SIGMOD RECORD
A Quarterly Publication of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
Special Interest Group on Management of Data (SIGMOD)

SIGMOD Officers

Chairperson
Michael Stonebraker
M265 - Cory Hall
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720
(415) 642 - 5799

Vice-Chairperson
Patricia G. Selinger
IBM Corp. - K55/282
5600 Cottle Road
San Jose, CA 95193
(408) 256 - 1295

Secretary-Treasurer
John L. Berg
Comp. & Info. Tech.
Standard Oil
MC: 1801
PO Box 5910-A
200 E. Randolph Drv
Chicago, IL 60680
(312) 856-4896

SIGMOD NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Tom Cook
Tektronix, Inc.
P.O. Box 500
M/S: 50-384
Beaverton, OR 97077
(503) 627-6056
(503) 644-0161 X6056

CONTRIBUTIONS to the SIGMOD RECORD may be sent to the Editor. They should be camera-ready and typed single spaced. All papers printed herein are unrefereed working papers, unless otherwise noted.

MEMBERSHIP IN SIGMOD (at $3 per year) is open to ACM members, associate members and student members; non-ACM members may belong to SIGMOD (at $11 per year) provided their major professional allegiance is in a field other than information processing or computing. Library subscriptions are available for $9 per year.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS, SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES and OTHER BUSINESS INQUIRIES should be directed to ACM SIGMOD, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036.

REGULAR BACK ISSUES of the SIGMOD RECORD (formerly PDI) are available from ACM Headquarters for $2 per copy prepaid. SIGMOD WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS are also available for different prices.
This issue of the RECORD is a little special: it is about as close to a "theme" issue that a publication of this nature can achieve. The theme is (roughly) "time", and the papers published are all quite interesting.

The special aspect of a theme issue is that it indicates that the RECORD is beginning to be used by the membership as real vehicle for the airing and sharing of current ideas. Your support has been very strong -- so strong that we are going to try to increase the number of RECORD issues from four to six. Six has been in the budget for a while, but four was all the demand could really warrant.

This change will have little effect on you except that your papers and comments should appear more quickly. This should be particularly good for the time sensitive conference announcements. The only other real change is that the deadline for a given issue, in theory a fixed date but in practice a highly varying point in time, will now officially become a varying point in time. Send in your papers as soon as you can, and we will publish them as soon as we can. (Call me at the numbers below if you want my current estimate of the next issue's publication date.) We are also going to start responding to every submission with a postcard so you'll have some idea as to where your paper is.

This issue also contains as much information as we could assemble concerning the VLDB Conference(s) to be held this year. Included are letters by Mike Stonebraker concerning SIGMOD's position and David Hsiao on his and the VLDB Endowment's position. Also included is an ACM statement prepared after the ACM Executive Committee had studied the SIGMOD and Hsiao statements.

A few remarks about submitting papers: papers can be sent to me at either address listed below, but the home address is the fastest and most reliable. Likewise, I can be reached most often at the home phone numbers (except on Friday when the Tektronix number is the best). Many countries and/or entities use different paper sizes: we use 8.5"x11" and are loath to trying to squash 11.75" pages onto 11" pages. We are willing to cut paper and paste it to camera-ready copy, but prefer that be done by the author(s) so that we don't make format decisions which may be unpopular (we will gladly supply the camera-ready sheets -- just call or write). We prefer camera-ready copy because it saves us money in publication and mailing, but will accept standard typewritten pages (we often work with authors to use camera-ready copy for long papers). Again, dot matrix printers generally produce unreadable text so please try to use a daisy-wheel or equivalent printer. If you use a Versatec, make sure its toner is dark but not smearing.

To close, I wish to thank Tektronix for all the support they have given the RECORD over the past year or so.

HOME:  Tom Cook
4930 SW 61st Ave.
Portland, OR  97219
(503) 244-9729
(503) 244-1409 (if other is busy)

Tektronix:  Tom Cook
Tektronix
P.O. Box 500, MS 50-384
Beaverton, OR  97077
(503) 627-6191
Chairman's Column

I want to start by congratulating Tom Cook for the October, 1981 issue of the RECORD. In a few short months he has single-handedly resurrected our newsletter into a thriving quarterly!

