



The Real Times

Vol. 46 No. 2

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February 2007

GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting Thursday, February 15th, 2007 *The Dawning of the Age of Experience*

Speaker: Jared M. Spool, User Interface Engineering

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: IBM Innovation Center
404 Wyman Street, North Entrance
Waltham, MA 02454-1280
Telephone: (781) 895-1234

Directions:

<http://www-304.ibm.com/jct09002c/isv/spc/waltham.pdf>

Details:

<http://www.gbcaacm.org/website/semInfo.php?id=1123>

Experience design is no longer a nice-to-have luxury of a few organizations with tons of money and exceptional visionary management. It's become commonplace for organizations that build products and web sites. Experience Design is a centerpiece of boardroom discussions and quickly becoming a key performance indicator for many businesses. However, you can't just hire a couple of "experience designers" and tell them, "Go do that voodoo that you do so well." Today's business environment forces us to build multi-disciplinary teams, compiling a diverse group of skills and experiences to handle the many facets of the technical, business, and user requirements. In his usual entertaining and insightful manner, Jared will talk about what it takes to build a design team that meets today's needs. He'll demonstrate how successful Experience Design: Must integrate the needs of the users with the requirements of the business + Is learned, but not available through introspection + Must be invisible to succeed + Is cultural + Is multi-disciplinary + Thrives best in an "educate and administrate" environment. You'll see examples of designs from Apple's iPod, Netflix, the Mayo Clinic, and Southwest Airlines, to name a few.

Speaker Biography: If you've ever seen Jared

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GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting Thursday, March 15th, 2007 *Debugging Backwards in Time*

Speaker: Bil Lewis, Tufts University & Lambda Computer Science

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: IBM Innovation Center
404 Wyman Street, North Entrance
Waltham, MA 02454-1280
Telephone: (781) 895-1234

Directions:

<http://www-304.ibm.com/jct09002c/isv/spc/waltham.pdf>

Details:

<http://www.gbcaacm.org/website/semInfo.php?id=1125>

What if a debugger could allow you to simply step BACKWARDS? Instead of all that hassle with guessing where to put breakpoints and the fear of typing "continue" one too many times... What if you could simply go backwards to see what went wrong? This is the essence of the "Omniscient Debugger" -- it remembers everything that happened during the run of a program, and allows the programmer to "step backwards in time" to see what happened at any point of the program. All variable values, all objects, all method calls, all exceptions are recorded and the programmer can now look at anything that happened at any time. In this talk, I will describe the design of the "ODB" -- an implementation of Omniscient Debugging for Java programs -- and discuss the various costs and trade-offs.

The last half of the talk will be a demonstration of the ODB, showing how the various pieces of data are displayed and how the programmer can "navigate" through time to see what the program was doing, where values were set, when various threads ran, etc. At the conclusion of the talk, the audience will be invited to use the ODB to find some actual bugs. Anyone having a laptop with Java on it can download the ODB (beforehand!) and try using it to find the bugs themselves.

The ODB is an experimental program under development. It is written in 100% pure Java and has been tested under Solaris, MacOS, and Windows. It is freely available at Bil's web site.

Please check for any last-minute changes to meeting arrangements by visiting the GBC/ACM website <http://www.gbcaacm.org> before the meeting.

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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 emailed to:
editor@gbcacm.org

Please check the privacy policy at:

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GBC/ACM Membership, P.O. Box 465, Lexington, MA 02420

February/March Meetings

Software Quality Group of New England (SQGNE)

Topic: Retrospectives A Different Look

Speaker: Howie Dow

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 14th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

6:00 - 6:30 Networking

6:30 - 8:00 Business and Presentation

Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

Topic: Why Use Case Modelers Are Your Friends

Speaker: Norman Daoust, Daoust Associates

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 14th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

6:00 - 6:30 Networking

6:30 - 8:00 Business and Presentation

Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

Boston SPIN

Topic: Avoid Creep-Discover the REAL Requirements

Speaker: Robin Goldsmith

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 20th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

6:00 - 6:45 Networking and Roundtables

7:00 - 7:10 Announcements

7:10 - 8:10 Presentation

8:10 - 8:30 Questions and Answers

Location: The MITRE Corporation, Building S

202 Burlington Rd. (Rt. 62), Bedford, MA 01730

Details: <http://www.boston-spin.org>

Topic: Tales of Whoa and the Psychology of Customer Satisfaction

Speaker: Naomi Karten

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 20th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: The MITRE Corporation, Building S

202 Burlington Rd. (Rt. 62), Bedford, MA 01730

Continued on page 8

IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE READ

*Starting with January 2007 - we have switched from a hard to soft copy of the Real Times. In order to send you notification of the Newsletter posting, we need your email address. We are asking members to send their email address to **membership@gbcacm.org**.*

Please include your first and last name, if you would like to receive email copy/notification of the Real Times soft copy.

The GBC/ACM will not disclose your email address outside the chapter without your permission. Please check our privacy policy at:

<http://www.gbcacm.org/website/privacy.php>

Deep Agile Seminar

Save this date: April 28 & 29.

The last Saturday and Sunday in April 2007 is the date for our next Professional Development Seminar.

