Message from the
FAST '20 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 18th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies, FAST '20. This year's conference continues the 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 cloud storage, key-value stores, consistency, reliability, caching, HPC systems, SSD, and traditional file systems. Submissions to the conference came from authors representing academia, industry, and the open source community.

FAST '20 received 138 submissions. Of these, we accepted 23 papers, for an acceptance rate of 17%. 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, 79 papers received at least three more reviews. The Program Committee discussed 61 papers in an all-day meeting on December 6, 2019, at Google in Sunnyvale, CA. We used Eddie Kohler's excellent HotCRP software to manage all stages of the review process, from submission to author notification.

As in the previous years, we included a category of short papers. Short papers provide a vehicle for presenting completed research that does not require a full-length paper to describe and evaluate. We received 25 short paper submissions, of which 2 were accepted. Also in line with previous years, we included a category of deployed-systems papers, which address experience with the practical design, implementation, analysis or deployment of large-scale, operational systems. We received 6 deployed-systems submissions, of which we accepted 3.

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 '20. We would also like to thank the attendees of FAST '20 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 entire USENIX staff, especially Casey Henderson, Jasmine Murcia, Sarah TerHune, Camille Mulligan, Olivia Vernetti, and Arnold Gatilao, 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. We would like to thank the Poster and Work-in-Progress Session Chairs, Dean Hildebrand and Avani Wildani. Our thanks go also to the members of the FAST Steering Committee who provided invaluable advice and feedback, and to our Steering Committee Liaison, Keith Smith, for his guidance and encouragement on many issues, large and small, over the past year.

Finally, we wish to thank our Program Committee for their many hours of hard work reviewing, discussing, and shepherding the submissions. Some of the PC traveled halfway across the world for the one-day, in-person PC meeting. In total, the PC wrote 653 thoughtful and meticulous reviews. HotCRP recorded approximately 473,000 words in reviews and comments (excluding HotCRP boilerplate language). The reviewers' evaluations, and their thorough and conscientious deliberations at the PC meeting, contributed significantly to the quality of our decisions. Each paper had a shepherd that reviewed the final submission and provided additional feedback. In many cases this led to significant improvements in the final quality of the submissions. We look forward to an interesting and enjoyable conference!

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