

## Chapter 1

# Exploring the Sybase Galaxy

The times, they are a-changin'. This observation applies to relational database management systems as well. Historically, databases have revolved around structured data and how it is managed. The database administrator must now look beyond managing structured data and must now consider managing information.

Sybase rightly code-named the latest release of Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise (ASE) "Galaxy." We are moving beyond the world of data management as we know it and rocketing into the new galaxy of information management.

What is the difference between data and information? Data is simply the atomic component of information, whereas information is taking the data and making it mean something. As we begin to open our silos and release the data within, that data can then become useful information to everyone in our individual galaxies.

What does this mean to the database administrator? It means supporting more complex queries for greater flexibility and operational scalability. It also means looking beyond our previous ideals of data storage and broadening our concepts to the possibilities of larger amounts of data and faster access.

Let's take a look at the new features available in ASE 15 as we begin to explore the galaxy of information management. Additionally, our journey will cover a few of the recent pre-ASE 15 enhancements and explore how they enhance and expand the ASE product.