

## **Letter from the Editor-in-Chief**

### **Evolution of the Bulletin**

This issue continues with the use of dvipdfm as the program used to translate the latex generated dvi file to pdf. This has required additional work for bulletin editors and authors, as there is increased opportunities for conflicting style files and ongoing difficulties with figures. We are still sorting out the “rules of the road” for this. The gain is clear– each individual paper now has correct page numbering, and eventually, the compilation of the issue should be a bit easier as well. In the short term, however, both authors and editors have had to sweat through increased difficulties resulting from bringing the issue together. I want to thank authors for their patience, and particularly thank Bulletin editors for their willingness to go the extra mile in successfully publishing the Bulletin.

### **The Current Issue**

Distributed information systems are verging on being everywhere. This is a result of a combination of factors, many related to their rapidly emerging deployments in the cloud. There are, of course, specialized distributed systems, think Facebook, but also distributed platforms. This kind of wide-scale distribution is a relatively recent artifact of the paradigm shift to the cloud. Earlier, for example, most instances of two phase commit were applied to local clusters of machines. But the scale has definitely changed.

The CAP theorem suggests that we may need to give up one of availability, partition tolerance, and consistency when building and deploying distributed information systems. One cannot, at least successfully, argue with math proofs, so the CAP theorem will not be repealed. However, as this issue illustrates, there is more to the situation than necessarily meets the eye. And implementors are now including several forms of consistency, including transactional consistency, in the systems being researched and deployed.

The current issue captures some of the diversity current in the consistency. What should make the issue of particular interest is that issue editor Bettina Kemme has reached out to researchers outside of the database community in an effort to expose both the distributed systems and database communities to the wide variety of work being pursued. Given the high importance and double digit growth of cloud systems and applications, readers should find the issue a gold mine of both varieties of consistency and approaches to realizing consistency. I thank Bettina for her very successful effort in producing the issue, and strongly recommend it to Bulletin readers.

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