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# The Real Times

Vol.36 No.10

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

June 1998

GBC/ACM Monthly Meeting and Officer Elections  
June 18, 1998 at BBN

Groupware Programmability and the Internet: Domino and Java  
with Bob Balaban

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

#### Abstract

Lotus Domino has since 1990 been widely recognized as the best and most popular groupware applications development platform. Its architecture combines platform independence, networking, messaging, object storage and forms development technologies in a client/server framework. Then came the Internet. In 1995 and 1996 the buzz in the industry was that Notes/Domino was dead, roadkill on the information superhighway. But that didn't happen. In 1998 Domino is more popular than ever. One of the factors in the "reinvention" of Domino as an Internet/intranet development tool has been its embrace of "open standards", both in the communications area and in terms of programmability.

The ability to write programs that make use of the robust service layers in Notes/Domino and make the product do precisely what you want it to in an automated fashion is one of its great strengths.

Beyond an overview of what Domino is and does, this talk surveys the Domino programmability landscape, with particular attention to the recently developed Java apis. Time, interest and equipment permitting, there will be a demo or two, and we can even look at some code.

#### Speaker Info

Bob Balaban worked as a developer at Lotus Development Corp and at Lotus subsidiary Iris Associates for over ten years (over four years as an engineer working on Domino). He left Lotus/Iris last fall to start Looseleaf Software, Inc., a software consulting and contract development firm. Among other accomplishments at Lotus, Bob was the principal architect of the agent subsystem in Domino, and was the author of both the LotusScript and Java programming interfaces. He lives in Lexington, Mass., and has been a GBC/ACM member since 1981.

(continued on page 2) with GBC/ACM election information

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 02173, 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 02173.  
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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.

# Election of Officers

## June 18, 1998

### GBC/ACM

## Meeting at BBN

### Nominations for Officers for 1998-99 of the Greater Boston Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery

**PRESIDENT:**

James Ganino is the current Vice-President. He has been active with the GBC's PDS Committee for the last six years as the financial planner for the committee and recently as a session chair for two seminars. James works at TASC, in Reading, MA, as a member of the technical staff both as a software engineer and as systems programmer supporting a variety of systems development, distributed simulations, and networking projects.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:**

Jim Byrd has been a volunteer with the PDS committee for four years. Jim is a programmer, working for Atex Media Solutions, in Bedford.

**TREASURER:**

Stephanie Collins is the current Chapter Treasurer. Prior to becoming the Treasurer, she was a member of the GBC PDS Committee for many years as analyst for our seminar feedback forms. Until recently, Stephanie was a Professor at Northeastern University in the Business School and is now a Professor at the Graduate School of New Hampshire College. She is also an independent consultant and developer of distributed client/server applications.

**SECRETARY:**

Ed Bristol is our incumbent Secretary and a long time IEEE volunteer and leader. Ed is well known for his work and writing on Process Control Systems with some ninety papers published and numerous professional awards. Currently Ed is a Fellow at The Foxboro Co.

**PARKING** - Parking is available in the Lotus garage provided you arrive before 7:00 p.m. Drive up to the garage entrance on First St. and tell the guard over the speaker that you are there for the SIGCHI meeting and they will let you park in the Lotus garage.

**MBTA Directions:** Ride the Green Line to the Lechmere stop. Exit Lechmere station, walk to the right about 100 feet and turn right to walk through the tunnel. When you exit the tunnel, continue walking straight across through the traffic light and down First street. Go past the Galleria Shopping Mall on your left and past the traffic lights. The entrance to the Lotus building is on First St. You go under an archway between two sides of the building and enter the lobby to the left. Information Systems, 110 Innovation Drive, Irvine, CA 92626, fax (714) 856-7510 or e-mail: [staffing@cissc.canon.com](mailto:staffing@cissc.canon.com).

**USENIX**

**Linus Torvalds and Richard Stallman will participate in the USENIX Annual Conference  
June 15-19, 1998, at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.**

This year the conference includes a special track showcasing the latest developments and interesting applications in FreeBSD, GNU, Linux, NetBSD, OpenBSD, Samba, and more. FREENIX offers 28 talks, plus evening BoF sessions. Share ideas and actual code with developers and avid users of freely redistributable software.

