

Re: OT: SQL

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- *From:* Marshall <marshall.spight@xxxxxxxxxx>
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On May 4, 7:25 am, Charlie-Boo <shymath...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

[...]

Well, you say a bunch of stuff but you don't respond to what I said at all. (In fact it's not clear you even read it.) You're using words like "file" in different ways at different times, and not clarifying what you mean by it, despite requests and despite the fact that that is not a data management term. (Nor a logic one.) You propose a plethora of ideas. Some of them are sound but not a good idea: using predicate calculus directly as the query *language* might possibly make sense if you want a database that only logicians can use; it buys you nothing expressively. (SQL is something between an algebra and a calculus; I agree most strongly with those authors who argue that we need something that is more algebraic.)

Some of your ideas are just wrong: "Codd et. al. never figured out how to handle [relations that] have multiple levels in a hierarchy." Codd proved (in the mathematical sense) that such are unnecessary, and advocated against nested relations as a design principle (not a mathematical one); and "et. al" have written about a bazillion papers on the nested relational algebra, and even Codd's closest associates today consider nested relations allowable.

Still other of your ideas are good ones, like materialized views, that have been incorporated into existing dbms products over the past couple of decades.

The idea of using preexisting files of arbitrary structure as part of a dbms is so spectacularly bad I am speechless.

Going on and on about Codd seems pointless to me. Codd wrote some papers nearly forty years ago that today are seen as very influential, seminal even, but of course they leave out the world of things figured out since then. It's as if I was talking to someone about set theory but they

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had only read Cantor's original work.

Marshall

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