

NSDI '26: 23rd USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation

May 4–6, 2026, Renton, WA, USA

Sponsored by USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association



Important Dates

Spring deadline:

- Paper titles and abstracts due: **Friday, April 18, 2025, 11:59 pm US PDT**
- Full paper submissions due: **Friday, April 25, 2025, 11:59 pm US PDT**
- Notification to authors: **Thursday, July 24, 2025**
- Final paper files due: **Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

Fall deadline:

- Paper titles and abstracts due: **Thursday, September 11, 2025, 11:59 pm US PDT**
- Full paper submissions due: **Thursday, September 18, 2025, 11:59 pm US PDT**
- Notification to authors: **Tuesday, December 9, 2025**
- Final paper files due: **Thursday, March 5, 2026**

Overview

NSDI focuses on the design principles, implementation, and practical evaluation of networked and distributed systems. Our goal is to bring together researchers from across the networking and systems community to foster a broad approach to addressing overlapping research challenges.

NSDI provides a high-quality forum for presenting results and discussing ideas that further the knowledge and understanding of the networked systems community as a whole, continue a significant research dialog, or push the architectural boundaries of network services.

Topics

NSDI invites any innovative solution for a significant problem involving networked systems, including topics from within the following list:

- Highly available and reliable networked systems
- Security and privacy of networked systems
- Distributed storage, caching, and query processing systems
- Sustainable, low-energy, and low-carbon networked systems

- Cloud/multi-tenant systems
- Mobile and embedded/sensor applications and systems
- Systems aspects of networking hardware and physical layer communication technologies
- Network and workload measurement systems
- Self-organizing, autonomous, and federated networked systems
- Managing, debugging, and diagnosing problems in networked systems
- Virtualization and resource management for networked systems
- Experience with deployed networked systems
- Networked systems for big data
- Testing and/or verification applied to networked systems
- Networked systems for machine learning (ML) and ML for networked systems

Papers with no clear contributions to the design of systems or the networking stack will be considered out of scope.

The list of topics above is necessarily incomplete and imprecise. In its ongoing effort to adjust scope, the NSDI Steering Committee has identified a list of topics that are explicitly excluded from upcoming NSDI symposia. Papers whose core contributions are on the following topics are likely to be rejected for reasons of scope:

- Physical layer contributions: beamforming, modulation techniques, communication through unconventional mediums (capacitive, inductive, acoustic)
- Sensing and localization contributions: gesture sensing, environment mapping, remote sensing
- Architecture contributions: voltage scaling, GPU resource scheduling, hardware level fault tolerance
- User interface contributions

See the recent statement from the NSDI Steering Committee for more information about the ongoing scope adjustment process (www.usenix.org/blog/scope-correction-reset-announcement-nsdi-steering-committee).



Authors will have the opportunity to explain why their paper is in scope for NSDI by answering the following question: What important problems or challenges in networked systems does this paper solve/address?

Two Deadlines

NSDI '26 offers authors the choice of two submission deadlines. Any paper submitted to one of these deadlines and accepted during the subsequent reviewing period will be presented at the conference and will appear as part of the proceedings. In the meantime, authors are permitted to advertise their papers as accepted by NSDI, for example, listing them on CVs. For more information, see Additional Information about Multiple Deadlines Process (www.usenix.org/conference/nsdi26/additional-info).

One-Shot Revision

Each paper may be accepted, rejected, or given the option of one-shot revision. Such a revision decision includes a summary of the paper's merits and a list of necessary changes that are required for the paper to be accepted at NSDI. Authors may then submit a version of their work addressing all revision instructions during the subsequent deadline. At that point, the paper will be reviewed to judge whether it addresses all the revision requirements requested. This review will be conducted, to the extent possible, by the same reviewers as earlier. To enable this, PC members who give one-shot-revision decisions for the fall deadline are obligated to participate as external reviewers in the following year to review those papers' resubmissions, which would be considered for the following year's conference. Papers revised and resubmitted following a one-shot-revision decision can only receive a decision of accept or reject, not revise; this is what makes revisions "one-shot."

