Let me have the pleasure of welcoming you to an exciting technical program in DSN ’11, following in the lines of the long tradition of stellar technical accomplishments that DSN (and previously, its precursor, FTCS) has had in its 41 year old history. This year, we selected 26 papers out of a total of 148 submissions, giving an acceptance rate of 17.6%. One of these papers is a Practical Experience Report and one is a Tool Description/Demo. The accepted papers cover a wide variety of topics, within the broad ambit of dependability, with the leading topics being security (6; 23%), distributed system or application software fault tolerance (6; 23%), and hardware (5; 19.2%). The accepted papers also show a heartening geographical spread with 16 papers having some US participation, 10 with some European participation, and 5 with some Asian participation; 7 of the accepted papers had some non-academic authors.

The paper selection process occurred in two phases, with 3 reviewers per paper in the first phase and 2 additional reviewers for the papers that were selected for the second phase. Of the total submissions, 48.6% of them made it to the second phase. But we had the proviso that a PC member could bring up any paper for discussion at the PC meeting, regardless of whether it had been filtered out after the first phase or not. A few papers like this were brought up for discussion at the PC meeting. PC members did all the reviews, except for one solitary review. This tested the technical skills and the time management skills of the PC members, but they came out with flying colors, handling an average load of 11 papers in the first phase and 4 additional papers in the second phase. We had a 98.3% completion rate for the reviews. After the second phase of reviewing, but prior to the in-person PC meeting, the authors had a 2-day window in which they could rebut the reviews.

The PC met in a face-to-face meeting at Purdue University on February 21 and 22, 2011. We arranged for a great weather, sans any snowstorm, thunderstorm, or tornado. Our friendly Hoosier and mid-western hospitality played host to the PC members. At the PC meeting, after a thorough and rational discussion, we decided on the final slate of accepted papers. Papers were discussed on their merits, the author rebuttals were carefully looked at, and overall the papers got a fair hearing. No paper was put in the category of conditional accept with shepherding by a PC member.

I would like to offer my deep sense of gratitude to my administrative assistants, Nicky Danaher and Lori Floyd, and the excellent support team at Purdue, which included Randy Bond, and my students, Madalina Baker, Matthew Tan Creti, DongHoon Shin, and Tanzima Zerin, for pulling off the PC meeting with nary a hitch. I could always count on the collective wisdom of my two previous PC chairs, Matti (Hiltunen) and Christof (Fetzer). I bugged the Steering Committee chair Neeraj (Suri) and vice-chair Rick (Schlichting) with an unending stream of questions and amazingly, got prompt responses to them. Michael (Lyu) as the General Chair was my go-to person for many things about the arrangement of the conference.

All the effort that we have put in would be worth it, if you sit back and enjoy the wealth of technical achievements that the 26 papers in the DCCS track represent. So long and let us keep the DSN banner flying high by doing good work and submitting to DSN ’12.

Saurabh Bagchi
Purdue University
DSN-DCCS Program Chair