Next, I want to sadly report that there will be two (yes 2) Eighth International Conferences on Very Large Databases. One is in Mexico City, Sept 8-10 sponsored by the VLDB Foundation and the other is in San Francisco, August 17-19 sponsored by ACM and IEEE. The issues are complex, and I have asked David Hsiao and Peter Denning to explain the positions of the VLDB Foundation and ACM respectively. Hopefully, their statements appear in this newsletter. Also, ACM requested SIGMOD sponsorship of the San Francisco VLDB conference. My reply to Peter Denning concerning this request also appears in the newsletter. I can only say that I spent most of the first week of February on the phone trying to work out a compromise between the two parties. I am deeply saddened that no agreement was reached and that our database community will probably suffer some confusion and embarrassment as a result.

On to brighter matters...

Stanley Su reports that the '82 SIGMOD conference is well in hand. It will be held June 2-4 in Orlando, Florida and Martin-Marietta in Orlando has agreed to give us a hand with local arrangements. There will be two additions this year. First, Stan is soliciting database companies to give demonstrations of their products in the hotel lobby. This would give all of us the opportunity to find out first hand what is commercially available. I hope SIDMOD can get industrial exhibitors integrated -- SIGGRAPH has made this a successful part of their conference for several years. The second addition is the possibility of travel support for authors of papers who must come from abroad. I hope that we can increase the international flavor of our conference by making it easier for foreign participants to attend. This tactic has been used very successfully by VLDB.

Al Aho reports that 37 papers have been accepted for the Principles of Database Systems (PODS) Conference to be held March 29-31 in Los Angeles. I am delighted that there has been such an enthusiastic response to this new conference. Already there is talk of PODS-II.

Where are database PhD's this year? Everybody is looking for you if you exist........

Rumors and Raw data

Unconfirmed report is that Kapali Eswaren left IBM Research to join a database machine startup company. Won

* The ACM/IEEE conference has been cancelled.
Kim (from Illinois) and C. Mohan (from Texas) have joined the ranks in the San Jose Hexagon (aka IBM Research). My spies report that Michael Brodie has taken a leave of absence from Maryland and joined the ranks at CCA. Dave Dewitt reports that Kevin Wilkenson got his PhD and moved on to Bell Labs while Haran Borel couldn't bear the thought of leaving Lake Whatsit and will stay at Wisconsin for a year as an Assistant Professor. My apology to Umesh Dayal for reporting last time that he "threw in the towel at Texas and moved to CCA". What he really did was take a leave of absence from Texas and move to CCA. At least for a while he will give up going to armadillo races. No other inference was intended.

Frank Germano has left the ranks at DEC research to join Apollo Computers. Look for a database offering from Apollo soon. This leaves only Richard Peebles and Fred Maruyanski waving the database flag from the research crew in Maynard. Phil Bernstein reports that Barbara Blaustein received her PhD at Harvard and moved a mile down the Charles River to join CCA. Hank Korth moved to Yorktown Heights after receiving his PhD under Jeff Ullman at Stanford. Apparently Bea Yormark has moved from Interactive Systems to Coopers and Lybrand in Washington, D.C. Lastly, unconfirmed rumor is that Peter DeJong left Yorktown Heights to return to graduate school at M.I.T.

Make sure you read the November issue of Datamation — On page 48 is an article entitled "VNET or GRIPENET". It talks of a hush-hush gripe document called the "Tandem papers" apparently written by our own Jim Gray (who left IBM Research to go to Tandem). Fascinating reading! And while you're reading Datamation catch the mug shot of Charlie Bachmann on the Cullinane advertisements.

Sign of the changing times....

I have finally given in to Chris Date and now spell "database" as one word instead of two!

Problem of the Month

Consider storing a symbol table for a block structured language such as Pascal in a database system. Do the database design and then write the symbol table lookup routines in your favorite query language.

Parting Shot

This comes from Mike Carey (a graduate student at Berkeley) with an embellishment from Tom Cook.....

Q: How many database experts does it take to change a light-bulb?
A: 4

- one to write the requirements document
- one to write the lightbulb insertion routine
- one to write the lightbulb removal routine
- and one to be lightbulb administrator so that nobody can simultaneously change the lightbulb

and while we are rapidly sliding downhill......

Q: How can you tell that the person stranded by the roadside is an IBM repairperson?

A: Because he changes all four tires to find his flat.

