Announcement and Call for Participation **USENIX**

16th Systems Administration Conference (LISA '02)

Sponsored by USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association, and SAGE, the System Administrators Guild

http://www.usenix.org/events/lisa02

November 3-8, 2002   **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Important Dates:

Extended abstracts due: *April 29, 2002*
Invited Talk proposals due: *April 29, 2002*
Notification to authors: *May 2002*
Final papers due: *August 12, 2002*

Conference Organizers:

Program Chair
Alva Couch, *Tufts University*
Program Committee
Paul Anderson, *University of Edinburgh*
Robert Apthorpe, *Consultant*
Aeleen Frisch, *Exponential Consulting*
Alexander Keller, *IBM Research*
Tom Limoncelli, *Lumeta Corp.*
Will Partain, *Verilab*
David Parter, *University of Wisconsin*
Marcus Ranum, *Ranum.com*
John Sellens, *Certainty Solutions*
Josh Simon, *Consultant*
Steve Traugott, *TerraLuna, Inc.*
Network Track Coordinator
David Williamson, *Certainty Solutions*
Security Track Coordinator
Lynda True, *TRW, Inc.*
Invited Talks Coordinators
Strata Rose Chalup, *VirtualNet Consulting*
Esther Filderman, *Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center*
Advisor
Rob Kolstad, *Delos Enterprises*

"Fostering a global community of expertise to strengthen tomorrow's computing infrastructure"

The LISA conference has become a focal point for the global community of system and network administrators. Once a year, system administrators of all specialities and levels of expertise meet to exchange ideas, sharpen old skills, learn new techniques, and explore the future of the profession. Attendees include a broad range of system and network administrators, security administrators, management, experts of the practice, vendors, students, and academic researchers. LISA is the one place where all the stakeholders in the future of systems administration converge to work on the common goal of sustaining the global

community of computers with an equally global community of dedicated and skilled people.

The conference's diverse base of attendees is matched by equally diverse activities. There is truly something for everyone. Tutorials for both beginners and experienced attendees cover all aspects of network and system administration, from basic administrative procedures to application of cutting-edge technologies. Refereed technical sessions explore the latest developments in both theory and practice. Invited Talks and Panels explore timely and entertaining topics in depth, with lively and sometimes controversial discussions. Work-in-progress reports look ahead to next year's innovations.

LISA also fosters and encourages personal exchanges in a less formal setting. There are so many animated technical conversations outside the formal meetings that LISA insiders sometimes refer to them as the "hallway track". Talk with the authors and other technology leaders in depth about their work. Share your expertise at a Guru Is In session. Celebrate or commiserate upon an informal topic at a Birds-of-a-Feather (BoF) session. Seek out vendors and explore solutions to your current problems.

By attending LISA you are contributing to computer management state-of-the-art, spreading knowledge about one of the most important challenges of the next century: living with the machines!

Get Involved!

System administrators and researchers: this is ***your*** conference. You can foster its community and aid in its success in many ways:
- Submit an abstract for a refereed paper.
- Propose an invited talk or panel discussion.
- Propose a tutorial topic.
- Give a work-in-progress report (WiP).
- Organize a birds-of-a-feather (BoF) session.
- Propose a new idea to the conference chair.

Each one of these options is described below.

Conference Themes

The conference covers all facets of the practice and theory of system and network administration. Potential topics for refereed papers, invited talks, and panels include:

Technologies
- Innovative system administration tools and techniques
- Distributed or automated system administration
- Administering high availability systems
- Disaster recovery systems
- Scalability approaches
- Enterprise computing infrastructure
- Host and network security
- Applications of tools and techniques from other disciplines
- New challenges and integration of emerging technologies

Theory and Practice of System Administration
- Methodology, paradigms, and models for system administration
- Analysis of "best practices" in systems administration
- Analysis and comparison of alternatives for accomplishing tasks
- Case studies and lessons learned
- Metrics and benchmarks for systems administration
- Performance analysis and monitoring
- Budgeting, cost analyses, and project planning/management techniques for systems administration

Human factors
- Management issues and strategies
- User and administrator psychology
- Helpdesk and user support strategies
- The system administrator's role in the organization
- Policy issues
- Collaboration with other kinds of administrators
- Politics of system administration
- The effect of organizational maturity

Education and Knowledge
- University teaching programs
- Educational technologies for system and network administration
- Training techniques for system administration

- Web resources and knowledge bases
- Standards and certifications

It is generally agreed that one cannot describe a truly revolutionary idea without breaking away from the expected. If your topic is relevant to system administrators but is not listed, please submit an abstract anyway. If there is any question as to whether your topic will "fit", please contact the Program Chair by email to: *lisa02chair@usenix.org*.

