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Dataspace: The Final Frontier

26th British National Conference on Databases, BNCOD 26
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Proceedings



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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 26th British National Conference on Databases (BNCOD 2009) held in July 2009 at the University of Birmingham. The theme of the conference was “Dataspace: The Final Frontier,” a topic that only recently rose to attention and shows promise of crystallizing many disparate research threads into a new unified vision for the future of databases.

We were very grateful to have Michael Franklin of the University of California, Berkeley, USA, and Domenico Laforenza of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) give the keynote speeches of the conference. Michael is one of the originators of the dataspace concept, and brought us up to date with current developments and future directions in the field in his opening keynote address. Domenico is one of the leading figures in the world on the topic of grid computing, an area that is tackling some of the major issues of management and manipulation of enormous amounts of data. In his closing keynote talk, he presented XtreamOS, a European project on developing an operating system platform for grid computing.

In a new departure for BNCOD, this year we held two tutorials. The first, continuing the theme of dataspace, was presented by Jens Dittrich of Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany, in which he presented iMeMex, one of the first dataspace management systems. System design concepts, dataspace modelling, dataspace indexing, dataspace query processing, and pay-as-you-go information integration were all discussed and important lessons learnt in the project as well as open research challenges were presented. The second tutorial was given by Wenfei Fan, Floris Geerts and Xibei Jia of the University of Edinburgh, UK. Their presentation was on a practical, effective and theoretically well-founded approach, based on conditional dependencies, for detecting and repairing errors in real-life data.

Three satellite workshops were co-located with BNCOD 2009: the 7th International Workshop on Teaching, Learning and Assessment of Databases (TLAD 2009), is a regular associate of BNCOD. New friends this year were the 4th International Workshop on Ubiquitous Computing (iUBICOM 2009) and the First International Workshop on Database Architectures for the Internet of Things (DAIT 2009). A summary/review paper for each of the three workshops is included in these proceedings.

The PhD Forum is a regular event at BNCOD and this year was no exception. PhD students presented the current state of their work to an expert panel who were able to offer helpful advice and guidance. Invited talks at the forum presented different views of how to survive the PhD process and make a career in academia.

There were 33 submissions to BNCOD 2009 from 12 countries. Each submission was blind reviewed by at least three Programme Committee members.

The Programme Committee decided to accept 12 full, 2 short and 5 poster papers. All accepted papers are reproduced in these proceedings, with the full papers divided into four sections: “Data Integration, Warehousing and Privacy,” “Alternative Data Models,” “Querying,” and “Path Queries and XML.”

I would particularly like to thank the keynote and tutorial speakers for their contributions, the authors for submitting their papers, the Programme Committee for their reviews, the Organizing Committee for the great effort they contributed, the BNCOD Steering Committee, who were always on hand with helpful advice, the EasyChair conference management system, which hugely simplified much of the work involved in organizing the conference, and, last, but by no means least, all the attendees who form the community that makes this conference such an enjoyable and worthwhile event each year.

May 2009

Alan P. Sexton

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Table of Contents

Keynote Talks

Dataspaces: Progress and Prospects	1
<i>Michael J. Franklin</i>	
XtreemOS: Towards a Grid-Enabled Linux-Based Operating System	4
<i>Domenico Laforenza</i>	

Tutorials

The iMeMex Dataspace Management System: Architecture, Concepts, and Lessons Learned	7
<i>Jens Dittrich</i>	
Conditional Dependencies: A Principled Approach to Improving Data Quality	8
<i>Wenfei Fan, Floris Geerts, and Xibei Jia</i>	

Data Integration, Warehousing and Privacy

A Prioritized Collective Selection Strategy for Schema Matching across Query Interfaces	21
<i>Zhongtian He, Jun Hong, and David A. Bell</i>	
An Alternative Data Warehouse Reference Architectural Configuration	33
<i>Victor González-Castro, Lachlan M. MacKinnon, and María del Pilar Angeles</i>	
A Data Privacy Taxonomy	42
<i>Ken Barker, Mina Askari, Mishtu Banerjee, Kambiz Ghazinour, Brenan Mackas, Maryam Majedi, Sampson Pun, and Adepele Williams</i>	

