January Meetings
Greater Boston SIGCHI

Topic: So, What Do You Do?
Speaker: Ilise Benun
Date/Time: Tuesday, January 11, 2005 6:30 PM - Refreshments, 7 PM - Meeting
Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA
Details: http://www.gbsigchi.org/mtg.html

How do you answer that question? Do you say something that engages or confuses your listener? Do they understand or do their eyes glaze over? Do you vary your answer depending on your listener and what they might understand? If this is an issue for you at all, then this workshop is for you.

To kick off the New Year, make a resolution to come up with something coherent and clear. How? Attend this workshop with Ilise Benun, author of "Self Promotion Online," who will lead an interactive session during which you will create 15 and 25-word blurbs that you will be able to use immediately in a wide variety of situations.

Ilise Benun is a nationally recognized expert on self promotion and marketing, and VP of the NYC chapter of UPA. She is the author of Self Promotion Online and Designing Web Sites for Every Audience and has conducted seminars and workshops on self promotion for UPA, Graphic Artists Guild, Women in Communications, American Marketing Association, and City University of New York, among others. Through her Marketing Mentor program, Benun also works one-on-one with clients to teach them how to promote their services.

Software Quality Group of New England

Topic: A Quality Perspective on the Menlo Software Factory Software Development Methodology
Speaker: Carol, Perletz, Nokia
Date/Time: Wednesday, January 12, 2005 6:00PM - Networking6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Meeting & Presentation
Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA
Details: http://www.swquality.com/users/pustaver/bcs.htm

SNHU, the IEEE Computer Society NH Chapter, the ACM Boston Chapter and The SWANH

Topic: The Economic and Social Impact of Poor Quality Software
Speaker: Steven R. Rakitin, Software Quality Consulting, Inc.
Date/Time: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 6:00PM - Networking6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Meeting & Presentation
Location: Mara Auditoriam, Webster Hall, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH
Details: http://acadweb.snhu.edu/Isaak_James/ITseminars/

All software is defective. Humans are not capable of producing zero defect software no matter how hard we try or how much money we spend. It is a goal that is currently beyond our intellectual capability. Software has become pervasive in our society. ATMs, cars, medical devices and airplanes to list a few, are all totally or partially controlled by software. Given our inability to produce zero defect software, there have been and will continue to be instances where software has both an economic and social impact. This talk explores this situation in an attempt to raise the awareness of this critical issue within the software engineering community.

Steve has over 30 years experience as a software engineer and software quality manager. He frequently speaks on topics related to software development and software quality at conferences worldwide. He's published several papers on the subject of software quality and a written a book titled Software Verification & Validation for Practitioners and Managers. As President of Software Quality Consulting, Inc., he works with clients who are interested in improving the predictability of their development processes and the quality of their products.

January Meetings
Joint Boston SPIN/ASQ

Topic: Build the "Right Software" to Delight Your Customers - A Quantitative View
Speaker: Unmesh Gundewar
Date: Wednesday, January 19, 6 PM Networking, 7:10 PM Presentation
Location: Courtyard, Woburn, MA
Details: http://www.boston-spin.org/meeting.html

Many companies have implemented quality programs such as CMM, TQM, Six Sigma, etc. to improve requirements and software development. However, these initiatives often focus on building the software right - meeting quality expectations and specifications- but do not necessarily focus on building the right software - the right functionality at the right time and at the right cost from the customer's perspective. Unmesh Gundewar explains how EMC employed the Goal, Question, Metric (GQM) methodology to identify key measurements that ensure the 'Right Software' is being developed there. Learn how EMC applies the Six Sigma approach to drive these measurements into the organization and the resulting software. Move beyond the processes designed to get functional requirements and specifications right as Unmesh shares experiences, the challenges faced, and lessons learned from building the right software.

Unmesh Gundewar is a Sr. Consultant and is a part of the executive team that is driving Software Quality through Quality Dashboard and several quality initiatives across the software organization.   He holds a patent on the ProjectModel, "A Simple Approach for Achieving CMM Level 2". He has a second patent pending, "Staff-less SQA: An Effective SQA Alternative". He has published numerous papers and is a frequent speaker at local PMI (Project Management Institute), SPIN chapters, and at PMI and SEI conferences.   Gundewar holds a master degree from the University of Florida and he is PMP certified.

