

User Track Submission Guidelines

Presenting your work at DAC 2010

This document highlights the details for authors considering submissions to the User Track of DAC 2010. In case you have questions, please feel free to contact the User Track co-chairs: Soha Hassoun (soha@cs.tufts.edu), and Patrick Groeneveld (patrick@magma-da.com).

Why Present your work at the DAC user track?

DAC's User Track, now in its second year, focuses on significant contributions from the EDA tool user community. In contrast to traditional focus at DAC on algorithmic and methodology contributions, this track aims to share challenges and benefits of tool usage and provides educational and networking benefits for end users. The topics are at the interface between design and automation, an area that until now has been underrepresented in EDA.

The User Track provides a vendor-agnostic and objective forum for designers worldwide. It is *the* place to exchange EDA user experiences and best practices. Unlike regular technical papers, **the User Track is specifically for you: the practitioner**. Whether you are an EDA tool user, a hardware or software designer, an application or flow engineer, a consultant, or a methodology developer: DAC 2010 is *the* place to meet and share your experiences.

Submission procedure in a nutshell

To spare you hours of preparation typically associated with DAC regular paper submissions, the submission process has the following steps:

1. First, we request that you submit *a short two-page extended abstract* highlighting what you can present at DAC. The deadline is January 18, 2010.
2. Your extended abstract will be evaluated by a program committee of fellow designers. If suitable for DAC, we request that you submit *a detailed slide presentation* (in PDF or PowerPoint) by March 1, 2010.
3. The technical committee reviews your presentation. You will be notified of acceptance by April 5, 2010. The committee may accept a paper as either a short presentation, a long presentation, or as a poster. This depends on the overall structure of the program.
4. Authors of accepted oral presentations must sign a permission and release form for their presentation by April 18, 2010.
5. Authors of accepted presentations and posters will present their work at DAC during the week of June 13, 2010.
6. You will be required to register for the DAC User Track if you will be presenting in the User Track or participating in the poster session.

The User Track presentations are not collected in the proceedings. Your slide presentation will be made available over the web at the DAC website after DAC. You may optionally accompany your slides with a paper in PDF. That could be a full version of the extended

abstract with more detailed information. This additional content is not part of the review process.

We will award a best poster award for the User Track. The award will be based both on the detailed presentation submission and the author's presentation during the poster session at DAC.

Deadline summary

EasyChair Web site opens for submissions	December 15, 2009
You submit your extended abstract by	January 18, 2010 (5:00pm MT)
We notify you of the acceptance of your extended abstract by	February 8, 2010
You submit your PowerPoint or PDF slide presentation by	March 1, 2010 (5:00pm MT)
We notify you of your presentation format (long, short, or poster presentation)	April 5, 2010
You sign the release form by	April 18, 2010
You come to DAC and present your work!	June 13-18, 2010 in Anaheim, CA

How to submit?

All submissions will be submitted electronically using the EasyChair Conference System. A link to the submission website can be found at <http://www.dac.com/47th/UTinfo.html>.

What does a User Track Extended Abstract look like?

An extended abstract is expected to offer the following details:

- 1) A title.
- 2) Name, affiliation, and email addresses for all authors.
- 3) An introduction that specifies the *context* and *motivation* of the submission.
Examples: identify challenges associated with the task you are accomplishing using the tools; clarify where in the design process you used the tools; explain why the problem you will address is of interest to the audience; etc.
- 4) A 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; dealing with scalability; details of integrating IP; study of design trade-offs; interfacing with manufacturing; etc.
- 5) A summary that highlights results. To evaluate your contribution, you must specify some results. Example metrics you can use: productivity enhancement, improved quality of silicon, decreased complexity, and reduced time-to-market.

6) References, if appropriate.

Your extended abstract can be at most two pages. You can format it in single or double-column. Feel free to include up to four additional pages of diagrams, figures, or pictures, as you find appropriate. You need to provide enough details so the TPC can evaluate the potential quality and interest in your presentation at DAC. A one-paragraph summary will likely not be sufficient for that purpose.

