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Upcoming Events

April 9, 2013 –
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April 18, 2013 –
What is a Data

Speaker Spotlight Column: Edward Curry on Collaborative Data Management

March 27, 2013



by Charles Roe

In an effort to leverage the knowledge of several of the top minds in the Data Management industry, DATAVERSITY™ has been conducting a series of interviews on some of the most relevant topics in the field today. Recently, we interviewed Edward Curry, a Research Scientist at DERI.

Edward will be giving two sessions at the [Enterprise Data World 2013 Conference](#) in San Diego, CA from April 28-May 2, 2013. The first session is with Enda

Ridge and is titled "Managing Guerrilla Analytics Teams: Principles and Practice." The second session is titled "Collaborative Data Management: How Crowdsourcing Can Help To Manage Data."

The *Speaker Spotlight Column* (and its parallel venture the *Sponsor Spotlight Column*) is an ongoing project that focuses on highlighting several of the central issues represented at the many Data Management conferences produced by DATAVERSITY.

The primary emphasis of the interview was to question Edward Curry on his work and history within the industry, with particular importance on his presentation at the upcoming conference:

DATAVERSITY (DV): Please tell us a little about yourself and your history in the industry e.g role at company (as opposed to job title), past experience and how you got started in the data profession?

Edward Curry (EC): My name is Edward Curry and I have a passion for Information Systems. For over 10 years I have studied Information Systems from researching new data management technologies, to identifying best practices for team management. As a research scientist in the Digital Enterprise Research Institute I also study the impact and adoption trends of emerging data technologies within industry, and how they influence the way business work and interact with information. I am an adjunct lecturer at the National University of Ireland Galway, where I supervise doctoral students investigating Semantic Information Management.

DV: What's the focus of the work do you currently do within your organization?

EC: I am involved in projects researching new data management and business intelligence techniques including vocabulary independent natural language querying; approximated complex event processing; financial (XBRL) analytics; real-time predictive analytics-using machine learning techniques, and collaborative enterprise entity management.

DV: What is the biggest change going on in your particular area of the industry at this time?

EC: As organisations look to extract more value from their data they are starting to realise that data management is a key capability. However, extracting value from data requires more than just technical skills, it requires skills and expertise from across the entire organisation. Tackling these problems is changing the way we approach data management to be more holistic and inclusive of non-technical users. This tends to be the motivation of both of my talks at EDW.

DV: How does such a change affect your job?

EC: As a research scientist I investigate new techniques to manage data and identify best practice. With organisations struggling to cope with (BIG) data management, they are more receptive to considering alternative non-traditional data management techniques. This has resulted in a very fruitful environment for academic-industrial collaborations.

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April 25, 2013 – Big Challenges in Data Modeling
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April 28, 2013 – Enterprise Data World 2013
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Conference

May 1, 2013 – An Overview of the Sallie Mae Data Governance Program
11:00 am
Webinar

May 7, 2013 – Making the Case for NoSQL
11:00 am
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May 14, 2013 – Demystifying Big Data
11:00 am
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JOB OF THE DAY

DV: What are you going to discuss during your session at Enterprise Data World and what will the audience gain from attending your talk? (Please be specific about one or two issues you'll be addressing, and the benefits the audience will obtain).

EC: I have two sessions on April 30th. In the first session "Collaborative Data Management: How Crowdsourcing Can Help To Manage Data" I will discuss how a *bottom-up* approach of involving crowds in the creation and management of data has been demonstrated by projects such as Freebase, Wikipedia, and DBpedia. The talk will discuss how this form of Collaborative Data Management can be applied within an enterprise context using platforms such as Amazon Mechanical Turk, Mobile Works, and internal enterprise human computation platforms. Topics will include:

- Introduction to Crowdsourcing and Human Computation for Data Management
- Crowds vs. Communities, When to use them and why
- Push vs. Pull methods of crowdsourcing data management
- Setting up and running a collaborative data management process

My second session "Principles for Guerrilla Analytics Development", with Enda Ridge from KPMG, explores a set of management practices for 'Guerrilla Analytics' that help analytics teams to quickly get established and productive within restricted environments under tight deadlines.

DV: How has your job, and/or the work you're doing at your organization, changed in the past 12 months? How do you expect it to change in the next 1-2 years?

EC: We have seen collaborative data management move from public web efforts such as Wikipedia to early proof-of-concept within organisations. We will now see these move to more mainstream applications. The emergence of vendors and products that support the collaborative management of data is also gathering pace. As a research scientist this will provide a rich source of interesting challenges.

DV: More broadly speaking, what do you believe is the most significant change happening in Enterprise Data at this time?

EC: Within the data-driven enterprise IT organisations have the opportunity to give business leadership to help organisations to leverage competitive advantage from their data. There is a growing recognition of the need for multidisciplinary teams to deliver these data analytics projects; IT skills and data management skills are insufficient without domain and business knowledge. IT can enable the business with simple tools and inclusive data governance programs.

DV: How is Big Data going to affect your job (in your organization) in future?

EC: Big Data will have a real impact on the way we live, work, and conduct business. Many new sources of data are now available such as open data published on the web (i.e. data.gov) and real-time sensor data within a smart city or smart grid. I see my future research focusing on helping users extract value from the increasing volume and variety of data available to them.

DV: What is something noteworthy about yourself that you would like to tell the conference attendees and our readers that they may not know?

EC: I was invited to speak at the 2010 MIT Sloan CIO Symposium to an audience of more than 600 CIOs and senior IT executives on the topic of Enterprise 3.0. As the only non-MIT academic invited to speak at that event it was a great honour.

I also participate within a project for the European Commission to develop a clear strategy for Big Data research within Europe. The project identifies the key requirements for Big Data within different industry sectors (energy, transport, public sector, finance, manufacturing, retail, etc.) and creates technology and strategy roadmaps, so that the business communities understand the potential of Big Data technologies.

If you are interested in attending Edward's sessions at EDW2013, please see the conference schedule at <http://edw2013.dataversity.net/agenda.cfm?confid=72&scheduleDay=PRINT>

The first session is on Tuesday, April 30, at 7:30am and the second is on Tuesday, April 30, at 11:20am.

About Enterprise Data World:

Enterprise Data World is the business world's most comprehensive educational event about data and information management. Over five days, EDW presents a diverse schedule of programming that addresses every level of proficiency, including keynotes, workshops, tutorials, case studies, and discussions.

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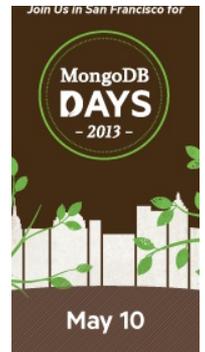


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