

1st Annual Haifa Systems and Storage Conference (SYSTOR 2007)

A Message from the Organizers

On October 29–30, 2007, the 1st Annual Haifa Systems and Storage Conference took place at Haifa, Israel. The conference, affectionately known as SYSTOR 2007, was hosted by IBM’s Haifa Labs and the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology. It was the first high-quality refereed systems and storage conference organized by IBM Haifa Labs, drawing upon the successful foundation of previous systems and storage seminars. The purpose of this conference was to forge and nourish research and working relations within the academic and industrial community in Israel and in the world, targeting researchers and practitioners alike.

How did it measure up? I’m delighted to say that by most accounts, it has exceeded expectations and was a rousing success, bringing together over 150 participants from industry and academia from all over the world and fostering active, on-going discussions.

SYSTOR 2007 was composed of two days, the first dedicated to systems and the second to storage. The systems day, also known as the “SYSTOR 2007 Virtualization Workshop”, concentrated on system virtualization and related areas such as storage virtualization and grid computing, whereas the storage day concentrated on storage market trends and future R&D. Each day had a separate program committee and a separate selection process.

For the virtualization workshop, the program committee was composed of roughly equal parts academia, industry and IBM’ers. The program committee carefully evaluated all of the submissions, taking care to avoid any potential conflict of interest, and eventually selected 6 full-length presentations and 3 lightning talks. In addition to these presentations, the virtualization workshop also featured two keynotes by world-renowned speakers Professor Danny Dolev from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and Professor Willy Zwaenepoel from the Lausanne Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), Switzerland.

For this issue of Operating Systems Review, the virtualization workshop program committee (which included both of this issue’s guest editors) has selected three papers which best represent the breadth and depth of SYSTOR. The first, by Karmon et al. of the Technion, addresses the problem of enforcing upper bounds on the consumption of grid resources, via the introduction of a grid-wide quota enforcement system, *GWiq-P*. The second, by Faibish et al. of EMC Corporation, first shows that traditional file systems are ill-suited for virtualized storage and then goes on to propose a different file system organization of data and meta-data designed to exploit the power of virtualized storage. The third, by Ta-Shma et al. of IBM’s Haifa Research Lab, presents an approach to “virtual machine time travel” which combines Continuous Data Protection (CDP) storage with live-migration-based virtual machine checkpointing. I hope you enjoy reading them.

In conclusion, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the other organizers, the program committees, the keynote speakers, and everybody who joined us at SYSTOR 2007. See you all at SYSTOR 2008!

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*SYSTOR 2007 General Chair and
Virtualization Workshop Program Chair*

Haifa, November 5th, 2007