Message from the FAST '16 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 14th 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 flash and NVM, reliability, key-value stores, cloud and datacenter storage, and deduplication. Our authors hail from 15 countries on 3 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 '16 received 115 submissions. Of these, we selected 27 for an acceptance rate of 23%. 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, 74 papers received at least two more reviews. The Program Committee discussed 55 papers in an all-day meeting on December 4, 2015, at the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. 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 four 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. We received 27 short paper submissions, of which we accepted 5. We were happy to see a growing number of submissions (and accepted papers) from adjacent areas such as database systems and verification.

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 '16. We would also like to thank the attendees of FAST '16 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 halfway across the world for the one-day in-person PC meeting. Together with a few external reviewers, they wrote over 496 thoughtful and meticulous reviews. HotCRP recorded over 310,000 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 volunteers George Amvrosiadis, Daniel Fryer, and Ioan Stefanovici; local arrangements and administrative support from Joseph Raghubar and Regina Hui; and IT support from Tom Glinos.

We look forward to an interesting and enjoyable conference!

Angela Demke Brown, *University of Toronto*
Florentina Popovici, *Google*
FAST '16 Program Co-Chairs