

International Conference on Data Engineering

ICDE (the International Conference on Data Engineering) is the flagship database conference of the IEEE. The 2009 ICDE will be held in Shanghai, China at the end of March. I would encourage readers to check the "Call for Participation" on the back inside cover of this issue of the Bulletin for more details. ICDE has become not only one of the best database conferences, but one of the largest as well. I attend this conference every year and always find my time well spent. Not only is the research program first-rate, but there is an industrial program, demos, and workshops as well.

Self-managing Database Systems

The current issue contains, starting on page two, a report from the Working Group on Self-Managing Database Systems of the Technical Committee on Data Engineering. This is the sole working group of the TCDE. The report is on the group's third workshop, which has been held in concert with ICDE for the past three years, most recently at ICDE in Cancun, Mexico. The area of self-managing databases is not only important but also a very active area of research. The result is that the working group's workshops have seen high quality papers and active participation. The report is well worth reading.

The Current Issue

The database community has witnessed, over the past several years, a substantial number of papers exploring query processing as it applies to the XML data model. There continues to be research in this area and research papers, though they are no longer in the same numbers as earlier. This suggests that XML technology is maturing. So where has this left us?

The current issue explores the still very active XML and XQuery technological evolution not only in the research community but also in the commercial world. Indeed, both in the XQuery standards area and in the deployment commercially of support for it, XML technology is increasingly pervasive. The technology being deployed, while originally fairly limited, is now quite robust and general. The issue is the joint work of Vassilis Tsotras, one of my appointed editors, and Mike Carey. (Mike is doing an encore with this issue as I remember well when he was a Bulletin editor in 1987 and I was a Bulletin author for an issue he organized.) Both Vassilis and Mike are deeply involved in the XML area. Their knowledge of the area, the ongoing work, and the people doing it, has enabled them to cover the XML field very comprehensively. If you want to know about research in the XML area, and what commercial products are capable of, you will want to read (and save for reference) this issue. Thanks to both Vassilis and Mike for their fine job on an important topic.