Election Results

The Technical Committee on Data Engineering (**TCDE**) is the sponsoring technical committee within the IEEE Computer Society both for the Data Engineering Bulletin that you are currently reading and for the International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE). The members of the TCDE elect a chair who then appoints an executive committee. Paul Larson of Microsoft, who was put forward by the nominating committee, has been elected as the new chair in a just completed election. Erich Neuhold of Fraunhofer is the retiring chair of the TCDE.

The Data Engineering Conference (**ICDE**) is the flagship conference of the TC on Data Engineering. Erich Neuhold is also the retiring chair of the ICDE Steering Committee, the committee that organizes and oversees ICDE. During Erich's tenure, ICDE has become one of the most highly selective, top rated conferences in the database area. His replacement, elected this fall by steering committee members, is Calton Pu of Georgia Tech.

The Current Issue

”Web-scale” really does mean something new. I can personally attest to this, having been involved in a design effort for a web-scale system. Web-scale platforms give a new meaning to system size– think hundreds or thousands of processors, hundreds or thousands of disks, ultra-high availability, rock bottom hardware, software and operations costs... These characteristics force a re-thinking of almost everything about database and associated systems. For example, low cost suggests using cheap disks. High availability perhaps suggests the opposite. To achieve both simultaneously suggests resorting to pervasive replication using the cheap disks. Driving down costs implies automating operations since people are increasingly the high cost component. Even power costs become important, something we have rarely considered in the past.

I was delighted when Dan Suciu, our current issue editor, suggested web-scale as the topic for the December issue. The issue contains papers from a cross section of the ”web scale” industry, Yahoo, Google, IBM, and Microsoft. Getting some clue about what these companies are doing at web scale should be of intense interest our entire database community. The issue contains, as well, two interesting articles about querying web information. ”Web scale” represents a very important part of the future of the database field. You can surely expect web scale to be a relevant research topic for many years to come. I want to thank Dan for a fine job in suggesting and bringing this issue together. I can strongly recommend it to you.