Other highlights of the USENIX Conference: \*Cutting-edge research to keep you ahead of the technology curve \*Keynote by the Amazing” Randi \*22 in-depth tutorials from Eric Allman, Tom Christiansen, Evi Nemeth, Marcus Ranum, and other expert instructors

Dennis Ritchie with a perspective on the original UNIX paper \*Eric Raymond and Kirk McKusick on “The Cathedral and the Bazaar” software development model

Beyond Wearable Computing” by Steve Mann \*The latest products to test drive in the Exhibition Hall  
Full program and on-line registration: <http://www.usenix.org/events/no98/>

Sponsored by USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association FREENIX is co-sponsored by The FreeBSD Project, Linux International, TheNetBSD Foundation, Inc., and The OpenBSD Project

<b>GBC/ACM Member Registration Form</b>			
International ACM# _____	Subtotal		
GBC ID# _____ or \$10 (required)	\$10		
Pay to GBC/ACM with Check or money order Only	<b>Total</b>		
<b>Batch:</b>	<b>Chk #</b>	<b>Trans. #</b>	<b>Date</b>
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# Fall 98

TOPIC:  
Real-Time Systems Design: Current Issues and Challenges

SPEAKER:  
Phil Laplante, Founding Dean of the BCC/NJIT Technology and Engineering Center

SESSION CHAIR: Yaz Shaghaghgi <yShaghaghgi@draper.com>

ABSTRACT:  
Real-time systems have been the subject of study, debate and misunderstanding for over 40 years. For too long the chasm between theorists and practicing engineers has been wide, though slowly shrinking. In this seminar we look at what a real-time system really is, what special challenges a real-time system poses to those building them, and practical techniques for building real-time systems. A special look at useable research results is also included.

# Fall 98

TOPIC:  
XML and XLink

SPEAKER: Steve DeRose, Adjunct Associate Professor, and Visiting Chief Scientist at Brown University's Scholarly Technology Group and Chief Scientist at Inso Corporation.

SESSION CHAIR: Ernesto Guerrieri <e.guerrieri@ieee.org>

ABSTRACT  
This seminar will present two major standards from the WWW Consortium: XML and XLink at a novice-to-intermediate level. XML, the Extensible Linking Language, was developed by a W3C Working Group chaired by Jon Bosak. It provides a way to define tag-sets for particular purposes as needed, thus going beyond HTML which is a single general-purpose set of tags, useful for many purposes but not optimized for any one. As one trivial example, someone doing mail-order catalogs online cannot have a PRICE tag in HTML, but can create what they need in XML. A wide variety of XML tag-sets are already in development or in active use. This tutorial will explain the underlying design principles of XML, its differences and similarities to other documents representations (SGML, HTML, word processor formats, etc), and how it can be usefully applied today. XLink is being developed as part of the XML Working Group, but will likely become a separate working group shortly. It provides added functionality for hypermedia, beyond what is available on the current Web, even allowing for the addition of XML.

**Fall'98 PDS Topics and Speakers  
— preliminary information: (dates  
TBD)**

# Fall 98

**TOPIC:**

Using COM to Develop Distributed Component Software for Windows NT

**SPEAKER:**

David S. Platt, President of Rolling Thunder Computing and an instructor in Computer Science at Harvard University

**SESSION CHAIR:** Jim Byrd <Byrd@acm.org>

**ABSTRACT:**

The software industry is moving to a horizontal approach, in which a software manufacturer assembles binary components written by different vendors. COM, the Component-Object Model, is a binary mechanism whereby one component locates, connects to, and interoperates with another.

This seminar will start with the definition of a COM object and a COM interface. We will then examine the simple COM objects provided by the operating system, looking to abstract the conceptual simplicity, consistency, and elegance of the COM way of doing things. We will proceed to writing our own COM objects and interfaces and the support we need to provide to the operating system to accomplish this. Finally, we will look at how COM objects operate between different machines in a distributed computing environment.

