


Date of event	Page	Sponsor	Location
Jan. 13	3,7	SIGGRAPH	Boston Museum of Science
Jan. 19	4	SPIN	GTE
Jan. 21	1	GBC/ACM	BBN
Mar. 20	7	GBC/ACM	MIT
Apr. 10	5	GBC/ACM	MIT
May 1	5	GBC/ACM	MIT

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# The Real Times

Vol.37 No.4

[www.acm.org/chapters/gbc](http://www.acm.org/chapters/gbc)

Jan 1999

GBC/ACM Monthly Meeting  
Jan. 21, 1998 at BBN

Code Inspections  
Benson Margulies, VP and CTO of Basis Technology

Meeting starts at 6:30 pm with refreshments  
Presentation begins at 7:00pm

Code inspection is often discussed as a software quality or software process technique. Many people think of it as part of a large, bureaucratic process in which code passes through many steps and many hands before it sees the light of day. Developers, and even managers, often think of it as a waste of time imposed on them by some 'quality process' (e.g. ISO-9000) rather than as an effective tool for solving or preventing problems.

Performance problems present themselves as fire drills. You have a choice. You and your development group can join the Keystone Kops, or you can stop, take a deep breath, and apply an organized process to the problem. Code inspection, combined with an appropriate methodology for gathering data and performing experiments, can be a powerful part of that process. In that process, you and your group can learn to treat performance as a central part of the product's quality, and apply those lessons to solving problems before they escape to the field and come back around to bite you.

Benson Margulies is the Vice President and CTO of Basis Technology. He has been in the engineering and engineering management trenches of software development for many years. His experience ranges from secure operating system development on Multics to Object Oriented Database design and implementation at Object Design to model-based SQL access for the web

Directions to Bolt Beranek and Newman (BBN)/Recorded directions: (617) 873-4567

**From Route 128, Lexington:** Take Route 2 inbound. The four-lane highway narrows to two lanes near Route 16. At the traffic light bear right onto Alewife Brook Parkway. Proceed past shopping centers to the Fresh Pond Rotary. Take the first right onto Concord Avenue. Fawcett Street is one block down Concord Avenue, on the right.

**From the Mass. Pike:** Take the Pike inbound to the Cambridge/Allston exit. Exit onto the Cambridge off-ramp and take Cambridge Street. Turn left onto either Storrow or Memorial Drive. (Storrow Drive is on the Boston side of the Charles River and Memorial Drive.)

**From Storrow and Memorial Drives:** Take Storrow or Memorial Drive west: follow signs to Route 2,3,16. Remain on 2. The road will become narrow and winding. This is the Fresh Pond Parkway. Several car dealerships and Fresh Pond Seafood will be on the right. At the 1st rotary, take the third right onto Concord Ave. Continue straight at the second rotary. Fawcett is one block further on right. Once on Fawcett St. the Newman Auditorium is about 1/2 block, on the right. Park in the lot on the right side of the street; the lot is adjacent to the auditorium building.

**Public Transportation:** Take the T to Harvard Square. From Harvard Square take the Concord Ave./Belmont Center bus. Get off at Fawcett St.

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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 or third-class postage paid at Boston, MA 02101, Lexington, MA 02420, and other post offices.

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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.

Postmaster:

Address changes should be sent to the mailing address above. Allow eight to ten weeks for changes to address or membership renewal to become effective. Send old label with address modifications

**Oops!**

We noticed much too late that the GBC/ACM logos (the ones with the sailing ship) somehow didn't make it to the previous Real Times issue. We don't know what happened yet, it's probably one of those PageMaker mysteries. We're still learning how to drive this software.

**We still need volunteers!**

We have a critical need for volunteers to serve on a committee to manage the monthly meetings in a more orderly fashion. The tasks involved include contacting speakers to give talks, dealing with local companies to obtain a location for us to have the meetings, someone to get the goodies (cheese, crackers, etc) (you will be reimbursed, of course), and getting an appropriate announcement to the Real Times editor (whoever that is at the moment) so that the meeting can be publicized.

We have volunteers who have agreed to do the PDS brochure and the Real Times (thanks to Peter Carmichael and Peter Mager), but it would be nice to have backup volunteers just in case.

**More PDS info**

The exact text of the PDS brochure is still under development. But this issue includes preliminary versions of the text that will go into the brochure. The final wording will change, and we still have to decide on session chairs and the exact books to be sold with each session. Watch for up-to-date information in future issues of Real Times!

The information included here is rough and unfinished, but is included anyway so that you can plan ahead of time to attend these sessions.

**How can we make the Real Times better?**

We try as best we can to get essential meeting announcements into the Real Times (and usually succeed). But there are probably many ways in which the Real Times can be made better and more useful. What would you like to see in the Real Times? What events, book reviews, etc. would you like to see? Even better, would you like to help? <hint> <hint>  
For a local example of a well-done newsletter, see the back issues on the SPIN web site at <http://www.cs.uml.edu/Boston-SPIN>. It shows we have a long way to go to get the Real Times up to that standard.

