

The Let's Make a Deal Paradox

This paradox is related to a popular television show from the 1970's. In the show, a contestant was given a choice of three doors of which one contained a prize. The other two doors contained gag gifts like a chicken or a donkey. After the contestant chose an initial door, the host of the show then revealed an empty door among the two unchosen doors, and asked the contestant if he would like to switch to the other unchosen door. The question is should the contestant switch? Do the odds of winning increase by switching to the remaining door?

The intuition of most students tells them that each of the doors, the chosen door and the unchosen door, are equally likely to contain the prize so that there is a 50-50 chance of winning with either selection. This, however, is not the case. The probability of winning by using the switching technique is 2/3 while the odds of winning by not switching is 1/3. The easiest way to explain this to students is as follows. The probability of picking the wrong door in the initial stage of the game is 2/3. If the contestant picks the wrong door initially, the host must reveal the remaining empty door in the second stage of the game. Thus, if the contestant switches after picking the wrong door initially, the contestant will win the prize. The probability of winning by switching then reduces to the probability of picking the wrong door in the initial stage which is clearly 2/3.

Despite a very clear explanation of this paradox, most students have a difficulty understanding the problem. It is very difficult to conquer the strong intuition which most students have in this case. As a challenge to students who don't believe the explanation, an instructor may ask the students to actually play the game a number of times by switching and by not switching and to keep track of the relative frequency of wins with each strategy.

Solutions to September's Puzzle

1. Senior Golfer
2. First Reaction
3. NY Rangers
4. Wait a Minute
5. A Stolen Base
6. A Trial Offer
7. Black Widow Spider
8. In Technicolor
9. Water Resistant
10. A Strange Occurrence
11. Katey Couric
12. The Refrigerator

SCENE YORK ALL FOR	FURS TREE HACK SHIN	KNEW YOUR CRANE CHORES	WEIGH DUMB IN IT
ACE TOE LEN PLACE	EIGHT RILE LAW FUR	ABLE HACK QUIT OWES BIT HER	HINT HECK NICK HOLLER
WATT HURRIES HISSED HINT	ACE TRAIN CHUCK CURRENTS	KAY TEAK HER RICK	THIEF RID CHAIR HATER

Message from Vice President (continued from page 2)

Please help Peter Carmichael with your professional skills and energy. You will find that we are prepared to rethink our entire approach and set aside old habits that are no longer effective. We need leadership in a number of areas including:

- IS Committee to lead many interested contributors - must be a team leader
- Membership database reorganization, integration, cleanup and reporting
- Assistant Treasurer to help Yona Carmichael
- Registrar roles to support future seminar programs. and much more.

I'd also like to address the benefits of volunteering... It comes down to two factors in my opinion:

1. Professional growth:
 - Volunteering is a forgiving place to learn new skills through trial and error.
 - It is also a place to learn from experts who are pushing the envelope or just ahead of you.
2. Professional network:
 - Local members can be a source of job referrals
 - The class of speakers we have are worth cultivating as professional resources, possible employers, references and friends.

As President, VP, Board member and PDS Keeper of the Box, I have developed new skills, insights and access, that I use professionally.

Jay Conne

Future GBC ACM Monthly Meetings

November 17, 2005

Topic: Introduction to Virtual Private Networks

Speaker : Edward Leonard, IBM

This presentation will discuss Virtual Private Network (VPN) technology. The presentation will cover the following areas: historical reasons for the emergence and popularity of VPNs, different types of VPN architectures including examples of each, how they evolved, where they are going, implementation issues, the benefits from using each and an explanation of why different companies choose some of the different VPN technologies. The basics of symmetric and asymmetric encryption, and how they relate to VPN tunnels, will also be introduced.

December 1, 2005

Topic: Graphic Techniques for Data Visualization

Speaker : David Laidlow, Director, Visualization Research Lab, Brown University

January 19, 2006

Topic: Conveying the Scent of Information

Speaker : Jared Spool, User Interface guru and founder, UIE

October Meetings

Sothern New Hampshire University IT Seminar Series

Co-sponsored by the Software Association of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire chapters of the: IEEE Computer Society, and ACM (Association for Computer Machinery)

Topic: Python (the language)

Speaker: Bill Sconce

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 18, 2005 5-6 PM - Networking 6-7 PM

Location: Walker Auditorium, Robert Frost Hall

Details: http://acadweb.snhu.edu/Isaak_James/ITseminars/ITSeminars05-06.htm

New England Information Security Group (NEISG)

Topic 1: Securing the Desktop - A New Battlefield in Enterprise Security

Speaker 1: Bit9, Inc.

