

Call For Papers

Important Dates

	Summer	Winter
Abstract registration	August 14, 2020 11:59 PM EDT	March 19, 2021 11:59 PM EDT
Paper submission	August 21, 2020 11:59 PM EDT	March 26, 2021 11:59 PM EDT
Notification of acceptance	November 13, 2020	June 11, 2021

Important Changes

- [Double-blind](#). This CFP has updated its double-blind review policy and particularly added how to handle preprints (such as arXiv). Violated submissions will be returned without reviews.
- [Conflict-of-interest \(COI\)](#). It is the authors' responsibility to claim the true COIs from the TPC members. Violated submissions will be returned without reviews.
- [Resubmission](#). We have added a new policy on previous submissions, which may request the authors to additionally submit the summary of changes from the previous version.
- [Anonymous shepherding](#). Note that MobiCom performs an anonymous and rigorous shepherding process for all conditionally accepted papers. Shepherded papers will be accepted only after completing a successful shepherding process, which usually takes 4-6 weeks.

The ACM MobiCom conference seeks papers describing significant research contributions in the field of wireless networking and mobile computing. MobiCom solicits papers that address important research challenges, including but not limited to communication networks, energy, computing, security, and user experience. Successful papers should propose novel ideas to attack such problems through rigorous analysis, system design, and/or real-world measurement and deployment of mobile networks, systems, and applications.

We want MobiCom'21 to be daring and emphasize novelty and creativity. The more novel the concept, the harder it can be to fully develop or evaluate all aspects, and the review process will take this into account. We encourage authors to discuss not only the significance but also the limitations of their ideas. We strongly encourage authors to describe how they will provide access to well-documented datasets, modeling and/or simulation tools, and codebases to support the reproducibility of their methods. MobiCom continues the two-deadline model and the reviewing process with a one-shot revision to improve the quality and timeliness of publications.

Topics

We invite submissions on a wide range of mobile computing and wireless networking research, including but not limited to:

- Applications of machine learning to mobile/wireless research
- Backscatter communication and wireless power
- Edge computing
- Embedded and energy-harvesting systems
- Experimental platforms and infrastructures for wireless/mobile research
- Implanted and wearable computing
- Intersections between mobile/wireless research, cloud computing, and software-defined networking
- Long-range/low-power wide-area wireless networking
- Low-latency networking
- Machine-to-machine communications
- Millimeter-wave and terahertz communications
- Mobile data science & analysis
- Mobile health
- Mobile networks (5G and beyond)
- Mobile web, video, virtual reality, and other applications
- Novel applications of wireless signals
- Robotic and drone-based networking
- Security and privacy issues/solutions for mobile/wireless systems
- Sensing with radio, light, sound, and acoustics
- Ubiquitous computing and mobile human-computer interaction
- Visible light communications
- Wireless localization and tracking

In addition to **full** research papers as described above, MobiCom also invites submission in the following three categories:

Challenge Papers

The conference invites submissions of short papers (limited to eight pages excluding references) that present revolutionary new ideas or that challenge existing assumptions

prevalent among the wireless research community. These "challenge papers" should provide stimulating ideas or visions that may open up exciting avenues and/or influence the direction of future research. Descriptions of new products or evolution of existing work are not appropriate topics for papers in this category. While an exhaustive evaluation of the proposed ideas is not necessary, insight and in-depth understanding of the issues is expected. Challenge papers will be reviewed by the program committee and if selected, become part of the conference technical program and be published in the conference proceedings. Challenge papers should be submitted using the same submission procedure adopted for the full papers. The title of these papers must bear a "Challenge:" prefix.

Experience Papers

The conference invites submission of short papers (limited to eight pages excluding references) that present extensive experiences with implementation, deployment, and operations of mobile systems and wireless networks. Desirable papers are expected to contain real data as well as descriptions of the practical lessons learned. The experience papers will be evaluated by the program committee, primarily for (i) richness of their data or experiences, (ii) inferences drawn or lessons learned, (iii) discovery of new problems, and (iv) their impact/potential impact on current and future mobile systems and wireless networks, as well as on society. Note that a paper that builds a system and presents a limited experimental evaluation is NOT suitable as an experience paper. Selected experience papers will become a part of the conference technical program and will be published in the conference proceedings. Experience papers should be submitted according to the same submission procedure as full papers, and their title must bear an "Experience:" prefix.

Verification Papers

The conference invites submission of short papers (limited to eight pages excluding references) that seek to verify and/or characterize recent breakthrough results in mobile computing using rigorous experimental methodologies with the goal of extensively and thoroughly characterizing the operating parameters under which these results can be reproduced. Selected verification papers will become a part of the conference technical program and will be published in the conference proceedings. Verification papers should be submitted according to the same submission procedure as full papers, and their title must bear a "Verification:" as a prefix.

Two Deadlines and One-shot Revision

MobiCom'21 offers authors the options of two deadlines and adds a one-shot revision process to enhance the timeliness and quality of the scientific results from the research community. Each paper will go through the same rigorous reviewing process as in previous MobiCom conferences. The review decisions will be one of the following:

- **Accept:** Accepted papers will be presented at the MobiCom conference and appear as part of the proceedings and the MobiCom website. Note all the papers in this category will initially be *conditionally accepted*. The papers that go through a successful **anonymous** shepherding process will eventually be accepted.

