Message from the 2011 USENIX Annual Technical Conference Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 2011 USENIX Annual Technical Conference!

This year continues the USENIX Annual Tech tradition of papers and presentations reflecting some of the finest practical research in computer systems today. The program committee put together an excellent program of 27 full papers and 9 short papers, selected from 180 submissions. These papers reflect a broad range of work, including novel twists on core areas such as scheduling, storage, distributed systems, and virtualization, a renewed emphasis on important problems in debugging, diagnosis, security, and privacy, and new contributions in emerging areas such as cloud computing and personal devices.

It was our privilege to work with a great program committee of 28 members, from a range of industrial and academic research institutions. Program committee members were allowed to submit papers, but as program co-chairs, we did not submit any ourselves, to minimize complications and conflicts of interest. Every paper submitted to the conference received at least three reviews from program committee members, and every paper accepted to the conference received at least four reviews from program committee members. Overall, program committee members completed more than 700 reviews—roughly 25 reviews each. In addition, we benefited from the expertise of external reviewers who completed a number of additional reviews. The committee met at Columbia University on March 14, 2011, for an all-day discussion to decide the final program. Every program committee member except one attended the meeting. Nearly all of the accepted papers were then shepherded by a program committee member to deliver the final camera-ready version. Poster submissions were handled by Ajay Gulati, who served as the poster chair for the conference.

Many people deserve credit and thanks for their hard work in helping to make the conference successful. Without the many authors who submitted high-quality and thought-provoking papers, USENIX Annual Tech as a venue, event, and community of researchers would not exist. The program committee and our external reviewers devoted much time and diligence to reviewing and shepherding, in some cases on short notice. Eddie Kohler's HotCRP conference management software enabled the reviewing process and program committee meeting to run smoothly, and Tony Del Porto kept the USENIX servers up and running throughout the process. We are also grateful to Columbia University for hosting the program committee meeting, and to VMware, Yahoo!, and IBM for helping to sponsor the meeting. Finally, the USENIX staff—especially Ellie Young, Jane-Ellen Long, Casey Henderson, Camille Mulligan, Anne Dickison, Jessica Horst, and Andrew Gustafson—have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the conference a success.

We would like to thank our industry sponsors for their support in making the 2011 USENIX Annual Technical Conference possible and enjoyable. In particular, we thank our Silver Sponsors EMC, Facebook, and VMware, and our Bronze Sponsors Google, Microsoft Research, and NetApp, as well as our Media Sponsors and Industry Partners. Thanks also to NSF for providing student travel support for the conference.

We hope you enjoy the program and the conference!

Jason Nieh, *Columbia University*
Carl Waldspurger