

# Conceptualizing Data Integration: Been there, Done that?

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Data integration: the source of anxiety for many organizations; the source of income of many IT companies; the source of continuous frustration and a little pride for many researchers. Decades after recognizing the problem of merging data and information from distributed systems, we still look with awe at the magnitude of this problem.

The community of conceptual modeling has done its share to contribute to the solution to this problem. This is clearly an ongoing effort. Just consider the fact that almost each of the workshops of ER has a data integration component to it: life sciences, mobile services, GIS, DM evolution, and Web IS. Have we conceptualized data integration to death? Can we conclude that we have been there and done that? The purpose of this panel is to suggest other things that might be done to improve the state-of-the-art in the research of data integration. The panelists are expected to introduce risky, possibly doomed-to-fail ideas, and explain why they may succeed and what would be the great gain from developing these ideas further.