A revise-and-resubmit decision is not a guaranteed acceptance. While revised papers are generally accepted, they can be rejected if the revision instructions have not been fully addressed or if the revised version unveils new significant concerns that were not discovered during the earlier reviews.

The decision about whether to accept a revised paper will be made as follows. Reviewers will primarily judge whether the authors have satisfied the requests accompanying the revision decision. They will also judge the resubmission on its independent merits, but should avoid rejecting it for non-fatal concerns that they could have raised during the first round of reviews. The reviewers should also ensure that the revised paper doesn't introduce new assertions without sufficient support. Unlike the shepherding process, the revision instructions may include running additional experiments that obtain specific results, e.g., comparing performance against a certain alternative and beating it by at least 10%.

During the revision period, the paper is still considered under review to NSDI and therefore cannot be submitted to other conferences unless the authors first withdraw it from consideration (as per the USENIX Submission Policy (www.usenix.org/conferences/author-resources/submissions-policy), which precludes concurrent submission to other conferences).

Authors given a one-shot-revision decision will be sent, within a few days of the decision, detailed instructions about how to resubmit. These instructions will include the list of necessary changes that are required for the paper to be accepted. They will also explain how the authors should accompany their resubmission with auxiliary material to demonstrate how they've satisfied that list of changes. This auxiliary material will consist of (1) an additional version of the resubmission in

which revision changes since the first submission are clearly marked, and (2) a separate textual explanation of the high-level differences between the two versions.

If authors receive a one-shot-revision decision for a paper submitted to the fall deadline of NSDI '26, this gives them the option to make the requested changes and resubmit it to the next NSDI deadline, which is the first deadline of NSDI '27. If the paper is accepted then, it will appear at NSDI '27, not NSDI '26.

Policy on NSDI Resubmissions

As described above, each NSDI conference consists of two deadlines: spring and fall. Papers rejected from one of these deadlines cannot be submitted to the immediate next deadline. For example, a paper rejected from the fall deadline of NSDI '25 may not be submitted to the spring deadline of NSDI '26 (but can be submitted to the fall deadline of NSDI '26); and a paper rejected from the spring deadline of NSDI '26 may not be submitted to the fall deadline of NSDI '26.

If authors receive a one-shot-revision decision and choose to submit the paper to NSDI '26 they will be required to submit the old paper number from the one-shot-revision decision (e.g., one-shot-revisions from NSDI '25 fall being submitted to NSDI '26 spring will need to provide the NSDI '25 HotCRP paper ID). Papers with numbers that do not agree with previous HotCRP history will be automatically desk rejected. If authors receive a one-shot-revision decision but choose not to submit a revised version, the paper is treated as a reject, and the same resubmission policy applies.

Extensions of Workshop Papers

Work that extends an author's previous workshop paper is welcome, but the paper should (a) acknowledge their own previous workshop publications with an anonymous citation and (b) explain the differences between the NSDI submission and the prior workshop paper. The online submission form will also require authors to submit the deanonymized citation and a short explanation of the differences from the prior workshop paper.

Resubmission of SIGCOMM '25 and HotNets '26 Papers

Authors are free to submit SIGCOMM '25 rejected papers to NSDI '26 fall and significant extensions of HotNets '26 accepted papers to NSDI '26 fall, provided that the notifications from these conferences occur *before* the **full paper submission deadlines** for NSDI.

Operational Systems Track

NSDI '26 also solicits papers that describe the design, implementation, analysis, and experience with large-scale, operational systems and networks. We encourage the submission of papers that disprove or strengthen existing assumptions, deepen the understanding of existing problems, and validate known techniques at scales or environments in which they were never used or tested before. Such operational papers need not present new ideas or results to be accepted; indeed, new ideas or results will not influence whether the papers are accepted. Note that the rules regarding submission and anonymization are different for operational systems track papers. Since the evaluation of operational systems track papers requires understanding the real-world use of the system, papers in this track will be reviewed in a more limited double-blind process. Authors' names should be withheld, as usual. However, in contrast to other papers, authors need not anonymize the content of their submission in any other way—they may keep company names, links, real system

names, etc., as appropriate for the paper. Please note that you cannot switch tracks for your paper after submission since the submission rules differ.

