



PAM 2026 TPC Town Hall

Your TPC chairs: Simone and Romain

Thank you for serving in PAM 2026 TPC



Alessandro Finamore
Alexander Gamero-Garrido
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Daphne Tuncer
Eman Ramadan
Emilia Weyulu
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Francisco Germano Vogt
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Hammas Bin Tanveer
Hannah B. Pasandi
Haoyu Wang
Idilio Drago
Ioana Livadariu
Johan Mazel
Johannes Zirngibl
Kevin Vermeulen
Lars Prehn
Maciej Korczynski
Marcel Flores
Minzhao Lyu
Mirja Kühlewind
Moritz Müller

Olaf Maennel
Oliver Gasser
Orlando E.
Martínez-Durive
Pawel Foremski
Philipp Richter
Polly Huang
Ramin SADRE
Remi Hendriks
Ricky K. P. Mok
Sarah Wassermann
Savvas Kastanakis
Shuai Hao
Solange Rito Lima
Stephen McQuistin
Taha Albakour

Tanya Shreedhar
Thomas Krenc
Tijay Chung
Tobias Fiebig
Tobias Urban
Vadim Safronov
Vasanta Chaganti
Wei Sun
Yevheniya Nosyk
Yufei Zheng
Zachary Bischof

Desired Outcomes



- Have an inspiring PAM program
- Make PAM reviewing a worthwhile, and fun experience for everybody!
 - Streamline process of PAM reviewing
 - Improve overall quality of the reviews and select a great program

Agenda



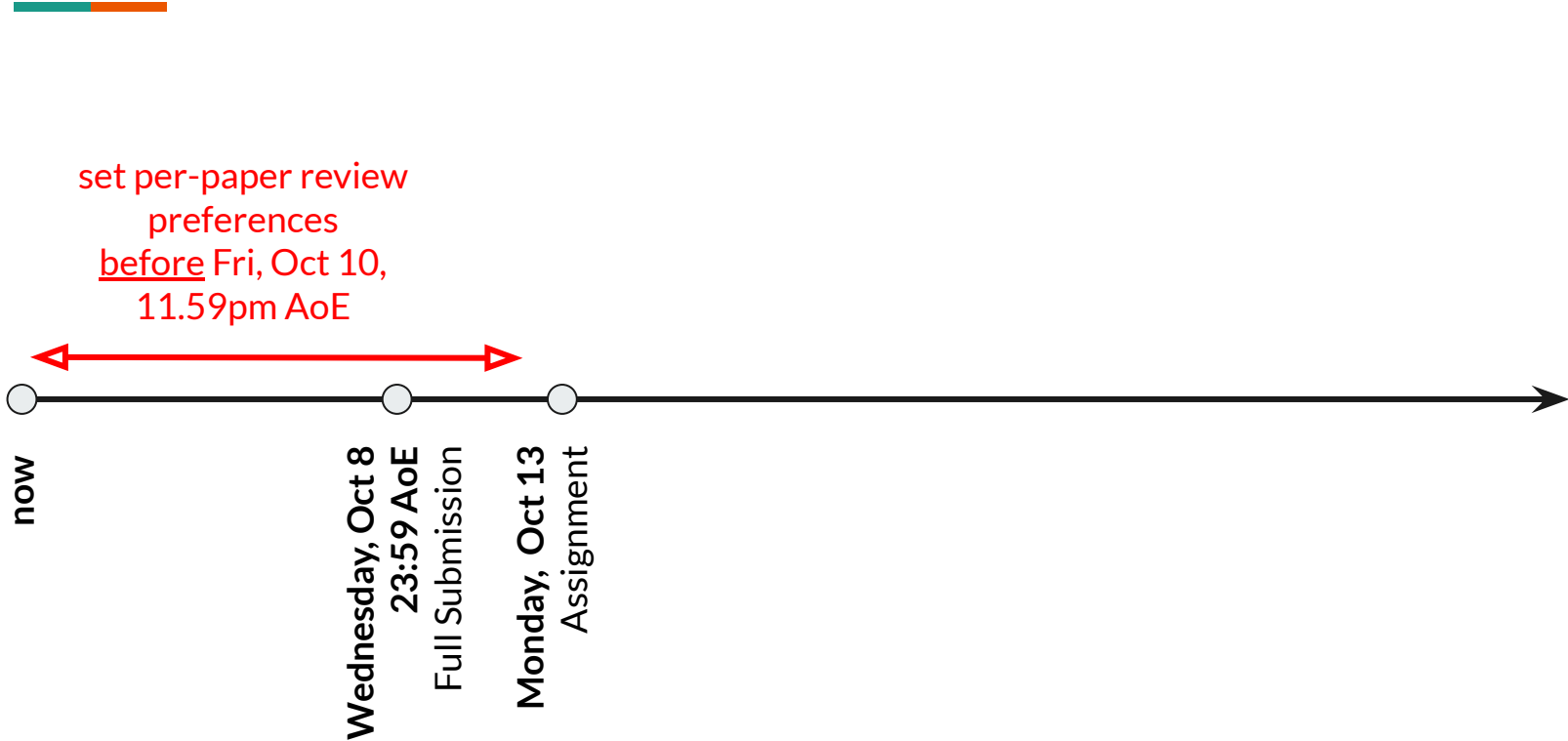
1. Goals
2. Logistics
3. Reviewing process and timeline
4. Notes on review quality
5. Open discussion, feedback