What has been your experience with software projects? Have you been generally successful? Or do most projects fail to meet predictions for time, cost or functionality?

Research compiled by the Standish Group as The CHAOS Chronicles (first published in 1994) present statistics such as: “84% of projects fail or are significantly challenged”, and “45% of developed features are never used”. (Quote extracted from Dave Nicolette’s blog). These statistics are disputed in an article by Robert L. Glass, in Communications of the ACM, August 2006. But these are the most quoted statistics to justify the need for change.

In the last decade we have seen Agile, Scrum, Extreme Programming (XP) and Lean Software Development make claims of dramatic improvements.

Come see some master’s view of these claims. We will be publishing details over the next few months.

One such master is Jeff Sutherland, co-inventor of Scrum with Ken Schwaber. Here is a quote from Jeff’s blog:

“I just finished up the final draft of a revised paper on the SirsiDynix project, the most productive large Java project ever documented. A 56 member distributed/

outsourced team was split between Provo, Utah; Denver, Colorado; Waterloo, Canada; and St. Petersburg, Russia. They achieved almost the same productivity as a single, colocated Scrum team documented by Mike Cohn in his User Stories book.”

Also checkout ControlChaos.com and my website: JConne.com and follow my links.

More soon...
Jay Conne

Seven Lean Principles

From Poppendieck’s Lean/Agile SW Dev. Toolkit :-

1. Eliminate Waste
2. Amplify Learning
3. Decide as late as possible
4. Deliver as fast as possible
5. Empower the Team
6. Build Integrity In
7. See the Whole

GBC/ACM Meeting

The Dawning of the Age of Experience

Continued from page 1

speak about usability, you know that he’s one of the most effective, knowledgeable communicators on the subject today. What you probably don’t know is that he has guided the research agenda and built User Interface Engineering into the largest research organization of its kind in the world. He’s been working in the field of usability and design since 1978, before the term “usability” was ever associated with computers. Jared spends his time working with the research teams at the

company, helps clients understand how to solve their design problems, explains to reporters and industry analysts what the current state of design is all about, and is a top-rated speaker at more than 20 conferences every year. He is also the conference chair and keynote speaker at the annual User Interface Conference, is on the faculty of the Tufts University Gordon Institute, and manages to squeeze in a fair amount of writing time.

SIGCHI - Boston Chapter

Topic: “Can Social Networks Drive Design and Innovation?”

Speaker: Kate Ehrlich, IBM

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 13th, 2007, 6:30 pm

Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

Details: <http://www.bostonchi.org/>

Abstract:

Despite the frequent publication of “org charts” the way work actually gets done in companies is through personal networks that get built up over time. Consultants and researchers have begun to apply methods of social network analysis to gain insights into how people collaborate. A fascinating body of results is beginning to emerge that highlight how the structure and content of relationships in the workplace influence many facets of behavior and productivity. This talk will cover some of the basic principles of social network analysis and consider the implications of networks for innovation and design teams.

Bio:

Kate Ehrlich is Senior Technical Staff Member in the Collaborative User Experience group at IBM Research where she uses Social Network Analysis as a research and consulting tool to gain insights into patterns of collaboration in distributed teams. She has used SNA with over 60 groups covering team dynamics, knowledge and information flow, collaboration, communities, innovation, software development and governance structure. Kate has published several academic and general articles on SNA, given presentations on SNA and was recently interviewed for a Business Week article on use of SNA in organizations and on innovation

Kate originally joined Lotus in 1993, where she led research and consulting on expertise location and the role of intermediaries in knowledge transfer. She returned to IBM in 2003 after spending several years as Global Solution Lead for collaboration at Viant, a professional services organization.

Kate has a B.Sc in Psychology from the University of London and a PhD. in Cognitive Science from the University of Sussex, UK. She did post-doctorate work in cognitive science at University of Texas, University of Massachusetts and Yale. Kate has been active in several professional societies including the ACM SIG on Human Computer Interaction including founder of the Boston chapter and CSCW conference co-chair.

Directions:

Sun Microsystems, Inc.
1 Network Drive
Burlington, MA 01803

Refreshments at 6:30 pm. Meeting at 7:00 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public. Please RSVP when possible to BostonCHI@sun.com (Those who have not RSVP'd are always welcome.) A photo ID is required to gain admittance to Sun. Wheel chair accessible.

RSVP to Sun at least one day in advance so that they can premake badges and know how much FREE FOOD to provide. Sun has been extremely generous in not only providing a comfortable and convenient meeting place but also providing us with delicious, free food each month. If we tell them how many of us are coming, there is more likely to be enough food for everyone, plus people get into the building faster.

Call for Volunteers

There are many opportunities to help in the GBC-ACM. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please review the current volunteer opportunities listed below. If anything appeals to you or if you have a skill you would like to share, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jay Conne, M:(617) 470-5038, volunteer@gbcacm.org

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Secretary

Membership Chair

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead

BostonPHP User Group

BostonPHP is the unofficial, highly biased and overly ambitious PHP Users Group for Boston and its surrounding communities. Our membership ranges from newbie-to-techie. We discourage RTFM attitudes and encourage you to come see what PHP is all about.

