

PANEL

Whither TSQL3?

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TSQL2 was designed to be a minimal extension of SQL-92. Now that this language design effort has completed, and the SQL3 standards bodies are integrating constructs from TSQL2 into that language, it seems appropriate to consider TSQL3, which was initially envisioned to be an object-oriented extension of SQL3 incorporating time.

This panel considered the following questions related to this issue.

- Are new temporal constructs even necessary, or do the existing object-oriented constructs in SQL3 provide sufficient functionality?
- Do we have sufficient implementation experience in temporal object-oriented database management systems to define a standard temporal object-oriented query language?
- TSQL2 has at its core a few “big ideas”, including the separation of representational data models from a single conceptual data model and the use of restructuring. What big ideas should guide the design of TSQL3?
- Is SQL3 a sufficiently stable base on which to define TSQL3? What time frame for the definition of TSQL3 is appropriate?
- What organizational structure should be put into place?
- What are the important design parameters for TSQL3?
 - Should TSQL3 be temporally grouped complete?
 - Should objects or attributes be versioned?
 - Should transaction time be linear or branching?
 - How should schema evolution interact with schema versioning?