

Message from the Program Chair

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 17th USENIX Security Symposium, in San Jose, California. A total of 174 research papers were submitted to the technical program. Four were withdrawn or otherwise summarily rejected, leaving 170 to consider. From these, 27 were selected—a record number for USENIX Security—for an acceptance rate of 15.9%. Because of the very high quality of submissions, many excellent papers were not among those accepted. Some of these will no doubt be viewed as major contributions when they appear at other venues, and we hope that the detailed technical review comments we provided are helpful. I thank all authors who submitted papers. High-quality submissions are the starting point for a superb symposium.

Our Program Committee (PC) meeting was graciously hosted April 3–4 by Angelos Keromytis at Columbia University, with help from Sophie Majewski. The dinner provided afterwards by USENIX, at Pisticci Restaurant, was most welcome. As expected, the meeting was attended by essentially the entire committee—25 of 26 members. Each paper received at least three written reviews, and many were read and discussed by a considerably larger group. PC members were restricted to being co-authors on at most two submissions. The physical-presence PC meeting and the relatively small Program Committee, as is traditional for USENIX Security (in sharp contrast to several other major security research conferences), contributed to a collegial process and open discussions, pooling the expertise of the entire committee. I am immensely grateful to the committee for their cooperative spirit and extraordinary efforts. Every member delivered every review requested, and more. It was a true privilege to work with such a dedicated and focused team, many of whom seem to serve continuous tours of Program Committee duty. I extend my thanks to all of the external reviewers relied upon by the PC members; their names are recorded in the frontmatter of these proceedings.

Beyond the technical program in these proceedings, the symposium is enriched by many other items. These include two days of tutorials by area experts (prior to the technical program) and, in parallel with the submitted papers, an exceptional invited talks track. For the latter, thanks are due to our invited talks committee of Bill Aiello, Angelos Keromytis, and Avi Rubin. This year's keynote address is by Debra Bowen, California Secretary of State. I thank Carrie Gates for organizing the poster session and Hao Chen for chairing the work-in-progress reports.

Rather than repeat past praises about the USENIX staff, let me give the following advice to all potential future program chairs: if given a choice between chairing a USENIX conference and another, choose the former. You will truly understand why only once you have done both. I am happy to thank Anne Dickison for driving publicity, Jane-Ellen Long for logistics related to the proceedings, Devon Shaw for support related to the PC meeting and the conference itself, Casey Henderson for updates to the USENIX Web site, and Peter Collinson for manning the submissions system and review Web site. Did I mention Ellie Young? Who is it that pulls all the strings and holds everything together? Thanks, Ellie: it is a pleasure to work with you. Thanks also to Niels Provos, last year's Program Chair, for guidance, and to Matt Blaze for talking me into acting as this year's Program Chair.

I hope you enjoy the symposium as much as I have enjoyed being part of delivering it.

**Paul Van Oorschot, Carleton University
Program Chair**