BostonPHP works in conjunction with BostonPHP Meetup, usually meeting the first Thursday of every month for structured presentation at a local university or business location, and then typically moves on to a nearby restaurant/bar/pub for more informal discussion

Topic: February User Group:: Venture Capital 101

Date: Wednesday, February 7th, 2007

Time: 6:30 pm

Admission: FREE!

RSVP: <http://www.bostonphp.org/content/view/66/2/>

Location: IBM/Lotus

1 Rogers Street

Cambridge, MA 02142

Map: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=1+Rogers+Street+Cambridge+MA+02142+USA&hl=en>

Got a great idea but no money to fund it? Looking to move your company public? Not quite sure what a term sheet is or what it should look like? Wouldn't know bootstrap from mezzanine funding if you bumped into it on the street?

Join BostonPHP, Michael Skok of North Bridge Venture Partners, Larry Bohn of General Catalyst Venture Partners, Izhar Armony of Charles River Ventures and David Beisel of Masthead Venture Partners (and founder of the Web Innovators group - listen to BostonPHP's interview with David here : http://www.bostonphp.org/images/mp3/web_inno_5_8_06.mp3) to get answers to these and a host of other questions.

In addition to the basics, we will also delve into areas like:

- Why are VC's interested in OSS?
- Is VC funding obsolete in Web 2.0?
- Is mobile the micro payment savior - or will the Web's financial future remain in the hands of Google AdWords?
- What are the latest business OSS models and what's

GPL v3's impact on them?

Info/Notes: Take the Green Line to Lechmere, the IBM/Lotus facility is next to the Cambridge side Galleria at the Cheesecake Factory end. Plenty of parking (not free though).

Topic: March User Group:: PHP Frameworks part deux

Date: Wednesday, February 28th, 2007

Time: 6:30 pm

Admission: FREE!

Location: IBM/Lotus

1 Rogers Street

Cambridge, MA 02142

Map: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=1+Rogers+Street+Cambridge+MA+02142+USA&hl=en>

Please join BostonPHP when Seth Aaronson continues our panel discussion on how to select a robust PHP framework culminating in a "PHP framework bake-off" (more).

Showcased frameworks:

- Matthew Weier O'Phinney - Zend Framework developer, and
- Chuck Hagenbuch - founder of HORDE

Each framework will develop a CRUD (create, read, update, delete) catalog application (e.g. products and categories) that generates multiple formats (xhtml + some xml, etc).

NEJUG - The New England Java Users Group

Topics: Groovy for Java Programmers and Grails Agile Development
Date/Time: Thursday, February 8th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Speaker(s): Venkat Subramaniam
Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA
Directions: http://nejug.org/directions_sun.jsp

Details:

Session #1: Groovy for Java Programmers

Object-oriented scripting languages, or agile dynamic languages, as some like to call those, are gaining programmers' attention. Groovy brings this excitement to the Java platform with its ability to generate byte code. Now that Groovy is 1.0, you can use Groovy instead of Java for many parts of your application. By learning it, you can switch between the languages where you see fit.

In this session we will learn what Groovy is. We will take an example driven approach to look at interesting features. We will see how a piece of code you would write in Java can be written, elegantly, using Groovy. In addition to the current features, we will also discuss the state of the language and tools.

Session #2: Agile Web Development with Grails Agile

Development is all about developing code and seeking feedback from your users to make sure you're developing what's relevant. When they suggest changes, those must be affordable and reliable. Grails, along with its facility to develop test driven, is a killer combination for rapidly developing web applications. In this ZePo (Zero PowerPoint) presentation, we will take a test driven approach to developing a small but fully functional web application in Grails. We will cover the fundamental features of Grails along with utilizing other capabilities like Ajax. At the end of this presentation, you not only be confident, but eager to roll your own web application using Grails.

In this session you will learn

- How to create web application using Grails
- Take a Test Driven Approach to developing the application
- Understand Grails Conventions
- Learn how to use the code generators and how to manually create domain models, controllers, and view
- AJAX your application
- Integrate with database

About the speaker:

Dr. Venkat Subramaniam, founder of Agile Developer, Inc., has trained and mentored more than 3000 software developers in the US, Canada, and Europe. Venkat helps his clients effectively apply and succeed with agile practices on their software projects, and speaks frequently at conferences and user groups. He is author of ".NET Gotchas" (O'Reilly) and coauthor of "Practices of an Agile Developer" (Pragmatic Bookshelf).

Topics: Message Driven POJOs
Date/Time: Thursday, February 22nd, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Speaker(s): Mark Fisher
Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA
Directions: http://nejug.org/directions_sun.jsp

Details:

One of the most exciting new features of Spring 2.0 is its support for Message-Driven POJOs. It is now possible to receive JMS messages asynchronously and delegate the handling of those messages to simple objects. If your POJO has a return value, it will automatically be sent to a reply destination. Spring's messaging containers support configurable pooling of concurrent consumers and offer full integration with Spring's transaction management.

After a quick overview of Spring's JMS support, we will build a Message-Driven POJO sample application from the ground up. This will include sending a Message as a request and receiving a reply across separate JVMs. You will learn how to configure the Message-Driven POJO without writing a single line of messaging code.

