



The Real Times

Vol. 46 No. 8

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October 2007

GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting Thursday, October 18th, 2007 *A Mobile Phone Ecosystem*

Speaker: Jamey Hicks,
Nokia Research Center Cambridge

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: MIT E51-325

Directions: http://whereis.mit.edu/bin/map?locate=bldg_e51. The red building is Bldg. E51; the T symbol at the top is the Kendall T-Station. 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.

Details: <http://www.gbcaacm.org/website/semInfo.php?id=1138>

Joint Meeting with Boston / Central New England Chapter of IEEE Computer Society

Overview: Mobile phones have become essential parts of our lives and are rapidly becoming the primary personal gateway to information and services. In addition to phone calls and text messaging, we use phones for email, web browsing and in the future will use them as wallets, information repositories, and personal information assistants. However, many challenges exist to realizing this vision on such small and personalized devices. For that reason, Nokia and MIT CSAIL have engaged in a joint research program to advance the state of the art in the mobile phone ecosystem. In this talk, I will explain our vision of the mobile ecosystem and describe some of our projects, which range from new tools and techniques for chip design up to spoken dialog based interfaces and the semantic web.

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GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting Tuesday, November 13th, 2007 *Global Trends in the Personal, Service and Mobile Robotics Market*

Speaker: Dan Kara,
President, Robotics Trends

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: MIT E51-345

Directions: http://whereis.mit.edu/bin/map?locate=bldg_e51. The red building is Bldg. E51; the T symbol at the top is the Kendall T-Station. 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.

Details: <http://www.gbcaacm.org/website/semInfo.php?id=1139>

Joint meeting of Boston/Central New England Chapters of IEEE Computer and Robotics and Automation Societies and GBC/ACM

Overview: Advancements in robotics technology in the form of software, sensors, microprocessors, micromechanics and microelectronics, coupled with the economics of volume production, now make it possible to develop wholly new, low-cost, highly functional robotic products and robotically enhance existing product lines, as well as automate complex tasks formally handled by humans. As a result, individuals, businesses and governments across the globe are hard at work developing new robotic applications to meet critical needs in many areas such as medical care, the environment and defense, as well as less serious robotic devices that entertain and educate us. In this session attendees will learn how areas of the world differ in their approach to the new personal, service and mobile robotics industry, in terms of areas of focus, funding, as well as design and development approaches. The topic of careers in robotics will also be discussed.

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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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Oct/Nov Meetings

Software Quality Group of New England (SQGNE)

Topic: System Testing – Why, What and How

Speaker: Carol Perletz, Jupiter Networks

Date/Time: Wednesday, Oct 10th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

6:00 - 6:30 Networking

6:30 - 8:00 Business and Presentation

Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

Directions: <http://www.swqual.com/SQGNE/directions.html>

Topic: Goal-Question-Metric (GQM) and Software Quality

Speaker: Howie Dow

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

6:00 - 6:30 Networking

6:30 - 8:00 Business and Presentation

Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

Directions: <http://www.swqual.com/SQGNE/directions.html>

Boston Area Windows Server User Group

Topic: Lee Benjamin (Joint Meeting with Exchange Users Group)

Date/Time: Wednesday, Oct 3th, 2007, 6:00 pm

Topic: Wireshark demo / Introduction – Jack Daniels.

Date/Time: Wednesday, Nov 7th, 2007, 6:00 pm

Location: Microsoft, Waltham, MA

Directions: <http://www.microsoft.com/mscorp/info/usoffices/newengland/waltham.mspx>

Boston Linux and Unix Group

Topic: Introduction to Splunk, “The IT search engine”

Location: MIT Building E-51, Room 315

Time and Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2007 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Details: <http://www.blu.org/cgi-bin/calendar/2007-oct>

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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>

GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting

Thursday, November 15th, 2007

Visualizing Wikipedia: A tale of life, love, and bureaucracy

Speaker: Fernanda Viegas and
Martin Wattenberg,
IBM Visual Communication Lab

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: MIT E51-325

Directions: http://whereis.mit.edu/bin/map?locate=bldg_e51. The red building is Bldg. E51; the T symbol at the top is the Kendall T-Station. 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.