Alternative Data Models

Dimensions of Dataspaces	55
<i>Cornelia Hedeler, Khalid Belhajjame, Alvaro A.A. Fernandes, Suzanne M. Embury, and Norman W. Paton</i>	

The Use of the Binary-Relational Model in Industry: A Practical Approach	67
<i>Victor González-Castro, Lachlan M. MacKinnon, and María del Pilar Angeles</i>	

Hyperset Approach to Semi-structured Databases: Computation of Bisimulation in the Distributed Case	78
<i>Richard Molyneux and Vladimir Sazonov</i>	

Querying

Multi-Join Continuous Query Optimization: Covering the Spectrum of Linear, Acyclic, and Cyclic Queries	91
<i>Venkatesh Raghavan, Yali Zhu, Elke A. Rundensteiner, and Daniel Dougherty</i>	

An XML-Based Model for Supporting Context-Aware Query and Cache Management	107
<i>Essam Mansour and Hagen Höpfner</i>	

Answering Multiple-Item Queries in Data Broadcast Systems	120
<i>Adesola Omotayo, Ken Barker, Moustafa Hammad, Lisa Higham, and Jalal Kawash</i>	

Path Queries and XML

A Study of a Positive Fragment of Path Queries: Expressiveness, Normal Form, and Minimization	133
<i>Yuqing Wu, Dirk Van Gucht, Marc Gyssens, and Jan Paredaens</i>	

Metamodel-Based Optimisation of XPath Queries	146
<i>Gerard Marks and Mark Roantree</i>	

Compacting XML Structures Using a Dynamic Labeling Scheme	158
<i>Ramez Alkhatib and Marc H. Scholl</i>	

Short Papers

Evaluating a Peer-to-Peer Database Server Based on BitTorrent	171
<i>John Colquhoun and Paul Watson</i>	

Towards Building a Knowledge Base for Research on Andean Weaving	180
<i>Denise Y. Arnold, Sven Helmer, and Rodolfo Velásquez Arando</i>	

Posters

The Adaptation Model of a Runtime Adaptable DBMS	189
<i>Florian Irmert, Thomas Fischer, Frank Lauterwald, and Klaus Meyer-Wegener</i>	

Schema Merging Based on Semantic Mappings	193
<i>Nikos Rizopoulos and Peter McBrien</i>	
A Database System for Absorbing Conflicting and Uncertain Information from Multiple Correspondents	199
<i>Richard Cooper and Laura Devenny</i>	
Semantic Exploitation of Engineering Models: An Application to Oilfield Models	203
<i>Laura Silveira Mastella, Yamine Aït-Ameur, Stéphane Jean, Michel Perrin, and Jean-François Rainaud</i>	
Ontology-Based Method for Schema Matching in a Peer-to-Peer Database System	208
<i>Raddad Al King, Abdelkader Hameurlain, and Franck Morvan</i>	
 Co-located Workshops	
Ideas in Teaching, Learning and Assessment of Databases: A Communication of the 7th International Workshop on Teaching, Learning and Assessment of Databases (TLAD 2009)	213
<i>Anne James, David Nelson, Karen Davis, Richard Cooper, and Alastair Monger</i>	
Research Directions in Database Architectures for the Internet of Things: A Communication of the First International Workshop on Database Architectures for the Internet of Things (DAIT 2009)	225
<i>Anne James, Joshua Cooper, Keith Jeffery, and Gunter Saake</i>	
Design Challenges and Solutions: Review of the 4th International Workshop on Ubiquitous Computing (iUBICOM 2009)	234
<i>John Halloran, Rahat Iqbal, Dzmitry Aliakseyeu, Martinez Fernando, Richard Cooper, Adam Grzywaczewski, Ratvinder Grewal, Anne James, and Chris Greenhalgh</i>	
Author Index	247