Happy New Year and best wishes for 1982.
NOTES FROM THE VICE CHAIRPERSON

Here is a reminder of the various upcoming database and general conferences. For more details, see the ACM Communications.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

March 1, 1982: Third International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems to be held Oct. 18-22, 1982 in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

April 15, 1982: 8th International Conference on Very Large Databases, to be held Aug. 17-19 at the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, CA. Send paper to: Dr. Charles Bridges, 151 Fleetwood Terrace, Silversprings, MD 20910.

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES


May 18-20, 1982: Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval, Berlin, Germany.

June 2-4, 1982: ACM SIGMOD 82, International Conference on Management of Data, Orlando, FL.

June 7-10, 1982: National Computer Conference, Houston, TX.


Aug. 17-19, 1982: 8th International Conference on Very Large Databases, St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, California.


* cancelled

Pat Selinger
IBM Research Lab K55/282
5600 Cottle Rd.
San Jose, CA 95193
Dear Peter:

I am writing to you concerning the recent request for SIGMOD sponsorship of the ACM version of VLDB to be held in San Francisco, CA in August. Due to tight time constraints on ACM's part, I had only two days to respond. For an issue of this importance and complexity, I felt it inappropriate to make the decision myself. Hence, I started to poll the SIGMOD executive committee for their votes. Also, Pat Selinger and I convened an impromptu SIGMOD business meeting at the 6th Berkeley Workshop on Distributed Databases and Computer Networks in Asilomar on Wednesday, February 17th. About 60 SIGMOD members were present and we spent an hour discussing the VLDB situation.

As of the deadline, I had reached 6 members of the executive committee and the vote was 1 in favor of SIGMOD sponsorship and 5 opposed. The 60 people at the business meeting also voted on the question. The unanimous sentiment was not to sponsor the San Francisco VLDB conference. Consequently, SIGMOD declines the ACM request. The concerns of the executive committee and the 60 members were similar and followed two themes:

1) There was grave concern for the technical quality of the proposed conference.

Concerns were voiced about the appropriateness of the organizing committee since they are unknown to the database research community. Also, there is only two weeks between the submission deadline and the notification for accepted papers. Concerns were voiced about how a serious review process could be conducted in such a short time. Lastly, doubts were raised concerning how a successful national conference could be mounted at this late date and
on such a tight schedule.

2) There were doubts concerning the appropriateness of ACM's response to the VLDB situation.

Many members thought it was inappropriate to propose a conference within two weeks of one that many people had already made plans to attend. Also, most members thought David Hsiao was doing a good job organizing VLDB and had few qualms about his continued lead role. The question of finances came up, and both Stanley Su (organizer of the 5th VLDB) and George Garderin (organizer of the 7th VLDB) commented on the financial integrity with which VLDB conferences have been run.

In summary, the members expressed confidence in VLDB and felt that new conferences on databases should come from the SIGMOD membership and not from ACM headquarters. By a vote of about 40 to about 20 they wished me to convey an expression of "no confidence" in ACM's actions.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Michael Stonebraker
SIGMOD Chairman

cc. Dr. Michael Harrison, ACM Vice President
cc. Mr. Sidney Weinstein, ACM Executive Director
cc. Dr. Seymore Wolfson, ACM Conferences and Symposia Committee
cc. Dr. Steve Zilles, ACM Pacific Regional Representative
cc. Dr. Pat Selinger, SIGMOD Vice Chairperson
cc. Dr. John Berg, SIGMOD Treasurer
cc. Dr. Tom Cook, SIGMOD RECORD Editor
The story of the VLDB conferences is both sad and disturbing. It is sad because a large amount of time by many persons has been consumed on this issue and strong feelings have been stirred up on all sides. It is disturbing because it touches on questions of professional conduct.

After reviewing the chronology of this dispute, we will discuss the questions of principle we see in it:

a. Is it appropriate for an ACM Council member to challenge the rights ACM and IEEE have to conferences they have sponsored for many years because that Council member seeks personal recognition for his own effort in promoting those conferences? (David Hsiao has been a Council member-at-large since July 1980.)

b. Running a successful conference requires the efforts of many volunteers and produces substantial community property. Is it appropriate for an individual, seeking recognition for his participation, to claim control over this property?

c. Is there a conflict of interest when one member of the Council works actively against the stated best interests of the Association.
BACKGROUND

David Hsiao has set forth some of the facts as he perceives them. We will summarize the facts as they appear in the records of the Association.

