

# Workshop on Organizing Workshops, Conferences, and Symposia for Computer Systems (WOWCS '08)

Sponsored by USENIX, The Advanced Computing Systems Association

<http://www.usenix.org/wowcs08>

April 15, 2008

San Francisco, CA, USA

Co-located with the 5th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design & Implementation (NSDI '08), which will take place April 16–18, 2008

## Important Dates:

Submissions due: *Friday, February 15, 2008, 11:59 p.m. PST*

Notification to authors: *Monday, March 17, 2008*

Final papers due: *Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

## Workshop Organizers

### Program Chair

Jeff Mogul, *HP Labs*

### Program Committee

Tom Anderson, *University of Washington*

Richard Draves, *Microsoft Research*

Carla Schlatter Ellis, *Duke University*

Peter Honeyman, *CITI, University of Michigan*

Greg Minshall, *University of Washington*

Vivek Pai, *Princeton University*

Stefan Savage, *University of California, San Diego*

## Overview and Goals

Computer systems researchers place an unusually high value on conference publications, to the point that these no longer take second place to journal publications. This puts pressure on conference chairs and committees, who must handle large numbers of submissions and generate detailed, well-reasoned reviews and acceptance decisions on tight deadlines. Yet there is relatively little “institutional memory” or written folklore on how to organize computer systems conferences, and many policy issues require repeated community or PC discussions.

WOWCS will bring together conference organizers (past, present, and future) and other interested people to discuss the issues they confront. The workshop has several goals:

1. Discuss (and perhaps settle) certain contentious policy issues

Examples include:

- Double-blind vs. single-blind reviews
- Should authors disclose previous reviews of the same paper?
- Are author-rebuttals useful?
- When should “open reviews” be used?
- Should we review the reviewers?
- CS-wide citation reporting

2. Preserve folklore and experience in written form

Examples include:

- What is the best structure for a large PC?
- How to choose PC members and other volunteers
- How to budget for conferences
- How to handle suspected author misbehavior
- How to handle suspected reviewer misbehavior
- How to get a PC meeting to finish its job on time

3. Evaluate tools and techniques for conference organizers

Examples include:

- Reviews of review-management software
- Proposals for new or improved review-management software
- Registration-management software

## Submissions

The workshop invites position paper submissions on these and any other relevant topics. Submissions will be accepted based on relevance to this workshop and the likelihood that people will find them interesting; technical quality will only be judged when appropriate to the topic (e.g., methodology for a study of the effects of single-blind reviews). This workshop will favor focused discussions rather than formal presentations, and consequently the reviewing process will be relatively lightweight. The PC will favor submissions that make useful contributions with a minimum of words.

Submitted papers must be no longer than 5 single-spaced 8.5" x 11" pages, including figures, tables, and references, using 10 point type on 12 point (single-spaced) leading, within a text block 6.5" wide x 9" deep. Papers not meeting these criteria will be rejected without review, and no deadline extensions will be granted for reformatting. Pages should be numbered, and figures and tables should be legible in black and white, without requiring magnification.

Papers must be in PDF and must be submitted via the Web submission form on the WOWCS '08 Call for Papers Web site, <http://www.usenix.org/wowcs08/cfp>.

The title and author name(s) should appear on the first page of the submitted paper. (Reviewing is not blind.)

For more details on the submission process, and for templates to use with LaTeX, Word, etc., authors should consult the detailed online submission requirements at <http://www.usenix.org/events/wowcs08/cfp/requirements.html>. Authors should also be aware of USENIX's policy on submissions, <http://www.usenix.org/events/submissionspolicy.html>.

The results of the workshop, including scribe notes of the discussions, will be made available to the community.

If you have questions about WOWCS, please contact the program chair at [wowcs-chair@usenix.org](mailto:wowcs-chair@usenix.org).