Refereed Papers

Refereed papers explore techniques, tools, theory, and case histories that extend our understanding of system and network administration as discipline, art, and science. System administration is a broad topic, so that an ideal paper can take many forms:

- description and analysis of a new theory, technique, or tool.
- application of an existing theory, technique, or tool in a novel way.
- critical analysis of alternatives in solving a common problem.
- lessons learned from honest evaluation of case histories.
- evaluation of management paradigms and other human factors.

The crucial components of all of these include something not previously considered, as well as thoughtful analysis and recommendations. The program committee is particularly interested in contributions from full-time students.

We particularly encourage contributions that:

- Look forward to future technologies and methods
- Report impartially on experiments testing new ideas
- Develop testable hypotheses for future investigation
- Explore the plausibility of new approaches, and the longevity of established ones
- Deepen our understanding of interaction between humans and machine
- Protect systems from being overwhelmed by scale and diversity
- Protect systems from the onslaught of computer warfare
- Discuss how sysadmin roles are changing
- Evaluate commercial technologies and tools.
- Report on implementation experiences

Cash prizes will be awarded at the conference for the best refereed paper and best refereed paper by a student.

Writing a refereed paper for LISA is a rewarding challenge. A properly crafted paper can make a difference in the thinking or practice of thousands of your colleagues. For the best possible impact, your paper should be written so that it is understandable to and relevant to a majority of our attendees. An ideal paper is understandable to an intermediate level system administrator, while containing ideas that will be new and timely to expert administrators.

Although there is only one kind of refereed paper this year, there are two lengths of presentations at the conference. Presenters of a long talk are allotted 30 minutes total time, including 25 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions. Presenters of a short talk are allotted 20 minutes total time, including 15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions.

Papers presented in short and long talks are considered equally in awarding "best paper" awards, and the designation your paper receives does not imply any difference in the quality of the described work. Some of the best ideas to come out of prior LISA's are novel approaches whose application is simple and straightforward. A "short talk" presents a great idea that the Program Committee judges to be relatively straightforward to describe. A "long talk" describes work that the Program Committee thinks might be more complex to explain and discuss. The "short talk" is an attempt to include more of the excellent ideas that our conference has become known for highlighting over the years.

It is particularly important to fit your own work into the context of past work and practice. Provide references to prior relevant work and describe the differences between that work and your own. Authors should browse proceedings of previous LISA conferences for references, and can use the online bibliography and resource page at Oslo University College (*http://www.iu.hio.no/SystemAdmin*) to find references to related work. The Program Chair and Program Committee can also give you tips on previous work that might be relevant. Email the Program Chair at *lisa02chair@usenix.org* for help.

Potential authors must submit an extended abstract of 500-1500 words (not counting figures and references) to the Pro-

gram Committee for review. You are welcome to submit a full paper for review at this point, provided that you preface it with an appropriate extended abstract. In the abstract (and the full paper, if applicable), include appropriate references to establish the relationship between your work and that of others and, where possible, provide detailed data to establish that you have a working implementation or measurement tool.

All abstract submissions must be electronic, in ASCII, PDF, or PostScript format. Please use the Web form located on the LISA 2002 Web site at *http://www.usenix.org/events/lisa02*. For administrative reasons, every submission should begin by listing:

1) paper title and authors, indicating any authors who are full time students.
2) for the author who will act as the contact to the program committee, his or her name, paper mail address, daytime and evening phone numbers, e-mail address and fax number, if available.
3) whether the paper should be considered as a "student paper" or "regular paper" when deliberating upon awards.
4) whether you would prefer to present the paper as a "long talk", "short talk", or "either short or long talk" for the purposes of planning presentation time.

Submissions will be judged on the quality of the written submission, novelty of approach, technical correctness, and whether or not the work advances the state-of-the-art of system administration. Papers must be submitted by the author of the paper. Papers whose only purpose is to promote a commercial product will not be accepted. For more information, please consult the detailed author guidelines at: *http://www.usenix.org/events/lisa02/cfp/guidelines.html*.

To aid authors in creating a paper suitable for LISA's audience, authors of accepted papers will be assigned one or more "shepherds" to help with the process of completing the paper. The shepherds will read intermediate drafts and provide comments before the authors complete the final draft.