VLDB Conferences 1975-79

The ACM sponsored the 1975 VLDB conference, the IEEE sponsored the 1976 VLDB conference, and both ACM and IEEE sponsored the VLDB conferences from 1977-1981. (ACM's sponsorship has been exercised through SIGMOD, SIGBDP, and SIGIR jointly.) The proceedings of each conference were copyrighted and distributed by one of the two sponsoring societies. Each meeting was undertaken by a conference chairman through normal ACM and IEEE channels. Three of the individuals who helped organize and plan all these conferences (David Hsiao, Stockton Gaines, and Vincent Lum) formed themselves into a VLDB Planning Committee in 1978 and drew up guidelines for future VLDB conferences.

Enter the VLDB Foundation: 1980

The trouble began in 1979, when the ACM and IEEE received the request for the 1980 conference. This request included a new organization, previously unknown to us, called the "VLDB Foundation," which would be a cosponsor and would share in the proceeds of the conference. The ACM declined this request on two grounds. First, the Foundation was an unknown entity. Second, the group appeared to be self-appointed and not legitimized by the electoral will of the community, as were the officers of the sponsoring SIGs. The 1980 VLDB conference was sponsored by the ACM and IEEE without the participation of the VLDB Foundation.
How the Lawyers Got Involved

On October 31, 1980, identical letters were sent to ACM and IEEE by a lawyer identifying himself as the legal counsel of the "VLDB organization," a newly incorporated organization that was applying for tax-exempt status. (The organization was later named "VLDB Endowment, Inc.") According to the letter, the objective of this organization was to promote the VLDB conferences and, in connection with that activity, to publish the proceedings of future conferences and share the copyrights with ACM and IEEE. The lawyer stated that the VLDB organization desired to reprint and sell past conference proceedings under copyright by ACM or IEEE. He also suggested that, since ACM might be interested in future proceedings, we should begin discussions to arrive at contractual agreements on publications rights.

On inquiry, we learned that this new VLDB organization superceded the VLDB Planning Committee and that David Hsiao, Stockton Gaines, and Vincent Lum were the principal officers.

Nature of the VLDB Endowment

We then asked David Hsiao to clarify the nature of this organization. In a letter to the Presidents of ACM and IEEE Computer Society dated January 8, 1981, he replied that the organization intended to become "the promoter, instigator, and sponsor of the future VLDB conferences." On February 19, 1981, the two Presidents replied that the Executive Committees of the two societies were troubled by his statements because the VLDB conferences were proprietary to ACM and IEEE by virtue of continuing and regular sponsorship since 1975. The two Presidents also expressed concern over the surprising manner in which ACM and IEEE were informed of the new organization and over problems in the administration of the 1979 VLDB conference. They invited David Hsiao to work
on the future VLDB conferences as in the past — i.e., in the context of the two societies.

After this, in a letter from our attorneys to David Hsiao's attorney, dated April 23, 1981, we reiterated our position that the VLDB conference is the property of the ACM and IEEE. On June 15, 1981, David Hsiao's attorney replied that, to the contrary, the conference was the property of the founders of the VLDB Endowment; a "license" had merely been granted to ACM and IEEE for use of the property. David Hsiao's attorney stated further that ACM and IEEE had infringed on his client's rights and have no right to exclude the VLDB Endowment from the conferences. Nonetheless, said the lawyer, in a spirit of cooperation the VLDB Endowment would allow ACM and IEEE to continue to cosponsor the conference with it and would share the proceeds equally.

The Mexico City Conference: 1982

On August 12, 1981, Vincent Lum sent a request to ACM and IEEE to run the Eighth VLDB Conference in Mexico City in September 1982. Lum would be the U.S. chairman. The request again called for ACM, IEEE, and the VLDB Endowment to be full and equal cosponsors.