IEEE Consultants Network
Joint meeting with the Boston Entrepreneurs' Network

Topic: Learn How to Configure and Secure Your Home Network
Speaker: Jeff Goldberg, Qualware Instructional Services
Date/Time: Wednesday, January 26, 7 PM
Location: Sheraton Lexington Inn, Lexington, MA
Details: http://www.boston-consult.org
Fee: $7.00 at door for non-members

As the first scheduled CNET general meeting of the new year, this talk will focus on delivering practical tips that are equally of value to consultants, small businessmen, and home users alike. This talk will include an interactive discussion of setting up a small network, either wired or wireless, with an emphasis on demystifying LAN terminology, providing some protection against hostile Internet attacks, sharing resources such as printers, and Internet sharing techniques for multiple computers to share a single Internet connection.

Possible subjects for discussion include:
- Differences between analog dialup, ISDN, DSL and cable modem
- Differences between modem, bridge, router, and access point.
- Differences between 802.3 10baseT, 100baseT and 1Gb; 802.11A, 802.11B, 802.11G.
- What are Port Filters, Address Filters, Firewalls, Proxy and Virtual Servers?
- Static IP, Dynamic IP using DHCP, PPP over Ethernet, Dial-up on Demand.
- Wireless Setup of Channel/SSID, Encryption, MAC Filtering, Demilitarized Zone.
- WAP 64-bit, 128-bit, 128-bit-manual.
- Security issues, eavesdropping, VPNs.

Jeff Goldberg, of Qualware Instructional Services, is a long time innovative user of UNIX and Internet services. Mr. Goldberg currently develops and delivers customized corporate training classes along with very flexible scheduling, to avoid project disruption, in the fields of IT operations, operating system and computer languages. Specialties include UNIX Fundamentals, Perl and Shell Scripting, Linux/UNIX System Administration and TCP/IP Networking, Web Technologies such as Visual Basic, Java Script, PHP Apache, C++, Java and SQL Database Access, Computer and Network Security.

Brain Teasers
(From Raytheon's Waiting Activities during Principles of Systems Engineering Course)

ONCE TIME	Strike-emptive	STUDY DANCER	shepherd 24 hrs beagle 24 hrs poodle 24 hrs
alarm alarm alarm fire alarm alarm	l y i r b a r	coorderurt	chopped ion
FESTANTATION	digni4tary	PRISON PIGEON	Sparainin mainly plain

1. Once Upon A Time_____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

December 2004 - Brain Teaser Solutions

1. I'm underpaid and overworked
2. Bay Window
3. Don't Over Do It
4. Gross Injustice
5. Toupee
6. Man About Town
7. Just In Case
8. Forecast
9. Toronto
10. Getting It All Together
11. Wedding Ring
12. Backfire

PAID I'M WORKED	San Francisco pane	DON'T DO IT	JUST*144*ICE
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TOR TOE	*gettingitall*	G W N E I D D	ERIF

Spring 2005 PDS Series (Dates: *TBD*)

Python
Speakers: Jeremy Hylton/Tim Peters
***

Best/Worst Patterns/Practices for .NET/C#
Speaker: Richard Hale Shaw
***

Java
Speaker: Erik Hatcher

Review of Fall PDS - Weaving Meaning: An Overview of the Sematic Web
Dr. James J. Byleckie, GBC ACM Member

Eric Miller presented the Professional Development Seminar, "Weaving Meaning: An Overview of the Semantic Web" on November 20th at MIT. Dr. Eric Miller is the Activity Lead for the W3C World Wide Web Consortium's Semantic Web Initiative and Research Scientist at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. His career started with library science at the Online Computer Library Center and moved on to the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, which is an open forum for developing metadata standards. Dr. Miller solicited the interests of the audiences and tailored his four-part talk accordingly. These four parts answered the questions:

- What is the semantic web?
- How is it built?
- How is it being used?
- Where is it going?

Dr. Miller likened describing the semantic web to the story of blind men describing an elephant – both are many things to many people. In emphasizing the need for the semantic web, he pointed out that the web today consists mostly or web pages comprised of text interspersed with hyperlinks. This means that when you see an announcement on the web for an upcoming PDS, you need to cut and paste it into your organizer. Your organizer has no way of *knowing* that the web page text is about an event. Understanding the underlying meaning is limited, similar to the Gary Larson cartoon showing an owner speaking to his pet. All the pet hears is "blah, blah, Ginger, blah, blah"; all your organizer knows is "text, text, hyperlink, text, text."

Enter the semantic web. Through marking information in web pages with triples that show subject, predicate and object it's possible to attach meaning to text on a web page - meaning that's machine and program accessible. For mechanics, RDF, the Resource Description Framework integrates a variety of applications using URIs for naming and XML for syntax. RDF schemas verify syntax and published ontologies, essentially vocabularies, specify meaning for a particular domain. Importantly, these ontologies are not centrally managed, making the resources of the Internet community available to contribute to their development.

