Welcome Message from the ICNP 2020 TPC Chairs

This 28th IEEE International Conference on Network Protocols (ICNP 2020) is obviously very different from past editions, as, like pretty much all conferences this year, it is being held mostly virtually. Nevertheless, we want to welcome you to what we believe is an exciting Technical Program, whether you will be accessing it remotely or in-person for those who have been able to make it to Madrid. The program spans a range of areas, from traditional ICNP stalwarts such as network performance modeling and measurements, traffic optimization and control, to more recent topics such as programmable networks, all the way to several sessions on various aspects of wireless networks and technologies that reflect their growing importance in modern networks.

We received a total of 184 papers and ultimately accepted 30 papers for presentation at the conference, for an acceptance rate of just over 16%. The papers were reviewed by a Program Committee consisting of 56 dedicated experts supplemented by 17 area chairs responsible for monitoring the review process and guide online discussions. The review process was structured in two phases. In the first phase, papers were assigned three reviewers from among Program Committee members, who were tasked with evaluating the paper's technical merit and asked to provide detailed reviews. Following the end of this first phase, most papers with at least one positive review were moved to a second phase of the review process where they were assigned two additional reviewers, for a total of five reviews. This second phase ended with an extensive online discussion period that preceded the virtual Program Committee meeting that was held on July 21st, 2020. Prior to the meeting and based on the outcome of the discussions led by the area chairs, a small number of second phase papers whose reviews were consistently positive were conditionally accepted into the final program. Another group of papers was selected for discussion at the meeting. The vast majority of the Program Committee members and all the Area Chairs participated in the meeting that ultimately resulted in another batch of papers being conditionally accepted for presentation at the conference. All conditionally accepted papers were then assigned a shepherd who communicated to the authors a set of changes that the reviews and discussions identified as necessary for final acceptance. This shepherding phase was a bona fide revision phase, and while unfortunately not all papers made it through, it allowed the Program Committee to take some risks in its acceptance decisions and ultimately resulted in a stronger and higher-quality set of papers selected for presentation at the conference. We sincerely hope you enjoy them.

In closing these remarks, we want to thank all the members of the Program Committee as well as the handful of external reviewers we were able to call upon to provide targeted expertise on papers with diverging reviews. Together, they generated approximately 800 reviews and spent many hours discussing the merits of submissions to ultimately allow us to put together an outstanding program. It was a pleasure to work with them and we want to make sure that their contributions to the community are duly recognized. Efforts of volunteers like them is what sustains the research engine of our conferences and they deserve our thanks.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Steve Uhlig, not only for sharing his experience in chairing the 2019 ICNP Program Committee, but also for taking on the responsibility of hosting and running the submission site. This was a huge help. We would also like to acknowledge the advice and guidance provided by the ICNP Steering Committee chaired by K.K. Ramakrishnan, and the indefatigable efforts of the General Chair, Sergey Gorinsky, in steering the conference organization through turbulent waters.

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