Details: <http://www.gbcacm.org/website/semInfo.php?id=1140>

Joint meeting of Boston/Central New England Chapter of IEEE Computer Society, ICCA and GBC/ACM

Overview: We report on Wikipedia's evolution from a curiosity to a point of first reference for millions. Applying data visualization techniques to Wikipedia's historical archives uncovers a story in three acts: life, love, and bureaucracy. "Life" refers to the impressive ability of Wikipedia to heal itself after vandalism and errors. "Love" is reflected in the overwhelming scale of individual production and the passion shown by devoted editors. And bureaucracy--an unexpected aspect of a free-spirited community--is becoming prevalent as the site scales, with emerging formalized processes and roles that help ensure quality.

Lecturer's Biography: Fernanda Viégas and Martin Wattenberg are research scientists in IBM's Visual Communication Lab. Viégas is known for her pioneering work on depicting chat histories and email. Wattenberg's visualizations of the stock market and baby names are considered internet classics. The two became a team in 2003 when they decided to visualize Wikipedia, leading to the "history flow" project, discussed in this talk, that revealed the self-healing nature of the online encyclopedia. They are currently exploring the power of web-based visualization and the social forms of data analysis it enables.

GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting

Tuesday, December 11th, 2007

The Open Cell Project: Analysis, Design and Construction of Simple Living Systems

Speaker: Tom Knight, MIT CSAIL

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: Broad Institute Auditorium

Details: <http://www.gbcacm.org/website/semInfo.php?id=1141>

Joint meeting of Boston/Central New England Chapter of IEEE Computer Society and GBC/ACM (cosponsored and hosted by the Broad Institute)

Overview: The science of biology typically studies systems at a level of complexity far beyond our understanding. As we attempt to approach biology from an engineering perspective, this complexity becomes a major impediment to progress. As engineers, our approach is to design and build systems from well-understood, simple parts, assembled with tried and true techniques. My recent work has centered on the understanding and modification of a particularly simple living system -- one which could be said to be barely alive. I'll explain how we are approaching the level of understanding of this organism necessary for its engineering, and how we hope to create an open access platform for construction of novel and simple living systems.

Lecturer's Biography: TK has been extending the reach of computer science in new directions for several decades. You can find more information on Tom Knight's web page at <http://www.csail.mit.edu/biographies/PI/bioprint.php?PeopleID=2033>.

The meeting will be held at the Broad Institute Auditorium. MIT Building NE30 (also known as the Broad Institute) is next to the Whitehead Institute on Main St. between Vassar and Ames Streets. You can find it on MIT's map server at http://whereis.mit.edu/map-jpg?selection=L13;selectlayer=Landmarks;selectfieId=Loc_ID;zoom=level2:centerx=711002;centery=496995. The main auditorium is on the first floor near the entrance. More detailed directions are available at <http://www.broad.mit.edu/info/visiting.html>. the social forms of data analysis it enables.

Upcoming conferences of interest

The Spring Experience: Interface21 and NoFluffJustStuff Java Symposiums (NFJS) are pleased to announce The Spring Experience, the first ever conference exclusively for the Spring Framework community. This international event will take place December 07 - 10, 2005 at the Sheraton Bal Harbour Beach Resort in South Florida. To register reference the JUG promo code: tse2007jug100 which will gives all NEJUG members a \$100 discount good thru November 5th.

The AJAX Experience (here in Boston) Oct 24-26: For NEJUG members if you mention specify the 'NEJUG' discount code you are eligible for a \$400 discount.

Pearson's Google Web Toolkit (GWT) conference in San Fran (Dec 3-6, 2007): Google Web Toolkit enables developers to use their favorite Java tools to build AJAX applications without having to tackle the steep learning curve and quirks of JavaScript and CSS. The Voices That Matter: Google Web Toolkit Conference will insure you understand why this is so and how you can leverage the power and functionality of GWT for your applications. Best of all, NEJUG members are entitled to a \$100 discount off any core conference package if you enter 'GW-GATL' as the priority code.

