

How to Write a DAC User Track Extended Abstract

Introduction

New in 2009, the DAC Executive Committee is issuing a Call for User Track submissions. As a supplement to the Call for Extended Abstracts for the DAC User Track, this document provides guidelines for the form and content of extended abstracts, and for final presentation submissions.

Unlike regular DAC technical papers, User Track presentations are targeted specifically at the practitioner: the design tool user, the hardware or software designer, the application engineer, the consultant, and the flow or methodology developer.

The submission process is as follows:

- 1) By December 19, 2008, submit a *short, two-page extended abstract* highlighting what you can offer in the form of an oral or poster presentation at DAC.
- 2) Notice of acceptance will be emailed by January 29, 2009. All resulting accepted presentations will be included in the DAC program.
- 3) If your extended abstract is accepted, you must submit a *detailed presentation* by March 2, 2009. This presentation must reflect the amount of effort, energy and detail being brought to the DAC audience. The User Track committee will review your detailed presentation and you will be invited to present your work at DAC in the form of a short, long, or poster presentation.
- 4) You will not be required to write a paper for the DAC proceedings. Your presentation will be made available on the DAC website after the conference is over. DAC will recognize a Best Presentation for the User Track, based on both the detailed presentation submission and the final presentation during the conference.

This document highlights some of the details for authors considering submissions to the User Track. Particularly since this is the first year of the DAC User Track, your feedback is encouraged. Please feel free to contact the User Track co-chairs: Leon Stok (leonstok@us.ibm.com) and Soha Hassoun (soha@cs.tufts.edu).

Deadlines

There are several key deadlines that must not be missed! We want to make sure we have plenty of time to advertise that you will be presenting at DAC!

Extended abstract DUE	December 19, 2008 (5:00pm MT)
Notification of acceptance	January 29, 2009
Presentation DUE	March 2, 2009 (5:00pm MT)
Notification of presentation format (long, short, or poster)	March 26, 2009
Signed release form DUE	April 15, 2009
You come to DAC and present your work!	July 26-31, 2009, at the Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA

How to submit?

All submissions must be submitted electronically on the DAC website. Submission instructions can be found at www.dac.com.

What does a User Track extended abstract look like?

An extended abstract is expected to offer the following details:

- 1) Title
- 2) Author name(s), affiliation, and email addresses
- 3) Introduction that specifies the *context* and *motivation* of your submission.
Examples: identify challenges associated with the task you are accomplishing using the tools; clarify where in the design process you use the tools; explain why the problem you will address is of interest to the audience; etc.
- 4) Summary of the specific contributions of your work.
Examples: innovative use of tools to achieve a specific goal; user enhancements to the tool or the tool flow; improving design flow scalability; improved integration of IP; study of design trade-offs; improved interface to manufacturing; etc.
- 5) Summary of highlights of your results. To quantify the impact of your contribution, you should show results of application to test cases. Example metrics: productivity enhancement; improved quality of silicon; decreased design flow complexity; and reduced time-to-market.
- 6) References, if appropriate.

Extended abstracts are limited to two pages. Format may be single- or double-column. Feel free to include up to four additional pages of diagrams, figures, or pictures, as you find appropriate. Remember, you are submitting an *extended* abstract, not just an abstract. This translates to providing enough details to enable evaluation of the quality of your work and potential interest in your presentation at DAC.

When submitting an extended abstract, please specify the category of your submission (see the Call for Extended Abstracts for details). This will ensure that the right experts review your submission.

Who judges the submissions?

The User Track committee consists of end-users of EDA tools who have years of tool and methodology experience. Most committee members are from industry, and represent a wide spectrum of domain and flow expertise.

What will the committee look for when judging extended abstract submissions?

- A clear, innovative contribution in tool use or design flow that allows a user to achieve a specific set of design goals
- Crisp explanation of the context and motivation of the work, and of the results to be presented at DAC
- Significance of the results, as measured by quantitative criteria (successful tool use, runtime for tools, optimality of results, design flow productivity enhancement, simplification or automation of manual effort, etc.)
- Use in real designs, case studies, or established benchmarks is essential
- Quality of writing, use of English, and organization

The User Track will strive to accept only high-quality submissions. The submission guidelines are aimed at enhancing the quality of User Track presentations at DAC, while reducing the effort needed to make a submission. Our end goal is to have a vibrant and high-quality User Track.

What does a User Track presentation look like?

Once the User Track committee accepts your submission at step 3 of the submission process on page 1, you are required to submit a presentation. The presentation provides details of the contribution. In particular, the presentation should include the following:

- 1) Title, name of author(s), affiliation, and email addresses
- 2) Explanation of the context and motivation of the contribution. A detailed example, or charts, or user comments are all appropriate
- 3) Details of the innovation
- 4) Explanation of results. Use charts or graphs or tables: we want to know the bottom line
- 5) Discussion of conceptual limitations of tools and of future tool improvement
- 6) Summary

What criteria are used to judge presentations?

The User Track committee will evaluate each presentation based on the same criteria used to evaluate each submission. The committee will assess your ability to back up the claims in the extended abstract, and will try to ensure that a quality presentation is given to the audience. Sufficient details, supporting data, and quality diagrams and charts will ensure that your presentation will be accepted as an oral presentation. The User Track committee will also consider the suitability of the topic for an oral or poster presentation.

Example presentations (of regular track papers) can be found on the DAC website.

Putting it all together

The DAC Executive Committee will determine the placement of the presentation in the conference schedule. Long presentations are 25 minutes, plus 5 minutes for Q&A. Short presentations are 12 minutes, plus 3 minutes for Q&A. Poster sessions will provide a great opportunity to interact with presenters and other DAC attendees.

Invitation to Submit

We invite you to submit an extended abstract, and look forward to seeing you at DAC! Please contact us with questions and feedback.

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