

Message from the NSDI '22 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to NSDI 2022!

We live in unprecedented times. We have been through waves of multiple covid variants, parents dealing with the uncertainty of school schedules, rapid scientific breakthroughs that resulted in effective vaccines, mass vaccination drives, and war in parts of the world that threatens dislodging the lives of millions of people. It is difficult to reason about the importance of our work in such turbulent times. But despite common as well as uniquely individual challenges, our community marches on, building on lessons we have learnt on operating during the pandemic.

NSDI '22 received a record number of submissions—396 papers in total: 104 in spring and 292 for the fall deadline. A total of 78 papers were accepted for an acceptance rate of 19.7%—the highest we have seen in a while. Papers were reviewed by a program committee of 65 experts from both academia and industry. One-shot revisions, first introduced to NSDI in 2019, have proved to be quite successful and we continue this practice.

We sincerely thank our reviewers who provided thoughtful feedback to our authors, including those who re-reviewed one-shot revisions from the prior NSDI edition (NSDI '21 Fall) and our expert external reviewers. We also want to thank our stand-in PC chairs (for chair-conflict papers) who helped out selflessly performing tasks that they had not necessarily signed up for when they agreed to be on our PC: Ellen Zegura, Mahesh Balakishnan, and Ben Y. Zhao. We thank George Porter and Harsha V. Madhyastha for going above and beyond the call of duty—and at short notice—to carefully read and help us select the best paper award winners this year. We are also very grateful to prior NSDI chairs Arvind Krishnamurthy, Jay Lorch, James Mickens, and Renata Teixeira for sharing their best practices with us. And we thank student volunteers Brian Singer and Milind Srivatsava for helping us run a smooth Fall PC meeting over Zoom. Finally, we also thank the paper authors; your submissions are what make NSDI such a great venue, and we hope that you will enjoy the conference program.

We are trying two new experiments this year. First, NSDI will be held as a hybrid event. We are excited that the program will be held in-person, but we recognize that there are many authors and attendees who will only be able to attend virtually as the threat of a new Covid variant looms large in many parts of the world. Second, for both safety (to avoid packing all attendees in a single room), as well as providing the large number of accepted papers with ample time to present their ideas, we are experimenting with a dual-track format. While changes to well-established ways of doing things make us a little anxious, we could not be more excited that USENIX is the organization shepherding us through these changes.

Which brings us to thanking one of the most important groups that has helped us: USENIX. We'd like to thank all of the USENIX staff who helped us to organize this year's conference right from the get go: from configuring the HotCRP server to dealing with camera-ready production of both papers and talks (and they had to do this twice for the spring and fall deadline), the USENIX staff provided invaluable advice and flawless execution. We are certain we will miss many names we ought to thank, and in some cases because we magically saw the result of your work but never got to know that you did it. Our heartfelt thanks to Casey Henderson (for patiently helping us on so many different dimensions), Olivia Verneti, Camille Mulligan, Arnold Gatilao, Jasmine Murcia, Jessica Kim, Julia Hendrickson, Liz Markel, Sarah TerHune, and the rest of the USENIX team. You are a magical team, and we as a community are lucky to have such dedicated, caring, and supremely competent USENIX staff. We would be lost in the wilderness without you.

Stay safe and healthy, and enjoy NSDI in whichever format you choose to attend it!

Amar Phanishayee, *Microsoft Research*
Vyas Sekar, *Carnegie Mellon University*
NSDI '22 Program Co-Chairs