Updating Bulletin Publishing Infrastructure

Over nine years ago, I became editor-in-chief of the Data Engineering Bulletin. My first issue as editor was in December, 1992. At that time the decision was made to not only publish the Bulletin in hardcopy as had been done previously, but to also make it available electronically. This was originally done via ftp. A few years later, web access was added. And a few years after that, the Bulletin became entirely electronically distributed, mostly via the use of web access. In 1998, the web access was enhanced. The table of contents for each issue was presented in a web page where clicking on an article downloaded exactly that article to the reader.

Despite the changes cited above, the original electronic publication infrastructure used to create each issue remained virtually unchanged since 1992. In 1992, I prevailed upon Mark Tuttle, currently at Compaq Cambridge Research Lab, to produce style files that would enable me to assemble the bulletin from separately submitted articles in latex, automatically generating front and back covers, and putting the issue's table of contents on the front cover. This infrastructure has served the Bulletin well, creating a very readable and very attractive publication.

But time moves on. And so did latex. The version upon which the original style files were based, Latex 2.09, is no longer current. Authors using the current version, Latex 2e, could not check out their articles in the form that would actually appear in the published issue. Neither could issue editors reliably assemble the issue, and check for problems. So the style files needed to be updated to work with Latex 2e.

So, at the risk of "going to the well" once too often, I again asked Mark Tuttle to help me out. Happily, Mark rose to the challenge. His new and enhanced style files were tested using the March issue, though not used for the version that was actually published since the enhancements were made after March. The new style files succeeded on that issue. Thus, the current issue (June) has been assembled entirely using the new style files that Mark has created for us. This letter is the most manifest recognition that Mark will receive for his hard work. So let me say a very special **"thank you"** to Mark Tuttle for a job very well done!

The Current Issue

Mobile computing is one of the great new application areas that have been made possible by the relentless advance of hardware technology. And one facet of this is what I have heard referred to as "location aware" computing. By whatever name one refers to this, a substantial part of what is involved is keeping track of where people, cars, and various moving objects are at any point in time. And here, fast access to information about object location is critical since an object may not stay for long in one area, and what might be enormously important is providing timely access to information that is relevant to an object's current location.

Thus mobile computing relies heavily on the indexing of moving objects. And that is the subject of the current issue. Christian Jensen, the issue editor is a great choice for handling this issue exactly because he is himself actively engaged in research on indexing moving objects. He knows the area well, and further, he knows well the work of others in this exciting new area. Christian has brought together work from both universities and industry. As I have stressed many times before, I think one special role of the Bulletin is to provide a window on what is going on in industry as there are few conventional outlets for learning about industry work. So I want to thank Christian for a fine job in bringing us the June issue on one of the important new directions in database technology.