Topic 2: Voice over IP (VOIP) Security Basics

Speaker 2: Gary Miliefsky, NetClarity (formerly PredatorWatch)

Date: Thursday, October 20, 2005 6:30 PM

Location: Microsoft Office Waltham, MA

Details: <http://www.neisg.org/Meetings/Default.htm>

Boston Section of IEEE Consultants Network

Topic: How to make sure that you get paid for your work

Speaker: Nathan O. Sokal, President, Design Automation, Inc.

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 7 PM

Location: Sheraton Lexington Inn, Lexington, MA

Details: <http://www.boston-consult.org/calendar.php>

\$7.00 charge at door for non members

Future Seminars

Boston University Corporate Education Center

Topic: FREE Microsoft SQL Server and Visual Studio 2005 First Look

Free first look seminar on Microsoft's next-generation data management and analysis software. Learn about the new features in SQL Server 2005 and Visual Studio 2005 and how the technologies' shared language base provides you with end-to-end development tools. Discover how BUCEC's Microsoft seminars and certification programs will keep you up-to-date and in demand as a Microsoft professional.

Speaker: Thom Robbins, Developer/Evangelist, Microsoft Corporation

Date: November 16, 2005 6 - 9 PM

Location: Microsoft Corporation 201 Jones Rd., Sixth Floor Waltham MA

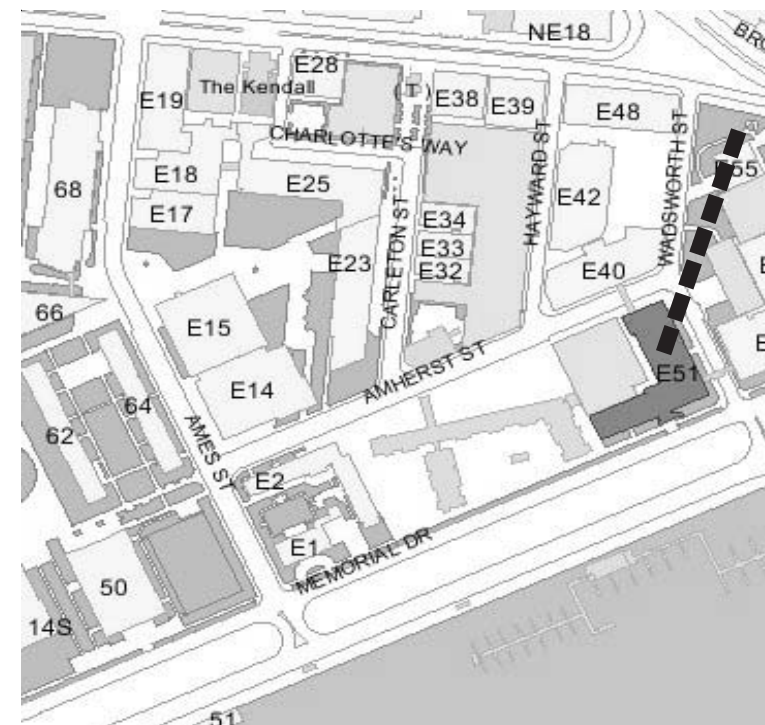
Details: <http://www.boston-consult.org/calendar.php>

continued from page 1 - GBC ACM October General Meeting

Building E51 is located near the Eastern extremity of MIT, on Memorial Drive close to the Longfellow Bridge. It also adjoins Amherst Street and Wadsworth Street. Building E51 is a short walk from the Kendall T station. Room 325 is on the third floor.

Parking: Driving westbound on Memorial Drive you may park on the street near Building E51. There are often spaces available there in the evening. Driving eastbound on Main Street you will see an MIT parking lot on the right between the Kendall Square T and the Longfellow Bridge.