OOPSLA Conference (Montreal) October 21-25

Boston CHI

MPK20: Sun's Virtual Workspace

messaging client with advanced presence features; and SharedShell, a multi-user terminal program that works across firewalls. Nicole holds six patents related to interaction design and has published numerous articles and book chapters on collaborative environments, speech applications, and hypertext. She has served on the organizing and program committees of conferences such as CHI, CSCW, UIST, ASSETS, and Hypertext, and she is the Venue Coordinator for BostonCHI.

Her Sun website is at <http://research.sun.com/people/mybio.php?uid=18674>.

GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting

Thursday, October 18th, 2007

A Mobile Phone Ecosystem

Lecturers Biography: Dr. Jamey Hicks is the Director of Nokia Research Center Cambridge. He joined Nokia in September 2005 to lead NRC Cambridge. Jamey's research and technology interests include computer architecture, mobile computing, user interfaces, and open source software. Prior to joining Nokia, Jamey was a researcher at Digital/Compaq/HP Cambridge Research Laboratory in Cambridge, MA from 1996 until 2005. Previously, Jamey worked at the Motorola Cambridge Research Center on dataflow parallel computing. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from MIT in 1992.

GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting

Tuesday, November 13th, 2007

Global Trends in the Personal, Service and Mobile Robotics Market

Lecturers Biography: Dan Kara is President of Robotics Trends, a division of EH Publishing, an integrated media firm focusing on the personal, service and mobile robotics industry. Prior to forming Robotics Trends, Dan was co-founder, Executive Vice President and Chief Technical Officer of Intermedia Group, a leading integrated conference and media company focused on emerging information technology markets. He has also served as VP of Advanced Information Technology Research at Sentry Group, VP and Director of Research at Ullo International, and as Senior Vice President and Chief Technical Officer of Software Productivity Group, an integrated publishing, conference and analyst services firm focused on the enterprise software marketplace. He holds a M.S. in Computer Science from Boston University.

Online chapter membership signup and renewal now available!

We can now offer chapter membership signup and renewal payments online using Google checkout. The annual chapter membership fee is still currently \$10.00 and you can pay for multiple years. The membership payment page is located at the following URL.

<http://www.gbcaacm.org/website/renew/>

If you have any questions, please contact the membership volunteer at membership@gbcaacm.org

Boston SPIN

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2007, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM

Topic: Why Stories Matter: Storytelling and Use Case Scenarios in Technical Organizations

Speaker: Laura Packer

Venue: MITRE, Bedford, MA

Abstract: Human beings tell stories. It's what we do when we describe our day, explain our history and talk about our work.

Users tell stories to describe their experiences with our products.

By working storytelling into product development, and specifically into Use Case scenarios, we can gain a greater understanding of how real users will interact with products.

A company that has an active storytelling and listening culture is more likely to develop usable products, have a more dynamic product development process, and a more fluid and effective communication style.

About the Speaker: Laura has been telling stories her whole life; her mother reports she was born talking.

She has featured at the Usability Professionals Association conference as both a performer and presenter, taught at NASA and other large technical organizations, and has told stories at Boston First Night, international festivals, conferences and more; this autumn she is telling at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN and at the Boston Fringe Festival.

Boston CHI

Topic: MPK20: Sun's Virtual Workspace

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2007 - 6:30 PM

Speaker: Nicole Yankelovich, Collaborative Environments, Sun Microsystems

Venue: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

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.

Abstract:MPK20 is a 3D virtual world designed to support remote collaboration. MPK20 is based on the Project Darkstar gaming platform and the Project Wonderland 3D virtual world toolkit. In the MPK20 virtual world, people can conduct business, interact with team members, and have chance encounters with colleagues, all using natural voice interaction. Most importantly, real work can be accomplished within MPK20. With Wonderland's support of X and Java applications coupled with application sharing capabilities, people can create, edit, and share documents within the virtual world.

Bio: Nicole Yankelovich is Principal Investigator of the Collaborative Environments project at Sun Microsystems Laboratories in Burlington, MA, where she has worked for the past 16 years. Her areas of expertise include collaborative computing, speech applications, hypertext, and user experience design. Recent collaboration prototypes include MPK20, a virtual world for business collaboration; Porta-Person, a telepresence device; Meeting Central, a suite of tools to augment audio conferences; Awarenex, an instant messaging

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

Newsletter co-editor
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

Date/Time: Wednesday, Oct 3th, 2007, 6:30pm

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>

Scrum is one of the fastest-growing Agile methodologies used to rapidly develop products in shorter time and that meets the ever changing needs of today's business.

