Message from the Program Co-Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

We welcome you to the 9th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies (FAST '11). We are proud to carry on the FAST tradition of presenting high-quality, innovative file and storage systems research. The program includes papers on emerging hot topics, with contributions to solid-state storage technology, power-efficient storage systems, and deduplication. It displays the breadth of storage systems research with work on storage in cloud computing and low-power sensor networks. It also contains significant contributions to the core of the field, including disk systems, trace and benchmarking studies, and RAID.

FAST continues to be a premier venue to bring together researchers and practitioners from the academic and industrial communities. This, too, is reflected in the program, which includes a mix of papers from universities, from companies, and from collaborations between the two arenas.

FAST '11 received 74 submissions (slightly lower than in previous years), from which 20 papers were selected, for an acceptance rate of 27%. Every paper received at least three reviews from PC members, and every paper discussed in the second round—including all the accepted ones—received at least 6 reviews from PC members. For a few papers, additional external reviews were solicited.

The review process was conducted online over two months and at a program committee meeting held in Mountain View, CA, in November 2010. We again used Eddie Kohler's HotCRP software to handle paper submissions, reviews, PC discussion, and notifications. We used a two-round process that relied almost entirely on our excellent program committee for reviews. In the first round, each paper was assigned to three PC members. We then culled about half the papers and commissioned an additional three PC reviews for the remaining papers. Additional reviews were obtained for a few controversial papers—those with high variance in reviews. Twenty-four of the twenty-six PC members attended the PC meeting in person, and one other by video conferencing. The quality of the conversation at that meeting contributed significantly to the quality of the decisions that we were able to make.

We would like to thank everybody who contributed to assembling this program. First and foremost, we are indebted to all of the authors who submitted papers to FAST '11. We had a good body of high-quality work from which to select our program. We would also like to thank the attendees of FAST '11 and future readers of these papers. Together with the authors, you form the FAST community and make storage research vibrant and fun.

We would also like to recognize the contributions of USENIX and the USENIX staff, who make everything else about assembling a conference program easy. The USENIX staff dealt with innumerable issues large and small and provided outstanding technical and emotional support. They are a delight to work with, and largely responsible for the success of FAST this and every year. Thanks!

Finally, we would like to thank the Program Committee members for their countless hours and dedication. Serving on the FAST PC involves a huge amount of work. Each PC member completed 13 to 15 in-depth reviews of 11+ page papers, as well as participating in the discussions and helping out in other roles such as session chairs, poster/ WiP selection, and choosing the best papers.

We look forward to seeing you in San Jose!

Greg Ganger, *Carnegie Mellon University*
John Wilkes, *Google*
Program Co-Chairs