

Daily Newsletter VLDB 2003

Issue 2

Berlin, September 10, 2003

Featuring today's keynote speaker:

Nelson Mattos



Nelson Mattos, Ph.D., is one of an elite group of practicing expert technical executives - "IBM Distinguished Engineers" - recognized not only for their exceptional engineering and programming in research, development, sales and service, but also for their anticipated significant future contributions to IBM's growth. In his current role, director of information integration at the IBM Silicon Valley Laboratory in San Jose, California, Dr. Mattos is responsible for establishing IBM's leadership position in the emerging information integration market. He collaborates with standards bodies and IBM customers, Business Partners and development teams to help businesses integrate digital information assets and leverage the value of those assets across the enterprise. Capitalizing on his strong research background, Dr. Mattos is responsible for the strategy, marketing, and development for such products as DB2 Information Integrator, DiscoveryLink, Replication, and Relational Connect.

Previously, as manager of advanced business intelligence and database technology, Dr. Mattos was the IBM development manager responsible for such DB2 Universal Database business intelligence solutions as DB2 OLAP Server, DB2 Warehouse Manager (formerly Visual Warehouse), QMF, Intelligent Miner, Data Replication, DataJoiner, and the West Coast development of DB2 UDB on Unix and Windows. He also managed several groups at the IBM Database Technology Institute. Additionally, Dr. Mattos served not only as chief architect for DB2's object-relational technologies, but also as leader of the development of various DB2 Extender products that exploit the object-relational features of DB2.

And he was until recently responsible for IBM's participation at different standards forums, including the ANSI SQL committee, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Committee for database, W3C, OMG, and SQLJ. In this capacity, he contributed extensively to the design of SQL99 through more than 300 accepted proposals.

Prior to joining IBM, Dr. Mattos was an associate professor at the University of Kaiserslautern in Germany, where he was involved in research on object-oriented and knowledge base management systems and received a Ph.D in computer science. He also holds bachelor of science and master of science degrees from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil. Dr. Mattos is fluent in four languages, has published over 75 papers on data base management and related topics in various magazines and conferences, and is the author of the book, *An Approach to Knowledge Base Management*.

Today at 9:00 he will give his talk on **Integrating Information for on Demand Computing**

The VLDB 2003 eClient

The VLDB 2003 eClient is a Java based application designed to support the attendee of the conference by providing a conference planner for online and offline access to the program, the papers, and even most of the presentations. The eClient can be downloaded from the VLDB Web site ("Conference Program Information > E-Client", user "vldb2003", password "xs2papers") or directly from

<http://vldb2003.xs2papers@wwwdb.informatik.uni-rostock.de/vldb2003/e-client/>

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Berlin-Brandenburg Graduate School in Distributed Information Systems

In 1996, the German Research Foundation (DFG) founded the Berlin-Brandenburg Graduate School in Distributed Information Systems, one of the first German research centers in the area of Internet-based information systems. The School is inherently interdisciplinary, bringing together faculty from computer science, business administration and statistics. There is a strong practical orientation, due to numerous contacts between the faculty, the IT industry, and a variety of government Agencies.

The technical work conducted in the School revolves around architectures and data management for network-based information systems, as well as issues concerning the economics of such systems. So far, 20 students have finished their Ph.D.'s in the Graduate School. Several of these theses have been awarded national and international prizes, most notably the GI Award for the best Ph.D. thesis in a German-speaking country, recently awarded to Felix Naumann (Ph.D. Humboldt-Universität 2000). Many of our alumni hold junior researcher or junior faculty positions at prestigious institutions, such as the University of Toronto, the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Bangalore, IBM Almaden, or the Kestrel Institute. Others have chosen careers in consulting or in the IT industry.

The Graduate School is a cooperation of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Prof. Oliver Günther, Johann Christoph Freytag), Freie Universität Berlin (Prof. Hans-Joachim Lenz, Jochen Schiller, Heinz Schweppe), Technische Universität Berlin (Prof. Herbert Weber), and Technische Universität Cottbus (Prof. Bernhard Thalheim). Speaker is Oliver Günther. For more information see <<http://www.wivi.hu-berlin.de/gkvi/>>.

Events Tonight

- There is no social event planned by the VLDB organizers for tonight. Instead we present here a selection of tonight's cultural events in Berlin (for more details see <http://www.vldb.informatik.hu-berlin.de/travel_sightseeing.html#Events>):
- In the **Konzerthaus Berlin at Gendarmenmarkt** the **Staatskapelle Berlin** conducted by **Michael Gielen** plays works of Berlioz, Dutilleux, and Beethoven at 20:00. Phone 203 54 555, <www.staatsoper-berlin.org>.
- At **Deutsche Oper Berlin** in Charlottenburg (Bismarckstraße 35), Giacomo Puccini's opera **Tosca** is given at 19:30. Phone 343 84 01, <www.deutsche-oper.berlin.de>.
- The Chilean Folk Singer **Soledad Berrios** gives a concert in the **Tränenpalast**, Reichstagsufer 17 at 21:00. Phone 20 61 00 11, <www.traenenpalast.de>

- Die **Fantastischen Vier** (German Pop) appear at **Tempodrom**, Möckernstraße 10 at 20:00. Phone 313 80 17, <www.loft.de>.
- An then there is also a guided tour "**with King Frederick II.** the Great through Berlin's historical quarters", (about 1,5 hours). Meeting point is Brandenburg Gate in front of the tourist information. Starting at 19:30 in German, and at 21:00 in English. Entrance 8 Euro. Phone 450 238 74.

Staatsoper Unter den Linden

The Staatsoper Unter den Linden is one of the world's great opera houses and also one of the most impressive buildings on Unter den Linden.

The building was constructed as the Royal Opera from 1741 to 1743 to plans by Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff. Frederick the Great's court opera, part of the planned Forum Fridericianum, was both the first free-standing opera house in Germany and the largest in Europe. It is built in Prussian classical style with influences from the English classical style and the followers of Palladio, and is based on the form of a Corinthian temple. The interior is maintained in the rococo style also found in the palaces of Charlottenburg and Sanssouci. During the last 200 years it was twice destroyed and restored. After various renovations it presents itself today close to the original design again. Many famous artists have worked for the Staatsoper: Schinkel designed sets for "The Magic Flute", Richard Strauss was once the chief conductor. Until the present day, artists of world standing collaborate on the production of the Staatsoper's great repertory.

VLDB Endowment Board met on Monday

The VLDB Endowment is the legal body that oversees the VLDB conference series and engages in other activities supporting database technology research, development and application. Its board consists of 21 internationally distinguished researchers and professionals who are elected for a 6-year period (<http://www.vldb.org>).

At its Monday meeting in Berlin, the Board apart from organizational business discussed at length how VLDB conferences could be improved. Better overall review quality and the inclusion of more presentations (e.g. through posters showing new and unfinished work) have been issues. Also, the Endowment will continue its sponsorship of community-building activities in countries like China, India, Brazil or Eastern Europe.

The next VLDB conferences will be held in Toronto/Canada (2004), Trondheim/Norway (2005) and Seoul/Korea (2006).

Klaus R. Dittrich
Secretary, VLDB Endowment