially Casey Henderson, Jasmine Murcia, Jessica Kim, Michele Nelson, and Arnold Gatilao, 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, Bill Jannen and Vasily Tarasov. Our thanks 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, some of whom traveled halfway across the world for the one-day in-person PC meeting. In total, they wrote 637 thoughtful and meticulous reviews. HotCRP recorded over 447,194 words in reviews and comments (excluding HotCRP boilerplate; 496,030 when included). The reviewers' evaluations, and their thorough and conscientious deliberations at the PC meeting, contributed significantly to the quality of our decisions.

We look forward to an interesting and enjoyable conference!

Arif Merchant, *Google*  
Hakim Weatherspoon, *Cornell University*  
FAST '19 Program Co-Chairs