

A Message from the Technical Program Chairs

We take great pleasure in welcoming you to the technical program of *MobiCom 2004*. This is the tenth year of *MobiCom*, a significant milestone in the history of this conference, widely regarded as the premier forum for presenting key research in the field of mobile computing and networking. We take pride in presenting to you a sparkling set of recent research results in the technical sessions, representing the forefront of the state-of-the-art.

This year, *MobiCom* received 326 paper submissions from authors spread over 40 countries across the globe. The large number of submissions indicates continued excitement in the field worldwide despite its incipient maturity. The topics of the submitted papers varied widely, although, as in the past few years, continued interest was noted in ad hoc and sensor networking. A technical program committee comprising 57 international leaders in the field had the difficult task of critically reviewing the submitted papers. On several occasions, opinions of experts outside the program committee were sought, although the technical program committee members did the overwhelming majority of the reviews themselves. The review process consisted of 3 phases. In the first phase, each paper was nominally assigned (at least) three reviewers from the technical program committee. One of them served as the “lead,” whose responsibility was, in the second phase, to try to arrive at a consensus opinion on the paper via email discussion with the other reviewers. During this phase, additional reviews were often sought – sometimes from outside the program committee – to help sort out differences of opinion, or to increase the level of confidence in the reviews. At the end of the second phase, a set of 88 papers was selected for discussion at the program committee meeting.

The third phase of the review process was the program committee meeting, which was held in Boston on June 5-6, 2004. It was attended by 50 program committee members in addition to the program chairs. The meeting consisted of 16 hours of intense discussions and debate spread over a day and a half. In several cases papers were discussed more than once, and program committee members were invited to champion any paper they felt worthy of inclusion, even if it was not on the short list of the 88 papers. Finally, the program committee selected 26 papers – representing the best of the best – for inclusion in the conference program. You will find these papers in the proceedings organized in 9 single-track sessions.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the winner of the best student paper award – “MobiDesk: Mobile Virtual Desktop Computing” authored by Gong Su, Shaya Potter, Ricardo Baratto, and Jason Nieh – all from Columbia University. This year approximately 65% of the accepted papers qualified as student papers. A sub-committee consisting of four program committee members was responsible for the selection. It turns out that the winning student paper is also the highest rated paper as per the original review scores!

We thank Raghu Dendukuri and Vishnu Navda for various administrative helps during entire review process, particularly for creating hard and softcopy backups of the conference database.

We also thank the program committee members who provided a detailed set of reviews and discussion comments, in spite of a very large review load, and took time to attend the program committee meeting. Many of them reviewed several additional papers beyond their originally assigned quota, when we needed additional opinions and often on a very short notice, and also took the initiative to seek out opinions of their expert colleagues. We believe that in most cases the quality and depth of the reviews were very high; indeed the reviews alone amounted to over 1000 printed pages of comments. Above all, we thank all the authors who chose *MobiCom* as the appropriate venue for publishing their research. It is their commitment that keeps the conference alive and exciting.

We hope that all of you will find the conference technically rewarding, and will also find time to catch up with your colleagues. Welcome again!

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