Our First Electronic "Mostly" Issue

Many TC's of the IEEE have electronic-only distribution of their news letters. We have never thought of the Bulletin as a news letter. Indeed, there is no news section within the pages of the Bulletin except for the occasional news provided in my letters. Rather, the Bulletin, while an informal publication, is primarily a vehicle for disseminating technical information about both research and industrial practice. Most of us are still accustomed to hardcopy distribution of such publications. However, the world is changing, and, with an extra push because of our very limited finances, we with this issue make the leap into the world of electronic media. You will no longer receive hardcopy of the Bulletin via ordinary mail. After providing several alerts on the subject, we now expect that members of the TCDE will access the Bulletin through our web site at

http://www.research.microsoft.com/research/db/debull.

Because many of you may have waited for the hardcopy issue, rather than accessing the web site, we anticipate increased traffic at the Bulletin web site. Please let us know when you experience difficulties. Also, please send us suggestions as to how we can improve the electronic delivery process. Finally, if you are unable to access the Bulletin via our web site and want to continue receiving hardcopy, contact *Tracy Woods, IEEE Computer Society, 1730 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC 20036*. (Email: twoods@computer.org)

Technical Committee Meeting at ICDE'99 in Sydney, Australia

From the TCDE Web Page: All members of the TCDE are invited to the Open Meeting of the TCDE to be held at the ICDE meeting in Sydney Australia from 17:40 to 18:30 on Wednesday March 24, 1999. ICDE Conference details (hotel, registration information, program) can be found at http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/icde99. The purpose of an open meeting is to inform the TC members what its executive committee has been doing and to give the members a chance to ask questions and provide suggestions. This meeting will be chaired by Prof. Dr. Erich Neuhold, the vice-chair of the TCDE ("E.N.").

The meeting agenda and more complete information can be found on the TCDE web site at

http://www.ccs.neu.edu/groups/IEEE/tcde/.

This Issue

Data transformations have a long history in the database field, and in our reseach literature as well. Early in the evolution of relational databases, this area attracted a substantial amount of research interest. There was then a quiescent period in which researchers largely ignored the field. More recently, however, the emergence of data warehouses has sparked renewed interest. Data transformations, including not only model transformations and other syntactic issues, but also data scrubbing and various forms of semantic transformations became crucial for the successful data warehouse. An added incentive for work in this area came from the web explosion, which led to renewed interest in enterprise and cross-enterprise data integration. Data transformation is critical to most wide-scale integration. Elke Rundensteiner has successfully solicited papers from both researchers and commercial organizations that provide broad coverage of the data transformation field, covering future research possibilities and current or soon to be available practice. Thus the issue is a very nice blend of papers that should serve as a good introduction for members of our technical community. I want to thank Elke for her hard work in bringing this issue to fruition, and for being responsive to unanticipated scheduling constraints.