About the speaker:

Mark Fisher is a senior consultant with Interface21 and has taught hundreds of Java developers attending Interface21's "Core Spring" course at public and onsite training sessions throughout North America. As a developer and architect with experience ranging from the persistence to the web tier, Mark has recently been most interested in messaging and integration. He is driven by the challenge of finding simple solutions to complex problems. In order to achieve this, he advocates agile methodologies, test-driven development, and of course lightweight frameworks such as Spring.

New England OpenSolaris User Group

<http://www.sun.com/neosug>

Topic: OpenSolaris.org project N.E. Users Group

Speakers: Simon Phipps, Dave Miner, and Peter Galvin

Date/Time: January 31, 2007 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Location: Sun Microsystems Campus, 1 Network Circle, Burlington MA

Contact: John Moore <John.Moore@sun.com>, (781) 442-6353

Solaris and UNIX Developers and System Administrators: The OpenSolaris.org project is launching a New England OpenSolaris User Group on January 31 in Burlington, MA.

You can register at <http://www.sun.com/neosug>.

The OpenSolaris community represents a wide variety of people, including developers adding functionality to the system or customizing the technology for new applications and platforms; system administrators implementing Solaris technology in data centers; educators and students researching operating systems in universities; and new users exploring the technology and discovering new opportunities that OpenSolaris offers.

The OpenSolaris site has nearly 60 active projects ranging from DTrace, ZFS, Zones, Virtualization, to driver development to Trusted Extensions and advanced security features. The OpenSolaris source code is cutting edge, and innovation is happening everywhere so we welcome your involvement.

The Inaugural meeting of the NEOSUG (New England OpenSolaris User Group) will be held on January 31, 2007 from 5:30-8:00 pm at the Sun Microsystems campus in Burlington MA.

The agenda for the evening will include an introduction to the OpenSolaris project, and a technical update on the most recent build of OpenSolaris Code.

Tentative Agenda

5:30-6:00	Registration, Refreshments
6:00-6:45	Introduction to the OpenSolaris Project
6:45-7:30	Technical overview - What's New in OpenSolaris
7:30-8:00	Closing: What's next for NEOSUG/ Q&A/ Ask the Experts

Special guests will include:

Simon Phipps, OpenSolaris Community Advisory Board Member and Chief Open Source Officer, Sun Microsystems -

Technology futurist Simon Phipps is a well-known computer industry insider and commentator who tracks FOSS industry events on technology trends and futures. Currently the Chief Open Source Officer at Sun Microsystems, Inc., he was previously involved in OSI standards in the 80s, in the earliest commercial collaborative conferencing software in the early 90s, in introducing Java and XML to IBM. Mr. Phipps is currently Chair of the OpenSolaris Community Advisory Board and takes an active interest in several free/open source software organizations. He holds a degree in electronic engineering and is a Chartered Engineer and Member of the British Computer Society.

Dave Miner, Solaris engineering and OpenSolaris community member - Dave Miner is a senior staff engineer in the Solaris development group at Sun Microsystems and an architect for the Installation technologies. He's also a lead for the Approachability and Installation communities and the Live Media project on OpenSolaris.org. Dave's background is in networking and system administration. During his 16+ year tenure at Sun, Dave has worked on several technologies including the original Solaris admintool, a product related to PC-NFS called SolarNet PC-Admin, the Solaris DHCP server and DHCP Manager management tool, and the Service Management Facility (SMF).

Peter Galvin, Chief Technologist, Corporate Technologies, Inc. - Peter Baer Galvin is the Chief Technologist for Corporate Technologies, Inc. (www.cptech.com) a systems integrator and VAR, and was the Systems Manager for Brown University's Computer Science Department. He has written articles for Byte and other magazines. He wrote the Pete's Wicked World and Pete's Super Systems columns at SunWorld Magazine. He is currently contributing editor for SysAdmin Magazine where he managed the Solaris Corner. Peter is co-author of the Operating Systems Concepts and Applied Operating Systems Concepts textbooks. As a consultant and trainer, Peter has taught tutorials in security and system administration and given talks at many conferences and institutions on such topics as web services, performance tuning, and high-availability.

The first 50 members to check in at the meeting receive an OpenSolaris T-shirt, so come early! Be sure to register at <http://www.sun.com/neosug> If you are not already registered for the OpenSolaris.org community, register at <http://opensolaris.org/register.jspa>.

For further updates on OpenSolaris User Group activities, go to <http://opensolaris.org/os/discussions/> and subscribe to the ug-neosug discussion alias if you'd like further updates.

Boston SPIN (Software Process Improvement Network)

Topic: Avoid Creep-Discover the REAL Requirements

Speaker: Robin Goldsmith

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 20th 2007, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

6:00-6:45	Networking and Roundtables
7:00-7:10	Announcements
7:10-8:10	Presentation
8:10-8:30	Questions and Answers

Location:

The MITRE Corporation,
Building S
202 Burlington Rd. (Rt. 62),
Bedford, MA 01730

Details:

Boston SPIN meetings are free. No RSVP is necessary. More details and directions can be found at the Boston SPIN webpage at <http://www.boston-spin.org>.

