22nd Large Installation System Administration Conference (LISA '08)

Sponsored by USENIX and SAGE

http://www.usenix.org/lisa08

November 9–14, 2008   **San Diego, CA, USA**

Important Dates

Extended abstract and paper submissions due: *May 8, 2008, 11:59 p.m. PDT*
Invited talk and workshop proposals due: *May 20, 2008*
Guru Is In and Hit the Ground Running proposals due: *May 31, 2008*
Notification to authors: *Mid-June 2008*
Poster proposals due: *July 16, 2008*
Notification to poster presenters: *July 23, 2008*
Final papers due: *August 20, 2008*

Conference Organizers

Program Chair
Mario Obejas, *Raytheon*

Program Committee
Paul Anderson, *University of Edinburgh*
Derek Balling, *Answers Corporation*
Travis Campbell, *AMD*
Narayan Desai, *Argonne National Laboratory*
Æleen Frisch, *Exponential Consulting*
Brent Hoon Kang, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*
Chris McEniry, *Sony Computer Entertainment America*
Adam Moskowitz, *Permabit Technology Corporation*
David Parter, *University of Wisconsin*
David Plonka, *University of Wisconsin*
Kent Skaar, *BMC Software, Inc.*

Invited Talks Coordinators
Rudi van Drunen, *Competa IT/Xlexit*
Philip Kizer, *Tekelec*

Workshops Coordinator
Lee Damon, *University of Washington*

Guru Is In Coordinator
John "Rowan" Littell, *California College of the Arts*

Hit the Ground Running Coordinator
Adam Moskowitz, *Permabit Technology Corporation*

Work-in-Progress Reports and Posters Coordinators
Brent Hoon Kang, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*
Gautam Singaraju, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

Overview

Since 1987, the annual LISA conference has become the premier meeting place for professional system and network administrators. System administrators of all ranks, from novice to veteran, and of all specialties meet to exchange ideas, sharpen skills, learn new techniques, debate current issues, and mingle with colleagues and friends.

Attendees are diverse, a rich mix of nationalities and of educational, government, and industry backgrounds. We work in the full spectrum of computing environments (e.g., large corporations, small businesses, academic institutions, government agencies). We include full- and part-time students engaged in internships, as well as students and faculty deeply involved in system administration research. Whereas many attendees focus on practical system administration, others focus on speculative system administration

research. We support a broad range of operating systems (e.g., Solaris, Windows, Mac OS X, HP-UX, AIX, BSD, Linux) and commercial and open source applications, and we run them on a variety of infrastructures.

The conference's diverse group of participants are matched by a broad spectrum of conference activities:

• A training program for both beginners and experienced attendees covers many administrative topics, ranging from basic procedures to using cutting-edge technologies.
• Refereed papers present the latest developments and ideas related to system and network administration.
• Workshops, invited talks, and panels discuss important and timely topics in depth and typically include lively and/or controversial debates and audience interaction.
• Work-in-Progress Reports (WiPs) and poster sessions provide brief looks ahead to next year's innovations.
• The Hit the Ground Running track presents multiple important topics in single sessions, distilled down to a few solid points.

LISA also makes it easy for people to interact in more informal settings:
• Noted experts answer questions at Guru Is In sessions.
• Participants discuss/celebrate/commiserate about a shared interest at Birds-of-a-Feather (BoF) sessions.
• Vendors answer questions and offer solutions at the Exhibition.

Finally, we strongly encourage informal discussions among participants on both technical and nontechnical topics in the famous "hallway track." LISA is a place to learn and to have fun!

Get Involved!

The theme for LISA '08 is "Real World System Administration."

Experts and old-timers don't have all the good ideas. We welcome participants who will provide concrete ideas to immediately implement, as well as those whose research will forge tomorrow's computing infrastructures. We are particularly keen to showcase novel solutions or new applications of mature technologies. This is your conference, and we want you to participate. Here are examples of ways to get involved in this 22nd LISA conference:

• Submit a draft paper or extended abstract for a refereed paper.
• Suggest an invited talk or panel discussion.
• Propose a short Hit the Ground Running presentation.
• Share your experience by leading a Guru Is In session.
• Create and lead a workshop.
• Propose a tutorial topic.
• Present a Work-in-Progress Report (WiP) or submit a poster.
• Organize a Birds-of-a-Feather (BoF) session.
• Email an idea to the Program Chair: lisa08ideas@usenix.org.