**Fall'98 PDS Topics and Speakers  
— preliminary information: (dates  
TBD)**

**JUNE GB/SIGCHI MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT****Broadband and the Web: Designing for High-Speed Residential Internet Users.****David Drucker and Leslie Ruckert, MediaOne Express****Tuesday, June 16th 1998****Refreshments at 6:30, meeting at 7:00****Lotus, One Rogers St., Cambridge, MA****(directions & parking info below)****Free and open to the public.****For more information please contact the program chair:****Ron Perkins****rperkins@shore.net ( email preferred)****978-465-6083****Abstract**

High-speed continuous connections to the Internet are finally beginning to reach homes. Cable and phone companies, through diverse technologies like Cable Modems, xDSL and others, are introducing residential computer users to the level of connectivity that until now has been available only to people in workplaces with company intranets. These new levels of Internet service rewrite the rules for design of web sites for the general public. Or do they? In this talk, David Drucker and Leslie Ruckert, two people who have had hands-on experience with designing and producing content for the new medium of high-speed web sites, share their experiences, findings, and viewpoints. They will discuss how high-speed connections can increase the options available to designers, how project management and product development of these new web sites are affected, and how continuous connections can change the entire philosophy and character of the web. As multimedia designers and producers who have moved from CD-ROM to narrowband Internet and now to broadband, they will describe what has changed and what has stayed the same along their journey.

**About the Speakers**

David Drucker is Technical Lead in the Content group of the Broadband Data Services division of MediaOne, where he has worked on web sites to support and enhance the high-speed Internet service, MediaOne Express. Before his work at MediaOne, he worked in New Product Development at Ziff-Davis Interactive where he helped design and develop the interfaces and architecture for the web sites of MSNBC's "The Site" and "Computer Shopper's NetBuyer." David has been a Consultant, Trainer, Author, Developer, and Composer. As a computer consultant and interface designer with his own firm of Drucker Associates, his clients included Lotus Development, Sun Microsystems, Apple Computer, The Harvard Business School, The United States Coast Guard, PictureTel Corporation, and The New England Journal of Medicine. He has written two books on the Macintosh, "Cool Mac Stacks" which dealt with Apple Computer's HyperCard software, and "The QuickTime Handbook", which he co-authored with Michael Murie, was the first comprehensive book on this now-standard multimedia technology. He studied at the University of Cincinnati and

Cambridge University, receiving a degree in Music Composition, and his music has been published by Zalo Press.

Leslie Ruckert has worked in World-Wide Web project management and production for three years. She started in the high-tech field six years ago through multimedia production at Learningways Inc. in Cambridge, MA, producing curriculum and consumer CD-ROM software products for Davidson and Associates and Simon and Schuster, and managing the design and development of their internal authoring tools. She later moved to project management and marketing for Mazer Digital Media, a CD-ROM and Web development company in Charlestown, MA, providing guidelines for new technologies and user interface to clients who were often new to digital media. In 1996, she co-founded Interactive Constructs, Inc., a Java development company in Arlington, MA. Since joining MediaOne last year, Leslie has been managing high-bandwidth-content projects for broadband customers.

**Directions**

The Lotus building is on the corner of First St. and Rogers St. in Cambridge, a few blocks from the Science Museum. (Note that there is another Lotus building on Cambridge Parkway next to the Sonesta hotel. Don't go to that one.) The meeting will be held in Auditorium A, on the first floor.

One possible route: Get on Cambridge Avenue heading east. Cambridge Ave. starts at Sanders Theatre/Memorial Hall in Harvard Square. Proceed until you come to the Lechmere Green Line T stop which is above ground on the left. Turn right onto First St. Go a couple of blocks and watch for the entrance to the Lotus parking garage in the middle of the building on the left. If you need further directions, contact the editor.

**SIGGRAPH/Boston Meeting Announcement  
A Dialogue With Computer Artists  
Wednesday, June 3, 1998  
at GTE Labs, Waltham, MA.**

Is the computer just another tool of production for visual artists? The June meeting will address this question by asking a panel of digital visual artists to discuss why they use the computer in creating their works. This will be a lively discussion between the audience and the artists. Bring your questions, comments, thoughts on the role of artists in computer graphics. Topics for discussion include:

1. What does the computer offer that traditional media do not?
2. What are the drawbacks, and what are the advantages of digital art?
3. Does current technology meet the needs of artists?
4. How has the use of the computer changed the creative process?
5. How has the shift in the market place impacted on artistic production?
6. Has the use of computer graphics in popular art (as well as fine art) changed the role of the artist?

