

The Technical Program



Christian S. Jensen, Technical Program Chair

Organizing a VLDB conference is quite a task, and the task seems to get bigger and bigger as the years go by. This year, I have had the privilege of heading the “technical” part of the task. Here are some facts and reflections.

We received 631 submissions, of which 68 were demo submissions. These submissions represent several thousand authors. VLDB 2005 has the largest number of submissions ever to a database research conference. I thought I should boast about this because the way things are going, next year’s VLDB conference may well set a new record. Oh, and the proceedings contains some 130 papers - yet another record.

Every single submission was reviewed by at least three members of the community. For this we had four Program Committees (PCs), with a total of 170 members. These PC members enlisted the help of more than 400 additional members of our community. A total of almost 2000 reviews were prepared. This year, the time for reviewing was only one month. It is a bit scary to rely on so many people to be so dedicated - if many reviewers do not return their reviews on time, there are too many reviews to be performed for the PC chairs and I to be able to take over. The conference really depends on its PC members, who all deserve thanks for their efforts. This year, practically all reviews were returned on time. The database community has the best reviewers of any community I have been in contact with.

Let’s estimate the cost of creating the technical program: 2000 reviews x 5 hours on average x USD 40 per hour = USD 400,000. Then one adds to time spent by the four PC chairs and the six other chairs with responsibilities for the technical program. The cost may well be half a million dollars. And this is only for the technical program.

Although it is a lot of work to perform service for a VLDB conference, it is also a pleasure. It is rewarding to work on a very meaningful task together with a team of

bright individuals who are dedicated to not just getting things done, but to getting them done right! This is one of the rewards of academia at its best.

Finally, I would like to point you to the efforts of the local organizers. Much of the service they perform has little scientific content. And none of us really strive to be known in the community as simply someone who is good at non-technical matters. Rather, we are all scientists, and we strive to excel as such. In spite of this, the local organizers have remained firmly dedicated to organizing a high-quality conference throughout. The countless hours they have spent, they could have spent on their research (or even their families!). So today is the day to hug a Norwegian.

Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address

Yesterday VLDB 2005 was officially opened by Professor Arne Sølvberg (picture below) on behalf of the Rector of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).



The keynote address, “*Why Search Engines are used increasingly to Offload Queries from Databases*”, was delivered by Bjørn Olstad, CTO of FAST. Professor Olstad gave a quite provocative talk; without doubt something that will foster engaged discussions throughout the conference.



More photos from yesterday’s activities can be found on the conference web site.

Panel: Database Publication Practices

Today’s panel at 09:00 – 10:30 explores publication processes for database research and what can be done to improve them. Substantial growth in the number of submissions has led to very large program committees, and the increasing breadth and depth of the field have made it difficult to obtain expert reviews.

The panelists Surajit Chaudhurim, David J. DeWitt, Zachary Ives, Christian S. Jensen and Kyu-Young Whang will report from discussions in the VLDB and SIGMOD communities as well as offer their own opinions about problems and solutions.

The panel session is organized by Philip A. Bernstein. He is a Senior Researcher at Microsoft Research and an Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington.

Have you submitted your presentation?

You were supposed to send us your presentation by August 26th. If you haven’t yet, you should submit your presentation to contact@vldb2005.org as soon as possible.

Please remember that your presentation is supposed to be available on our web site at 06:00 the day of the presentation. Our service to the other participants depends on your kind cooperation.

Announcements

Proceedings: The printed copies of the VLDB 2005 proceedings as well as the CD proceedings are for sale at the conference secretariat.

Extra lunch tickets: Lunch tickets for accompanying people are sold at NOK 230 at the secretariat. The tickets have to be bought the day before at the latest.

Visit Ringve Museum: There are still a few tickets available at NOK 250 for the trip to Ringve Museum Thursday at 18:00. Tickets can be bought at the secretariat until 17:00 tomorrow.

Conference banquet: Please note that the banquet starts today at 19:00 and not 18:00 as stated in the conference brochure. Extra tickets can be bought at NOK 800 until 14:00.

List of participants: Updated lists of VLDB 2005 participants are available at the conference secretariat.

Internet Access

Wireless: Use the network with the SSID of "VLDB". This is an open network at 11 Mbit/s (IEEE 802.11b). In order to **browse the web, read e-mail, or log on to remote systems**, you need to **register at the firewall** by visiting any web page using a web browser.

The web page that you will receive is a log on page for the local wireless network. Enter "vldb" (all lowercase letters) as username and "trondheim" as password (all lowercase letters). Afterwards you can access the Internet through http, https, imap, pop3, smtp, rdp, ssh and other protocols.

Please note that the wireless network is not encrypted. If you need secure connections, you should use encrypted protocols, e.g. https instead of http. If you have questions or encounter any problems, please contact the conference secretariat.

The VLDB network is only available in the conference area. Access to wireless network in other parts of the hotel, including the rooms, can be bought at the hotel front desk.

Desktop computers: There are 12 desktop computers with Internet connection available at the **Rosenborg** PC room.

Today's Social Events

Conference Banquet

The conference banquet starts at 19:00 in Haraldssalen, Olav Tryggvasson and the Foaje on the first floor at the Royal Garden hotel. The banquet is open for all registered participants. Please remember to bring your Conference Banquet ticket. Extra tickets (NOK 800) for accompanying people can be bought at the conference secretariat until 14:00 today.

Yesterday's Social Events

Oracle Hospitality Event

In the afternoon, Oracle hosted a reception in Safari that was very well received. Eugene Chong and George Eadon (photo below) was two of Oracle's developers present to discuss database technology with the conference participants.



Orienteering Race

Fifteen brave VLDB 2005 participants carried through the orienteering race in spite of the cold and very wet conditions in the forest. All participants mastered the difficult conditions and completed the race well before the lack of daylight would have made orienteering almost impossible.

After the race, the participants shared a meal with the organizers of the event. On the menu was "Inderøysodd", a traditional dish from this part of the country. During the meal the fire alarm was accidentally triggered, which caused some discomfort until it was turned off after about ten minutes.



Database Professor (Norwegian University of Life Sciences) and former World Champion in Orienteering Håvard Tveite gives a crash course in the use of a map and a compass.



Just to prove that it was indeed a wet experience.



According to well-informed sources the Orienteering Race was a great success despite the somewhat unfriendly weather conditions.

Weather Forecast

Today



Low: 10°C / 50°F

High: 16°C / 61°F

Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain. Light breeze.

Tomorrow



Low: 10°C / 50°F

High: 20°C / 69°F

Partly cloudy. Moderate breeze.

What's On



Music: Trondheim Jazz Festival

Nidaros Cathedral, 19:00

Tickets cost NOK 215 - 265

The Opening Concert is with Ytre Suløens Jass-Ensamble and Tricia Boutté. Tricia "Sista Teedy" Boutté has enjoyed a rich vocal career performing in a variety of musical settings. Her repertoire engulfs jazz, standards, soul, funk, R&B, pop, rock and Caribbean music.

Exhibition: TECHNE

Erling Skakkesgate 47b, Open 09:00 - 16:00

Free entrance

In 2005 it is 100 years since the union with Sweden was ended. In Trondheim this is celebrated by the TECHNE exhibition at the Museum of Natural History and Archaeology. TECHNE – Technology and the modern Norway 1905-2005 is open until August 31st.

Near the Hotel



Husfliden - Shop selling traditional Norwegian handicraft items, located at Olav Tryggvassons gate 18.

Editors: Roger Midtstraum, Heri Ramampiaro and Jon Olav Hauglid.