It was formalized over a decade ago by Ken Schwaber and Dr. Jeff Sutherland, and it's now being used by companies large and small, including Yahoo!, Microsoft, Google, Lockheed Martin, Motorola, SAP, Cisco, GE Medical, CapitalOne and the US Federal Reserve. Many teams using Scrum report significant improvements, and in some cases complete transformations, in both productivity and morale. For product developers - many of whom have been burned by the "management fad of the month club" - this is significant. Scrum is simple, powerful, and rooted in common sense.

Join BostonPHP and Michael Bourque as he presents the concept of Scrum and shows why so many people are now deploying scrum to their development projects. Michael will take us through the process and talk about how his company, Parametric Technology Inc. (PTC), is successfully applying Scrum.

New England Visual Basic Professionals

Topic: WPF Means Business

Date: Nov 1st, 2007 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Speaker: Michael Hennessy, Networkers, Inc.

The New England Visual Basic Professionals User Group meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month to discuss Visual Basic.Net and related technologies such as SQL Server, Access, Mobile Development, Object Oriented programming, Web Services, and XML. A little classic VB comes up every once in a while.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month from 6:15 to 8:30 at Microsoft's Waltham office at 201 Jones Rd

Topic: How to get your OSS venture off the ground.

Date/Time: Wednesday, Nov 7th, 2007, 6:30pm

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>

Join Michael Skok (North Bridge Venture Partners) and Jay Batson (Founder of Acquia, Inc.) as they discuss what's needed to turn your PHP/OSS idea into a living, breathing business...in other words, the things that are important to have in place in order to fund your open source software technology company.

We will explore what's necessary (beyond simply building a better mouse trap) to get your idea to the altar and how to live happily ever after...

- * What do investors look for;
- * how do you build a team;
- * where do you find talent;
- * methods of validating business models;
- * What else is needed, and
- * where do you find it?
- * ...and a whole lot more.

Michael Skok, General Partner, North Bridge Venture Partners

Michael Skok joined North Bridge Venture Partners in 2002. Prior to this Michael had been an entrepreneur and CEO in the software business for over 20 years. Michael founded, led and attracted over \$100m in private equity to his investments in several successful software companies ranging from CAD/CAM, Document Management, Workflow, Imaging and Collaboration, Security to Analytics and spanning the Mini Computer, Workstation, PC, Client Server and Internet eras.

Six of these companies were successfully acquired by Siebel, Platinum, FileNet, Banyan and IBM and two went Public, including Symantec for whom he built Symantec UK into their most profitable international business.

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NEJUG - The New England Java Users Group

Topics: JBoss Seam

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct 18th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Speaker(s): Michael Yuan

Location: Sun Microsystems Burlington Campus

Directions: http://nejug.org/directions_sun.jsp

Overview:

Discover JBoss Seam: the Unified Framework for Simpler, More Powerful Web Development

JBoss Seam integrates EJB 3.0 and JSF components under a unified framework that simplifies and accelerates Java EE web development. Now, JBoss Seam's project leader and technology evangelist take you inside this powerful new technology, showing exactly how to put it to work.

Michael Yuan shows how JBoss Seam enables you to create web applications that would have been difficult or impossible with previous Java frameworks. Through hands-on examples and a complete case study application, you'll learn how to leverage JBoss Seam's breakthrough state management capabilities; integrate business processes and rules; use AJAX with Seam; and deploy your application into production, one step at a time. Coverage includes

- How JBoss Seam builds on—and goes beyond—the Java EE platform
- Using the “Stateful Framework”: conversations, workspaces, concurrent conversations, and transactions
- Integrating the web and data components: validation, clickable data tables, and bookmarkable web pages
- Creating AJAX and custom UI components, enabling AJAX for existing JSF components, and JavaScript integration via Seam Remoting
- Managing business processes, defining stateful pageflows, and implementing rule-based security
- Testing and optimizing JBoss Seam applications
- Deploying in diverse environments: with Tomcat, with production databases, in clusters, without EJB 3, and more

About the speaker:

Ryan Cuprak is an e-Formulation Analyst at Engenuity PLM and heads the Connecticut Java Users Group. He previously worked at Eastman Kodak Molecular Imaging Systems and TurboWorx.