GBC ACM October General Meeting Location - E51-325



Call for Classic Computer Science Texts

ACM is launching a new initiative to revive classic, out-of-print computer science books, with the intent to make the full text available online to members via the PDC/DL. I'm asking you to identify the books you believe are "classics." The suggestions I've received so far can be viewed at <http://www.acm.org/csclassics/>.

You may also nominate classic computer manuals (for example, IBM 360 Principles of Operation, and DEC PDP-11 Handbook).

The book must be out of print to qualify. (A book is still considered "in print" if its fourth edition is selling despite the first edition being no longer available).

Please submit your comments and candidates for CS classics by Friday, October 7, including why you think your nomination(s) qualify as classic(s), by filling out the form at www.acm.org/csclassicspoll. After this date we will conduct a vote, resulting in the Top 20 classic books. You will receive another email with instructions directing you to the Web site with the online poll.

Thanks in advance for your help. We believe this will be a great service to our members!

Real Times Editor

Rochelle Goren, rochelle_goren@comcast.net

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Message From the Editor

Due to losses incurred at our Professional Development Seminars (PDSs), the executive board decided to cancel the Fall 2005 PDS Series in order to restructure the way the seminars were advertised and run. As soon as plans are finalized for the Spring 2006 Series, an announcement will be made.

The executive board is currently considering a change from hard to soft copy of the Real Times Newsletter. This change would help decrease the cost to the organization and provide a more efficient delivery mechanism. The decision to switch to soft copy of the Newsletter has not yet been reached. There are details to be worked out such as the format and notification. In addition, we do not have email addresses of our members. To start this collection, we are asking the members to send an email to:

membership@gbcacm.org

Please include your first and last name, membership identification number (found on the address label) and if you would like to receive email copy/notification of the Real Times once it goes into soft copy.

Rochelle Goren

Message From the Vice President

I'm writing to ask for your help... Please respond to: president@gbcacm.org

As you have been reading, we are re-engineering our organization to return to fiscal viability after many years of being one of the most fiscally successful ACM chapters in the world. This is being driven by our President, Peter Carmichael, with the support of a group of other volunteers and the coaching help of Jared Spool of User Interface Engineering.

To that end, we are postponing our PDS Fall Series so we can devote our volunteer focus to a more viable approach for 2006.

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The Real Times is published ten times per year (September through June) and is the official newsletter of the Greater Boston Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery, First-class postage paid at Boston, MA, 02101.

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Timely notices of events, meetings, and other activities of interest to the Chapter's Membership should be submitted by the 10th of the month Before the intended issue and sent, with attention to the Managing Editor to:

GBC/ACM, P.O. Box 465, Lexington, MA 02420 (781) 862-1181

The Chapter's mailing list is available to related professional organizations or for commercial use. Please contact the Membership Chair at the address above when requesting mailing lists.

Annual subscription cost is included in the Chapter Membership dues of \$10.00. See top line on mailing label for membership expiration date. Library subscriptions are free. Please send orders for copies to the Chapter mailing address above.



The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.

Fall 2005 Continuing Education Program

For complete list of course offerings, details and updated course and registration information,

Visit our Website at http://ieeeboston.org; Phone: 781-245-5405

Register Early to get a Discount!

Implementing Voice over IP: Challenges and Future View
Date and Time: Saturday, Nov. 5, 8AM - 5PM
Location: EMPIRIX, Bedford

Modern FPGAs -Technology, Tools & Applications
Date & Time: 7 - 9PM; Thursdays, November 3, 10, 17, December 1, 8 & 15
Location: TBD (Rt. 128 Waltham - Woburn)

Security Awareness: Practical Elements of Security
Date & Time: 7 - 9PM, Wednesdays, October 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16, & 30
Location: TBD (Rt. 128 Waltham - Woburn)

Defining and Managing User Requirements
Dates & Times: 8AM - 5PM, Monday & Tuesday, November 21 & 22
Location: Lexington Sheraton Hotel,

21 Ways to Evaluate Requirements Adequacy
Date & Time: 8AM - 5PM, Thursday, Dec. 1
Location: Lexington Sheraton Hotel, Lexington, MA

Leading Virtual Teams - Improving Performance across Distance, Diversity and Digital Technologies
Date & Time: Thursday, 6 - 9PM, Oct. 27, Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 1
Location: TBD (Rt. 128 Waltham - Woburn)

