

The VLDB Journal

The International Journal on Very Large Data Bases

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Very
Large
Data
Bases

A Publication of the VLDB Endowment

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SCOPE AND PURPOSE

The Journal is a quarterly publication of the VLDB Endowment. As a database systems journal it is dedicated to the international publication of scholarly contributions to the advancement of information system architectures, the impact of emerging technologies on information systems, and the development of novel applications. It presents significant advances in the design, implementation, and evaluation of systems for databases and for other information collections. Its scope ranges from the development of special-purpose hardware, the design of innovative software approaches, integrated system architectures, the design analysis and performance evaluation of systems to new techniques for presenting and capturing information.

Editors-in-Chief

Peter M.G. Apers
Computer Science Department
University of Twente
P.O. Box 217
NL-7500 AE Enschede
The Netherlands
e-mail: apers@cs.utwente.nl
tel: +31-53-89-37-19
(Secretary: +31-53-89-36-90)
fax: +31-53-33-96-05

Hans-J. Schek
(Coordinating Editor-in-Chief)
Dept. of Computer Science
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich
ETH Zentrum
CH-8092 Zürich
Switzerland
e-mail: schek@inf.ethz.ch
tel: +41-1-632-7240
fax: +41-1-262-3973

Jim Gray
310 Filbert St.
San Francisco, CA 94133
USA
e-mail: gray@crl.com
tel: +1-415-939-3739
fax: +1-415-939-3739

Stanley Y.W. Su
Database Systems Research & Development Center
470 CSE Building, University of Florida
P.O. Box 116125
Gainesville, FL 32611-6125
USA
e-mail: su@pacer.cis.ufl.edu
tel: +1-904-372-2693
(Secretary: +1-904-392-2680)
fax: +1-904-392-1220

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Mail Stop 50B/3238
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Berkeley, CA 94720, USA
e-mail: shoshani@lbl.gov

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FOREWORD

A decade ago, terabyte online databases seemed unimaginably large. Now they are just *very* large—but not uncommon. In the year 2000 we will be deploying multi-petabyte databases—if we can build the software in time. Our hardware colleagues will deliver a hundred-fold improvement in storage performance and price performance by then. Database researchers are challenged to invent the algorithms and systems that deliver these hardware advances to end users.

There seems to be no shortage of data or limit on the demand for it. Rather, database sizes are limited by technology:

- They must cost less than 10 billion dollars.
- We must be able to build, access, and operate them.
- End users must be able to access them and extract useful answers.

The VLDB Endowment and its *VLDB Journal* are dedicated to advancing human ability to build very large database systems. This is an international effort. It is also an interdisciplinary effort requiring advances in theory and practice. The VLDB Endowment meeting last year observed that the *VLDB Journal* has done a good job of representing theoretical approaches, but somehow has not attracted systems or solutions articles. The Endowment asked us to redouble our efforts to become the forum for software systems and techniques needed to build very large databases.

I believe that systems and applications builders have not submitted articles for a variety of reasons. First, they are not encouraged by their employers to disclose the proprietary techniques that give their systems a competitive edge. Second, there is not a strong tradition of documenting system design experiences. Third, and perhaps most importantly, systems articles have not been accepted by most journals.

The *VLDB Journal* has a different editorial policy. We actively recruit articles describing systems, solutions, and techniques. We work to help authors present ideas and we try to review and publish articles quickly. If you have built an interesting VLDB system or application, I encourage you to send us a description of your work.

Jim Gray
Editor-in-Chief
Very Large Database Journal