Message from the DCCS Program Chair

Welcome to DCCS 2012 in Boston! All of us depend upon computers in our everyday lives. But, as the complexity of computer-based systems and networks grows, it is ever more challenging to provide resilience to malicious attacks, accidental faults, design errors, and unexpected operating conditions. Beyond that, such systems are increasingly trusted to provide safety, confidentiality, and near-continuous operation. The challenges to providing computing that is truly dependable in all respects are significant, but meeting them is essential to corporations, individuals, governments, and our global economy.

The Dependable Computing and Communications Symposium (DCCS) brings together academic and industrial researchers in all aspects of dependability and security for the premier international conference in this field. We present the best first-tier papers on all aspects of the research and practice of creating, validating, deploying, and maintaining systems to achieve dependability and security. All aspects of systems are included, such as architecture, networks, hardware, software, and human elements.

With this comprehensive coverage of dependability and security as the core theme of DCCS, the technical program of DCCS’12 provides a cutting edge view of the state of the art and practice in this key and ever expanding area of computing technologies.

My thanks to all the researchers who submitted papers – those whose papers were accepted and also those whose weren’t – for making the conference happen! As has been well established over the past four decades, DSN/DCCS is the dependability community’s most competitive conference. This is where researchers come to publish their best work! The 27 papers in this program represent a highly selective acceptance rate of 17.3%, and cover key advances across the spectrum of dependability.

I additionally want to thank the 39 DCCS Program Committee Members who personally provided up to five reviews for every paper submitted. Moreover, they came from around the world to attend a two-day face-to-face paper selection meeting. This level of dedication to providing professional service deserves the community’s sincere thanks and gratitude.

The DSN review process is a very rigorous one, matching or exceeding the quality of the best journal review processes. This year saw the inauguration of a double-blind review process, with none of the PC members knowing author names or affiliations. Each paper submitted received at least three PC member reviews. Papers selected for a second review round received at least five reviews in all. All authors had the opportunity to submit author comments, and the comments were reviewed by PC members for every paper (including those which did not progress to the second round). During the two-day paper selection meeting, every paper with at least one PC member supporting acceptance was discussed, including a specific discussion of author response comments, summarization of paper strengths/weaknesses, and general discussion.

I deeply appreciate the efforts of the General Chair (Bob Swarz), the Conference Coordinator (Walt Heimerdinger) and the support from SC Chair/Vice-Chairs (Neeraj Suri and Rick Schlichting) for their help in making DSN’12 a great success. Finally, I want to thank my graduate students Justin Ray, Aaron Kane, and Malcolm Taylor for their logistical support that made the paper selection meeting possible.

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DCCS ’12 Program Chair