Editor's Notes

I'll keep these notes short, as the contents of this issue speak for themselves. Suffice it to say that this issue contains a nice mix of papers from both industry and academia, covering a variety of topics of current importance in the field. As always, thanks to the authors and the editors for taking the time to do such a great job.

This issue marks the return of the Standards column, a feature that has been greatly missed since Len Gallagher stepped down from the editorial board at the end of 1996. In its new incarnation, the column is in the very capable hands of Andrew Eisenberg and Jim Melton of Sybase. Both Andrew and Jim have been heavily involved in database standards work for many years. We are truly fortunate to have the benefit of their experience and expertise, as evidenced by the insightful overview of information technology standards efforts that they have prepared for the current issue.

I'd also like to take a moment to point out two upcoming special sections: Asuman Dogac of METU is putting together a special section on Electronic Commerce for the December 1998 issue. For the March 1999 issue, Aris Ouksel of the University of Illinois at Chicago and Amit Sheth of the University of Georgia will edit a special section on Semantic Interoperability in Global Information Systems. Please see the Calls for Papers at the back of the issue.

Michael Franklin
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