Theo Härder
XML Databases and Beyond - Plenty of
Architectural Challenges Ahead
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Theo Härder obtained his Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, in 1975. In 1976, he spent a post-doctoral year at the IBM Research Lab in San Jose, CA., and joined the project System R. In 1978, he was associate professor for Computer Science at the TU Darmstadt. As a full professor, he is leading the research group "Databases and Information Systems" (DBIS) at the Technical University of Kaiserslautern, Germany, since 1980. He is the recipient of the Konrad Zuse Medal (2001) and the Alwin Walther Medal (2004) and obtained the Honorary Doctoral Degree from the Computer Science Department of the University of Oldenburg in 2002. Theo Härder's research interests are in all areas of database and information systems – in particular, DBMS architecture, transaction systems, information integration, and Web information systems. He is author/coauthor of 7 textbooks and of more than 200 scientific contributions with >100 peer-reviewed conference papers and >50 journal publications. His professional services include numerous positions as chairman of the DBIS section of the German Informatics (GI) Society, conference/program chairs and program committee member, editor-in-chief of Informatik - Forschung und Entwicklung (Springer), associate editor of Information Systems (Elsevier), World Wide Web (Kluver), and Transactions on Database Systems (ACM). He serves as an expert of the German Research Foundation (DFG) and is the Chairman of the Selection Committee for Computer Science of the Bavarian Network of Excellence. He was chairman of the Center for Computed-based Engineering Systems at the Technical University of Kaiserslautern, member of two DFG Centers of Excellece, and co-coordinator of the National DFG Research Program "Object Bases for Experts".

Nicola Guarino
Ontology-driven Conceptual Modelling
http://www.loa-cnr.it/guarino.html

Nicola Guarino is the group leader of Laboratory for Applied Ontology (http://www.loa-cnr.it/index.html) at the Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies. He graduated in electrical engineering at the University of Padova in 1978. Since 1991, he has been playing a leading role in promoting the study of ontological foundations of knowledge engineering and conceptual modeling. He is general chair of the Formal Ontology in Information Systems (FOIS) conference series, and associate editor of the International Journal of Human-Computer Studies. He was also guest editor of several journal special issues related to formal ontology and information systems.