



Behind the Scenes: How to Submit Strong Proposals to TrustCon 2024 (and TSPA Summits)



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Where do I find the Call for Proposals?



TrustCon Site

<https://www.trustcon.net/> (Program > Call for Proposals)

Please pay careful attention to the submission types, important notes, and FAQs.

Email trustcon-program@tspa.org if you have any questions.

How do I submit a proposal?



Ex Ordo

<https://trustcon2024.exordo.com/login>

Create an account, start a new abstract, and read the Guide for TrustCon 2024.

You can edit your proposal until the submission deadline but, once the deadline has passed, you cannot edit or submit.

P.S. Ex Ordo provides articles and email support too.

Wait, who's an author?



Clarifying Terms

Ex Ordo uses the term “author” because the platform was created for academic conferences.

Presenting author = Person presenting (e.g., panelists, moderator, lightning talk or presentation speaker) or co-facilitating (e.g., workshop co-facilitator)

Corresponding author = Person submitting the proposal who will be the point of contact

Where do I register?



TrustCon 2024 Site

<https://www.trustcon.net/>

If your proposal is accepted, you will receive a speaker's discount.

Please email trustcon-registration@tspa.org with any questions.

What are the different submission types?



Lightning Talk: 5-7 minute talk with Q&A; slides are required

Full Panel: 50 minute thematic discussion with 3-4 panelists and a moderator; optional (though encouraged!) Q&A

Single Panelist: Serve on an existing panel; waitlisted automatically this year

Presentation: 20 minute talk with Q&A; slides are optional

Workshop: 90 or 120 minute interactive and engaging session; this should not be a presentation; required post-workshop deliverable

How many speakers by submission type?



Lightning Talk: 1 speaker; no co-presenters

Full Panel: 3-4 panelists + 1 moderator = 5 speakers total

Single Panelist: 1 speaker

Presentation: 1 speaker; no co-presenters

Workshop: 2 co-facilitators max

What are the different tracks?*



Engineering

Investigations & Intelligence

Operations

Partnerships

Policy

Product

Research

No Preference

** Tracks are called Topics in Ex Ordo.*

What makes a strong proposal?



1 All types of submissions benefit from details and data.

2 Lightning talk proposals should be scoped to 5-7 minutes.

3 Full panel proposals should include different points of view.

4 Single panelist proposals should be specific regarding expertise.

5 Presentation proposals should be scoped to 20 minutes.

6 Workshop proposals should describe an interactive and engaging session.

Who is a part of the Program Committee?



TrustCon 2024 Program Committee

Thirty TSPA member volunteers who are T&S professionals from all over the world with diverse backgrounds and different areas of expertise

Charlotte Willner (ED), Amanda Menking (Dir of Programs), Maggie Cook Kerr (Dir of Community), and Kristy Kosak (Sr PM) are also a part of the PC

TrustCon 2024 Program Committee

Members may engage in the following activities:

- **Reviewing and scoring proposals;**
- **Reading all of the reviews for a given proposal and then writing a meta-review;**
- **Shepherding submissions invited to Revise & Resubmit;**
- **Balancing accepted sessions so that TrustCon features a range of perspectives and voices as well as different kinds of sessions and topics;**
- **Collaboratively creating the conference agenda.**

How do reviews work?



Desk Reject

Incomplete and/or incoherent proposals

Product, services, and/or sales pitches

Proposals that reinforce existing biases or assumptions

How do reviews work?



Process

Each proposal receives three independent reviews.

Reviewers score the proposal and provide feedback.

The Program Committee reviews the scores and associated feedback.

Criteria

Originality: Does the proposal present a new topic, voice, and/or perspective?

Relevance: How is the proposal relevant to the TrustCon audience?

Contribution: How does the proposal contribute to T&S?

How does Revise & Resubmit work?



- 1** A proposal is reviewed by reviewers and the Program Committee.
- 2** It receives a low score, but the Program Committee sees merit.
- 3** The Program Committee believes that changes can be made in 2 weeks.
- 4** The author is provided with feedback, assigned a shepherd, and invited to revise.
- 5** The author revises and resubmits within 2 weeks.
- 6** The Program Committee reviews the revised proposal and makes a final decision.

How are program decisions *not* made?



Not factored into program selections

- Corporate supporter status
- TrustCon sponsorship
- Being a VIP or a “big name” in T&S
 - Previous publications, talks, presentations, etc.
 - Titles
- TSPA membership status
- Being a member of the Program Committee





We want to hear from you!

How are Summits different?



TrustCon

TrustCon prioritizes content for the global T&S community.

TrustCon requires presenters to travel to San Francisco, CA and present in person.

TrustCon features three days of multiple tracks for different audiences.

TSPA Summits

The Summits prioritize content for the local communities.

The Summits require presenters to travel to Dublin or Singapore (2024).

The Summits feature one day of programming, designed to meet the needs of the region.

How are Summit proposals different?



Summits

- **Summits have a theme and subthemes**
- **Summit proposals must connect to the region and theme**
- **Summits are one day events, which means multiple proposals are less likely to be accepted**

What are the upcoming deadlines? Why?



TrustCon 2024

All proposals are due Friday, February 2, 2024.

Deadlines cannot be extended because there are many dependencies.

Program deadlines are critical for several reasons (for example, internal approvals, visa applications, travel arrangements, venue logistics, publishing agendas, workshop registration).

What are the upcoming deadlines? Why?



EMEA Summit 2024

Early December: Community Survey Sent 🧑

Programming Committee Applications: December 4-December 20 🌲

CFP Open: January 15 🎉

CFP Close: March 8

- 7 weeks or 38 business days (excluding holidays)

CFP Decisions Sent: March 22

- 2 weeks for review and design!

Agenda Published: April 5

- 2 weeks for final approvals

Summit: May 17!



Q&A



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