Authors should indicate on the title page of the paper and in the submission form that they are submitting to this track.

The final program will explicitly identify papers accepted from the operational track to distinguish them from papers accepted from the regular track.

What to Submit

NSDI '26 is double-blind, meaning that authors should make a good faith effort to anonymize papers. Note that the operational track papers have different rules as described above. As an author, you should not identify yourself in the paper either explicitly or by implication (e.g., through the references or acknowledgments). However, only non-destructive anonymization is required. For example, system names may be left de-anonymized, if the system name is important for a reviewer to be able to evaluate the work. Please take the following steps when preparing your submission:

- Remove authors' names and affiliations from the title page.
- Remove acknowledgment of identifying names and funding sources.
- Do not provide links to your own online content. If this online content is critical to the content of your paper, please see the submission form, which allows for some forms of content upload, or contact the PC chairs.
- Use care in naming your files. Source file names, e.g., Joe.Smith.dvi, are often embedded in the final output as readily accessible comments.
- Use care in referring to related work, particularly your own. Do not omit references to provide anonymity, as this leaves the reviewer unable to grasp the context. Instead, a good solution is to reference your past work in the third person, just as you would any other piece of related work. If you cite anonymous work, you will need to enter the de-anonymized reference(s) on the online submission form.
- If you need to reference another submission at NSDI '26 on a related topic, reference it as follows: "A related paper describes the design and implementation of our compiler [24]." with the corresponding citation: "[24] Under submission. Details omitted for double-blind reviewing."
- Blinding is not intended to be a great burden. If blinding your paper seems too burdensome, please contact the program co-chairs and discuss your specific situation.

Submissions—as well as final papers—must be no longer than 12 pages, including footnotes, figures, and tables. Submissions may include as many additional pages as needed for references and for supplementary material in appendices. The paper should stand alone without the supplementary material, but authors may use this space for content that may be of interest to some readers but is peripheral to the main technical contributions of the paper. Note that members of the program committee are free to not read this material when reviewing the paper.

Submissions must be in two-column format, using 10-point type on 12-point (single-spaced) leading, in a text block **7" wide x 9" deep, with .33" inter-column space**, formatted for 8.5" x 11" paper.

Papers not meeting these criteria will be rejected without review, and no deadline extensions will be granted for reformatting. Pages should be numbered, and figures and

tables should be legible when printed without requiring magnification. Authors may use color in their figures, but the figures should be readable when printed in black and white. If you wish, you may use the template for LaTeX available on the conference paper templates page (<https://www.usenix.org/conferences/author-resources/paper-templates>). All papers must be submitted via the submission form linked from the Call for Papers webpage. Please do not email submissions.

On the Use of Generative AI

While we acknowledge that generative AI is seamlessly included in many editing packages, e.g., Grammarly, and thus often hard to detect, authors must not submit papers generated entirely by generative AI. In particular, for papers generated entirely by generative AI, i.e., text, graphs, experiments, etc., the authorship is not clearly that of the authors and may be tantamount to plagiarism. To this end, authors must submit a statement attesting that their paper is not completely created by generative AI as part of the submission process in HotCRP. For more detailed questions about the appropriate use of generative AI, please feel free to contact the NSDI Chairs.

Policies

Simultaneous submissions: Simultaneous submission of the same work to multiple venues, submission of previously published work, or plagiarism constitutes dishonesty or fraud. USENIX, like other scientific and technical conferences and journals, prohibits these practices and may take action against authors who have committed them. See the USENIX Conference Submissions Policy (www.usenix.org/conferences/author-resources/submissions-policy) for details.

Extensions on workshop papers: Previous publication at a workshop is acceptable as long as the NSDI submission includes substantial new material that has been developed since the publication of any earlier version. However, NSDI submissions cannot be concurrent with submission to a workshop venue. If the notification date for the workshop submission is after the submission date for NSDI, this would be considered a concurrent submission and would be rejected without review. Such concurrent submissions would have limited the possibility of substantially extending the prior work, which would violate the intent of policies allowing for extended submissions (as described in www.sigcomm.org/about/policies/frequently-asked-questions-faq/). See remarks above about how to cite and contrast with a workshop paper.