Users of the semantic web range from biotech companies to document producers such as Adobe to the military. If you'd like to see how interlocking directorships work, look at FOAFCorp, Corporate Friends of Friends at http://rdfweb.org/foafcorp/intro.html. And if you want a semantically aware calendar go to http://sherpa.eventsherpa.com/profile.php, "Your Personal Guide to a Connected Life."

Looking to the future, Dr. Miller said that wide-scale deployment was coming along with enabling technologies for data access and advanced development. In particular he commented that big changes were in store for accessing information from the burgeoning biotechnology arena and for the Web in general as China comes online in the next several years.

The slides for Dr. Miller's talk are available at http://www.w3.org/2004/Talks/1120-semweb-em/. To read further on the semantic web, look at the Web http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/ or consult the texts for the seminar:
- A Semantic Web Primer by Grigoris Antoniou and Frank van Harmelen and
- Practical RDF by Shelley Powers.

We would like to thank our PDS Sponsors for their support:

Softpro
75 Third Ave., Waltham; 197G Post Rd West, Marlboro
http://www.softpro.com

Quantumbooks
Corner of Ames & Broadway, Cambridge
http://www.quantumbooks.com

PCs for Everyone
24 Charles Street, Cambridge, MA 02141
http://www.pcsforeveryone.com

Websites of some Local Groups

GBC/ACM
www.gbcacm.org

SIGGRAPH
www.siggraph.org/chapters/boston

Boston SIGCHI
www.gbsigchi.org

WebTech
www.acm.org/chapters/webtech

SPIN
www.boston-spin.org

IEEE
www.ieeeboston.org

IEEE Consultants Network
www.boston-consult.org

Boston-area User Group Calendar
www.bugc.org

Brain Teaser - Gym Lockers

There are 100 gym lockers in a locker room. All lockers are initially closed. The last day of school, 100 students form a queue outside the locker room. Each student in turn changes the state of the locker - one at a time and one after each other in the following manner.

The first student opens all lockers. The second student closes every second locker. The third student changes the state of every third locker - closing it if it is open and opening it if it is closed. The fourth student changes the state of every fourth locker - closing it if it is open and opening it if it is closed.

This continues until the last (100th) student - changing the state of the 100th locker - closing it if it is open and opening it if it is closed.

What is the state of the lockers after these 100 student are done? Which lockers are open? Which lockers are closed?

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*** January Calendar of Events ***

Date of Event	Page	Sponsor	Location
January 11	4	Greater Boston SIGCHI	Burlingto, MA
January 12	4	Software Quality Group of New England	Burlington, MA
January 18	4	SNHU	Manchester, NH
January 19	5	Boston SPIN/ASQ (Joint)	Woburn, MA
January 26	5	IEEE Consultants Network	Lexington, MA
January 27	1	GBC ACM	MIT Room E51-315 Cambridge, MA

Address Service Requested

First Class:
Dated Materials

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The Real Times

GBC/ACM January 2005 Meeting

Co-Sponsored with the Boston Chapter of the IEEE Computer Society (IEEE/CS) and the Boston Chapter of the IEEE Society of Social Implications of Technology (IEEE/SIT)

Topic: Internet Vulnerabilities and Server Security
Speaker: Patrick Hynds and Duane Laflotte, CriticalSites
Date/Time: Thursday, January 27, 2005, 7:00 PM
Location: MIT Room E51-315

Critical Sites is a computer security consulting firm based in New Hampshire. Patrick and Duane will relate some war stories involving recent experiences dealing with security issues.

Patrick Hynds is a Microsoft Regional Director and the Chief Technology Officer for CriticalSites. A graduate of West Point and a Gulf War veteran, Patrick addresses business challenges with special emphasis on security issues.

Duane Laflotte is the Security Practice Manager for CriticalSites and is also the senior hacker on the audit team. Under his leadership, the Security Practice is often hired to test Fortune 100 network security by way of the CriticalSites Security Audit. Duane's technical accomplishments include: numerous XML Web Service development projects, BizTalk integrations, the development of an LDAP Server, multiple enterprise Active Directory deployments, and lead architect for the first Windows Logo Certified .Net application in the world.

E51 is the Tang Center at 70 Memorial Drive. It is at the corner of Wadsworth St. between Memorial Drive and Amherst St., directly across Wadsworth St. from the Faculty Club and main building of the Sloan School. You can go to http://www.mit.edu and click on "map" to see visually where this is. The talk is in room E51-315.

More details for this meeting will be available at http://www.gbcacm.org in 2005. The CriticalSite website is at http://www.criticalsites.com.

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Saturday, February 12, 2005 1-5 PM - GBC/ACM will be cosponsoring *New Standards for Elections: A forum on technical and nontechnical requirements for voting systems.* Look for details on the web and in the February 2005 issue of the Real Times.