

DATABASE GRAFFITI
Scribbles from The Askew Wall

an extended presentation,
based in part on an article that appeared in
Database Programming & Design 10, No. 3, March 1997
(the 10th anniversary issue)

by

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ABSTRACT

This session is based in part on one of Chris Date's regular columns in *Database Programming & Design* (the tenth anniversary issue), but includes much additional material. It consists of a series of quotations, aphorisms, and anecdotes—seasoned with a fair degree of personal commentary—that are (mostly) relevant to the general subject of database management. The session is not technically deep, but several serious messages do lie not too far below the surface. The aim is partly to edify, partly just to amuse.

Topic outline:

- The prehistoric era
- Objects and objections
- Normalization, networks, and nulls
- The role of simplicity
- The joy of self-reference
- Some fundamental principles
- Relational misconceptions
- Some *good* quotes
- Books and book reviews
- Miscellany

Duration: 1-1½ hours.

Prerequisites: Attendees will be expected to have a broad familiarity with database technology in general.