

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

TCDE Chair Election

There is a letter from the TCDE nominating committee on page two of this issue announcing the election for TCDE Chair and proposing a candidate. In the past, electoral participation has been low. I would urge you, however, to give some thought to whom you would like to see in this position, and make your preference clear by voting in the election. The electoral process is simple and is described in by Carrie Walsh of the IEEE Computer Society in her message. It simply involves having your IEEE CS membership number and visiting a web site to register your vote.

Workshop Report

Let me draw your attention to the report on the Workshop on Self-Managing Database Systems on page three of this issue. The Self-Managing Database Systems Working Group is a subgroup of the TCDE that focuses on automating the management of database systems. It holds a workshop in conjunction with the International Conference on Data Engineering. The report is on the 2010 workshop, held in Long Beach, California. There will be another of these annual workshops in 2011 in Hanover, Germany in conjunction with ICDE 2011.

The Current Issue

Data provenance, i.e. information about the source and history of the data, has come to be widely recognized as a vital element for many database applications. While managing data for business data processing purposes has a long and successful history, dealing with provenance is simultaneously relatively new, increasingly important, and both subtle and challenging. Because of this, there is now an active community of researchers who are investigating data provenance, how to uncover it, how to store it with data, how to support, manipulate, annotate and discuss it, and how to propagate it, especially as data from multiple sources are combined and passed onward. Wang-Chiew Tan has worked in this area and knows well the complexities of the area and the researchers in this community. The current issue includes both university research and industrial efforts to deal with provenance. This is the kind of breadth that I like to see in the Bulletin, helping it fulfill its role of bringing current research together with the latest industrial practices to inform our readers in depth on important topics. I want to thank Wang-Chiew for her hard work in successfully bringing this issue on this important topic to fruition. And I thank her for her patience in the somewhat delayed publication process as we awaited details of the TCDE election process.

David Lomet
Microsoft Corporation