



DESIGN AUTOMATION CONFERENCE

# New... Call for Extended Abstracts – DAC User Track

**DAC** is the premier conference devoted to Electronic Design Automation (EDA) and to the application of EDA tools in designing electronic systems. This year, DAC is introducing a new User Track to address the issues facing designers, application engineers, and design flow developers. User Track papers describe the use of EDA tools to design a novel electronic system, or to produce a design flow or a methodology to produce such systems. A User Track paper may be problem-specific in scope (e.g., analyzing substrate coupling during floorplanning) or may address a specific application domain (e.g., designing wireless handsets), though applications to other types of designs and design flows could be inferred.

The aim of this track is to share the challenges and benefits of tool usage, thus providing educational and networking benefits for end users as well as tool developers. The User Track gives attendees an opportunity to explore solutions to a design problem, to see how ideas contained in papers presented at previous DACs have been implemented, and to exchange ideas and observations with fellow designers. This track can also help attendees evaluate how tools demonstrated in the exhibit hall could be used to solve key design issues via approaches presented by the speakers. It is a new environment in which DAC attendees can learn and network with engineers who share similar problems and constraints.

DAC 2009 seeks papers that highlight the challenges and benefits of using EDA tools, including vendor tools, in-house tools, and combinations of point tools. Submissions from end-users, application engineers, or vendor-customer teams, are especially encouraged. The tool use may target system-level design or back-end design at all levels, and across all application domains.

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

*The submission process for the User Track consists of the following steps:*

- 1) Authors are requested to submit a two-page extended abstract describing the scope of the work and summarizing key innovations and benefits. **These submissions are due no later than 5:00pm MT, December 19, 2008.**
- 2) Submissions will be reviewed by a user committee consisting of industry end-tool users.
- 3) If a submission's quality and scope are deemed appropriate for the User Track, authors will receive a preliminary acceptance no later than January 29, 2009.
- 4) Authors whose work has been preliminarily accepted will be asked to submit a presentation (either 30 minutes = 25 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A, or 15 minutes = 12 minutes + 3 minutes Q&A) by March 2, 2009.
- 5) The user committee will review all submitted presentations, and each paper will receive a final acceptance either as a short presentation (15 minutes), as a long presentation (30 minutes), or as a poster. Final acceptance status, presentation type and duration will be determined by the committee based on quality and significance of the work, topic area, and the amount of time needed to present the results. Notifications will be sent by March 26, 2009. Authors are expected to sign a release form to allow User Track presentation materials to be posted on the DAC website after the conference.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

A submission should address tool use, focusing on innovative use and quality of results. Key evaluation criteria used to make acceptance decisions include the following:

- *Significance of the results, the innovative manner in which a tool is applied, and/or the use of tools to overcome current design challenges*
- *Use in real designs, case studies, or established benchmarks is essential*
- *Quality of writing, use of English, and organization*

The results obtained must be reported using measurable quantitative criteria such as tools runtime, optimality of results, productivity enhancement, decreased design flow complexity, improvement of silicon quality, reduced time-to-market, and simplification or automation of manual effort. Examples of innovative tool uses include, but are not limited to, utilizing one tool to obtain results that aid another tool, writing scripts to combine tools, and user-developed enhancements (scriptware, utilities that augment standard flow, etc.) that improve tool usage and results. Examples of design challenges include, but are not limited to, dealing with scalability, integrating IP, and overcoming front-end - back-end gaps.

Extended abstracts should contain a title, a list of authors, a description of the methods, and key results and findings. References should be presented at the end of the extended abstract. More details on writing an extended abstract for the User Track, and the submission process, can be found on the DAC website in a document entitled, "How to Write a DAC User Track Extended Abstract".

## USER TRACK SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

Authors are required to specify a main category from the following list that reflects the part of the design flow that most closely reflects their submission:

1. **Embedded Software Design**
2. **System-level Modeling**
3. **System-level Communication**
4. **Hardware/Software Co-design**
5. **System-level Power Analysis and Management**
6. **System-level Testing, Verification and Emulation**
7. **Applications of RTL to GDS Design Tools and Flows**
8. **Timing, Power or Noise Analysis**
9. **Manufacturability Analysis and Optimization**
10. **Signal Integrity and Design Reliability**
11. **Chip-level Testing**
12. **Chip and System Bring-up**
13. **Analog/Mixed-signal and RF Design**
14. **FPGA Design, FPGA-Based Designs, and Related Optimizations**
15. **Cutting-edge Chip Design**
16. **Cutting-edge System Design**

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