Refereed Papers

Effective administration of a large site requires a good understanding of modern tools and techniques, together with their underlying principles—but the human factors involved in managing and applying these technologies in a production environment are equally important. Bringing together theory and practice is an important goal of the LISA conference, and practicing system

administrators, as well as academic researchers, all have valuable contributions to make. A selection of possible topics for refereed papers appears in a separate section below, but submissions are welcome on any aspect of system administration, from the underlying theory of a new configuration technique to a case study on the management of a successful site merger.

Whatever the topic, it is most important that papers present results in the context of current practice and previous work: they should provide references to related work and make specific comparisons where appropriate. The crucial component is that your paper present something new or timely; for instance, something that was not previously available, or something that had not previously been published. Careful searching for publications on a similar theme will help to identify any possible duplication and provide pointers to related work; the USENIX site contains most previous LISA conference proceedings, which may provide a starting point when searching for related publications: http://www.usenix.org/events/byname/lisa.html.

Cash prizes will be awarded at the conference for the best refereed paper as well as for the best refereed paper for which a student is the lead author; a special announcement will also be made about these two papers.

Proposal and Submission Details

Anyone who would like help in writing a proposal should contact the program chair at lisa08chair@usenix.org. The conference organizers are keen to make sure that good work gets published, and we are happy to help at any stage in the process.

Proposals may be submitted as draft papers or extended abstracts.

- **Draft papers:** This is the preferred format. A draft paper proposal is limited to 16 pages, including diagrams, figures, references, and appendices. It should be a complete or near-complete paper, so that the Program Committee has the best possible understanding of your ideas and presentation.
- **Extended abstracts:** An extended abstract proposal should be about 5 pages long (at least 500 words, not counting figures and references) and should include a brief outline of the final paper. The form of the full paper must be clear from your abstract. The Program Committee will be attempting to judge the quality of the final paper from your abstract. This is harder to do with extended abstracts than with the preferred form, draft papers, so your abstract must be as helpful as possible in this process to be considered for acceptance.

Paper authors are also invited to submit posters, as outlined below, to accompany their presentations; these provide an overview of the work and a focal point for delegates to meet with the author.

General submission rules:

- All submissions must be electronic, in ASCII or PDF format only. Proposals must be submitted using the Web form located on the LISA '08 Call for Papers Web site, http://www.usenix.org/lisa08/cfp.
- Submissions should include a list of appropriate topic keywords or tags above the body text of the draft paper or extended abstract. For example:
      Tags: security, research, IPv6
  Suggested tags include security, research, case study, backups, configuration management, database, Web, printing, filesystem, authentication, and VMs. Authors may include additional tags as well.
- Submissions whose main purpose is to promote a commercial product or service will not be accepted.
- Submissions may be submitted only by the author of the paper. No third-party submissions will be accepted.
- All accepted papers must be presented at the LISA conference by at least one author. One author per paper will receive a registration discount of $200. USENIX will offer a complimentary registration for the technical program upon request.
- Authors of an accepted paper must provide a final paper for publication in the conference proceedings. Final papers are limited to 16 pages, including diagrams, figures, references, and appendices. Complete instructions will be sent to the authors of accepted papers. To aid authors in creating a paper suitable for LISA's audience, authors of accepted proposals will be assigned one or more shepherds to help with the process of completing the paper. The shepherds will read one or more intermediate drafts and provide comments before the authors complete the final draft.
- Simultaneous submission of the same work to multiple venues, submission of previously published work, and plagiarism constitute dishonesty

or fraud. USENIX, like other scientific and technical conferences and journals, prohibits these practices and may, on the recommendation of a program chair, take action against authors who have committed them. In some cases, to ensure the integrity of papers under consideration, program committees may share information about submitted papers with other conference chairs and journal editors. If a violation of these principles is found, sanctions may include, but are not limited to, barring the authors from submitting to or participating in USENIX conferences for a set period, contacting the authors' institutions, and publicizing the details of the case. Authors uncertain whether their submission meets USENIX's guidelines should contact the program chair, lisa08chair @usenix.org, or the USENIX office, submissionspolicy@usenix.org.
- Papers accompanied by nondisclosure agreement forms will not be considered. All submissions will be treated as confidential prior to publication in the Proceedings.