NOTE: Because of security concerns, you'll need a Picture ID and any large items you bring will be opened and inspected when you arrive. The earliest arrival time is 5:15 PM. No one will be admitted prior to that time. The building is secured at 8:30 PM. All attendees must have left the building by that time.

Abstract:

There's a simple (though not easy) way to avoid much of the requirements/scope creep that many developers assume is normal and unavoidable. "That's not what I expected" and "Users don't know what they want" indeed are repeatedly predictable outcomes of the inadequate way requirements are defined conventionally, but such problems can be avoided. Creep mainly occurs when system/software requirements fail to meet the REAL, business requirements--usually because developers don't recognize business requirements' importance or how to discover them.

In this well-received interactive session, based on his recent Artech House book *Discovering REAL Business Requirements for Software Project Success*, Robin describes powerful techniques for discovering the REAL requirements and documenting scope in ways that can dramatically reduce creep:

- Three Key Elements of REAL Requirements
- IT's View of Business and System Requirements
- Functional Specs and Use Cases
- REAL Business/User Requirements
- Why IT Keeps Missing the REAL Requirements
- Illusion of Requirements Gathering
- Detective Approach to Requirements Discovery
- Problem Pyramid(tm) Technique
- Getting the Problem Right
- 7 Guidelines for Documenting Requirements
- Conventional Scope Statements-That Creep
- Scope Statements that Don't Creep
- How to Do It Quickly

About the Speaker:

Robin F. Goldsmith has been President of Go Pro Management, Inc. consultancy since 1982. He works directly with and trains professionals in business engineering, requirements analysis, software acquisition, project management, quality and testing.

Author of numerous articles and the recent book *Discovering REAL Business Requirements for Software Project Success*, and a frequent speaker at leading professional conferences, he was formerly International Vice President of the Association for Systems Management and Executive Editor of the *Journal of Systems Management*. He was Founding Chairman of the New England Center for Organizational Effectiveness. He belongs to the Boston SPIN and served on the SEPG'95 Planning and Program Committees.

Mr. Goldsmith Chaired BOSCON 2000 and 2001, ASQ Boston Section's Annual Quality Conferences, and is a member of the ASQ Software Division Methods Committee.

He holds the following degrees: Kenyon College, A.B. with Honors in Psychology; Pennsylvania State University, M.S. in Psychology; Suffolk University, J.D.; Boston University, LL.M. in Tax Law. Mr. Goldsmith is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and licensed to practice law in Massachusetts.

MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL)

HCI Seminar Series Spring 2007

Time: Fridays, 1:30 pm

Place: Star Seminar room (32-D463).

Refreshments served 15 minutes before each talk. Add yourself to the mailing list to receive announcements. Contact Rob Miller (rcm@csail.mit.edu) with questions

Gregory Abowd , Georgia Tech
TBA

Date: Friday, February 2th, 2007

Time: 1:30 - 2:30pm

Refreshments: 1:15pm

Location: Patil/Kiva G449

Contact: Michael Bernstein, (949) 300-2421,
msbernst@mit.edu

Dertouzos Lecturer Series 2006/2007

The Dertouzos Lecturer Series has been a tradition since 1976, featuring some of the most influential thinkers in computer science, including Bill Gates, Steven Jobs, Donald Knuth, John McCarthy, and Mitchell Kapor. Formerly the Distinguished Lecturer Series, the series has been renamed in memory of Michael Dertouzos, Director for the Lab for Computer Science from 1974 to 2001.

Professor Robert J. Full , University of California at Berkeley

TBD

Date: Thursday, March 15th, 2007

Time: 4:00 - 5:30pm

Refreshments: 3:45pm

Location: TBD

Contact: Victoria Palay, (617) 253-8924,
palay@csail.mit.edu

Harvard IIC

Schedule and Location:

- Seminars run just over one hour and are held at 60 Oxford Street / Room 330 [map]:http://www.map.harvard.edu/level3.cfm?mapname=camb_allston&tile=F6&quadrant=B&series=NW unless otherwise indicated. At 60 Oxford, please inform the security guard you are attending the IIC seminar.
- Event parking is available at the 52 Oxford Street Garage [map]:http://www.map.harvard.edu/level3.cfm?mapname=camb_allston&tile=F6&quadrant=B&series=NW . Please inform the parking attendant you are attending the IIC seminar.
- Refreshments are served 15 minutes before the seminar begins.
- For additional information, please call or email the IIC [email]: iic_innovate@harvard.edu

Details: <http://www.iic.harvard.edu/event10.php>

Speakers:

Jim Gray, researcher and manager of Microsoft Research's eScience Group, Alex Szalay, Alumni Centennial Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, The Johns Hopkins University, Curtis Wong, manager of the Microsoft Next Media Research Group

Time: 4:00pm

Topic: TBD

Date: Tuesday February 13, 2007

Speakers:

Joy Sircar,
CIO, Harvard Engineering & Applied Sciences,
Project Director, The Harvard Crimson Grid Project

Topic: IIC Panel - National Virtual Observatory Publishing Peer-Reviewed Literature and Data Science in an Exponential World

Time: 4:00pm

Date: Tuesday February 13, 2007

Computing the Shape of a Space

(Afra Zomorodian)

Maxwell Dworkin G125

Ice Cream at 3:30 - Maxwell Dworkin 2nd Floor Lounge Area

February 1, 2007

4:00 - 5:00pm

Description Harvard University

Computer Science Colloquium Series

33 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA 02138

Colloquium

Computing the Shape of a Space

Afra Zomorodian

Computer Science Department

Dartmouth College

<http://www.cs.dartmouth.edu/~afra/>**Abstract**

For any problem, we can identify a space within which the solution lies. The shape of this space is critical in whether we succeed in finding the solution. Most disciplines take a quantitative approach, analyzing the geometry of the solution space. However, the topology of the space - how it is connected - impacts the effectiveness of the resulting geometric algorithms. Such topological questions have given rise to the area of computational topology.