Note that LISA, like most conferences and journals, requires that papers not be

submitted simultaneously to more than one conference or publication, and that submitted papers not be previously or subsequently published elsewhere for a certain period of time. Papers accompanied by non-disclosure agreement forms are not acceptable and will be returned unread. All submissions are held in the highest confidence prior to publication in the conference proceedings, both as a matter of policy and as protected by the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976.

Every accepted paper must be presented at the conference by at least one author. Authors of an accepted paper must provide a final paper for publication in the conference proceedings. One author of each accepted paper receives complimentary technical session registration. Final papers are limited to 16 pages, including diagrams, figures, references, and appendices. Complete instructions will be sent to authors of accepted papers.

Invited Talks

An Invited Talk discusses a topic of general interest to attendees. Unlike a refereed paper, this topic need not be new or unique, but should be timely and relevant, or perhaps entertaining. An ideal Invited Talk is approachable, but perhaps controversial. The material should be understandable to beginners, but the conclusions can perhaps be disagreed upon by experts. Another form of invited talk is a "panel discussion" in which several acknowledged experts discuss some aspect of the practice.

Proposals for invited talks and panels can take two forms. First, you can propose a topic about which you would feel comfortable giving an Invited Talk. This should be accompanied by an abstract describing the content of the talk. Similarly, you can propose a panel discussion topic. It is most helpful to us if you suggest possible panelists and alternates. You can also propose an Invited Talk that you would like to hear someone else present!

Invited Talks track range from the highly technical, to the highly informative, to the highly entertaining! Past Invited Talks have covered:

- Cryptography and security "hot topics".
- Emergent trends in the profession.
- Issues in "terascale computing".
- Legal briefings on new laws and regulations.

- Myths and realities of the profession.
- Overviews of new technologies and languages.
- Strategies for career development.

Panels give opinions on issues of the day with audience participation. Some past panels have addressed questions such as:

- Which scripting language is best for system administration?
- How difficult is it to write a sysadmin book?
- What is the future of computer security?
- What do computer buzzwords really mean?
- What problems plague University environments?
- Which mailer is best?
- Should "certification" be a job requirement?

If you have a topic of interest to systems administrators that is suitable for an Invited Talk or Panel Discussion, please submit a proposal to the Invited Talk coordinators. Proposals of a business development or marketing nature are not appropriate for submittal. Please email your proposal to *lisa02it@usenix.org*. Invited Talk proposals are due April 29, 2002.

Tutorial Program

LISA offers state-of-the-art tutorials from top experts in their fields. Topics range from introductory skills to advanced topics, updates on developments and news. You can choose from over 40 full and half-day tutorials, covering everything from performance tuning, Linux, Solaris, Windows, Perl, TCP/IP troubleshooting, security, networking, network services, sendmail, Samba, legal issues, and professional development.

To provide the best possible tutorial offerings, USENIX continually solicits proposals and ideas for new tutorials. If you are interested in presenting a tutorial at this or other USENIX conferences, or even have an idea for a tutorial you would like to see offered, please contact the tutorial coordinator:

Daniel V. Klein
Tel: +1.412.422.0285
Fax: +1.412.421.2332
Email: *dvk@usenix.org*

Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities

LISA, the oldest and largest conference exclusively for system administrators, pre-

sents an unparalleled marketing and selling opportunity for sponsoring and exhibiting organizations. Your company will gain both mind share and market share as you present your products and services to a pre-qualified audience that heavily influences the purchasing decisions of your targeted prospects. For more details, please contact:

Shelley W. Gottlieb
Tel: +1.510.528.8649 x25
Email: shelley@usenix.org

Work-in-Progress Reports

A Work-in-Progress report (WiP) is a very short presentation about new work that you are currently undertaking. It is a great way to poll the LISA audience for feedback and interest. We are particularly interested in presentation of student work.

Do you have interesting work you would like to share, or a cool idea that is not yet ready to be published? To schedule your short report, send email to: *lisawips@usenix.org*.

Birds-of-a-Feather Sessions

Birds-of-a-Feather sessions (BoFs) are very informal gatherings organized by attendees interested in a particular topic. BoFs are held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. BoFs may be scheduled in advance by phoning +1 510 528 8649 or via email to: *conference@usenix.org*. BoFs may also be scheduled at the conference.

Contact the Chair

The Program Chair, Alva Couch, is always open to new ideas that might improve the conference. Please email any and all ideas to *lisa02chair@usenix.org*.

Program and Registration Information

Complete program and registration information will be available in August 2002 at the conference website at: *http://www.usenix.org/events/lisa02*.

If you would like to receive the program booklet in print, please email your request, including your postal address, to *conference@usenix.org*.