Radio Frequency Identification: Technology, Applications and Impacts
DATES:9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, Saturday, Oct. 22, October 29, November 5, and November 12.
LOCATION: Merrimack College, North Andover, Room 167, Mendel Hall

Accelerated Delphi-Pascal Fundamentals with computer lab exercises
Dates & Times: Mondays, 6:15PM - 9:45PM; Oct 24, 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec 5, 12,
Location: Lexington Sheraton Hotel, Lexington, MA

Pieces of Perl Making Perl Work for You
Date & Time: 6:30 - 8:30PM, Thursdays, Nov. 10 & 17
Location: TBD (Rt. 128 Waltham - Woburn)

Dynamic Web Server-Side Technologies Overview
Date & Time: Thursdays, 6:15PM - 9:45PM, Nov 3, 10, 17, Dec 1, 8, 15
Location: Lexington Sheraton Hotel, Lexington, MA

Accelerated Fundamentals of FUNJAVE Programming
Date & Time: Tuesdays, 6:15PM-9:45PM, Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, December 6, 13,
Location: Lexington Sheraton Hotel, Lexington, MA

Failure Analysis and Prevention in Electronic Circuits
Date:8:30AM - 4:30PM, Wednesday, October 26
Location: TBD (Rt 128 Waltham - Woburn)

Antennas & Propagation for Wireless Communication Systems
Date & Time: 6:30 - 9PM, Mondays, Oct. 3, 24,31, Nov. 7,21,28, Dec. 5 & 12
Location: TBD (Rt 128 Waltham - Woburn)

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If not, join! The \$10 annual membership fee offers many opportunities for development, through regular and engaging interaction with local contemporaries in addition to access to our popular PDS seminars. Mail in your membership form today!

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(*Check your address label for expiration date.)

Date	Page	Sponsor	Location
Oct 18	6	Sothern NH University	SNHU, Manchester, NH
Oct 20	1	GBC ACM General Meeting	MIT Room E51-325 Cambridge, MA
Oct 20	6	New England Information Security Group	Microsoft Waltham. MA
Oct 26	6	IEEE Consultants Network	Sheraton, Lexington, MA

If the top line of your mailing label below reads ****EXPIRED****, please renew your membership (for just \$10/yr). For that \$10 you get a copy of this newsletter/local event calendar mailed to any address you choose plus the right to attend PDS seminars at the member rate. Please consider renewing for more than one year at time. Your support helps make possible the wide array of GBC/ACM activities.

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The Real Times

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GBC/ACM October 2005 Meeting

What2what (was end2end): the future of the Internet

Speaker: Scott Bradner, Harvard University

Date/Time: Thursday, October 20, 2005, 7-9 PM

Location: MIT E51-325

The Internet end-to-end mantra actually reflected reality once upon a time and was key to the development of what we now know as the Internet, but that time is long gone. The e2e model has died a death of a thousand little optimizations, many self inflicted by the same people that were the beneficiaries of the developments enabled by the widespread enough reality of the e2e model. Other than in a few niche ecologies such as research universities, e2e exists in today's Internet mostly as a quaint concept. And now the traditional telephone world, the FBI, Homeland Security and the ITU-T want to (indirectly) stomp out any such residues. This talk will review some of the scholarly ruminations, not so scholarly rants, and various laments about the changing Internet environment and then explore the implications of likely Internet futures on innovation, security, privacy and usefulness.

Biography: Scott Bradner has been involved in the design, operation and use of data networks at Harvard University since the early days of the ARPANET. He served in a number of roles in the IETF. He was the co-director of the Operational Requirements, IPng, Transport and Sub-IP Areas. He was a member of the IESG (1993-2003) and was an elected trustee of the Internet Society (1993-1999), where he currently serves as the Secretary to the Board of Trustees. Scott is also a trustee of the American Registry of Internet Numbers (ARIN). Mr. Bradner is the University Technology Security Officer in the Harvard University Office of the Provost. He tries to help the University community deal with technology-related privacy and security issues. He founded the Harvard Network Device Test Lab, is a frequent speaker at technical conferences, a weekly columnist for Network World, and does a bit of independent consulting on the side.

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Visit the GBC ACM website for last minute meeting changes: www.gbcacm.org