2024 Election for
USENIX Board of Directors

Candidates' Statements

Candidate for President

Amy Rich

As I stand for re-election for my third term as President of the USENIX Board of Directors, I am both deeply honored and acutely aware of the critical juncture at which we find ourselves. These past few years have tested our resilience, yet our commitment to the USENIX mission has never wavered. Most recently, the decline in membership and sponsorship due to the economic downturn have resulted in stark, but not insurmountable, financial challenges.

The return to exclusively in-person conferences marks a significant step in reconnecting and rekindling that collaborative energy that defines us. It's more than a logistical or financial decision; it's a reaffirmation of our commitment to the personal exchange of ideas and community building. In the coming year, we will also need to focus on rebuilding and strengthening sponsor relationships and exploring innovative revenue streams, ensuring our financial health and operational stability.

My promise is one of unwavering dedication and strategic leadership. Together, we can harness these challenges as catalysts for growth and transformation, ensuring that USENIX continues to be a leading force in technology. Your support and trust will be the cornerstone of this journey forward.

Biography: Amy Rich is a leadership coach at Oceanwave Coaching and the Senior Director of DevOps at Redox Inc. She has been in ops for over 30 years at a variety of organizations, owned her own consulting businesses, and written professionally on the topic of UNIX systems engineering. Her work has helped improve US healthcare, secure the web for hundreds of millions of users, and teach the next generation of computing professionals.

Candidate for Vice President

William Enck

I am honored to be nominated to serve the USENIX community as Vice President. USENIX events mark many milestones in my academic career: the first conference I attended (USENIX Security '05); my first conference talk (USENIX ATC '07); my most cited work (OSDI '10); co-chairing USENIX Security '18. I currently serve as Secretary of the USENIX Board as well as on the steering committee for USENIX Security.

The unique blend of academic and real-world systems draws me to USENIX conferences. I've also found USENIX conferences to have some of the fairest review processes. Through co-chairing USENIX Security and serving on its steering committee, I've learned that this is no accident. In serving as Vice President of the USENIX Board, I will continue to contribute to the efforts and decisions that provide fair and equitable treatment of papers, authors, and attendees and ensure that its conferences continue to provide valuable information and experiences for both academia and industry.

Biography: William Enck is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the North Carolina State University where he is co-director of the Secure Computing Institute (SCI) and director of the Wolfpack Security and Privacy Research (WSPR) Lab.

Candidate for Secretary

Lea Kissner

USENIX is a strong and smart community because it brings together people and their ideas from different sectors (academia, industry, civil society, and government), different backgrounds and strives to give all of us access to share with and learn from the smartest people in our field. That's a legacy to be honored and built on.

We have financial troubles that must be tackled if USENIX is to continue running the amazing conferences that it has for many years. COVID has been incredibly challenging. While conferences have moved back into a more normal mode after pandemic lockdowns, economic headwinds have hit companies and thus conference attendance.

At the same time, we should build on the history of supporting access to conferences for people for whom they would otherwise be out of reach, including grants for Black and student attendees, and striving for a respectful, inclusive environment.

I have run multiple USENIX conferences which bring together multiple communities, including everything from fundraising to chairing a PC. I am the co-founder of PEPR, the first conference about privacy engineering in practice, have served as the co-chair of the PC for Enigma for the last two years, as well as having been on the PC and published in multiple other USENIX conferences.

Biography: Lea is the CISO of Lacework. They work to build respect for users into products and systems through deeply integrated security and privacy. They were previously the CISO and Head of Privacy Engineering at Twitter, Global Lead of Privacy Technology at Google, came in to fix security and privacy at Zoom, and CPO of Humu. They earned a Ph.D. in computer science (with a focus on cryptography) at Carnegie Mellon University and a B.S. in electrical engineering and computer science from UC Berkeley.

Candidate for Treasurer

Kurt Andersen

As USENIX and the world in general has been recovering from the effects of the pandemic, we have seen both the eagerness with which people are wanting to attend conferences, and the financial impacts of the macro-economic climate. This has put USENIX in a precarious position.

For the long-term health of USENIX, we need to continue to grow our membership and our sponsor base. The best way to do that is by personal recommendations to your friends and colleagues to have them join USENIX for themselves as an investment in the community. As treasurer, I'm committed to helping further our mission.