- **Reject:** Rejected papers cannot be resubmitted until 11 months have passed since the last MobiCom deadline they were submitted to. We strongly encourage the authors to address the feedback they got before re-submitting the paper to MobiCom.
- **One-Shot-Revision:** Papers, where a revision is required, will be given specific action points and can be resubmitted for the **next** deadline. For such papers, the reviewers will articulate a maximum of three major changes/clarifications that they would like to see. After the resubmission, the paper will be evaluated based on whether the authors have properly addressed the reviewers' requests. Unlike in the shepherding process, the requested action points may include running additional experiments that obtain specific results and could take more than 4-6 weeks. During this revision period, the paper is still considered under review to MobiCom and therefore cannot be submitted to other conferences unless the authors first withdraw it from consideration.

Submission Instructions

All paper submissions will be handled electronically at the [MobiCom'21 paper submission website](#). Authors should prepare a PDF version of their full paper.

All submitted papers will be evaluated through a **double-blind** reviewing process, with the identities of the authors withheld from the reviewers.

Before final submission, you are expected to make sure that your paper complies with the following requirements. Please do not violate these requirements with the aim of including additional material: **submissions that violate the formatting requirements may not be reviewed**. You can visually inspect a page-by-page report of your paper format using the same tool as the submission system via a separate [online form](#). After the submission deadline, we will use the same tool to check the conformance of papers. The format checking tool uses heuristics and can make mistakes. The PC chairs will manually inspect and possibly reject those papers with evident format violations. However, no paper will be rejected due to format violations without being manually checked.

Any papers that do not adhere to the following guidelines may be immediately rejected:

- Full papers: Contain no more than **twelve (12)** single-spaced and numbered pages, including figures, tables, any appendices, and any other material, followed by as many pages as necessary for bibliographic references. Papers whose non-bibliographic content is longer than 12 pages will not be reviewed.
- Experience/Verification/Challenge Papers: Contain no more than **eight (8)** single-spaced and numbered pages, including figures, tables, any appendices, and any other material, followed by as many pages as necessary for bibliographic references. Papers whose non-bibliographic content is longer than eight pages will not be reviewed.
- Font size no smaller than **10 points**.
- Double column format with each column having dimensions 9.25 inches x 3.33 inches, a space of 0.33 inches between the two columns, and with no more than 55 lines of text per column.
- Fit properly on US letter-sized paper (8.5 inches by 11 inches).

- Submissions must be in PDF (Portable Document Format) authors should ensure that they are compatible with Adobe Acrobat (English version). Any other formats, including Postscript and MS-Word, will not be accepted.
- Authors' names must not appear anywhere in the paper or in the PDF file. The PDF file must also not contain any embedded hyperlinks, as these may compromise reviewer anonymity.
- Limit the file size to less than 15 MB: contact the PC chairs if you have a file larger than this limit.

You may find these [templates](#) useful in complying with the above requirements. For Latex users, please use `\documentclass[sigconf,10pt]{acmart}`. But as an author, you bear the final responsibility to verify (manually or through the above online paper checker) that your submission is format-compliant.

Submission Policy

In addition to the formatting requirements, all authors are expected to make sure that their paper complies with the following submission policies.

Previous Publications

We allow submissions that extend the previous work published as a poster, demo, or workshop paper such as HotMobile or HotNets. The authors must cite their previous work as the third person to follow the double-blind policy. The authors must also clearly describe the novelty over their previous publications in the related work.

No Simultaneous Submissions

All submissions must describe original research not published or currently under review for another conference or journal. It is ACM policy ([ACM Author Rights and Publishing Policy, Prior Publication, and Simultaneous Submissions](#)) not to allow double submissions, where the same paper is submitted concurrently to more than one conference/journal. Any double submissions detected will be **immediately rejected** from all conferences/journals involved.

Double-blind Submissions

All submissions will be evaluated through double-blind reviewing. Please do not violate this requirement by explicitly or implicitly leaking the identity of any co-author or institution. They include but not limited to the below requirements:

- Please be sure your name and affiliation do not appear on the paper or in the submitted PDF file. This means that before submission, you must remove from the paper the authors' names, authors' affiliations, acknowledgments of funding sources, etc.
- Please be cautious and careful how you refer to your own prior work in the paper. For example, do not describe your prior work with phrases like:
 “In prior work[3], we presented a routing protocol that ...”

Instead, refer to your work in the third person, such as

“In prior work, Smith[3] presented a routing protocol that ...”

With this method, the full citation to Smith can still be given, such as

[3] Smith, J., "Analysis of ...

In particular, it is not acceptable to say

[3] Reference deleted for double-blind review.

