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Very Large Data Bases, Seattle, WA**

Editor-in-Chief:

H. V. Jagadish

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José Blakeley, Joseph M. Hellerstein, Nick Koudas, Wolfgang Lehner, Sunita Sarawagi, Uwe Röhm

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Front Matter

Copyright Notice	ii
Table of Contents	iii
PVLDB Review Board	iv

Letters

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief	<i>H. V. Jagadish</i>	vi
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Research Papers

Generating Efficient Execution Plans for Vertically Partitioned XML Databases	<i>Patrick Kling, M. Tamer Özsu, Khuzaima Daudjee</i>	1
A Generic Framework for Handling Uncertain Data with Local Correlations	<i>Xiang Lian, Lei Chen</i>	12
SnipSuggest: Context-Aware Autocompletion for SQL	<i>Nodira Khoussainova, YongChul Kwon, Magdalena Balazinska, Dan Suciu</i>	22
The Complexity of Causality and Responsibility for Query Answers and non-Answers	<i>Alexandra Meliou, Wolfgang Gatterbauer, Katherine F. Moore, Dan Suciu</i>	34

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As you know, the annual VLDB Conference has gradually been transitioning to journal style reviewing with year-round submissions. Associated with this transition has been the creation of the PVLDB journal, of which you are perusing the first issue of the fourth volume. Over the past three years, the fraction of papers appearing in PVLDB, and presented at the VLDB conference that were accepted through the journal review process has been increased. As of this volume, all papers are being reviewed and accepted through a year-round review process, with no traditional conference PC review option. In conjunction with this change, PVLDB is also transitioning to a year-round publication cycle, with approximately 8 issues per year. This issue is the first one after this transition, and the papers included here will be presented at the VLDB conference in Seattle in summer 2011.

The reviewing of papers appearing in Volume 4 of PVLDB, including all four papers in this issue, was undertaken by a review board appointed and managed by the VLDB 2011 program chairs, Jose Blakeley and Joseph Hellerstein, and the track chairs, Nick Koudas, Wolfgang Lehner, and Sunita Sarawagi. They have all worked very hard to manage a new review process, and smooth bumps in the road as so many things were worked out. I am deeply appreciative of their efforts, as I hope you are too. I am also grateful to the PVLDB Steering Committee and to the trustees of the VLDB Endowment, for their support and guidance. Gerald Weber, as Information Director for PVLDB, has worked hard behind the scenes to smooth the transition to the new production processes. Uwe Roehm is the Proceedings Editor for this Volume of PVLDB, and put this issue together. I give thanks to Gerald and Uwe for their efforts.

Hope you enjoy these papers.

H.V. Jagadish, Univ. Michigan
Editor-in-Chief, Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment