VLDB2014
40th International Conference on Very Large Data Bases, Hangzhou, China

Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment

Volume 7, No. 14 – October 2014

Proceedings of the 40th International Conference on Very Large Data Bases, Hangzhou, China

PVLDB – Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment

Volume 7, No. 14, October 2014.

The 40th International Conference on Very Large Data Bases, Hangzhou, China.

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Volume 7, Number 14, October 2014: VLDB 2014

Pages ii - x and 1785 - 2028

ISSN 2150-8097

Additional copies only online at: portal.acm.org, arxiv.org/corr, and www.vldb.org

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FROM THE PROCEEDINGS CO-CHAIRS

When we were asked to become Proceedings Co-Chairs for PVLDB Volume 7 (a.k.a., VLDB 2014), we knew we shouldn't have taken the job: the notion of handling a non-trivial publication process each month for one whole year (and more) was not appealing at all! But we did not want to refuse. Jag was the driving force behind PVLDB and we suspected he had further innovations in mind this time: we wanted to be the first to know about them! (We were happily rewarded when we were told about the session format reform before most others.) And we couldn't refuse: Jag is the Ph.D. advisor to one of us and that means you really have no choice. One day in March 2013, we came on board.

The workload is every bit as advertised. First, there is the task of producing the initial templates for both the foreword (i.e., this document) and the camera ready copy (i.e., the actual papers). Then, *each month*, the laundry list includes: 1) update the templates to reflect the new issue; 2) communicate with and obtain the camera ready papers from authors of accepted papers in that month; 3) insert additional format bits to the camera ready copies; and 4) generate the table of contents and publish the proceedings on the PVLDB website. Finally, there is the task of publishing the full proceedings in various citation tracking systems such as DBLP.

However, we get to read all the interesting papers and learn the latest trends more than a month before anyone else except the Program Chairs, and we happily consider that as enough compensation! Another equally rewarding experience is to see the excitement of first time student authors and feel the future of database research is in good shape.

We do notice some common issues our experiences. Here are two simple pieces of advice that an author can follow to help out future Proceedings Chairs:

- Follow the instructions carefully and do not assume what has worked before will still work. Some common mistakes include naming the camera ready copy files wrongly, using an old template that has the wrong issue number or publication date, forgetting to remove page numbers, etc. Each such mistake requires us to handle the paper outside of the normal process and significantly adds to the workload.
- Do not attempt to change the metadata about the paper (i.e., paper title and authors) silently. This can easily leave the official paper in an inconsistent state that is very hard to detect. In the near future, such changes will be handled through an official errata process that is being developed, and anyone who is interested in learning about the process early can contact S. Sudarshan and Divesh Srivastava.

Finally, hearty congratulations to the VLDB 2014 organization team led by Chun Chen and Sharad Mehrotra, for a well-organized conference at Hangzhou. We hope all of you who were there had as good a time as we did!

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Proceedings Co-Chairs, VLDB 2014