

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

The Current Issue

Human participation in data management has gone from being esoteric to flourishing research area and seems headed for commercial success. One aspect of this is crowdsourcing. The explosion of interest in crowdsourcing is confirmation that the data management community recognizes two important things in our current technical environment: (1) there are questions that can sometimes be easily answered by the right people that “machines” find difficult; and (2) it is possible to bring human input into data management to exploit this human capability. The technology in back of (2) not only brings “humans into the loop” but further, makes their participation a part of the process that can be managed and even optimized. Data analytics also benefits from human (analyst) involvement with machine learning in making sense of data. This work recognizes that, as with crowd sourcing, humans working with machines can frequently produce better results than either working alone.

The current issue reflects the excitement for the field and the progress of the technology. Tova Milo served as editor for this issue and she has succeeded in bringing together many of the diverse technical threads that are undergoing such rapid evolution. I want to thank Tova for bringing this to Bulletin readers. This “snapshot in time” for the field provides a valuable resource for both young researchers thinking about pursuing this as well as for experienced researchers trying to stay abreast of the field.

TCDE Chair Election

Every two years, the Technical Committee on Data Engineering holds an election for TC chair. That election is going on now. There are two candidates running, Erich Neuhold, a past TCDE chair, and Xiaofang Zhou, current TC chair. The next paragraph is information from Brookes Little of the Computer Society explaining the mechanics of voting in this election. I would urge you to participate.

The TCDE Chair election is now open. The Chair's term will run from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. The poll will close December 22, 2016 at 5:00pm Pacific Standard Time. Before entering the poll, please take a few moments to review candidate Biosketches and Position Statements, which can be found here: <http://www.computer.org/web/tandc/tcde>

*Please note: Only CS Members who are also TCDE Members can vote. **To cast your vote, you will need your IEEE CS Member number. To obtain a misplaced number, please visit: https://supportcenter.ieee.org/app/answers/detail/a_id/353/session/L3RpbWUvMTM3NTc0NDYxMi9zaWQvdXIxcVAxeGw%3D.*

To ensure your TCDE membership is valid and up to date, please log in to your IEEE Web Account and check your membership status: <https://www.ieee.org/profile/public/login/publiclogin.html>

You may vote only one time. VOTE here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/87KPGPJ> If you have trouble voting, please contact T&C Program Manager, Brookes Little (eblittle@computer.org).

Computer Society News

The proposed amendment to the IEEE constitution changing the way that the IEEE is governed was defeated. The Computer Society had joined with nine other societies in formally opposing the amendment.

The Computer Society also had an election for governing officers. The election results are at <https://www.computer.org/web/election/>. Hironori Kashahara was elected as “President-Elect”, an office he will hold for one year before becoming Computer Society President.

I want to thank TCDE members who voted for me as First Vice President. I am happy to report that I was elected. The vote was very close, so I am particularly grateful to those who selected me for this office.

David Lomet
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