# Come and show us your stuff!

Come and exhibit at the Boston  
Chapter of ACM/SIGGRAPH's

## Exhibition and Career Fair

**Wednesday, January 13, 1999**  
**6:30 P.M. at the**  
**Boston Museum of Science**

ACM/SIGGRAPH Boston can deliver computer professionals in the New England area that your company can impress, sell to, or hire. For more information contact Olin Lathrop, (978) 772-3129, olin@cognivis.com or check out <http://www.siggraph.org/chapters/boston/expo>.



## PRELIMINARY PDS INFO

Saturday March 20, 1999

- Introduction to UML

- Else-Marie Östling

### Overview:

This seminar provides an overview of the eight diagram notations included in the UML standard specification. It explains how the different notations are used throughout a project lifecycle to help build better, more robust business applications. Starting with use cases and sequence diagrams to document requirements, the seminar continues with class diagrams, collaboration diagrams, activity diagrams, etc. to create a robust architecture. A case study is used to clarify how the notations are used at different points in the project lifecycle. The seminar also provides an overview of objects as a source for system architecture, as well as project planning and project management with UML.

### Who Should Attend:

This seminar is designed for analysts, designers, developers of business applications, as well as project managers and business analysts. A Basic understanding of object technology and abstract problem definitions is helpful.

### Objectives:

Upon completion of this seminar, students will have a clear understanding of the UML diagram notations, and understand how the UML notations can be used to build a better system and architecture

### Seminar Topics:

Background of the UML, The UML notations, Building use case models, Describing use cases, Building class models, Refining class models, Planning for implementation

### Lecturer:

Ms. Else-Marie Östling is President and Chief Technologist at BIRKA Group, Inc., where some of her responsibilities include development of the Practical UML™ process, BIRKA's process for software development. Ms. Östling specializes in mentoring and knowledge transfer of object-oriented modeling, architecture, and application development, and has worked with a wide variety of client organizations in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. She has over 15 years experience in methods and process development, with an emphasis on object technology. Ms. Östling is a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars all over the world.

Software Process Improvement Network (SPIN)  
January Meeting Announcement  
Topic: Optimum Software Testing  
Speaker: Bill Silver

When: Tuesday, January 19, 1998. 6:30pm-8:30pm

6:30-7:00 Networking and Round Tables  
7:00-7:10 Announcements  
7:10-8:10 Bill Silver: Optimum Software Testing  
8:10-8:30 Questions and Answers

Who: Everyone (Academia, Government, Industry)  
Location: GTE, 77 "A" St., Needham MA.  
Info: See our web page, <http://www.cs.uml.edu/Boston-SPIN>  
For SPIN info, contact Johanna Rothman, 781-641-4046, or jr@jrothman.com

Abstract:

Bill will present a practice-based methodology for assessing true software engineering capability, and how to apply it to software testing. In addition to 12 metrics that measure the overall performance of the software testing life cycle, Bill will discuss how the assessment directly links test capability with test life cycle performance and overall corporate business performance.

This talk will use the assessment methodology to answer a number of questions:

- What is quality?
- How valuable are consistent processes?
- What does process improvement mean?
- What are metrics?
- What is the difference between QA and testing?
- How can we assess the effectiveness of assessment methodologies?

Monthly Round Table Announcement - 6:30 - 7:00 PM, before SPIN Meetings

What: These are focused group or "birds-of-a-feather" sessions. We are looking for topics that you want to discuss. Propose your issues or topics as a Round Table and find solace and good ideas from the movers and shakers in the software community. Round Tables are generally informal discussions, with a facilitator, to stimulate and moderate discussion. Seating is limited to 10 people per table, so come early! For roundtable information or if you would like to facilitate a round table, contact Caroline J. Starita, 978-442-4004 or staritac@amp.com

Directions: From Route 128 in Needham, take exit 19A onto Highland Avenue East. Take your first right by the Ground Round and take your second left onto "A" Street. GTE is the last building on the right. Enter the parking lot by the GTE sign and come into the building by the cafeteria entrance, which is located to the left of the main entrance. There will be a security guard at the entrance.

SPIN Sponsors: GTE Government Systems, Needham, MA

We thank the Computer Science department of UMass-Lowell for providing support and hosting our web page.

## Preliminary PDS Info

Saturday April 10, 1999

- Fundamentals of WWW Security  
- Lincoln Stein

### Overview:

What's to Worry About? Unfortunately, there's a lot to worry about. If you are an end user, you might think that Web surfing is safe and entirely anonymous. It's not. If you are a Webmaster, an attack on your site can threaten your job security. Whether motivated by thrills or financial gain, Internet vandals break into Web sites with unnerving regularity. If you are the network administrator, a Web server represents yet another way that your local network's security can be compromised. A poorly configured Web server can punch a hole in the most carefully designed firewall system. Conversely, a poorly configured firewall can make a Web site impossible to use.

### Who Should Attend:

The seminar is intended for a general audience. The first part of the seminar, on client-side security and document confidentiality, will be of interest to everyone. The second part, which focuses on server side security issues, will get into more details, and be of interest to Webmasters and system administrators.

