Preface

RIDE '97 is the seventh in the series of annual workshops held in connection with the IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering. This year the topic of the workshop is High Performance Database Management for Large-Scale Applications. The Internet and its organizing infrastructure, that is, the Web, is restructuring the way in which we interact with service providers—banks, retail stores, government agencies and professional and social organizations. Large-scale applications today involve complex decision making and/or finding of relevant patterns, such as those found in data mining and data warehousing, which requires efficient access to billions of bytes coming from many sources. We hope that this workshop will serve as a forum for the exchange of promising ideas in this field among researchers, developers, and practitioners.

The workshop program consists of five sessions of regular papers, a session with work-in-progress, and two invited talks and a panel. The topics covered in the regular sessions are: Databases and the Web, Data Mining and Warehousing, Electronic Commerce and Workflow Management, Challenges in Scalability of Database Systems, Distributed File Structures, and Multimedia Servers. We are very happy to have two of the best known experts in the field give invited talks: Avi Silberschatz on “Storage and Retrieval of Multimedia Objects” and Martin Kersten on “The Database Engine for the Next Decade.” Furthermore, we have assembled a session of work-in-progress reporting on joint university-industry team projects funded by the European Community.

For this workshop we received 36 regular paper submissions and all papers were reviewed by at least three members of the program committee. The final paper selection was made in a round of e-mail discussions. We chose 14 of the papers for presentation.

We would like to express our gratitude to the people who put together the technical program: the members of the program committee for their timely and thorough reviews of the papers; the international coordinators, Chris Clifton, and Ian Gorton, and especially Michael Arentoft for his help in setting up the work-in-progress session with projects sponsored by the EC; Arie Shoshani for organizing the panel on data warehousing and OLAP.

It is our pleasure to thank Innes Jelly and Radek Vingralek for doing such an excellent publicity job in the UK and the US; Jim Griffioen for his handling of the financial affairs; Alan Sexton for his work coordinating the local arrangements with ICDE; Sharad Mehrotra for his help with the proceedings, and Marey Garvey for registration. Special thanks are also due to the members of the RIDE steering committee, and particularly, Ahmed Elmagarmid and Marek Rusinkiewicz for their advice and support during all stages of the workshop organization.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the IEEE Computer Society and its Technical Committee on Data Engineering and recognize Regina Sipple for her outstanding job supervising the production of these proceedings.

No workshop is a success without the authors who present the papers and the attendees who engage in thought-provoking discussions during and after the sessions. We hope that you will all enjoy the setting of this workshop and we thank you for contributing to its success.

Yuri Breitbart  
General Co-Chair

Jon Kerridge  
General Co-Chair

Peter Scheuermann  
Program Chair