Beantown.NET

Meeting Location:

Hollister, Inc.
75 State St., 9th Floor
Boston, MA
<http://www.hollisterstaff.com/>

Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm

Meeting is open to everyone so bring your friends and co-workers. If you're planning to come, please send an RSVP using the contact form on the blog (<http://blog.benday.com/contact.aspx>) by 3pm on 10/4 – and let me know if you want free pizza.

- October 4 – Chris Bowen (Microsoft) on P&P and Enterprise Library 3.0
- November 1 – Michael Stiefel (Reliable Software) on Software-Oriented Architecture
- December 6 – Josh Smith (New York Times) on WPF

OWASP Boston Chapter

Topic: Privacy in the 21st Century

Time: 6:30pm to 9pm

Location: The Boston OWASP Chapter meets the first Wednesday of every month, 6:30 pm at the Microsoft offices at the Waltham Weston Corporate Center, 201 Jones Rd., Sixth Floor Waltham, MA.

First Presentation -

George Johnson, Principal Software Engineer EMC; CISSP

An Introduction to Threat Modeling.

George does threat modeling at EMC and will do a threat modeling session with the audience. The goal is to show how the process works, what kind of thinking you need to do, and how you figure out which parts of the software you should address.

Second Presentation -

Jim Weiler CISSP

Web Application Security and PCI compliance.

Having gone thru a PCI audit of some large ecommerce applications, Jim will talk about the different ways PCI requirements apply to web applications, and web application security design decisions that can effect PCI compliance.

IEEE Robotics and Automation Society

Topic: Marine Structure Inspection Using Autonomous Underwater Robots

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Location: MIT Stata Center (Building 32)
32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA

Time: Doors open: 6:00 PM
Presentation: 6:30 PM
Testing Tank tour: 7:15 PM

Presenter: Franz S. Hover,
Assistant Professor, MIT

Overview: Increased security concerns in the commercial shipping and naval communities have recently brought attention to the problem of inspecting marine structures. The inspection environment is dangerous for humans due to cluttered spaces and poor visibility in many ports. A novel robot developed by MIT in collaboration with Bluefin Robotics has completed a number of sea trials, confirming robust 100% coverage and acoustic-based imaging. Operations are enhanced by on-line map-building and map-based navigation, because conventional absolute positioning systems are sometimes not available. Operations are also enhanced by biomimetic vehicle design, which can achieve impressive maneuvering that is advantageous in shallow,

energetic, and cluttered waters. This talk will describe the vehicles developed for this application and our strategies for control and navigation, and give an overview of results we have achieved. A tour of the MIT Testing Tank will follow.

BostonPHP User Group

How to get your OSS venture off the ground

Michael has served on many private and public company boards as well as supported various software industry groups such as the Software Publishers association where he was Chairman for a number of years in Europe. He is currently active on the boards of all his recent investments including Acquia, Active Endpoints, Demandware, Lumigent, MyPerfectGig, rPath and wis.dm.

Jay Batson, Founder of Acquia, Inc.

Acquia, Inc is a venture-backed open source software company recently launched in the Boston area. Prior to Acquia, Jay was the founder and CEO of Pingtel, an open source voice over IP PBX software company, which was financed by leading venture firms and strategic partners. Jay has over 20 years experience in the software and hardware technology business. He has held various management and technical positions including BBN, Cayman Systems, and ON Technology, as well as working as the leading analyst for Forrester Research into IP internetworking and Internet industries in the mid 1990's.

Are you a member? Is your membership expired? *

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. Paying for multiple years can save effort for you and us. Please mail in your membership form today!

(*Check your address label for expiration date.)

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*** Oct/Nov 2007 Events Calendar ***

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If your membership has expired, please consider renewing it for one or more years. Currently the membership fee is only \$10/year. Your support helps make possible the wide array of GBC/ACM activities.

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First Class:
Dated Materials

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