For administrative reasons, every submission must list:

1. Paper title, and names, affiliations, and email addresses of all authors. Indicate each author who is a full-time student.
2. The author who will be the contact for the Program Committee. Include his/her name, affiliation, paper mail address, daytime and evening phone numbers, email address, and fax number (as applicable).

For more information, please consult the detailed author guidelines at http://www.usenix.org/events/lisa08/cfp/guidelines.html. **Paper and extended abstract submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. PDT on May 8, 2008.** Authors will be notified by mid-June whether their papers have been accepted.

Training Program

LISA offers state-of-the-art tutorials from top experts in their fields. Topics cover every level from introductory to highly advanced. You can choose from over 50 full- and half-day tutorials ranging from Linux-HA, through performance tuning, Solaris, Windows, Perl, Samba, network troubleshooting, security, network services, filesystems, backups, Sendmail, spam, and legal issues, to professional development.

To provide the best possible tutorial offerings, USENIX continually solicits proposals and ideas for new tutorials, especially on subjects not yet covered. If you are interested in presenting a tutorial or have an idea for a tutorial you would like to see offered, please contact the Education Director, Daniel V. Klein, at tutorials@usenix.org.

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. A list of suggested topics is available in a separate section below. An ideal invited talk is approachable and possibly controversial. The material should be understandable by beginners, but the conclusions may be disagreed with by experts. Invited talks should be 60–70 minutes long, and speakers should plan to take 20–30 minutes of questions from the audience.

Invited talk proposals should be accompanied by an abstract of less than one page in length describing the content of the talk. You can also propose a panel discussion topic. It is most helpful to us if you suggest potential panelists. Proposals of a business development or marketing nature are not appropriate. Speakers must submit their own proposals; third-party submissions, even if authorized, will be rejected.

Please email your proposal to lisa08it@usenix.org. **Invited talk proposals are due May 20, 2008.**

The Guru Is In

Everyone is invited to bring perplexing technical questions to the experts at LISA's unique Guru Is In sessions. These informal gatherings are organized around a single technical area or topic. Email suggestions for Guru Is In sessions or your offer to be a Guru to lisa08guru@usenix.org. **Guru Is In proposals are due May 31, 2008.**

Hit the Ground Running

This track consists of five high-speed presentations packed into each 90-minute session. The presentations are intended to give attendees a "brain dump" on a new technology, new features in an existing protocol or service,

an overview of the state of the art of a technique or practice, or an introduction to an existing technology that is becoming more widely used.

HTGR proposals should be accompanied by an abstract of less than one page in length describing the content of the talk. Proposals of a business development or marketing nature are not appropriate. Speakers must submit their own proposals; third-party submissions, even if authorized, will be rejected. Suggestions for desired HTGR presentations are also welcome (if possible, accompanied by a suggestion for a speaker).

Please email your proposal to lisa08htg@usenix.org. **HTGR proposals are due May 31, 2008.**

Workshops

One-day workshops are hands-on, participatory, interactive sessions where small groups of system administrators have an opportunity to discuss a topic of common interest. Workshops are not intended as tutorials, and participants normally have significant experience in the appropriate area, enabling discussions at a peer level. However, attendees with less experience often find workshops useful and are encouraged to discuss attendance with the workshop organizer.

A workshop proposal should include the following information:
• Title
• Objective
• Organizer name(s) and contact information
• Potential attendee profile
• Outline of potential topics

Please email your proposal to lisa08workshops@usenix.org. **Workshop proposals are due May 20, 2008.**

Posters

This year's conference will include a poster session. This is an opportunity to display a poster describing recent work. The posters will be on display during the conference, and fixed times will be advertised when authors should be present to discuss their work with anyone who is interested. This provides a very good opportunity to make contact with other people who may be interested in the same area. Student posters, practitioners sharing their experiences, and submissions from open source communities are particularly welcome.