After lengthy negotiations with Hsiao and Lum, all parties agreed to three points: a) the VLDB Endowment would not be a cosponsor of the 1982 conference, b) all legal activity would be suspended for the time being, and c) further negotiations would seek an acceptable solution for future VLDB conferences. After lengthy further discussions with David Hsiao and Vincent Lum in November 1981, the Executive Committee concluded that there was no acceptable basis for future cooperation. The ACM and IEEE approved Vincent Lum's request for the 1982 conference without the VLDB Endowment as a cosponsor. Recognizing the necessity for financial control and accountability, we also stipulated that ACM
and IEEE jointly appoint a co-treasurer. The VLDB Endowment rejected this stipulation and indicated it would proceed with the conference without the ACM or IEEE.

In January 1982, the VLDB Endowment circulated a call for papers for the conference it had requested, using the title "Eighth International Conference on Very Large Data Bases." This call for papers was sent to SIGMOD members using ACM mailing labels, even though ACM had not authorized ACM mailing labels for this purpose. (We traced the labels. They were copies of a single set of labels issued to an ACM SIGARCH/MOD/IR conference in 1980, for the sole purpose of mailing out the program of that conference. In a letter to Peter Denning dated March 9, 1982, Vincent Lum stated that he found the labels in an office trash bin and used them because he thought they were old and had been discarded.) The use of misappropriated labels and the unauthorized use of the conference name has upset many members of the ACM Council.

SIGMOD's Attempt at Mediation

As indicated by David Hsiao, the chairman of SIGMOD, Michael Stonebraker, attempted to negotiate a settlement of the issue prior to the ACM Council meeting in February 1982. In an effort to end further confrontation, the ACM Executive Committee agreed to the terms proposed by Stonebraker. At the last minute Hsiao substituted the list of conditions published in his statement for the list negotiated by Stonebraker. At this point, Stonebraker withdrew.

The ACM decided to separately organize the ACM conference on Very Large Data Bases, to be held in August 1982. The conference organizers worked very hard. They had developed a preliminary program based on tutorials and invited lectures. At the last minute, however, that project came to naught because a postal workers convention preempted all hotel space during the proposed time.
period. With great regret the ACM Executive Committee cancelled the planned conference. There will be no ACM/IEEE conference on Very Large Data Bases this year.

**The Principles**

Against this background, we can explain the principles at issue here. In his statement, David Hsiao asserts three reasons that the VLDB Endowment has acted as it has:

a. The principals of the Endowment do not think that scientific society sponsorship of past conferences gives those societies proprietary rights to the conference name and logo.

b. The Endowment wants equal co-sponsorship with ACM and IEEE in all future conferences. It believes this is in the best interests of the database community.

c. The Endowment believes that by including it as co-sponsor the societies will render proper recognition of the founders (David Hsiao and Stockton Gaines) for promoting and organizing the VLDB conferences. Hsiao states: "These recognitions were long overdue."

It is important to realize that, while an important legal issue is involved, our primary concern is the professional and ethical questions raised by the above three statements. These statements summarize well the core of the disagreement we have with David Hsiao et al.

Is it a conflict of interest for an ACM Council member to contest the rights ACM and IEEE have to conferences they have sponsored for many years because that Council member seeks personal recognition for his own effort in promoting and organizing such conferences? This is the central issue behind our
disagreement with David Hsiao. Hsiao's written statement to the SIGMOD members ignores and obfuscates this important question.

The question divides into two parts. What constitutes proper recognition for achievements? What constitutes proper action by a member of the ACM Council?

Many people contribute large amounts of time to the computing community by their volunteer work for the ACM and the IEEE Computer Society. This includes not only conference organizers, but SIG chairmen, chapter chairmen, editors, committee chairmen, committee members, and the officers and Councilors. The community (as well as the U.S. Government) considers all these efforts as "charitable contributions" to computing science and to society. The ACM and IEEE have many ways of according recognition to all these people for their accomplishments -- awards, certificates, letters of commendation, mementos, and the like. No accepted method of recognition calls for the community to award its property to the individual merely because the individual has contributed to the community through his efforts.

It goes almost without saying that the success of the VLDB conferences is attributable to the work of many dedicated ACM and IEEE members including, among many others, David Hsiao. Indeed, societies like ACM flourish precisely because many active, dedicated volunteers freely contribute their time. When, however, individual members begin to place their personal interests above the collective interests of the community, scientific organizations like ACM are threatened with division and fragmentation.

