

Dr. Tom Johnston received his doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Georgia in 1979. His studies focused on epistemology, ontology and the philosophy of language. The logician W. V. Quine was a central figure in his doctoral dissertation.

Since 1973, Tom has worked in business IT departments as an employee, a contractor and a consultant. After several years working in CICS and mainframe operating system internals, he became a data modeler and, later, an enterprise data architect. In the last two decades, he has published nearly one hundred articles whose common concern is logical data modeling. In particular, his articles focus on how to achieve database flexibility by late-binding ontologies and semantics to logical data models and physical data schemas.

During 2003, while between client engagements, Tom was an active participant in the IEEE 1600.1 Suggested Upper Merged Ontology workgroup. Although a business IT professional, and not a computer scientist, Tom was actively engaged in such topics as logic and ontology, inferencing engines, and semantic interoperability, with such luminaries as John Sowa, Leo Obrst and Adam Pease.

Tom is currently co-authoring a series of some fifty articles in *DM Review* and *DM Direct*. The intent of these articles is to describe, at an architect, designer and developer level of detail, how to provide temporal database functionality in business applications right now, using today's DBMSs, and today's SQL.

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