Message from the FAST '15 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 13th 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 scaling for big data and distributed systems, erasure codes, SSD and SMR, reliability and performance, write-optimized systems, benchmarking and workloads, and mobile and social-networking systems. Our authors hail from many countries on three continents and represent academia, industry, and the open-source communities. Many of the submitted papers are the fruits of a collaboration among all these communities.

FAST '15 received 130 submissions. Of these, we selected 28, for an acceptance rate of 21%. 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 54 papers in an all-day meeting on December 5, 2014, at Stony Brook University, New York, USA. 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 three years, we have included a category of short papers in the program. Short papers provide a vehicle for presenting research ideas that do not require a full-length paper to describe and evaluate. In judging short papers, we applied the same standards as for full-length submissions. 25 of our submissions were short papers, of which we accepted four. This year, we also included an option to indicate an asset release with the submission—be it source code, traces, or other artifacts—that others in the FAST community can use and benefit from; 28 submissions selected this option. Finally, we were happy to see a growing number of submissions (and accepted papers) from adjacent areas such as database systems and hardware.

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 '15. We would also like to thank the attendees of FAST '15 and 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, 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 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 in reviewing and discussing the submissions, some of whom traveled half across the world for the one-day in-person PC meeting. Together with a few external reviewers, they wrote over 520 thoughtful and meticulous reviews; in addition, PC members contributed over 480 online comments of discussions during the reviewing rounds. HotCRP recorded over 340,000 words in reviews and comments. The reviewers' reviews, 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 volunteer Ming Chen; the IT staff headed by Ken Gladkey; administrative and local arrangements support from Kathy Germana and Chrisitine Cesaria; and department chair Arie Kaufman for sponsorship.

We look forward to an interesting and enjoyable conference!

Jiri Schindler, *SimpliVity*
Erez Zadok, *Stony Brook University*
FAST '15 Program Co-Chairs