In this talk, I discuss persistence homology, a computational approach to discovering the connectivity of a space. Persistence reveals the underlying algebraic structure of a multi-scale view of a sampled space. I begin by motivating the approach through examples from computer graphics. After describing the theory, I present applications in biophysics and analysis of natural images. Finally, I motivate the need for multidimensional persistence and give a brief overview of a recent theoretical result.

Host: Professor Steven Gortler**VMware Virtual Infrastructure 3 and the Changing Role of the OS**

(Tichomir Tenev & Scott Devine)

Maxwell Dworkin G125

Ice Cream at 3:30PM - Maxwell Dworkin 2nd Floor Lounge Area

February 8, 2007

4:00 - 5:00pm

Description Harvard University

Computer Science Colloquium Series

33 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA 02138

Colloquium

VMware Virtual Infrastructure 3 and the Changing Role of the OS

Tichomir Tenev and Scott Devine

VMware

<http://www.vmware.com>**Abstract**

There is a significant change underway in systems infrastructure. The traditional infrastructure model of a single monolithic system running a single, monolithic OS and a single application at wastefully low levels of utilization is obsolete. There is a rapid shift by customers to an infrastructure that is fully virtual, simpler and robust, composed dynamically from granular and standard physical hardware components. Virtual Infrastructure has emerged as the new model for customers to deliver systems infrastructure services universally to any application and OS by harnessing pools of server, storage and network. In this model, the operating system's role has changed from managing the underlying infrastructure to providing the best set of services for applications. As OSes become customized and integrated with the application stack, virtual appliances are emerging as the optimal mechanism for customers and software vendors to deploy and manage software in a virtualized world.

