TCDE Meeting at ICDE'2002

The Technical Committee on Data Engineering held its annual meeting at its flagship conference, the International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE'02) in San Jose, California on February 28. Minutes of this meeting, prepared by TCDE Chair Erich Neuhold are at
`http://www.research.microsoft.com/research/db/debull/minutes.doc`.

Editorial Changes

Every two years, I have the pleasure of appointing new editors for the Data Engineering Bulletin. This year, I am appointing all the editors in one fell swoop, rather than naming them incrementally over a number of issues. I am delighted that each of the following people have agreed to serve as Bulletin editors for the next two years:

Umesh Dayal of HP Labs, Palo Alto, CA. Umesh's career spans periods at CCA, and Digital as well as HP Labs. His interests include active databases, object oriented databases, workflow, data mining, and more.

Johannes Gehrke of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Johannes is graduate of that great database university, Wisconsin. Johannes' interests include data mining, sensor-based databases, and data streams.

Christian Jensen of the University of Aalborg, Denmark. Christian's work includes research in temporal databases, database design, query languages and most recently spatiotemporal databases.

Renee Miller of the University of Toronto, Canada. Rene is another Wisconsin graduate. Renee has focused her efforts in heterogeneous data management, metadata management, and data mining.

I look forward to working with the new editors in our continuing effort to provide the very latest information about on-going research and the very best industrial practice in the database area.

This is also, when I bid farewell to the current editors. **Luis Gravano, Alon Halevy, Sunita Sarawagi, and Gerhard Weikum** have all done the very capable jobs that we have come to expect of our editors. Putting together an issue of the Bulletin is a major undertaking. Success depends first on the editor knowing the subject area exceptionally well, and knowing who are the strong workers in the area. Then there is the period of convincing prospective authors to commit to submitting an article. The nagging stage is next, in which authors are "gently" reminded that their article is needed. And finally, there is the flurry of actual editting, rewriting, shortening, latex stumbling around, etc. leading up to the result that you, the reader actually sees. Luis, Alon, Sunita, and Gerhard have gone through this process twice in exemplary fashion. We all owe them a debt of gratitude, and I surely want to express my thanks to them as they retire as Bulletin editors.

The Current Issue

Database researchers struggle with the problem of how to capture, manipulate, and query information in a more meaningful, more "semantically rich", way. Last month's issue on text and databases was one example of this. The current issue reflects this struggle in the context of the now well-recognized importance of the web as an information source. Dealing with the "semantic web" will only get more important over time. Gerhard Weikum has successfully enticed some of the premier researchers in this area to contribute articles for this issue. The current issue very nicely captures some of the fascinating work going on in making sense of the web and the information stored on it. I want to thank Gerhard for once again doing a fine job on a very important topic.