Paper types

- Short: Up to 11 pages for technical content (up to 5 pages for appendices and references)
- Long: Up to 24 pages for technical content (up to 5 pages for appendices and references)
- Repro: can be long or short.
- We want to be generous in accepting papers, especially short papers.
- We value any type of reproduction as long as it is technically correct (no need for “new” insights).

Reviewing Timeline



Review Preferences

Step 1: Set topic interests

Topic interests

Please indicate your interest in reviewing papers on these conference topics. We use this information to help match papers to reviewers.

	Low			High		
	↓	○	↑	↓	○	↑
Applications (e.g., web, streaming, games)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Data centers and cloud computing	○	○	○	○	○	○
Energy	○	○	○	○	○	○
IoT (e.g., smart home, SCADA, ICS, embedded systems)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Measurement tools and software	○	○	○	○	○	○
Network security and privacy	○	○	○	○	○	○
Overlays (e.g., P2P, CDNs)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Physical Layer	○	○	○	○	○	○
Routing	○	○	○	○	○	○
Social networks	○	○	○	○	○	○
Topology	○	○	○	○	○	○
Transport/congestion control	○	○	○	○	○	○
User behavior and experience, QoE	○	○	○	○	○	○
Virtualization (e.g., SDN, NFV)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Visualization	○	○	○	○	○	○
Wireless and mobile	○	○	○	○	○	○

Step 2: Set per-paper preferences

Reviews

The average PC member has submitted 0.0 reviews. ([details](#) · [graphs](#))

As an administrator, you may review any submitted paper.

[Offline reviewing](#)

[Review preferences](#)

User:

Search:

Show: ☐ Abstract ☒ Authors (deblinded) ☐ Full author info ☐ Topics

20

I want to review this!