Host: Professor Michael Smith**Evaluating OS's to Enhance Robustness**

Neeraj Suri

Maxwell Dworkin G125

Ice Cream at 3:30PM - Maxwell Dworkin 2nd Floor Lounge Area

February 15, 2007

4:00 - 5:00pm

Description Harvard University

Computer Science Colloquium Series

33 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA 02138

Colloquium

Evaluating OS's to Enhance Robustness

Neeraj Suri

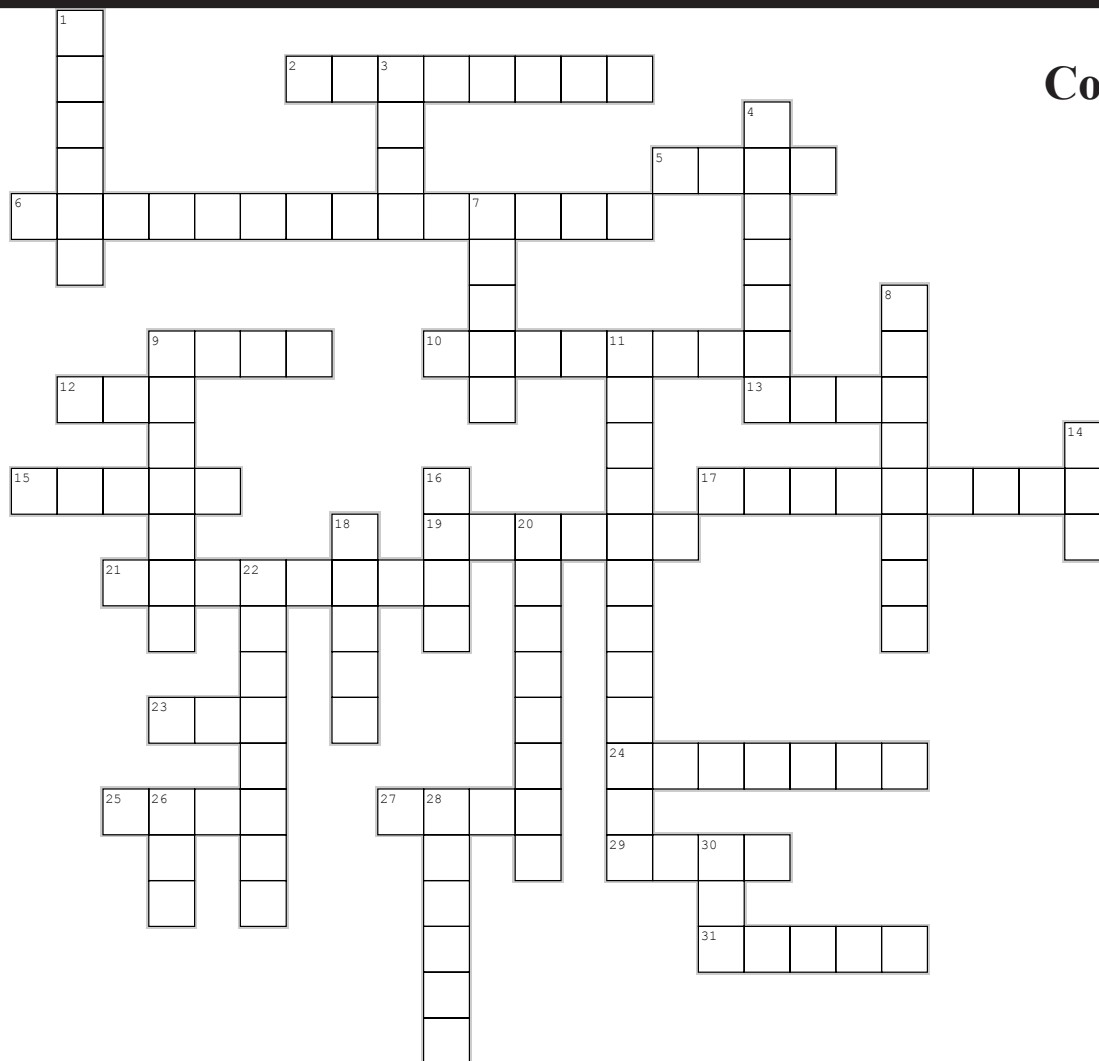
TU Darmstadt, Germany

www.deeds.informatik.tu-darmstadt.de/suri**Abstract**

While the elusive quest of perfect-by-design software continues, in the meantime software/OS's unfortunately still continue to expand on Murphy's laws of failures. At the OS level, the complexity of run time software interactions and especially the plethora of add-on device drivers makes providing for robust OS operations an even harder challenge. As analytical/formal techniques are often constrained in handling the operational and growing OS state space complexity, this work investigates the use of complementary experimental techniques to first profile and locate robustness vulnerabilities, and subsequently add (post-design) wrapper code to enhance OS robustness. To systematically drive this process, a basic objective targets development of realistic and measurable OS robustness quantifiers.

The talk delves into the joys and travails of experimentation abetting theory and vice-versa!

Host: Professor Greg Morrisett



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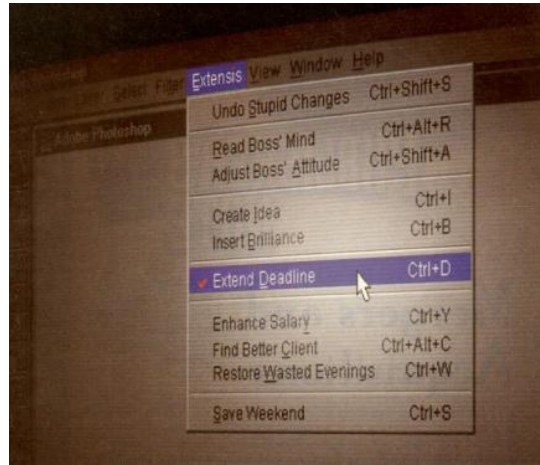
Across

2. Combines processors into a single package
5. Place on the outside of a computer where you plug in a cable that connects the computer to other devices, such as a printer
6. Abbreviated as Fx or FF
9. Dynamic programming language which is known for its strengths in string processing
10. Computer Equipment
12. Software architecture that defines the use of loosely coupled software services to support the requirements of business processes and software users
13. Reflective, dynamic, object-oriented programming language
15. International effort to create an easy-to-use computing platform built entirely from free software
17. Industrial specification for wireless personal area networks
19. Object-oriented high-level programming language which has a fully dynamic type system and uses automatic memory management
21. Set of instructions that lets a person perform certain tasks
23. Main international standards organization for the World Wide Web
24. Computer operating system developed by Sun Microsystems
25. Family of computer programming languages with a long history and a distinctive fully-parenthesized syntax
27. Umbrella organization for national societies working in the field of information technology
29. Web development technique for creating interactive web applications
31. Small device used for controlling most computer functions

