Message from the FAST '17 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 15th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies. This year's conference continues the FAST tradition of bringing together researchers and practitioners from both industry and academia for a program of innovative and rigorous storage-related research. We are pleased to present a diverse set of papers on topics such as flash and NVM, SMR, reliability, transaction processing, cloud storage, measurement, and traditional file systems. Our authors hail from eight countries on three continents and represent academia, industry, and the open-source communities. Many of the submitted papers are the fruits of collaboration among all these communities.

FAST '17 received 116 submissions. Of these we selected 27, for an acceptance rate of 23%. The Program Committee used a two-round online review process and then met in person to select the final program. In the first round, each paper received at least three reviews. For the second round, 68 papers received at least two more reviews. The Program Committee discussed 56 papers in an all-day meeting on December 9, 2016, at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. We used Eddie Kohler's superb HotCRP software to manage all stages of the review process, from submission to author notification.

As in the previous five years, we included a category of short papers. We received 27 short paper submissions, but to our surprise, none were accepted. This year we included a new category of deployed-systems papers, which address experience with the practical design, implementation, analysis or deployment of large-scale, operational systems. Deployed systems papers need not present new ideas or results, but should offer useful guidance to practitioners. We received 10 deployed-systems submissions, of which we accepted 3. We were happy to see a number of submissions (and accepted papers) from adjacent areas such as anomaly detection and graph processing.

We wish to thank the many people who contributed to this conference. First and foremost, we are grateful to all the authors who submitted their work to FAST '17. We would also like to thank the attendees of FAST '17 and the future readers of these papers. Together with the authors, you form the FAST community and make storage research vibrant and exciting. We extend our thanks to the USENIX staff, especially Casey Henderson, Hilary Hartman, and Michele Nelson, who have provided outstanding support throughout the planning and organizing of this conference with the highest degree of professionalism and friendliness. Most importantly, their behind-the-scenes work makes this conference actually happen. Our thanks go also to Keith Smith and the members of the FAST Steering Committee, who provided invaluable advice and feedback.

Finally, we wish to thank our Program Committee for their many hours of hard work reviewing and discussing the submissions, some of whom traveled halfway across the world for the one-day in-person PC meeting. Together with a few external reviewers, they wrote 479 thoughtful and meticulous reviews. HotCRP recorded over 163,000 words in reviews and comments (excluding HotCRP boilerplate; 329K when included). The reviewers' evaluations, and their thorough and conscientious deliberations at the PC meeting, contributed significantly to the quality of our decisions. Finally, we also thank several people who helped make the PC meeting run smoothly: student volunteers Emily Dorsey, Emily First, and Elizabeth Krenkel; local arrangements and administrative support from Joyce Greene; and IT and A/V support from Taylor Calderone.

We look forward to an interesting and enjoyable conference!

Geoff Kuenning, *Harvey Mudd College*
Carl Waldspurger, *CloudPhysics*
FAST '17 Program Co-Chairs