# Message from the Program Chair

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 18th USENIX Security Symposium, held in beautiful Montreal, Canada. I am delighted to report that this year's program continues the tradition of excellence established over the long and prestigious history of the conference. The 176 submissions we received represent one of the most successful calls in the history of the conference. Of the papers submitted to the technical program, one was later withdrawn by the authors, and three were double submissions that were summarily rejected. The remaining 172 submissions underwent a thorough reviewing process, and it was exceedingly difficult to select only 26 papers from such a high number of strong submissions spanning many areas in computer security. At such a selective acceptance rate (i.e., 15%), many of the papers that we could not accept were also of high quality; surely some of these works will be accepted at other top-tier conferences in the near future. I sincerely hope that the authors who submitted papers found the reviewers' feedback helpful.

The reviewing process began a few days after the submissions deadline, and every paper was assigned to at least three reviewers on the Program Committee (PC). Several papers received as many as five reviews. The papers were evaluated based on scientific novelty, contribution to the field, and technical quality. Our Program Committee meeting was held April 6–7 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In keeping with the strong USENIX Security tradition, all 26 committee members attended the PC meeting. The top 62 papers, having made it through a lengthy on-line discussion phase, were further deliberated on at the meeting, and the final papers were selected based on input from the entire committee. It was truly an honor to work with such a dedicated and collegial team of subject matter experts! The service of all members of the PC was remarkable, and I would like to personally thank each of them for their outstanding service to the community. I am also grateful to the many external reviewers (acknowledged in the frontmatter) who assisted the committee members.

This year, we are also very fortunate to have an exceptional lineup of events that broaden the technical program. I would like to thank Dan Boneh, Patrick McDaniel, and Hugh Thompson for their tireless efforts to produce the Invited Talks program. Thanks also to Sven Dietrich for coordinating the always entertaining Work-in-Progress (WiPs) reports, and to Carrie Gates for agreeing to build on last year's success by again organizing the Poster Session. I am sure you will find the Symposium an exciting and rewarding event.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the USENIX staff for their support throughout the entire process. What an outstanding team! Without a doubt, this process would not have run as smoothly were it not for their dedication. I am indebted to Anton Cohen, Anne Dickison, Casey Henderson, Jane-Ellen Long, and Devon Shaw for their patience and support. And, of course, my deepest gratitude goes to the masterful organizer, Ellie Young, who seamlessly ran the entire show behind the scenes. (Who knows? I might even reconsider going through this gruelling, yet rewarding, process again just because of her—but don't hold me to that!) Thanks also to the liaisons to the USENIX Board for providing guidance on numerous issues that surfaced during the selection process.

Again, welcome to the conference. We hope you enjoy the program as much as we enjoyed putting it together!

**Fabian Monrose, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
**Program Chair**