Message from the Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 7th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies! It has been our honor and pleasure to work with an outstanding program committee and the exceptional USENIX staff to bring this program to you.

File and storage technologies continue to be a critical component in our computing landscape—the 102 submissions to FAST this year show just how vibrant and wide-ranging our community of researchers and developers truly is. The 23 papers that will be presented at this conference represent the breadth in storage systems from the home to the cloud.

Winnowing down those 102 submissions to the 23 papers you see here was a monumental task. Our dedicated program committee, in conjunction with 62 external reviewers, produced hundreds of reviews in the six weeks that it took to go through both rounds. In our first round, every submission got at least three reviews. Papers that made it to the second round received of minimum of five reviews, with some getting as many as nine reviews.

The committee met in November for an intense one-day program committee meeting. Every member of the committee was actively engaged in the discussion, and we made a great effort to see that the contribution of every paper was discussed. Differences of opinion were handled professionally, intelligently, and with respect.

Each member of the program committee continued to contribute to the conference after our face-to-face meeting by shepherding at least one paper, helping the authors address the concerns of the reviewers. When USENIX received the final papers, the committee members had to select the best papers and sign up to chair sessions. A simple "thank you" from the program co-chairs seems hardly enough—if you see these people at the conference or encounter them elsewhere, please acknowledge the contribution they made to producing this conference!

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the authors of all the papers submitted. Each paper represented a significant piece of work, and we could have produced multiple, interesting conferences had that been our charter.

This conference could not happen without the outstanding USENIX staff. They are always there to do what needs to get done, nag us into doing what we need to do, solve problems, answer questions, etc. And they always do it with good will and cheer.

And finally, after running conferences for over fifteen years, we were thrilled to have a conference management system that really did what it needed to do. We give a big thank you to Eddie Kohler for his HotCRP system—it's easy to use and has every feature we needed, and Eddie was more responsive than any commercial customer service organization we'd ever encountered. Many, many thanks!

We hope you enjoy the conference.

Ric Wheeler, Red Hat
Margo Seltzer, Harvard University
FAST '09 Program Co-Chairs