

Conference Summary

2009 is likely to become the “Year of the Netflix Challenge” in recommender systems. With a prize of one million dollars one of the highest in computer science, it raised a tremendous awareness for as well as a transformation to the field of recommender systems.

We are very happy to welcome you to the Third ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (ACM RecSys 2009) in New York. In the last few years, ACM RecSys has continuously grown and meanwhile certainly can be understood as the scientific core event in the area of recommender systems, bringing together persons from academic research, industry research as well as from applications. While recommender systems has close relations to many neighboring fields such as machine learning, information retrieval, databases, human computer interaction, e-commerce, semantic web and many others and many of the best conferences in these areas have their dedicated sessions on recommender systems, ACM RecSys is the conference where all of them finally meet.

With 187 submissions this year's ACM RecSys has continued to grow at a fast rate of over 50%. Authors from 35 different countries from all over the world submitted their papers. After the program committee consisting of 78 researchers finished a thorough scientific review process in two rounds writing almost 700 reviews, less than 19% of the long submissions have been accepted, the overall acceptance rate for long and short papers is less than 40%. Besides a deepened interest in algorithms for recommender systems, this year tags and social networks, privacy and security and trust attracted the most attention by authors.

Moreover, the program of ACM RecSys 2009 includes two keynotes, one from a more academic perspective and another one from a more industrial perspective, a panel session about the recently concluded Netflix challenge, three tutorials and three workshops as well as a doctoral symposium.

Many persons have contributed to make ACM RecSys 2009 a success: we would like to thank the Workshop Chairs Joseph Konstan and Sean McNee, the Doctoral Symposium Chairs Michael O'Mahoney and Paul Resnick, the publicity chair Zan Huang as well as Asian Liaison Dong Zhang and European Liaison Alexandros Nanopoulos. We would like to thank all the PC members and additional reviewers for their hard and diligent work. We would like to thank all the authors for their interesting papers. We would like to thank the sponsors Strands, IBM, Microsoft Research, Sun, Telefonica, the MyMedia project, ACM SIGCHI as well as our universities NYU Stern, TU Graz, University of Hildesheim and De Paul University for their generous support.

We hope that you will have the opportunity to listen to many interesting and stimulating talks during ACM RecSys 2009 as well as find opportunities to discuss and share ideas with the leading researchers and practitioners in recommender systems here in New York.

**Lawrence Bergman
and Alex Tuzhilin**

General Chairs

**Robin Burke,
Alexander Felfernig and
Lars Schmidt-Thieme**

Program Chairs

**John Ciancutti and
Paul Lamere**

Industry Chairs