Online technical reports: As added clarification for authors: NSDI allows submissions to be simultaneously stored online as technical reports, e.g., at arXiv, provided that the authors use a different title and system name in their submission from the technical report. This is to help avoid reviewer bias (in either direction) when judging the submission.

Authors uncertain whether their submission meets USENIX's guidelines should contact the Program Co-Chairs, nsdi26chairs@usenix.org.

Nondisclosure agreement: Papers accompanied by nondisclosure agreement forms will not be considered. All submissions will be treated as confidential prior to publication on the USENIX NSDI '26 website; rejected submissions will be permanently treated as confidential.

Conflicts

At submission time, you must provide information about conflicts with PC members. A PC member is a conflict if any of the following three circumstances applies:

Institution: You are currently employed at the same institution, have been previously employed at the same institution within the past two years (not counting concluded internships), or are going to begin employment at the same institution during the review period.

Advisor: You have a past or present association as thesis advisor or advisee.

Collaboration: You have a collaboration on a project, publication, grant proposal, program co-chairship, or editorship within the past two years.

You must not improperly identify a PC member as a conflict if none of these circumstances applies, even if for some other reason you want to avoid them reviewing your paper. The chairs will review paper conflicts to ensure the integrity of the reviewing process, adding or removing conflicts if necessary. The chairs may reject abstracts or papers on the basis of egregious missing or extraneous conflicts. If you have any questions about conflicts, please contact the program co-chairs.

Ethical Considerations

Papers describing experiments with users or user data (e.g., network traffic, passwords, social network information), should follow the basic principles of ethical research, e.g., beneficence (maximizing the benefits to an individual or to society while minimizing harm to the individual), minimal risk (appropriateness of the risk versus benefit ratio), voluntary consent, respect for privacy, and limited deception. When appropriate, authors are encouraged to include a subsection describing these issues. Authors may want to consult the Menlo Report (www.caida.org/publications/papers/2012/menlo_report_actual_formatted/) for further information on ethical principles, or the Allman/Paxson IMC '07 paper (conferences.sigcomm.org/imc/2007/papers/imc76.pdf) for guidance on ethical data sharing.

Authors must, as part of the submission process, attest that their work complies with all applicable ethical standards of their home institution(s), including, but not limited to, privacy policies and policies on experiments involving humans. Note that submitting research for approval by one's institution's ethics review body is necessary, but not sufficient—in cases where the PC has concerns about the ethics of the work in a submission, the PC will have its own discussion of the ethics of that work. The PC's review process may examine the ethical soundness of the paper just as it examines the technical soundness.

Processes for Accepted Papers

If your paper is accepted and you need an invitation letter to apply for a visa to attend the conference, please contact conference@usenix.org as soon as possible. Visa applications are reportedly taking more than two months to process. Please identify yourself as a presenter or an author, and include your mailing address in your email request.

Accepted papers will be shepherded through an editorial review process by a member of the Program Committee. Based on initial feedback from the Program Committee, authors of shepherded papers will submit an editorial revision of their paper to their Program Committee shepherd. The shepherd will review the paper and give the author additional comments. Authors will upload their final file to the submissions system by the final paper deadline for the conference proceedings.

By submitting a paper, you agree that at least one of the authors will attend the conference to present it. If the

conference registration fee will pose a hardship for the presenter of the accepted paper, please contact conference@usenix.org.

All papers will be available online to registered attendees before the conference. If your accepted paper should not be published prior to the event, please notify production@usenix.org. The papers will be available online to everyone beginning on the first day of the conference.

Best Paper Awards

Awards will be given for the best paper(s) at the conference.

Community Award

To encourage broader code and data sharing within the NSDI community, the conference will also present a "Community Award" for the best paper whose code and/or data set is made publicly available by the final papers deadline. Authors who would like their paper to be considered for this award will have the opportunity to tag their paper during the submission process.

Symposium Organizers

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Hakim Weatherspoon, *Cornell University*

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