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LETTER FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRS

Welcome to a new volume of PVLDB. We are excited about several new initiatives in place this year. Here, we would like to tell you about our new paper tracks.

In many places, it has been reported that the standard research paper structure is not suited for many innovative and worthwhile intellectual contributions. To make room for such contributions, in addition to the traditional research paper track, we have four additional paper tracks this year.

The Innovative Systems track is meant for systems papers where there is substantial innovation in the "whole", for instance, in the architecture of the system. A traditional research paper may require a narrow focus on a particular aspect of the system, with careful comparison against competing techniques. In a broad systems context, there may be few meaningful comparisons of the system as a whole, and there may not be enough room for detailed studies of particular components. If the system is significant, novel, and arguably impactful, you should tell the world about it through an Innovative Systems paper.

The Experiments and Analysis (E&A) track has been a part of PVLDB for several years, but is enhanced this year. The idea behind this track is to publish papers that advance the field even if they do not directly develop a new algorithm or system. There are many topics on which there are multiple papers that suggest solutions with no clear winner. A paper that compares the techniques in several such papers can make a great contribution to the field without inventing anything new. Such a paper would be ideal for the E&A track.

In addition to the full-length E&A track, we have this year introduced a new E&A mini-paper track. The idea is to publish short (4 page) papers that advance the field without a comprehensive analysis of the sort one may expect of a full E&A paper. For example, an additional experiment that shines new light on a previously published paper would make a good candidate for an E&A mini-paper.

We have also introduced a Vision mini-paper track. This is a paper that paints a compelling picture of the future in 4 pages, and suggests a possible path to get there. Full details are not required, but the concept has to be visionary.

We hope you enjoy these new paper tracks in PVLDB this year, in addition to the main research track, which continues to flourish.

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Program Chairs, VLDB 2014