Message from the
FAST '23 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to the 21st USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies (FAST '23).

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. FAST has adapted with the progression of the COVID pandemic. Two years back, FAST '21 was held as a fully virtual conference for the first time. Last year, FAST '22 was held as a hybrid (both in-person and online) conference. This year, we are happy to announce that the FAST '23 conference is being held fully in person, and we are expecting participation from much of the broader storage community at the conference. However, the pandemic isn't over yet, and some of the authors are unable to travel to the conference, so we are offering both in-person and video talks with online Q&A.

We have worked on a program with talks on a wide range of topics, including emerging and traditional storage technologies, cloud and remote storage, key-value stores, persistent memory systems, storage coding, learned storage systems, and, as always, new file system designs. The conference will also include posters and work-in-progress sessions.

FAST '23 received 122 submissions from authors in academia, industry, government labs, and the open-source communities. Of these, we accepted 28 papers, for an acceptance rate of 23%. The Program Committee (PC) used a two-round online review process. In the first round, each paper was assigned three reviewers. This year, we adopted an early rejection notification for papers that did not advance to round two, allowing authors to receive and act upon feedback earlier. In the second round, 63 papers were assigned at least two more reviews, and these authors were invited to submit a response to the reviews before the PC meeting. This is the third year that FAST has included an author response period. After the author response period and online discussion, in which we pre-accepted 13 papers, the PC discussed 28 papers to select the final program. We held a two-day online PC meeting on December 5–6, 2022, with PC members joining virtually from global locations across 11 different time zones.

We used the HotCRP service to manage all the stages of the review process, from submission to author notification. All accepted papers were assigned a shepherd from the PC, who worked with the authors to address comments from the reviews and provided editorial advice and feedback on the final manuscripts.

We continued including a special category of deployed-systems papers, which address experience with the practical design, implementation, analysis, or deployment of large-scale, operational systems. We received nine deployed-systems submissions and accepted four such papers.

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 '23. We would also like to thank the attendees of FAST '23 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, 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 happen.

We would like to thank the Work-in-Progress Session Chairs, Aishwarya Ganesan and Ram Alagappan. Our thanks go to the members of the FAST Steering Committee, and especially the recent FAST chairs to whom we reached out and who provided invaluable advice and feedback. We especially wish to acknowledge our Steering Committee Liaison, Keith Smith, for his guidance on tough issues and encouragement on various issues 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. The reviewers' evaluations, and their thorough and conscientious deliberations at the PC meeting, contributed significantly to the quality of our decisions. Similarly, the paper shepherds' efforts led to significant improvements in the final quality of the program.

We look forward to an interesting and enjoyable conference!

Dalit Naor, *The Academic College of Tel Aviv–Yaffo*
Ashvin Goel, *University of Toronto*
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