

# EuroSys student travel grants

1. Grants to attend the EuroSys conference

2. Awards to attend other systems conferences

# Why should EuroSys fund students to attend conferences (in America)?

- EuroSys “fosters excellence in systems research”
- Exposure to high quality work and the top people internationally is really important for students
- Exposure to Europe’s best students is a great thing for the international research community
- Through a competitive award, we send a signal that we value excellence

# Who should apply?

- Any student who hopes to pursue a career in systems research
  - And aspires to publish at the conference

# The award

- 2 winners / conference
  - OSDI, NSDI, SOSOP etc.
- Full expenses...
  - Travel
  - Registration
  - Accommodation (we may ask you to share a room with the other winner)
  - Free membership of Eurosys for 1 year 😊
- ...in exchange for
  - A technical blog or trip report
  - Distribution of flyers at the conference

# Why the blog?

- It's good for you
  - You have to listen!
- Great publicity for Eurosys
  - And a service for our members
- Great publicity for you
  - Raise your profile in the research community
- If you are not comfortable with blogging, a report that we can post on the web site later is fine
- You don't need to write lots of words
  - Should be technical and optionally entertaining

# How to apply

- Your CV
- A short statement of your research
  - Should be relevant to the conference
- A reference letter from your advisor
  - Cross-check your claims
- “Choose your favourite paper from past proceedings and explain why”
  - This is how we choose the winners
  - Even if you don't win, this is a useful exercise for **every** PhD student
  - 1-2 paragraphs is plenty

# How to apply (part 2)

- I chose paper X because:
  - It caused me to think about the problem in a different way
  - The work broke new ground
  - The authors discovered something really surprising
  - It contains the most thorough and rigorous experimental evaluation I have ever seen
  - It is a pleasure to read
  - Not my area but I found it really interesting
  - The paper has had huge impact on the field
  - ...

# Excerpt from a winner's application

“The original MapReduce paper is particularly interesting because it describes a technique and a system that successfully operates at massive scale. Its publication heralded the start of a trend for commercial and industrial research labs to publish the details of their large-scale production systems.”

# Excerpt from a hypothetical but typical unsuccessful application

“Paper X describes system Y. The paper presents the system architecture, evaluates its performance and shows that ...

I chose paper X because it inspired my research.”

# Evaluation criteria

- Understanding of the paper
  - But don't give a summary, eg explain impact
- Engagement with the paper
  - Specifics not generalities
- If this paper “inspired your research”, then
  - Have you read any others?
  - Why choose this one? What specific aspects of the paper influenced your research?

# Status

- OSDI 2008 (13 applications)
  - Derek Murray, Cambridge
  - Horatiu Jula, EPFL
- NSDI 2009 (6 applications)
  - Periklis Akritidis, Cambridge
  - Maysam Yabandeh, EPFL
- Next:
  - SOSP 2009
  - Other conferences by popular demand
- Please apply!