The panelists represent a wide range of professional practice from fine artists to artists operating in the business world. Paul Badger, Alyce Kaprow, Ryan Lesser, Naomi Ribner, & Cynthia Beth Rubin

Paul Badger considers the computer a useful tool but a really intriguing subject for artwork. "We've all become computer scientists in a way. A knowledge of computers such as operating systems, memory, and graphics cards has percolated throughout society along with cybernetic metaphors. Without engaging in hyperbole, it remains to be seen where the coevolution of humans and machines will lead us." Mr. Badger is interested in public art projects along with a gallery practice that has included art exhibitions at Siggraph, ISEA and numerous national gallery exhibitions. [http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Visual\\_Arts/Badger/badger.html](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Visual_Arts/Badger/badger.html)

Alyce Kaprow, principal of the New Studio, is a consultant to developers and users of graphic interface-interaction design and applications in interactive new-media. Her work includes system design, functionality specification and user interface/interaction design. Additionally, her research specializes in cross-media and multimedia opportunities for the graphics arts industries and application and equipment specification for graphic designers/artists and print production specialists. <http://www.newstudio.com>

Ryan Lesser is a Vice President and Director of Zap Media in Providence. As a visual artist and musician, Ryan concentrates his efforts in the realms of 3d and 2d animation, video compositing and special effects. He is also an Instructor of Digital Animation and Electronic Imaging at the Rhode Island School of Design and visiting instructor of Digital Media at Palm Beach Photographic Workshop. <http://www.zapmedia.com/about/ryan/ryan.html>

Naomi Ribner is a mixed media artist who combines new media with traditional printmaking processes. She exhibits her work internationally, and has won awards and fellowships, including the New England Foundation for the Arts fellowship. She teaches Electronic Imaging, Multimedia and Drawing at Wellesley College. She also teaches digital imaging courses at the Interactive Factory in Boston, MA. <http://www.wellesley.edu/DavisMuseum/WWWStudioRibner.html>

Cynthia Beth Rubin is an independent computer artist based in Providence. Rubin's projects include computer animations and computer painting/collages. Her artwork has been featured in symposia and festivals including ISEA, SIGGRAPH, Imagina and ARCADEII and her work has been selected for inclusion in curated exhibitions in Brazil, Israel, Canada, the Netherlands, and France. She is currently serving on the board of ISEA. Rubin also teaches occasional courses at the Rhode Island School of Design. <http://CBRubin.net/art>

**When**  
Wednesday, June 3, 1998. Networking time at 6:30pm, announcements and feature presentation at 7:00pm.  
**Where**  
GTE Labs, Waltham, MA.

**Directions to GTE Labs.**  
From Route 128 (interstate 95), get off at exit 27B, Winter Street, in Waltham.  
From I-95 (128) South the exit leads you right onto Winter Street.  
From I-95 (128) North, turn right at the light at the end of the exit, onto Wyman Street, turn right again at the next opportunity, onto Winter Street, and cross over I-95.

Go West on Winter Street through 3 closely spaced traffic lights, staying in the right lane. The Cambridge Reservoir appears on your right and the entrance to GTE Laboratories (40 Sylvan Road) is on the left. About halfway past the buildings, turn right under a pedestrian bridge joining two buildings. The entrance is in the building on your right from the central courtyard. Park in the central lot, follow the signs pointing to Lobby 2 and the Auditorium and sign in at Lobby 2 (in the northeast-most building).

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SIGGRAPH/Boston Contacts WWW: <http://www.siggraph.org/chapters/boston>

SIGGRAPH/Boston maintains a mailing list for e-mail announcements of meetings. Send e-mail to [siggraphdistrib-request@cs.umb.edu](mailto:siggraphdistrib-request@cs.umb.edu) if you want be added or dropped from this list.