Editor's Notes

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the last issue of year 2002. Its main feature is a Special Section on Semantic Web, Database Management, and Information Systems, guest-edited by Robert Meersman and Amit Sheth. This special section consists of ten papers, covering a wide variety of topics on Semantic Web research, from ontology, Semantic Web-enabled Web services, trust and Web service reputation, to Semantic Web applications such as bioinformatics, multimedia, and Grid computing.

This rest of the issue contains very interesting contributions from regular sections – Book Reviews, Distinguished DB Profiles, Database Principles, Influential Papers, Reports, and Research Centers. Some highlights include:

- The *Book Reviews* section editor Karl Aberer introduces two interesting books through review articles.
- the *Distinguished Database Profiles* section editor Marianne Winslett describes a great interview with Dr. David Maier. Dave shared with us his insights on a number of issues, including what happened to the object databases, why object-relational databases have not been the big hit, what database theoreticians should be doing, and more.
- Leonid Libkin, the *Database Principles* section editor presents us with an insightful article by Martin Grohe on parameterized complexity theory.
- Andrew Eisenberg and Jim Melton, the co-editors of the *Industry Perspective* section contribute an excellent article on XQuery and where it is in its development cycle.

Finally, I would like to close my editor note with many thanks to the guest editors for their hard work in putting together an excellent special section on Semantic Web and Data Management, to the contributing associate editors and the authors for their high quality work. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

Ling Liu

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