Biography: Professionally, I am working as an infrastructure software architect at Clari. Across the SRE profession, I am strongly committed to developing the best engineers that we can, enabling them with the right ideas and connections at the right time, and recognizing the talent and hard work of the amazing individuals that take on the work of reliability engineering. I continue to be involved with the steering committee for SREcon. I am delighted to support the talented chairs for each of the individual conferences through the liaison role for the USENIX board.

Candidates for Director

Sujata Banerjee

I am honored to be nominated, and grateful for this opportunity to serve the USENIX community, if elected. Like many in the computing research community, I have experienced USENIX events as a research paper author and conference participant. I have also had the opportunity to serve the community as a technical program committee member, program co-chair, and steering committee member of the NSDI conference. Through these interactions, I have observed the important and unique position USENIX holds in the research ecosystem in fostering innovation and inclusion, providing open access to research results, and strengthening ties between industry and academia.

Computing research conferences continue to be very important to gather community members and make progress on challenging research problems. However, their nature is changing as the research community grows to include new topics, finds new ways to collaborate, and addresses interdisciplinary problems. Further, advances in technology, such as new remote collaboration environments in a post-pandemic world and generative AI tools, are influencing how research is done and disseminated. USENIX will need to continue to adapt and evolve in collaboration with the overall research ecosystem in this changing world. If elected, I commit to working with the board to serve, sustain, and grow the computing research community by upholding and further strengthening USENIX's mission of innovation, inclusion, and collaboration between academia and industry.

Biography: Sujata Banerjee heads the VMware Research Group within Broadcom. She serves on the board of CRA-WP—the Computing Research Association's Committee on Widening Participation.

Fatema Boxwala

Serving on the USENIX Board for the past two years has been extremely rewarding—and edifying. As a board, we have had to make some tough decisions in the past two years as we adjust to the state of the tech industry, amidst layoffs and funding concerns. What struck me most through all of these conversations was the passion and commitment that my fellow board members showed to maintaining this community. Attending SREcon23, I was once again confronted with what a truly supportive community USENIX provides for such a wide range of people. I imagine that there will be many more tough decisions to make in the years to come, and I want to be a part of those conversations—to represent the community that I know so well and rely on so much. I want to reaffirm my commitment to serving this community as best I can and would be honored to have the opportunity to serve as a Director for another term.

Biography: Fatema Boxwala is an SRE at Google and has been an enthusiastic member of the USENIX community since 2017. She has served on multiple Program Committees for SREcon and LISA. She is a contributor to the book *97 Things Every SRE Should Know*. She is passionate about building safe, stable, and effective systems—both computer and human.

Thorsten Holz

As an experienced researcher in computer security with a passion for advancing the field, I am thrilled to be nominated for the USENIX Board of Directors. I am committed to fostering innovation, collaboration, and education within our community, and I am confident that my expertise will serve USENIX well. My involvement in the USENIX community began in 2007, and since then I have taken on various roles that have deepened my understanding of the unique challenges and prospects we face, especially in this post-COVID world. I have always been a strong advocate of open access to research and reproducible science, and I firmly believe in empowering individuals through knowledge sharing and mentorship.

If elected, I would like to use my insights to increase the impact of USENIX conferences and ensure they remain at the cutting edge of technology. I am committed to creating a welcoming environment where diverse viewpoints are valued and to fostering the growth of both young and established researchers. My goal is to work for a future where USENIX continues to lead, inspire, and uphold the highest scientific standards in the ever-evolving landscape of computing systems.

Biography: Thorsten holds a tenured position at the CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security located in Saarbrücken, Germany. His research is centered around the technical aspects of secure systems, with an emphasis on systems security. His research focus, along with his research group, is software security, fuzzing, and exploring the intersection of machine learning with computer security. Thorsten served as the Program Co-Chair for the USENIX Security Symposium in 2016 and is a member of the conference's steering committee.

Jay Lorch

I'm honored to be nominated to represent you, the members of USENIX, on the USENIX board. I've been involved with USENIX throughout my career, most recently as the PC co-chair of NSDI '19 and OSDI '21, a member of both of those conferences' steering committees since then, a frequent PC member, and liaison between the NSDI steering committee and its PC chairs. The more involvement I have with USENIX, the more I come to appreciate the huge number of ways in which USENIX provides extraordinary value to our communities. So I want to do my best to contribute to sustaining and expanding its positive role.

What I'm most proud of in my USENIX service is my introduction, with my co-chair Minlan Yu, of multiple deadlines and one-shot revision to NSDI '19. We did this in the hope of improving the experience of both authors and reviewers, as well as research quality and timeliness. We've gathered a lot of positive feedback about this change, as well as several ways in which it can be improved upon, which has been valuable as we've seen it become a permanent fixture of NSDI and also spread to several other conferences.

Through all this, I've learned a lot about how to solicit a broad range of perspectives and use them to turn an imperfect initial proposal into a worthier and more robust final implementation plan. It's my understanding that the USENIX board is a collegial and cooperative environment that would match my style of consensus-seeking collaboration. I would also bring both an industry and academic perspective, from my experiences at an industrial research lab and my collaborations with people at several universities. So I look forward, if you choose to appoint me, to working with the board to fulfill your aspirations for what USENIX should be.

Biography: Jay Lorch is a Senior Principal Researcher in the Systems Research Group at Microsoft Research in Redmond, WA, USA. His main area of expertise is systems, with particular emphasis on software verification, distributed systems, trusted computing, privacy, and cloud computing.

Candidates for Director (continued)

Laura Nolan

I believe that the conferences that USENIX hosts, and the communities that have formed around those events, are some of the most valuable in software. As the conference sector experiences challenging times, USENIX's role in providing a venue for non-vendor-driven content, plus our commitment to open access are, I believe, more valuable than they have ever been.

I've been very fortunate to be part of the USENIX community for the past several years, primarily around SREcon and LISA. Attending, presenting, co-chairing, and being part of the program and steering committees have been drivers of my own professional growth, as well as a way to begin to pay some of it back.

I have been a member of the USENIX Board of Directors for two challenging terms, since 2020. The next term is also likely to be difficult as we continue to weather industry storms. I am committed to doing all I can to ensure a strong and healthy USENIX organisation will carry on supporting our communities and our research. In addition, I expect to continue to provide ongoing advice and assistance to the SREcon conference organisers as liaison from the Board, and to support *;login:* by writing, sourcing, and shepherding content.

Biography: Laura Nolan is a Software Engineer and Site Reliability Engineer, based in Ireland. She is a contributor to the books *Site Reliability Engineering: How Google Runs Production Systems*, *Seeking SRE*, and *97 Things Every SRE Should Know*, as well as many articles and columns for *;login:* magazine and other industry publications. Laura holds an MA in Ethics in addition to qualifications in computing.

George Porter

I am honored to be considered for a position on the Board of Directors as USENIX has played a pivotal role in my life and career. I attended my first USENIX conference over 25 years ago and published my first paper at a USENIX venue over 20 years ago. Since then, I've attended many USENIX-sponsored conferences, served on numerous program committees, chaired NSDI, and currently serve on the NSDI steering committee.

As the field of computing continues to develop at a rapid pace, it increasingly diversifies in several dimensions, supporting industrial researchers, systems builders, developers, administrators, students, academic researchers, and more. Enabling the free exchange of ideas, prototypes, knowledge, and experience across all dimensions of computer systems design and implementation is a role that USENIX can serve well.

Historically, USENIX has received considerable support from industry, which is harder to achieve these days. If selected, I pledge to work with the rest of the Board to deliver on USENIX's core mission and promise to find ways to put our organization on firmer financial footing. Finding a way to deliver on our mission without raising conference registration rates so high that we exclude members of our community is an important challenge we need to address.

Biography: George Porter is a Professor in the Systems and Networking Group in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, San Diego. He is the Co-Director of the UCSD Center for Networked Systems, and a Co-Founder of inFocus Networks. He received his Ph.D. from the RAD Lab at UC Berkeley and his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Jiri Schindler

USENIX brings together researchers and practitioners of computer science and engineering disciplines. Its core mission as an open forum for research biased towards practical solutions and emphasis on all facets of diversity sets it apart from most similar organizations. USENIX continues to be the "melting pot" where academics, industry leaders, and engineers can meet, discuss, and learn from each other.

If elected, I would like to help USENIX maintain its core mission and focus on diversity. As the organization nears its 50th anniversary, I would like to help ensure its financial stability so that it can continue to attract future generations of academics and practitioners and sustain as an organization that relies on the dedication of its professional staff and many volunteers.

Biography: Jiri is the chief software architect at IonQ, a Quantum Computing company. He started his professional career in R&D and gradually moved to product engineering, where he held technical leadership positions in both startups and large enterprise computing and storage companies. Within USENIX, he served as the co-chair for the FAST and USENIX ATC conferences and on the steering committees of both. He continues to serve on program committees of USENIX and other academic conferences.