

2004 USENIX Annual Technical Conference: Free and Open Source Software (FREENIX) Track

Sponsored by USENIX, The Advanced Computing Systems Association

<http://www.usenix.org/usenix04>

June 30–July 2, 2004

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Important Dates

Submissions due: *December 16, 2003*

Notification to authors: *February 4, 2004*

Camera-ready final papers due: *April 8, 2004*

Program Committee

Program Chairs

Bart Massey, *Portland State University*

Keith Packard, *Hewlett-Packard Cambridge Research Lab*

Crispin Cowan, *Immunix*

Ralf Nolden, *RWTH Technical University of Aachen*

Jonathan Shapiro, *Johns Hopkins University*

Luis Villa, *Ximian (a part of the Novell family)*

Carl Worth, *USC Information Sciences Institute*

Victor Yodaiken, *FSMLabs*

Overview

FREENIX is the USENIX Annual Technical Conference's forum on free and open source software. The FREENIX Program Committee is looking for papers providing practical and/or academic insight.

FREENIX is an excellent showcase for the latest developments in and interesting applications of free and open source software. Any project with a focus on software that is redistributable in source-code form and available online is a good candidate for a FREENIX submission. (Submissions focusing on proprietary software will not be accepted.) Projects that, while not yet 100% finished, anticipate release in the near term are also good candidates for FREENIX.

Topics

Submission of any sort of free and open source software-related work is encouraged, including:

- ◆ Project reports
- ◆ Academic studies and relevant theory
- ◆ Usage and development experiences, both successful and unsuccessful

The emphasis of a FREENIX submission should be on clearly communicating important and technically interesting software ideas to a broad audience.

While the full range of submissions will be gratefully accepted, FREENIX 2004 will have special emphasis on two related areas:

I. Userland Applications and Systems Development:

- ◆ Desktop applications
- ◆ Peer-to-peer and Web-based systems
- ◆ Libraries, toolkits, and infrastructure
- ◆ Scripting languages and applications
- ◆ Programming languages and systems
- ◆ Novel algorithms and applications
- ◆ System management tools
- ◆ Software development tools
- ◆ Print systems

II. Free and Open Source Software Engineering:

- ◆ Project-centric (papers about a particular project)
 - ❖ Software specification and design methodologies
 - ❖ Novel implementation techniques
 - ❖ Testing
 - ❖ Deployment
 - ❖ Reliability and security
 - ❖ Performance and scalability
- ◆ Process-centric (papers about development methodologies)
 - ❖ Team governance, administration, and management
 - ❖ Planning and forecasting
 - ❖ Measuring progress and assessing quality
- ◆ Integrating tools and methodologies

Submission of relevant work in these areas is especially encouraged.

In addition, we welcome submissions on a wide variety of topics, including:

- ◆ Documentation
- ◆ Embedded systems
- ◆ Graphical user interface tools
- ◆ Current examples of development and management of free software
- ◆ Interesting deployments of free software
- ◆ Large-scale system management
- ◆ Nontechnical aspects of free software: business, legal, etc.
- ◆ Security
- ◆ Software development tools
- ◆ System and user management tools
- ◆ Technical aspects of commercial use of free software

FREENIX submissions will be judged based on the extent to which they express interesting, useful, thought-provoking, and/or novel work. Ideas should be presented in a form suitable for consumption by people with a wide range of technical abilities and backgrounds.

One purpose of FREENIX is to strongly encourage first-time authors, including students, non-academic professionals, and

amateur developers, to share their experiences. If you have something to share, you should begin thinking about writing a paper *right now*; a common mistake is to delay too long. If you would like help or comments on your paper idea, please feel free to email freenix04chairs@usenix.org.

Paper Submissions

The FREENIX track submission deadline is December 16, 2003. Papers submitted after that date will be accepted at the discretion of the program chairs.

The initial submission to the FREENIX track should consist of either an extended abstract with bibliography totaling 3–5 pages, or a full paper of 8–12 pages. Submissions in either format must meet the USENIX formatting guidelines. Extended abstracts and papers not meeting the page limits and formatting requirements will not be read. (This is a change from previous years.) Please see <http://www.usenix.org/events/usenix04/freenixsubmit.html> for detailed guidelines.

