Table of Contents

The 6th Workshop on Hot Topics in Operating Systems (HotOS-VI)

From the General Chair ............................................................................................................................................. ix
From the Program Chair ............................................................................................................................................. x
Conference Committees .............................................................................................................................................. xi

Implementation

Session Leader: Peter Druschel

Experience with the Development of a Microkernel-Based, Multi-Server Operating System ......................... 2
  F. Rawson III

The Failure of Personalities to Generalize ............................................................................................................... 8
  B. Fleisch

The Flux OS Toolkit: Reusable Components for OS Implementation ............................................................. 14
  B. Ford, J. Lepreau, S. Clawson,
  K. Van Maren, B. Robinson, J. Turner

Formal Methods: A Practical Tool for OS Implementors ..................................................................................... 20
  P. Tullmann, J. Turner, J. McCorquodale,
  J. Lepreau, A. Chitturi, G. Back

Microkernels

Session Leader: John Carter

Achieved IPC Performance ....................................................................................................................................... 28
  J. Liedtke, K. Elphinstone, S. Schönberg,
  H. Härtig, G. Heiser, N. Islam, T. Jaeger

The Network Hardware is the Operating System ................................................................................................. 32
  F. Ballesteros, L. Fernandez

Customizability

Session Leader: Pei Cao

Extensible Kernels are Leading OS Research Astray .......................................................................................... 38
  P. Druschel, V. Pai, W. Zwaenepoel

Customization Lite .................................................................................................................................................... 43
  M. Auslander, H. Franke,
  B. Gamsa, O. Krieger, M. Stumm

Operating Systems for Component Software Environments ............................................................................. 49
  N. Mendelsohn
Security
Session Leader: Rob Gingell

Secure Applications Need Flexible Operating Systems .......................................................... 56
  D. Mazieres, M. Kaashoek

Security for Extensible Systems ....................................................................................... 62
  R. Grimm, B. Bershad

Building Diverse Computer Systems ................................................................................... 67
  S. Forrest, A. Somayaji, D. Ackley

Preventing Denial-of-Service Attacks on a \( \mu \)-Kernel for WebOSes .................................. 73
  J. Liedtke, N. Islam, T. Jaeger

The Internet as a Big Distributed System
Session Leader: Jeff Mogul

Query Routing: Applying Systems Thinking to Internet Search ........................................ 82
  P. Leach, C. Weider

General Purpose Proxies: Solved and Unsolved Problems ................................................ 87
  B. Zenel, D. Duchamp

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: An Approach to Building Large Internet Caches ....................... 93
  S. Gadde, M. Rabinovich, J. Chase

Distributed Systems Support for Networked Games ............................................................ 99
  T. Chiueh

Rethinking
Session Leader: Mary Baker

Operating System Directions for the Next Millennium ....................................................... 106
  R. Draves, W. Bolosky, R. Fitzgerald, C. Fraser, M. Jones, T. Knoblock, R. Rashid

Other panelists: B. Frankston, A. Nemeth, D. Presotto, J. Waldo

System Services
Session Leader: Brad Chen

Run-Time Code Generation as a Central System Service ..................................................... 112
  M. Franz

What Synchronous Groupware Needs: Notification Services ............................................. 118
  M. Day
Performance Dynamics
Session Leader: Mike Jones

Self-Monitoring and Self-Adapting Operating Systems .......................................................... 124
   M. Seltzer, C. Small

A Fresh Look at Memory Hierarchy Management ................................................................. 130
   J. Chapin

The Role of Trace Modulation in Building Mobile Computing Systems .............................. 135
   M. Satyanarayanan, B. Noble

Index of Authors ......................................................................................................................... 141
IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE Sixth Workshop on Hot Topics in Operating Systems. I hope that the calm and seclusion of the Cape will provide the right backdrop for us to look together into the future of systems research.

In putting together this meeting, the members of the organizing committee worked to preserve the relaxed workshop atmosphere that has traditionally been a part of HotOS. We chose the location because it is scenic, to inspire workshop participants to grand thoughts, but also because it is remote, placing all participants in an unfamiliar (but hopefully not uncomfortable) setting. We considered a proposal to increase the maximum attendance of the workshop, but chose to preserve the smallness of HotOS and set the registration goal to 60. The program committee also worked to promote the workshop atmosphere by accepting just 23 excellent papers.

I would like to thank Mike Jones, Fred Dougias, and Joe Boykin, three generations of HotOS General Chairs who have a continuing commitment to the goals and the quality of this workshop. I’d also like to thank the program committee and especially thank Jeff Mogul for putting in a lot of work and putting together a great program. As Publicity Chair, Puneet Kumar did a great job getting the word out, resulting in a large number of high-quality submissions. As always, Joe Boykin’s efforts and experience were a big part of getting things off the ground and keeping them going smoothly.

I’d also like to thank our corporate sponsors, whose names are listed on the title page of this volume. Their contributions were essential to the success of the workshop and represent a continuing commitment to operating systems research.

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HotOS has always been somewhat of a hybrid between a workshop, with its limited number of participants, and a conference, with its refereed papers and formal proceedings. When Brad Chen asked me to serve as Program Chair, I accepted largely because I felt that HotOS should truly be a workshop, not a mini-conference. Both workshops and conferences are useful for the operating systems community, but there are several first-rate conferences in the field, and not many workshops. The HotOS-VI program committee tried hard to maintain a workshop flavor; we particularly favored speculative submissions over “should have been a conference paper” papers. Even so, we insisted that any paper appearing in the HotOS proceedings would meet the standard for a refereed publication.

Not all “hot topics” in operating systems are research results. We invited participation from practitioners, and directly contacted over 50 people at product organizations. While we received fewer submissions from practitioners than I had hoped, we did end up with several good papers that help put research approaches in perspective.

We received 81 submissions. Each paper was reviewed by at least three members of the program committee; many papers received more than three reviews. I also read every paper. Two papers were submitted by members of the program committee; each of these was reviewed by the entire committee (except for the author). We accepted 23 papers, including one from a program committee member. Many other papers aroused our enthusiasm, but we limited acceptances partly to avoid cramming too much material into a two-day workshop, and partly to maintain a consistently high standard for the proceedings. We thank all of the authors, especially those whose papers were not accepted, for the time and effort they put into their submissions.

I want to thank the members of the program committee for all of the time and dedication they have put into this workshop. They solicited papers, they read submissions and wrote reviews, they debated the papers at length (via the magic of email), and they all helped us meet the tight deadlines we imposed to preserve the hotness of the topics. I am truly grateful that all eight committee members not only met my expectations, but exceeded them. I also want to thank Puneet Kumar, who accepted my invitation to serve as Publicity Chair, and so is probably responsible for the unusually large number of submissions we received. Brad Chen and the members of the HotOS Steering Committee gave us a lot of help along the way.

I hope that we managed to fulfill our dual responsibilities: to provide lively and thought-provoking discussions for those of you who attend the workshop, and to convey some sense of that liveliness to those of you reading the proceedings.

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