The leaders of ACM believe, as a matter of principle, that this type of behavior must be challenged. We specifically believe that it is not appropriate for any individual to seek the property of the community in recognition of his participation in a community effort.
As an ACM Council member, David Hsiao is charged by the ACM Constitution with the responsibility to "represent the members and the best interests of the Association." The leaders of ACM and IEEE have stated very clearly that they do not believe it is in the best interests of the two societies or the community for David Hsiao et al. to set personal terms and conditions for the running of conferences and to organize conferences for the reasons he has given above. While David Hsiao is entitled to his personal opinions — e.g., that we are wrong — and while he is entitled to work within the system to persuade his colleagues to reverse their decision, he is not free to act in a manner that conflicts with the faithful discharge of his duties as a Council member.

David Hsiao states that cosponsorship between ACM, IEEE, and the VLDB Endowment of all future conferences is in the best interests of the database community. He does not explain how cosponsorship with the VLDB Endowment will benefit the community; in the past, VLDB conferences have done well without the sponsorship of the Endowment. Nor does he explain by what process his claim to represent the community has been made legitimate.

**Summary**

We regard the reasons for forming the VLDB Endowment as insubstantial. We vigorously disagree with David Hsiao. ACM has continuously expressed its appreciation of David Hsiao and his colleagues for their contributions. There is no need to form a new organization and share ACM/IEEE assets to express such appreciation. We are saddened to learn from David Hsiao's statements that the real reason for forming the new organization appears to be a higher level of personal recognition for, and control over, the VLDB conferences.
In our view, it is highly inappropriate for any member of the ACM, much less a member of Council, to set up a directly competitive organization that dilutes the efforts of other volunteers in ACM and IEEE, promotes fragmentation, and otherwise creates confusion in the community. We do not believe it is in "the best interests of the Association" for us to have to devote an enormous amount of time, energy, and money to challenge a Council member who seeks personal recognition at the expense of the clearly expressed interests of the Association.
NEWS RELEASE

The System Development Foundation, formerly chief stockholder in the System Development Corporation (SDC), has an asset base of over $60,000,000 resulting from the sale of SDC to Burroughs Corporation. This sale severed all legal connection between the Foundation and SDC.

At the 15 December 1981 board meeting the Trustees of the Foundation released the following program statement:

"The System Development Foundation presently seeks to advance the information sciences. The Foundation initially will make grants for basic research in this field. Grants will be made for a duration appropriate to the research problem, normally more than one year. Applications should be very brief (not to exceed two pages) straightforward statements of the problem, the plan for studying it, and an estimate of the cost. The Foundation may request additional information.

The Foundation is focusing presently on the following specific research areas:

(a) Principles of information science, including spatial and content information theory, classification, and information structures;

(b) Principles of representation in biological and machine information processing, as exemplified by neurobiology, the cognitive sciences, non-Von Neuman computer architectures, and robotics;

(c) Principles underlying the man-machine interface, including engineering and cognitive approaches to human factors in individuals and groups;

(d) The interface between the computer and artistic endeavor."

Applications, on institutional letterhead, should be directed to Charles S. Smith, Director of Programs, System Development Foundation, 181 Lytton Avenue, Suite 210, Palo Alto, California 94301.
PAPER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Five copies of the manuscript should be submitted to the Program Chairman by March 1, 1982. The conference language is English and papers are restricted to a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages including figures. Each copy must contain a 150 word abstract and a title page with complete making addresses and phone numbers of all authors. A submission letter must accompany the paper. It should contain a commitment to present the paper at the conference if accepted. In case of multiple authors, an indication of which author is responsible for correspondence and preparing the camera-ready copy for the proceedings must be included. Authors will be notified of acceptance by July 1, 1982 and will be given instructions for final preparation of their papers. Deadline for receiving camera-ready papers is August 1, 1982.

TUTORIALS
In addition to papers, proposals for one-day tutorials are solicited on any of the above areas. Such proposals should be submitted to the Tutorial Chairman by Dec. 16, 1981. The author(s) of accepted proposals will be asked to submit complete tutorial texts within a month.

OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARDS
The two best papers will receive awards. All outstanding papers will be considered for publication special issues of journals.

