SIGOPS Annual Report 2007

Fiscal Year July 2006 - June 2007
Submitted by Keith Marzullo, SIGOPS Chair

Overview

Awards
At PODC, the annual Edsger W. Dijkstra Prize was given to John Mellor-Crummey and Michael Scott for "Algorithms for scalable synchronization on shared-memory multiprocessors", ACM Transactions on Computer Systems 9(1), 1991. Quoting from the award statement, "Mellor-Crummey and Scott’s paper introduced the MCS queue-based mutual exclusion lock: probably the most influential practical mutual exclusion algorithm of all time. The MCS lock is vastly superior to all previous mutual exclusion algorithms (and many proposed since!). It is fast, scalable, and fair in a wide variety of multiprocessor systems, and eliminates serious drawbacks of other algorithms, such as the need to pre-allocate memory for a fixed, predetermined number of threads. ... The key lesson this work has taught us is that one cannot underestimate the importance of reducing memory traffic in scalable synchronization algorithms. The “local spinning” technique used by the MCS algorithm has heavily influenced virtually all practical scalable synchronization algorithms since."

Chapters
European SIGOPS chapter continues to grow. In 2007 they held the second version of EuroSys in Lisbon, Portugal. This version sought papers that crossed the divide between different areas of computer systems.
Acknowledgements
I would like to thank to all of those who work with us to make SIGOPS activities a great success: all the program chairs and their committees, all the general chairs and their committees, and all the ACM staff. I particularly thank my co-officers Gilles Muller, Jeanna Matthews, and Geoff Voelker, and our ACM program manager Fran Spinola. Finally, I am delighted to turn over the SIGOPS leadership to Doug Terry, Frank Bellosa, and (staying on) Jeanna Matthews.