

A Database Perspective to SDL

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ABSTRACT

Although SDL¹ was originally intended for telecommunication systems, it has found use in other applications. However, that database community is one group which has seemingly not been endeared to SDL. It is not that database systems cannot be specified or described using SDL. Indeed the structural and behavioural concepts in SDL would be very useful for specifying database systems. We attribute the apparent lack of interest to the inherent "procedural" nature which SDL has been presented, and propose a database view. Introduced in this paper, is a system which adopts this perspective in addressing some problems inherent in communications software evolution. PVC-M uses an object-oriented variant of SDL, XDL.

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¹CCITT's recommended specification and description language for telecommunication systems.