-20

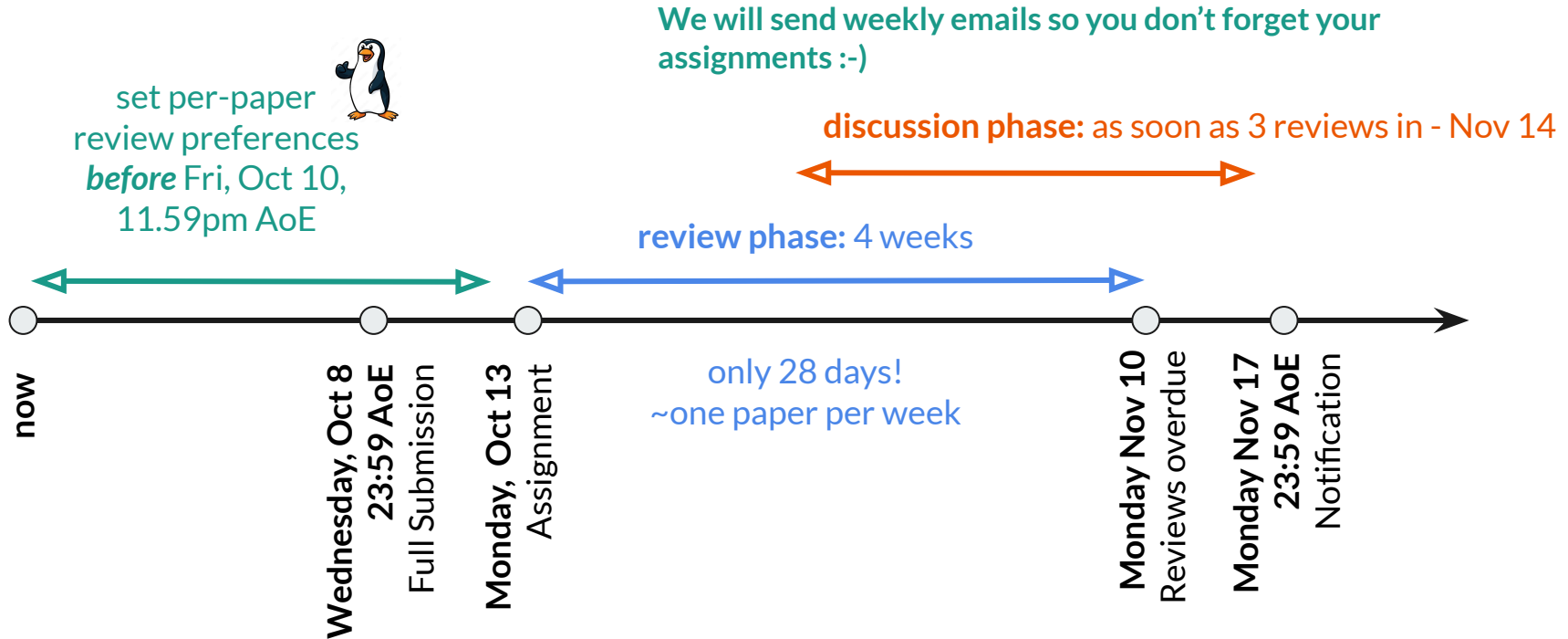
I really don't want to

-100

I'm a conflict

Per-paper preferences ensure you get to read papers you like!
Please allocate 15-20 mins of your time to set preferences. It's worth it!

Reviewing Timeline



Review Form

Overall merit *

- ☐ 1. Reject
- ☐ 2. Weak reject
- ☒ 3. Weak accept
- ☐ 4. Accept
- ☐ 5. Strong accept

Reviewer expertise *

- ☐ 1. No familiarity
- ☐ 2. Some familiarity
- ☐ 3. Knowledgeable
- ☐ 4. Expert

☐ Ethical concerns

(hidden from authors)

Tick this checkbox if you believe this paper has ethical concerns that are not properly addressed by the mandatory ethical considerations section in the paper.

☐ Nominate this paper for the best paper award

(hidden from authors)

Tick this box if you think this paper should be considered for the best paper award.

☐ Nominate this paper for the community contribution award

(hidden from authors)

Tick this box if you think the dataset contributed by this paper is of value to the community and as such the paper should be considered for the community contribution award.

Paper summary

Strengths

What are the key strengths of this paper? Two or three bullet points suffice.

Weaknesses

What are the weaknesses of the paper? Two or three bullet points suffice.

Comments for authors

Comments for PC (hidden from authors)

short
to-the-point
constructive

(this box should be much larger!)
for the authors often the most helpful part of the review!

Review Form: Online Discussion

PAM does not have a TPC meeting



 [Write review](#)  [Add comment](#)

New Comment

Leave a comment

Visibility

Hidden from authors

Cancel

Save

(admin only)

Add comment

We use online discussions to converge and decide which papers to select.

Review and Discussion Phase



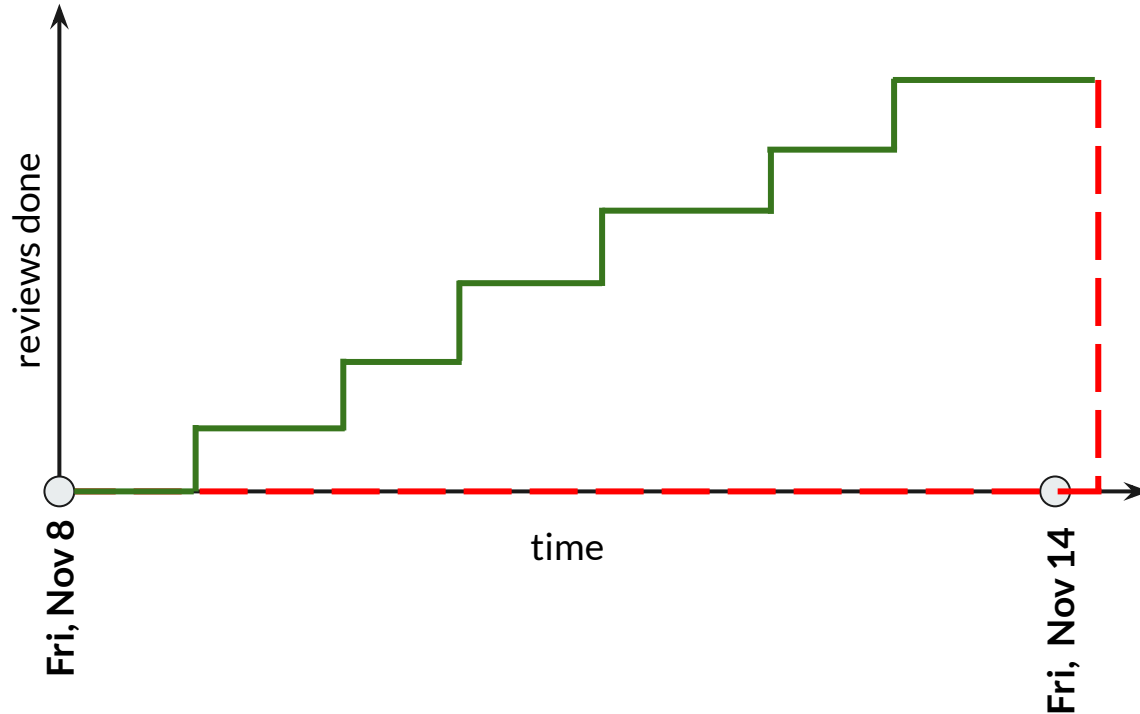
Whenever you submit a review, also engage in the discussion!


