Message from the FAST '24 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 22nd USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies (FAST '24). As the second post-COVID FAST conference, this year's event continues the tradition of bringing together researchers and practitioners from both industry and academia for a program of innovative and rigorous storage-related research.

FAST '24 has remained highly selective. We received 123 submissions from authors in academia, industry, government labs, and the open-source communities. Of these, we accepted 22 papers for an acceptance rate of 18%.

As usual, we have employed a two-round online review process. The first round had three reviewers assigned to each paper, followed by intensive online discussion. Forty-five papers were advanced to the second round, with an early rejection notification sent to the rest of the papers in early November 2023. The second round solicited at least two more reviews for each remaining paper and was again followed by active discussions that led to a summary request by the discussion lead listing specific items that the authors needed to respond to. This is the fourth year that FAST has allowed author rebuttal, and all 45 papers participated. More online discussions happened after the three-day rebuttal period, resulting in 9 papers being pre-accepted and 12 pre-rejected. The rest of the papers were discussed in a two-day online PC meeting in December 2023, with PC members joining virtually from global locations across 10 different time zones.

We used HotCRP to manage all the stages of the review process, from submission to author notification. A total of 464 reviews and 1742 comments were submitted on the FAST '24 submission site. All accepted papers were assigned a shepherd from the PC, who worked with the authors to address comments from the reviews and provided editorial advice and feedback on the final manuscripts.

The review process produced a program covering a wide range of topics, including cloud and remote storage, caching, key-value stores, persistent memory and SSD systems, storage coding, learned storage systems, and new file system designs. We continued to accommodate a special category of deployed-systems papers, which share experiences with the practical design, implementation, analysis, or deployment of large-scale operational systems. We received five submissions in this category and accepted two. The program also includes posters and work-in-progress sessions.

FAST '24 marks the first time in the conference's history to adopt an optional artifact evaluation (AE) process, in which most accepted papers participated. After extensive evaluation, 17 papers were awarded AE badges, with about half of them receiving all three badges ("available", "functional", and "reproduced").

In addition, this year's conference maintained the FAST mentorship program designed to enhance the conference experience for student attendees. The program offers them the chance to connect with and gain valuable career insights from seasoned community members, as well as to receive constructive feedback on their research.

We are utterly thankful to the many people who contributed to this conference. First and foremost, we are grateful to all the authors who submitted their work to FAST '24, as well as our conference attendees and future readers of the published papers. We extend our thanks to the entire USENIX staff, who have provided outstanding support throughout the planning and organization of this conference with the highest degree of professionalism and friendliness. Most importantly, their behind-the-scenes work and meticulous care of details make this conference happen. We are also grateful to KAIST students Dohyun Kim and Juwon Kim for spending many hours supporting us in configuring, testing, and managing systems used in the review process and the online PC meeting.

We would like to thank the Poster and Work-in-Progress Chairs, Ali Butt and Young-ri Choi, for managing the submission, review, and coordination of these sessions. We thank Haryadi Gunawi and Huaicheng Li for proposing and chairing the Artifact Evaluation process. We thank Aishwarya Ganesan and Dean Hildebrand for chairing the Mentorship program. Our thanks also go to the members of the FAST Steering Committee, and especially the recent FAST chairs to whom we reached out and who provided invaluable advice and feedback. We appreciate the support and suggestions from Keith Smith and Dean Hildebrand in organizing the panel session. We especially wish to acknowledge our Steering Committee Liaison, Gala Yadgar, for her continuous guidance on delicate issues, attention to things we missed, and encouragement on many occasions over the past year.

Finally, we wish to thank our Program Committee members for their many hours of hard work reviewing, discussing, and shepherding the submissions. The reviewers' evaluations, as well as their thorough and conscientious deliberations at the PC meeting, contributed significantly to the quality of our decisions. Similarly, the paper shepherds' efforts led to significant improvements in the final quality of the program. We look forward to an exciting and enjoyable conference!

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