

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the December 2010 issue of the ACM SIGMOD Record.

The first contribution in this issue is a regular article by Martinez-Gil and Aldana-Montes, on the topic of “Reverse Ontology Matching”. Ontology matching is the well-established problem of identifying possible alignments between two existing ontologies; the process is typically performed with the help of specific matching functions, and often involves also a human expert. The article considers the process of reverse-engineering ontology matching, by finding the matching functions used in a specific ontology alignment execution. Reverse ontology matching helps in order to capture the reasoning of a human expert aligning the ontologies, to perform matching by example, or to reverse-engineer existing tools.

The issue continues with a very timely survey of “Scalable SQL and NoSQL Data Stores” by Cattell, from the perspective of their support of OLTP workloads involving many users performing concurrent reads and updates. The field is so dynamic that the author had already revised his report half a dozen times in the year and the half before submitting it, and you will find in the paper that some players in the field had bought others by the time the draft was completed! The survey is rich with clearly-identified dimensions for comparing and analyzing the systems considered; it is a valuable introduction to a rich and dynamic data management field.

Chris Ré is the guest of our “Distinguished Profiles in Databases” column. Chris is the recipient of the 2010 SIGMOD Jim Gray Dissertation Award, the runners-up being Soumyadeb Mitra and Fabian Suchanek. Chris talks about his first encounter with databases and being spirited away from mathematics upon hearing Jim Gray’s present his work on the World Wide Telescope as a guest lecturer in a database course! Chris talks about learning by watching his PhD supervisor Dan Suciu and later on other co-workers, about the many applications of probabilistic databases and about the difficulty of staying focused in the face of so many exciting topics.

The “Open Forum” column is represented with an article perfectly fitting its scope: “Paper Bricks: an Alternative to Complete-Story Peer Reviewing”, by Dittrich. The paper is the companion of the winner CIDR 2011 5-minutes gong show (check it out on YouTube!) and has been quite widely discussed in the short interval between CIDR and the publication in the Record. I am pleased that the Record gets the opportunity to publish such thought-provoking articles on how our scientific community could alternatively organize itself. I am convinced the discussion around Jens Dittrich’s idea will be fruitful in the short and long term, regardless of how much of it will actually be implemented. And no, the funny letters on top of the first page are not a typographic mistake!

The Record continues to welcome your contributions through the RECESS submission site (<http://db.cs.pitt.edu/recess>); be sure to peruse the new Editorial Policy on the SIGMOD Record’s Web site (<http://www.sigmod.org/publications/sigmod-record/sigmod-record-editorial-policy>).

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