Specific questions about submissions should be emailed to the program chairs at freenix04chairs@usenix.org. All authors, but especially first-time authors, should feel free to email the program chairs with paper ideas. The FREENIX Program Committee tries hard to find the good ideas in even the most unpolished work, and is quite skilled at guiding inexperienced authors toward a successful paper submission, acceptance, and presentation.

Authors will be notified of submission acceptance or rejection by February 4, 2004. FREENIX is unusual in that it is a “shepherded” track. The authors of accepted extended abstracts will be assigned a program committee member who will act as shepherd. The shepherd will advise and consult with the authors on the writing process as they prepare a full paper of 8–12 pages. The work involved in producing a camera-ready paper should not be underestimated: it is always a time-consuming process. The final reports must be reviewed and accepted by the paper's shepherd by March 25, 2004. After shepherd approval, the final paper must be submitted with the standard release forms to the USENIX Production Department by April 8, 2004.

The FREENIX program committee will also accept submissions of full papers. Full papers will not be shepherded and will be judged on their suitability for final publication. The authors of accepted full papers may edit for style and formatting. The final paper must be submitted with the standard release forms to the USENIX Production Department by April 8, 2004.

The USENIX Annual Technical Conference, like most conferences and journals, requires that papers not be submitted simultaneously to more than one conference or publication, that submitted papers not be previously published elsewhere, and that accepted papers not be subsequently published elsewhere for a year from the date of acceptance by USENIX. Papers submitted to this conference that are under review elsewhere will not be considered. Papers accompanied by non-disclosure-agreement forms cannot be accepted. All submissions are held in the highest confidentiality prior to publication in the Proceedings, both as a matter of policy and in accord with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976.

Training Program

USENIX's highly respected training program offers intensive, immediately applicable tutorials on topics essential to the use, development, and administration of advanced computing systems. Skilled instructors, hands-on experts in their topic areas, present both introductory and advanced tutorials covering topics such as (this list is not comprehensive—feel free to propose topics not listed):

- ◆ System administration, maintenance, monitoring, and security:
 - ❖ Systems application configuration and maintenance
 - ❖ High availability and quality of service
 - ❖ Monitoring: SNMP, log analysis, etc.
 - ❖ Distributed data: LDAP, Web, etc.
 - ❖ Techniques: time management, failover management, etc.
- ◆ Operating systems (Linux, *BSD, Mac, Solaris, NT, etc.):
 - ❖ File systems and storage systems
 - ❖ Interoperability of heterogeneous systems
 - ❖ Embedded systems
- ◆ Systems and network security:
 - ❖ Intrusion detection and prevention
 - ❖ Hacking and countermeasures
 - ❖ General security topics: Internet, wireless, data, etc.
- ◆ Applications and algorithms:
 - ❖ Security and privacy, cryptography
 - ❖ Web-based technologies
 - ❖ Mobile code and mobile computing
 - ❖ New algorithms and applications
 - ❖ Application development (threads, Perl, scripting, etc.)
- ◆ Technologies:
 - ❖ Wireless and mobile computing
 - ❖ Personal digital assistants
 - ❖ Distributed, replicated, and Web-based systems
- ◆ Emerging technologies:
 - ❖ New applications
 - ❖ New technologies
- ◆ Topics not listed above!

To provide the best possible tutorial slate, USENIX continually solicits proposals for new tutorials. If you are interested in presenting a tutorial, contact Dan Klein, Training Program Coordinator, dvk@usenix.org.

Birds-of-a-Feather Sessions

Birds-of-a-Feather sessions (BoFs) are informal gatherings organized by attendees interested in a particular topic. BoFs will be held in the evening. BoFs may be scheduled in advance by emailing the Conference Department at bofs@usenix.org. BoFs may also be scheduled at the conference.

Registration Materials

One author per paper may take a registration discount of \$200. If the registration fee poses a hardship to the presenter, USENIX can offer a complimentary registration. Complete program and registration information will be available in March 2004 on the conference Web site. The information will be in both HTML and a printable PDF file.