(if you are the first reviewer, you are excused and can join the discussion later :-)


After you submit a review:

- Read other reviews
- Engage in discussion while you have the paper's content in your head
- It is fine to have a different opinion than your fellow reviewers! Discuss and converge..

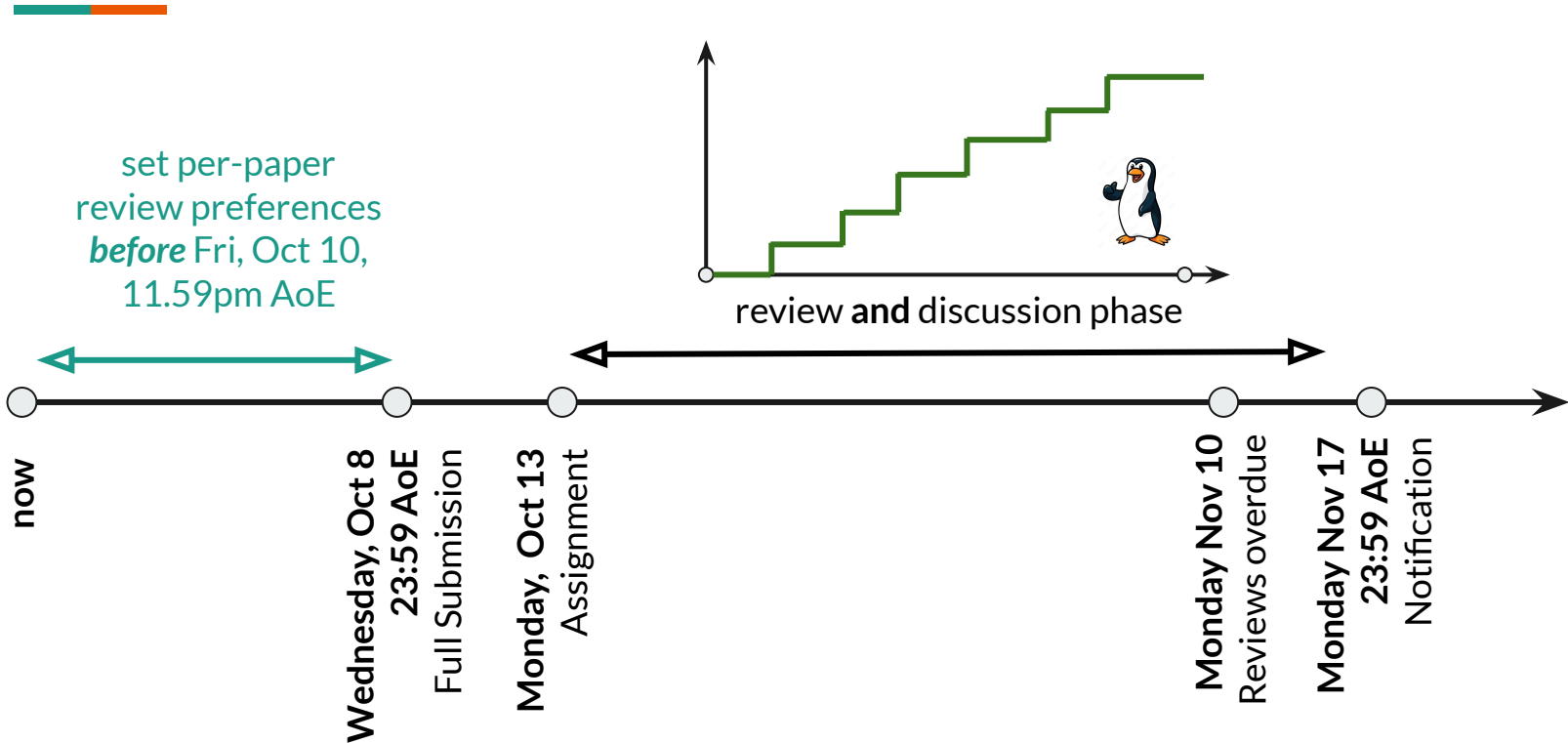
Review and Discussion Phase



- meaningful discussion
- less hustle
- TPC chairs can sleep well! 