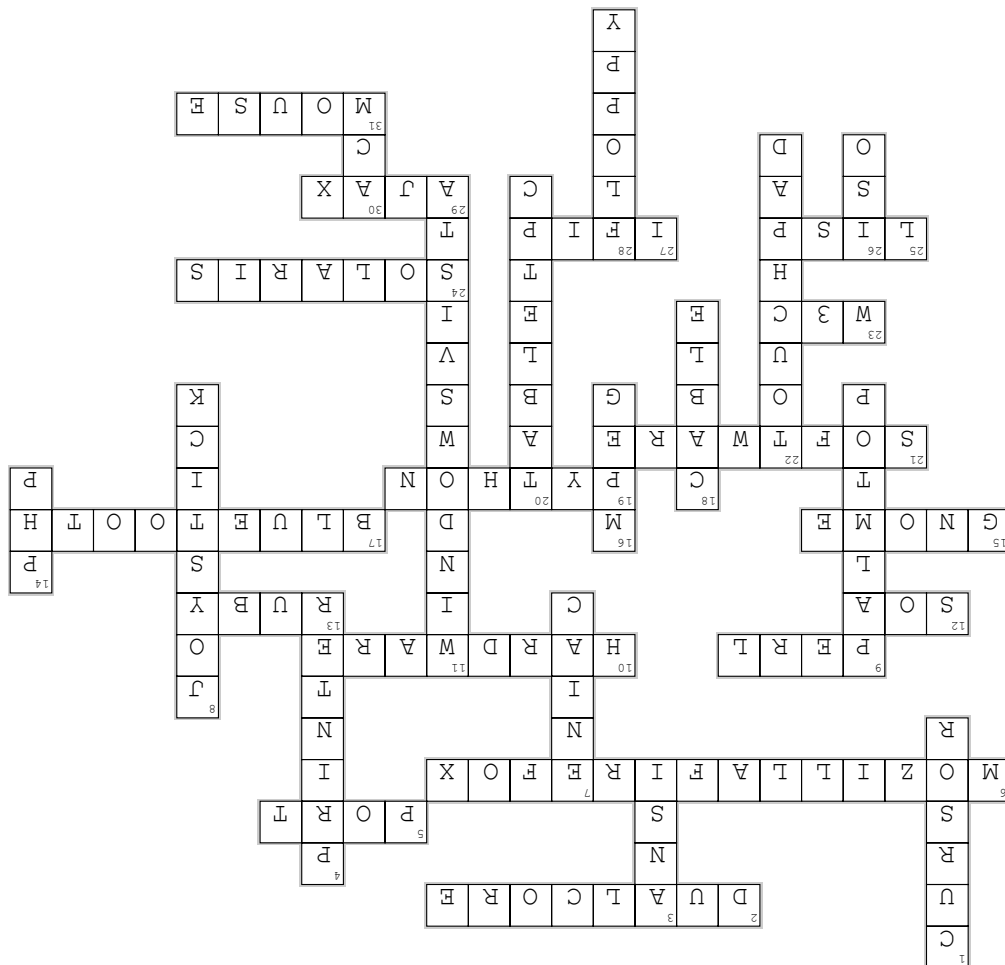
Down

1. Sign on a computer screen that shows where you are writing.
3. Private nonprofit organization that oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards for products, services, processes, systems, and personnel in the United States
4. Device used to make hard copied of content stored on computer
7. First large-scale, electronic, digital computer capable of being reprogrammed to solve a full range of computing problems
8. Device used to control the movements and direction of a video-game character
9. Handheld PC
11. Previously known as Longhorn
14. Reflective programming language originally designed for producing dynamic Web pages and remote application software
16. Working group of ISO/IEC charged with the development of video and audio encoding standards
18. Covered bundle of wires that carries electronic messages
20. Notebook- or slate-shaped mobile computer
22. Input device commonly used in laptop computers
26. International standard-setting body composed of representatives from national standards bodies
28. Computer diskette
30. World's first scientific and educational computing society

I spent a fortune on a 60 - inch plasma television and now you'd rather watch programs on a 2 inch video- screen ?!!!



Solution:



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BNUG - The Greater Boston Network Users Group New England SQL Server User Group

Topic: Online Backup Technologies and DR Recovery Options Presented by Amerivault
<http://www.amerivault.com/>

Date/Time: February 6th, 2007, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Details: Refreshments served at 6:30 pm

Location: Microsoft
 201 Jones Road
 Waltham, MA 02451

Directions: [Click Here](#)

Venue: Microsoft offices in Waltham, MA
Directions: [Click Here](#)

Date: February 8th, 2007

Time: 6:30 pm

Title: Topic TBA

Speaker: Adam Machanic - Data Manipulation Group, Inc.

Adam will present on a developer-centric SQL Server topic.

Date: March 8th, 2007

Time: 6:30 pm

Title: In-depth AS/SSIS

Speaker: Raheel Retiwalla - Microsoft

Analysis Services and SQL Server Integration Services are key components of Microsoft's BI stack. Find out from BI expert, Raheel Retiwalla, how best to leverage them for your firm's BI needs.

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***** February/March 2007 Events Calendar *****

Date	Sponsor	Location	Page number
January 31th	N.E. OpenSolaris User Group	Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA	Page 7
February 1st	Harvard Eng & Applied Sciences	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	Page 10
February 2nd	CSAIL	60 Oxford Street / Room 330	Page 3
February 7th	Boston PHP User Group	IBM/Lotus, Cambridge, MA	Page 5
February 8th	NEJUG	Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA	Page 6
February 8th	Harvard Eng & Applied Sciences	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	Page 6
February 13th	SIGCHI	Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA	Page 7
February 14th	SQGNE	Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA	Page 2
February 15th	GBC/ACM IEEE Computer Society	IBM Innovation Center, Waltham, MA	Page 1
February 20th	Boston SPIN	MITRE Corporation, Bedford, MA	Page 2
February 22nd	NEJUG	Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA	Page 6
February 28th	Boston PHP User Group	IBM/Lotus, Cambridge, MA	Page 5
March 14th	SQGNE	Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA	Page 2
March 15th	GBC/ACM IEEE Computer Society	IBM Innovation Center, Waltham, MA	Page 1

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