CONFERENCE LOCATION
Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, Florida near the international airport at Miami Beachfront resort with tennis, golf, swimming, shopping, and boating.
call for papers

IEEE Computer Society's
Second Symposium on Reliability in
Distributed Software
and Database Systems

Sponsor—IEEE Computer Society
In cooperation with
ACM and the University of Pittsburgh

July 20-21, 1982—Pittsburgh

The theme of this symposium is the continuity of operations in real-time processing systems. We hope to identify and discuss techniques that will increase the availability of distributed software and database systems in error-prone processing environments. Performance of such techniques and/or experience with them is specially sought. The symposium will include formal papers as well as group discussions.

A tutorial dealing with distributed database systems is being organized for Monday, the day before the symposium.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

- Database Integrity and Consistency in Distributed Systems
- Robust Concurrency Control
- Fault-Tolerant distributed database and software systems
- Communication Primitives (Languages) for reliable distributed computing
- Design and Implementation of reliable multi-process systems
- Software and Data Structures for error confinement and bypass, graceful degradation and system reconfiguration, recovery and restart
- Techniques for non-stop operations in applications such as Air Traffic Control, Airborne systems, Nuclear Plant Software, Defense, Medicine

WHERE TO SUBMIT PAPERS

The program will consist of submitted and invited papers. Areas not adequately covered by papers will be the basis for group/panel discussions. Long papers (not more than 8,000 words), short papers (not more than 3,000 words), and suggestions for group discussion are invited. All papers will be reviewed by the program committee. Please submit FIVE copies of all contributions to the program chairperson:

Professor Gio Wiederhold
Computer Science Department
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305
(415) 497-0685

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Deadline: February 15, 1982
Acceptance Notification: April 25, 1982
Final Version Due: June 1, 1982
Tutorial: July 19, 1982
Symposium: July 20-21, 1982

PUBLICATION

The papers accepted for the symposium will be published by the IEEE Computer Society in a Symposium proceedings which will be distributed to all registrants of the symposium. Selected papers of exceptional interest and merit will be considered for publication in IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering

Program Committee

Gio Wiederhold, Stanford University (Program Chairperson)
Paul Deoctrine, Honeywell-CII, France (University of Grenoble)
Herb Hecht, Sohar, Inc., Los Angeles
Bob Kayel, Bell Labs, Murray Hill
K.H. Kim, University of South Florida
Leslie Lamport, SRI International
Nancy Lynch, Georgia Tech
C.V. Ramamoorthy, University of California, Berkeley
Dan Ries, Comp. Corp. of America
Ron Rutledge, Transportation System Centre, Cambridge, (D.O.T.)
Mario Schkolnick, IBM, San Jose
Zary Segall, CMU
Avi Silberschatz, University of Texas, Austin
R.E. Stearns, SUNY, Albany
Mike Stonebraker, University of California, Berkeley
M.S. Tsuchiya, TRW, Redondo Beach

Symposium Chairperson:
Bharat Bhargava, University of Pittsburgh

Tutorial Chairperson:
M.T. Liu, Ohio State Univ.

Treasurer:
Prem Prakash, University of Pittsburgh

Registration, Proceeding and other information:
Chip Stockton
and Harry Hayman
IEEE Computer Society
P.O. Box 639
Silver Spring, MD 20901
(301) 589-3386
Dear Dr. Cook:

I appreciate very much the appearance of the translation of my paper 'Meta-database architecture for a relational DBMS' in the October (1981) issue of SIGMOD Record. However, I'd like to point out some important translation errors which in some cases change the semantics of the paper's text.


Page 20: The second sentence of the last paragraph should read: "For this reason, before loading the information (for example, from documents) into the user relations, relevant text domains must be independently loaded with reference text values and their appropriate synonyms".

Page 21: End of second paragraph: replace "calculation of the relations" with "relational calculus".

First sentence of fourth paragraph: Insert "not" between "the concept of domain is used" and "only in connection".

Third and fourth lines of the last paragraph should read: "with hash-code of a text value (only for illustrative purposes) considered to be the text value's first three symbols. (Actual hash codes are..." (This is not always so in the drawing where the translation should have been in accordance with this, corrected, sentence).

Page 22: First line: replace "closest" with "close".

Finally, I'd like to stress once more that I was very glad to see the very prompt translation of this paper from the journal 'Programmirovanie' published in Moscow in the beginning of 1981, and I'd like to see these errors corrected, if possible, in one of the next issues of SIGMOD Record.

Best wishes for 1982.

Sincerely yours,

Haim Kilov