- Please avoid advertising the paper with the same or similar title on your webpage, social media, or through large mailing lists. Authors may include links to websites that contain source code, tools, or other supplemental material. The link in the paper, however, must be anonymized.
- **NEW!** Please be careful of releasing your paper at preprint or to the public as it crosses the line of our double-blind review policy. We understand certain papers are made available online (e.g., via a preprint server such as arXiv) for early distribution to the general community. If a non-anonymized version of the paper has been released to the public (e.g., uploaded at arXiv) before the abstract registration deadline, you can submit an *anonymized* version to MobiCom'21 and do **not** cite this work in the submission. But before the final submission, you must inform the program co-chairs that a non-anonymized or anonymized version exists. Note that, while you are not prohibited from making a non-anonymous version available online before the review process, this makes double-blind reviewing extremely difficult to maintain and thus is not recommended. Note also that authors are prohibited from uploading preprints after the abstract registration and paper submission to MobiCom'21 and during the review process.

We will not review any submission that violates our double-blind policy.

Submissions will be kept confidential until accepted. Rejected submissions will be kept confidential permanently.

Conflicts of Interest (Col) **NEW!**

For a fair review process, program committee members who are COIs to any author of the submission will not review or participate in the discussion and decision-making of the submission. It is the author's responsibility to mark COIs in the submission website.

We generally follow the ACM policy ([Conflict of Interest Policy for ACM Publications](#)), and also add and extend rules on the specific relationships to explicitly define COIs of one submission at MobiCom'21 as:

- (1) any PC member who works/worked at the same organizational affiliation with any co-author in the last 24 months and reasonably expected within **the next 12 months**;
- (2) any PC member who has co-authored any book, article, report, abstract or paper with collaboration in the last 24 months and reasonably expected within the next 12 months;
- (3) any PC member who has collaborated on projects, such as funded grants, research or others with any co-author in the last 24 months and reasonably expected within the next 12 months;

- (4) any PC member who is/was the advisor or advisee of any co-author;
- (5) any PC member who graduated from the same research group and/or was under the same advisor/supervisor/manager in the last 48 months; **NEW!**
- (6) any PC member who is exposed to the full or partial authorship of this work in any public or private channel (including but not limited to interview talks, campus visits, research discussion, conversations); **NEW!**
- (7) any PC member who has a close personal friendship or business relationship beyond professional settings that could affect the review process with any co-author, or
- (8) others.

A potential COI must be identified at the submission and can be updated at any point during the review process, but when possible, potential conflicts should be determined before acceptance decisions are made.

The author(s) must identify every COI out of all PC members (including chairs) with **any** author of the submission and indicate the type of conflict during the submission process. For other forms of conflicts (item 8), the authors must contact the program chairs and explain the perceived conflict.

Knowingly hiding or falsifying a stated COI, and knowingly and falsely asserting a COI — e.g., to prevent or alter peer-reviewing, to discourage appropriate reviewing, or to seek disadvantage of another — are both considered as a violation of this COI policy. We will return the violated submissions with no reviews.

Previous Submissions **NEW!**

In case of any similarity between a current submission and a submission that has been previously rejected at MobiCom or other relevant conferences within the last 24 months, the authors are requested to do the following in three cases:

1. For a one-shot revision, please carefully follow the instructions on the notification. Along with the resubmission, the authors must report the major concerns and requested items from the reviewers of the previous submission and write a summary of how the authors have addressed them in the revision. Please ensure **your anonymity** is retained in this summary.
2. For submissions that have been recently rejected by MobiCom, it is **required** for the authors to do the same as in case 1. That is, please report the major concerns from the reviewers of the previous submission and write a summary of how the authors have addressed them in the current submission. Please ensure **your anonymity** is retained in this summary.
3. For submissions that have been previously rejected by a conference other than MobiCom (such as Mobisys, SIGCOMM, NSDI, SenSys, UbiComp, etc), it is **strongly encouraged**, although not required, for the authors to do the same items as in case 2. That is, please report the major concerns from the reviewers of the previous submission

and write a summary of how the authors have addressed them in the current submission. Please ensure your anonymity is retained in this summary.

Processes for Conditionally Accepted Papers

Anonymous and Rigorous Shepherding

Conditionally accepted papers will be shepherded through a review process by a TPC member. Based on the feedback written in the reviews, authors of shepherded papers will submit a revision of their paper to the shepherd. The shepherd will collaborate with the reviewers from TPC to review the revised paper and provide the authors with additional comments. Note that the shepherding process could last 4-6 weeks and the authors might be asked to produce new experimental results and/or add new material. When the shepherding process results in final acceptance, the authors will upload their camera-ready file to the submissions system.

Video Presentation

The authors of each accepted paper will be asked to submit a one-minute video to introduce the research presented in their paper to the general public. These videos will be placed on the conference website and conference youtube channel up to two weeks before the conference. A selected set will be featured by the social media channels related to the conference.

Registration and Presentation

By submitting a paper, you agree that at least one of the authors will register and attend the conference to present it.

Awards

All accepted **regular** papers will be considered for the **Best Paper Award**. We will also have one **Best Community Paper Award** that contributes the most to the broader research community by making public real data, software, platform, or other artifacts.

Contact us

Please direct any questions about the paper submission process to the Program Co-Chairs at [mobicom21-pc-chairs __at__ acm.org](mailto:mobicom21-pc-chairs__at__acm.org).