



UMass Lowell Computer Science Colloquium Announcement

Speaker: Dr. Mary Fernandez, AT&T Labs - Research
Date & Time: March 5, 2003, 3:00pm--4:00pm
Place: Olsen 311. Refreshments are served at 2:45pm

XQuery: A Query Language for XML (or Memoir of a W3C standards hacker)

XML is a flexible data format that has rapidly become the lingua franca of data exchange between inter-enterprise applications on the Internet. Hundreds of industry-specific XML dialects already exist. Bioinformatics data, financial products, legal documents, medical transcripts, and electronic-commerce transactions are some examples of the diverse kinds of data that are exchanged in XML.

For the past three years, I have been a member of the World-Wide Web Consortium's XML Query Language working group, whose charter is to define XQuery, a standard query language for XML. In this talk, I will identify the characteristics of XML and the requirements of data-exchange applications that demand a new query language. I will describe how XQuery, a functional, strongly-typed query language, satisfies (most of) those requirements. Along the way, I will identify several of the political, economic, and sociological factors that impact the development of a new industry standard. Finally, I will mention several query-processing problems that sit squarely at the juncture of programming-language, database, and information-retrieval research -- a very interesting place to be.

[A cast of thousands contribute to XQuery. I work most closely with Don Chamberlin, Peter Fankhauser, Dana Florescu, Michael Kay, Jonathan Robie, Kristoffer Rose, Jerome Simeon, and Phil Wadler.]

Colloquium Coordinator: Jie Wang, wang@cs.uml.edu, Website: <http://www.cs.uml.edu/~wang/colloquia/>