To submit a poster, please send a 1–5 page proposal or 6–12 PowerPoint slides in PDF to lisa08posters@usenix.org. Please include your name, your affiliation, and the title of your poster. The deadline for submissions is July 16, 2008. If you would like a shepherd to assist you with your poster proposal, please contact lisa08posters@usenix.org in advance of the deadline. Accepted poster authors will be notified by July 23. If your poster is accepted, you might receive a recommendation for shepherding to prepare your final poster. Completed posters will be required by the start of the conference. Poster presenters who would also like to give a short presentation may also register for a WiP as below.

Work-in-Progress Reports (WiPs)

A Work-in-Progress Report (WiP) is a very short presentation about current work. It is a great way to poll the LISA audience for feedback and interest. We are particularly interested in presentations of student work. To schedule a short presentation, send email to lisa08wips@usenix.org or sign up on the first day of the technical sessions.

Birds-of-a-Feather Sessions (BoFs)

Birds-of-a-Feather sessions (BoFs) are informal gatherings organized by attendees interested in a particular topic. BoFs will be held in the evening. BoFs may be scheduled in advance by emailing bofs@usenix.org. BoFs may also be scheduled at the conference.

Possible Topics for Authors and Speakers

Technical Challenges
- Authentication and authorization: "Single sign-on" technologies, identity management
- Autonomic computing: Self-repairing systems, zero administration systems, fail-safe design
- Configuration management: Specification languages, configuration deployment
- Data center design: Modern methods, upgrading old centers
- Data management: DBMS management systems, deployment architectures and methods, real world performance
- Email: Mail infrastructures, spam prevention
- Grid computing: Management of grid fabrics and infrastructure
- Hardware: Multicore processor ramifications
- Mobile computing: Supporting and managing laptops and remote communications
- Multiple platforms: Integrating and supporting multiple platforms (e.g., Linux, Windows, Macintosh)
- Networking: New technologies, network management
- Security: Malware and virus prevention, security technologies and procedures, response to cyber attacks targeting individuals
- Service
- Standards: Enabling interoperability of local and remote services and applications
- Storage: New storage technologies, remote filesystems, backups, scaling
- Web 2.0 technologies: Using, supporting, and managing wikis, blogs, and other Web 2.0 applications
- Virtualization: Managing and configuring virtualized resources

Professional Challenges
- Budgeting: Definitions and methods
- Communication: Tools and procedures for improving communication between administrators and users, distribution organizations, or teams
- Consolidation: Merging and standardizing infrastructures and procedures
- Devolution: Managing dependence on devolved services (calendars, mail, Web 2.0, etc.) and users
- Ethics: Common dilemmas and outcomes
- Flexibility: Responding effectively to changes in technology and business demands
- In-house development: The (dis)advantages and pitfalls of in-house technology development
- Legislation: Security, privacy
- Management: The interface and transition between "technical" and "managerial"
- Metrics: Measuring and analyzing the effectiveness of technologies and procedures
- Outsourcing/offshoring system administration: Is it possible?
- Proactive administration: Transitioning from a reactive culture
- Standardizing methodologies: Sharing best practice
- Training and staff development: Developing and retaining good system administrators; certifications
- User support: Systems and procedures for supporting users

Contact the Chair

The program chair, Mario Obejas, is always open to new ideas that might improve the conference. Please email your ideas to lisa08ideas@usenix.org.

Final Program and Registration Information

Complete program and registration information will be available in August 2008 at the conference Web site, http://www.usenix.org/lisa08. If you would like to receive the latest USENIX conference information, please join our mailing list at http://www.usenix.org/about/mailing.html.

Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities

The oldest and largest conference exclusively for system administrators presents an unparalleled marketing and sales 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 prequalified audience that heavily influences the purchasing decisions of your targeted prospects. For more details please contact exhibits@usenix.org.