### Objectives:

This tutorial will disentangle the jargon-laden and overhyped field of security on the World Wide Web. The three sections of this tutorial will take you through the three main divisions of Web security: client-side security, server-side security and document confidentiality. In each section, I will explain the specific risks in realistic terms and show you practical measures you can take to minimize them.

### Lecturer:

Lincoln Stein is an M.D. and Ph.D. who was Director of Informatics at the MIT Genome Center between 1992 and 1996 and is now a research scientist at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories. He is author and maintainer of the World Wide Web Security FAQ (part of the W3C security pages <http://www.w3c.org/Security>) and speaks on Web Security issues for Computer Security Institute and Web Design and Development.

## Preliminary PDS Info

Saturday May 1, 1999

- Getting Started with Swing Components  
- John Zukowski

### Overview:

In the beginning, there was Java's Abstract Window Toolkit (AWT): a collection of graphical user-interface (GUI) components that furnished native look-and-feel, along with some basic graphic rendering capabilities. Programmers realized that Java's AWT lacked several capabilities commonly found in modern programs. Netscape's Internet Foundation Classes (IFC) and Microsoft's Application Foundation Classes (AFC) gained popularity. Both of these provided a richer component set for use within Java programs. Their major problem was that they weren't part of the Java Core API. If you wanted to use them within an applet, each user had to download the IFC or AFC package. If you wanted to use them within an application, you had to deliver the entire IFC or AFC package with your program. If multiple vendors provided programs that each used IFC or AFC, each would deliver the full package with their program, as an application or an applet. Sun later added the Swing component set from the Java Foundation Classes (JFC) to the Java core...

### Who Should Attend:

This seminar is for someone that already has a basic understanding of programming Java user interfaces.

### Objectives:

This seminar gives a detailed look of the Swing component set for existing Java programmers and describes the Model-View-Controller (MVC) and Pluggable Look-and-Feel (PLAF) architectures used by Swing. Also, transitioning tips are provided to previous AWT 1.1 developers.

### Lecturer:

John Zukowski is a Software Mage with MageLang Institute. He received a B.S. in computer science and mathematics from Northeastern University and M.S. in computer science from Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of "Java AWT Reference" from O'Reilly & Associates as well as "Borland's JBuilder: No Experience Required" and "Mastering Java 1.2" from Sybex. In addition, John has authored numerous Java technologies articles and serves on the Senior Advisory Board of JavaWorld. John also is the founder of the Mid-Atlantic Java User Group, the vice-chairman of ACM's WebTech user group, and the "Focus on Java" online guide for The Mining Co.

## Books for Sale

GBC/ACM has the following books leftover from previous seminars available for sale. They are available on a first come first serve basis. Checks will be returned if the book is no longer available.

Title	Author	List Price	ACM Price	Quantity	Total
The JAVA Programming Language	Ken Arnold	\$34.38	\$25.00		
The HTML3 Manual of Style	Larry Aronson	\$24.95	\$20.00		
Inside OLE 2 (copyright 1994, w/diskettes)	Kraig Brockschmidt	\$49.95	\$10.00		
About Face: The Essentials of User Interface Design	Alan Cooper	\$29.25	\$20.00		
Working with Active Server Pages	Michael Corning	\$39.99	\$25.00		
JAVA: How to Program (with CD)	Paul Deitel	\$99.95	\$55.00		
JAVA: How to Program (book only)	Paul Deitel	\$51.00	\$40.00		
The SGML FAQ Book: Understanding the Foundation of HTML and XML	Steve DeRose	\$68.00	\$55.00		
A Discipline for Software Engineering	Watts Humphrey	\$47.29	\$35.00		
Real-Time Systems Design and Analysis	Phil LaPlante	\$69.95	\$55.00		
Concurrent Programming In Java	Doug Lea	\$39.76	\$30.00		
The C++ Programming Language, 3rd Ed	Bjarne Stroustrup	\$42.99	\$30.00		
Shipping and Handling - \$4.00 per book			\$4.00		
Check Total - payable to GBC/ACM					

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bernie Ganino, 12 Fellsmere Ave. Wakefield, MA 01880

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Come to the Boston Chapter  
of ACM/SIGGRAPH's

## Exhibition and Career Fair

Along with the 11th Annual  
Film and Video Show



**Free Admission**

**Wednesday, January 13, 1999**

**6:30 P.M. at the Boston Museum of Science**

See product demonstrations from some of the leading computer graphics software and hardware companies from around the country. Submit resumes to companies that are currently hiring the hottest software and hardware engineering talent in New England. Sit back and enjoy the best computer animation from the SIGGRAPH '98 Conference.

### Last Years Exhibitors:

Advanced Visual Systems  
Artel Software Inc.  
ATI Research, Inc.  
Avid  
Cadapult Graphic Systems, Inc.  
Great Eastern Technology  
Integrated Computing Engines, Inc.

MAK Technologies  
Mitsubishi Electric Information  
Technology Center America  
NeTpower, Inc  
SensAble Technologies, Inc.  
SOFTIMAGE Inc.  
Weather Services International

In cooperation with the Greater Boston Chapter of ACM

For the latest updates check out:

**<http://www.siggraph.org/chapters/boston/expo>**