- disengaged reviewers and little discussion
- TPC chairs stressed out 

Reviewing Timeline



PAM: A Gentle Guide to Reviewing



- Please be **positive and constructive**.
 - Even if the paper is a reject: please make suggestion for improvement.
 - Note: this paper might be a student's first paper.
- Please read the paper looking for **reasons to accept**.
 - No paper is perfect.
 - We hold back a timely contribution by rejecting a paper that is fixable.
 - Shepherding is an option for tackling fixable flaws in papers.

PAM: A Gentle Guide to Reviewing



- PAM 2026 will be **virtual**.
 - There is no accept if room. There is room.
 - We want to accept all papers that are technically correct and make a valuable contribution.
 - Please champion a paper if you really like it.
- Please be **rigorous** when writing reviews.
 - There is no need to run experiments.
 - OK to express both **facts and opinions**, but please create a separation.
 - Provide citations for all assertions on novelty.

PAM: A Gentle Guide to Reviewing



- A paper with a **limitations § is a strength** (≠ weakness)
 - Please **do not** repeat the stated limitations as arguments for rejection.
 - Paper however must meet the criteria of acceptance: i.e., technical correctness + valuable contribution.
- PAM is double-blind – Please **do not** delegate your reviews.
- On Ethics:
 - Please assume a paper is innocent until it proves itself otherwise.
 - See CfP for papers written by our community on this topic.

PAM: A Gentle Guide to Reviewing



- PAM accepts both short- and long-submissions.
 - There is **no reject to short**.
- Examples: **Not a reason** to reject a paper
 - *"I didn't learn anything new from this paper"*
 - *"This is not how I would have written the paper"*
 - *"This paper is boring"*
- Examples: Please **do not** address authors.
 - *"the authors need to do a better job with their method" →*
"the method should be improved"

PAM: A Gentle Guide to Reviewing



- Many authors are students and for many this is their first paper submission.
 - Write respectful reviews.
 - Think of your own students or put yourself in their position.
 - Give feedback to improve the work that you would give in your own research group.

Note on Generative AI / ChatGPT



- ACM policy on use of Generative AI:
<https://www.acm.org/publications/policies/frequently-asked-questions>
 - GenAI to improve language: OK without acknowledgment
 - GenAI to write parts of the original text: needs to be acknowledged
*****PROMINENTLY*****:
 - if short, footnote ok
 - if longer, Acknowledgement section and must include details of prompts.
- PAM seeks original content. Typically that involves empirical measurements. GenAI can't produce that.



GenAI for reviewers

We will be following ACM guidelines:

- No uploading portions of papers to LLMs
- Submitted papers are confidential until published;
- They should not be shared with ****any**** third party.



Anonymity

- Rules expressed in the detailed submission guidelines
- If doubts about anonymity violation remain, contact us
- Likewise for other potential causes of desk rejects



Ethical Considerations (1/2)

Ethics, like methodology, are a potential grounds for rejection.

- IRB approval is not always necessary; nor it is always sufficient
- IRB pertains only to human-subjects research: data collected about humans through interaction or intervention
- Non human-subjects research is “exempt” but can still put humans at risk
- The research practices we accept/reject send a signal to future researchers (and IRBs) as to what we consider acceptable



Ethical Considerations (2/2)

Some of the specific things to consider:

- Did the authors not seek IRB approval when they should have?
- Did the authors not seek informed consent when they should have?
- Did the potential benefits exceed the potential risks?
- Was sensitive user data stored and handled in a safe manner?
- Were vulnerabilities responsibly disclosed? (Will they be?)
- Were local laws and best practices followed?



Shepherding

- We shouldn't be accepting papers where only the shepherd sees the major results
 - No new experiments
 - Not acceptable to impose stylistic choices
- Shepherds are there to help interpret what's in the reviews and make sure that what the PC decided needs to be changed gets changed; not beyond that
- The shepherding process will take place through HotCRP and will remain anonymous

Key Takeaways



1. Any thoughts or questions? Reach out right away!
2. Set per-paper review preferences before Oct 10 AoE
3. Whenever you submit a review, start discussion right away



Open Discussion