User Track Submission Categories

We request that you specify the category of your submission. This designation will ensure that we line up the right experts to review your submission. Please specify a category from the following list that reflects the type of tools that were used or the methodology most relevant to the submission:

1. **System-Level Design (Front-End):**
 - 1.1. Hardware/Software Co-Design
 - 1.2. System and High-Level Hardware Synthesis
 - 1.3. Power/Area/Performance Trade-Offs
 - 1.4. Embedded Software Tools
 - 1.5. Bus and Network Communication Strategies
 - 1.6. Emulation and Verification
 - 1.7. IP Blocks and Integration

2. **Silicon-Level Design (Back-End):**
 - 2.1. Physical Synthesis Tools and Techniques
 - 2.2. Floorplanning
 - 2.3. Timing and Circuit Analysis
 - 2.4. DRC and DFM
 - 2.5. Test and Debug
 - 2.6. Analog and Mixed Signal Design
 - 2.7. Custom, Standard Cell and FPGA Design Flows
 - 2.8. Packaging and Board Integration
 - 2.9. Tool Control and Integration

Who judges the submissions?

The User Track subcommittee consists of end users of EDA tools, with years of tool and methodology experience. The majority of the committee members are from industry, representing a wide spectrum of domain and flow expertise.

What criteria are used to judge extended abstract submissions?

A User Track submission addresses innovative EDA tool use with high-quality results. The considerations used by the technical committee in acceptance decisions include:

- significance of results, supported by clear measurable criteria, including, but not limited to, improved quality of silicon, decreased complexity, and reduced time-to-market.
- level of innovation in tool use, e.g., utilizing one tool to obtain results that aid another tool, writing scripts to combine tools, user-end enhancements, and intelligent data management. A submission should not mirror the help section in the tool's user manual, but instead address a creative way of using the EDA tool.
- ability to overcome design challenges such as scalability, integrating IP, and bridging front-end to back-end gaps.
- validation of the proposed techniques using real designs, case studies, or established benchmarks is essential.
- discussion of the conceptual limitations of tools and suggestions for future tool improvement. Solid technical contributions should address both the strengths and the weaknesses of the approach. Product marketing pitches are inappropriate for the User Track.
- quality of the writing, use of English, and organization.

Extended abstracts must be in PDF format, and should contain a title, authors, description of the methods, and key results and findings. References may be presented at the end of the extended abstract (for examples, see papers in the DAC proceedings from previous years). More details on writing an extended abstract for the User Track can be found at www.dac.com. All submissions must be made electronically through the EasyChair Conference System.

What does a User Track presentation look like?

Once the technical program committee accepts your submission, you are required to submit a presentation. The presentation provides details of the contribution, similar to other presentations at DAC. The technical program committee will be judging the content, more so than the format. In particular, the presentation should include the following:

- 1) Title, name of author(s), affiliation, and emails.
- 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.

An important aspect of DAC's reputation is its vendor and sponsor neutrality. Only technical merit and progress counts. Therefore we ask you to ensure that the presentation is not a marketing pitch, but a honest representation of facts. We also request that your presentation does not contain company logos on each slide, except for the title slide.

What criteria are used to judge presentations?

The technical program committee will evaluate your presentation based on the same criteria used to evaluate your submission. Here, however, the technical program committee is assessing your ability to back up your claims in the extended abstract, and to ensure that you are able to deliver a quality presentation 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 technical program committee will also consider the suitability of the topic for an oral or poster presentation.

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

Putting it all together

The DAC technical program committee, along with the User Track co-chairs, will determine the placement of the presentation in the conference schedule. Long presentations are 25 minutes, with 5 minutes for Q&A. Short presentations are 12 minutes, with 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 we look forward to seeing you at DAC! Please contact us with questions and feedback.

User track co-chairs:

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