

Message from the NSDI '21 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to NSDI '21!

It is an understatement to say that the past year has been a stressful and difficult time for us all. The pandemic, the associated economic disruption, and the large-scale social movements for racial equality have given us reasons for both hope and grief during the last 12 months. Placed in this context, our academic work as computer scientists can feel small. Many of us struggled with our health (mental, physical, or otherwise) in the past year, as we grappled with the era in which we live. The fact that NSDI is still happening this year is a testament to the graciousness with which our community has treated each other during these hard times. As paper submitters, paper reviewers, PC members, and conference organizers, we helped each other with our kindness and our flexibility; by showing compassion in the face of last-minute schedule disruptions and requests for a little extra time, we made it possible for a huge undertaking like NSDI to move forward in uncertain circumstances.

NSDI '21 received 369 papers in total: 114 in the spring deadline, and 255 in the fall deadline. 59 papers were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 16%. Papers were reviewed by a group of 70 experts from both academia and industry. We sincerely thank those reviewers, who provided thoughtful feedback during an enormously disruptive time. We also thank the paper authors; your submissions are what make NSDI such a great venue, and we hope that you will enjoy the conference program.

We'd like to thank all of the USENIX staff who helped us to organize this year's conference amidst such extraordinarily challenging circumstances. At every step in the process, from configuring the HotCRP server to dealing with camera-ready production, the USENIX staff provided invaluable advice and implementation. So, we send a heartfelt thanks to Casey Henderson, Olivia Verneti, Camille Mulligan, Arnold Gatilao, Jasmine Murcia, Jessica Kim, Julia Hendrickson, and the rest of the USENIX team. Our community is lucky to have support from such dedicated USENIX staff.

We are excited that NSDI '21 will be held, even if the conference presentations will be virtual. We thank the efforts of everyone who made this possible, whether you submitted papers, reviewed papers, helped with the organization of the conference, or will just be attending the conference. We hope that you are safe and healthy, and that the next year will be easier and more joyful than the last.

James Mickens, *Harvard University*

Renata Teixeira, *Netflix*

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