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ARE YOU EXPIRED ?

If the top line of your mailing label below reads ****EXPIRED****, please renew your membership at the very affordable rate of \$10/yr. Please consider renewing for more than one year at time. It saves all of us some labor. For that \$10 you get your very own copy of this newsletter/local event calendar. And, not to worry, we know our database can handle the century boundary because at least one member has paid through the year 2000! Thank you.



The Greater Boston Chapter of the 
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The Real Times

Vol. 36 No. 1

www.acm.org/chapters/gbc

September 1997

Computer Society - Thursday, September 18

Jointly sponsored by the GBC/ACM and IEEE/CS Boston Section

Using the TPC-D as a Data Warehouse Performance Predictor

with Michael Steinmann, Director of Technology, Tessera Enterprise Systems



Meeting begins at 7:00pm (with refreshments at 6:30pm)
at Bolt, Beranek & Newman, 70 Fawcett Street, Cambridge, MA.



This is our second presentation on Data Warehousing. The Transaction Processing Council, an independent industry standard and testing organization, has developed the TPC-D Benchmark to measure query performance. Understanding how to use the TPC-D metric is very useful for planning a Data Warehouse.

OVERVIEW

This presentation explains a methodology for using the TPC-D benchmark as a configuration and capacity planning tool for Data Warehouse environments. Different hardware architectures are compared, based on their TPC-D results. We will identify new hardware trends, and will see how the benchmark can be used as a predictor of Data Warehouse performance.

Presentation Outline:

1. Model the Hardware requirements of Data Warehouses
2. Review the Historical Platforms used for DWG
3. Why do we need a tool for Configuration and Capacity Planning
4. What are the goals of the TPC-D benchmark

5. Learn how to use the TPC-D benchmark as a performance tool
6. Identify the leading hardware architectures for DWG
7. Identify the future hardware architectures for DWG
8. The future and trends for IO performance

BIOGRAPHY

Michael Steinmann is Director of Technology at Tessera, with responsibility for the management of data warehouse systems architecture and development. Michael has had over 10 years experience in the Relational Database Field. Prior to joining Tessera, Michael was a Principal Systems Engineer at Sun Microsystems Computer Corporation. In this position, Michael was responsible for creating large scale systems configurations for Customers looking to implement Data Warehouses and other large scale OLTP installations on Sun hardware. These architectures included configuration and capacity planning involving all the major Relational Database Vendors, DB/2 (IBM), Oracle, Informix, Sybase, etc.), networking infrastructure and supporting technologies. Before working at Sun Microsystems, Michael was a Principal Technical Account Manager for Ingres Corporation.

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.
(617) 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.

Subscriptions:

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.

SIGGRAPH/Boston September Meeting

The Rapidly Changing Face of Computing Seminar

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

6:30 (Networking / Refreshments) 7:00 (Meeting)

GTE Labs
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA

Free admission - Wheelchair accessible

For more information, contact: WWW: <http://www.v-site.net/siggraph-ne>
or Ed Council at elc@timberfield.com
(508) 872-5522

OVERVIEW:

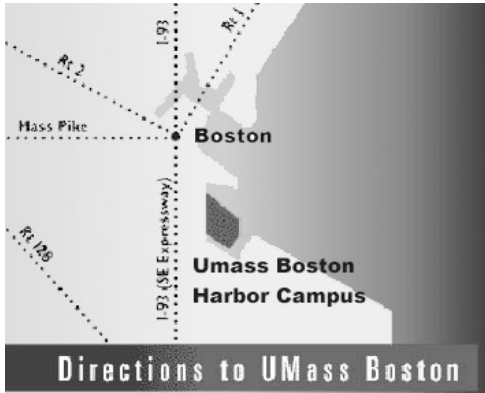
Developments in computer graphics are not separate from the constant innovation in the computer industry. Peoples' computing environments are changing at an ever-increasing rate. Driven by constant technological innovation and the convergence of the Computer industry with the Communications, Content, and Consumer Electronics industries, the approaching "Information Utility" has profound implications on the types of computer users of the future, and on the products and services that they will find available and valuable. Using videos of industry visions of some of the possible outcomes of Convergence - viewed from the perspective of the end-users - this interactive lecture will help you explore the implications of these changes. Using these insights as a base, you will be better able to consider ideas for how your specific business, and your career, can evolve to continue to have value to add to your current and potential customers' changing computing landscape.

BIOGRAPHY:

Jeff Harrow is a Senior Consulting Engineer with Digital Equipment Corporation's Corporate Strategy & Technology Group, and is Manager of Corporate Strategy Communications. He was once a major Digital customer at a large aerospace company where he implemented the first color-graphic Executive Information System, and then led the transition from a batch-oriented mainframe administrative computing environment to a 1,000+ terminal interactive distributed computing solution. He joined Digital to implement the first Network Planning and Installation business in the Southern Region, and later moved into Digital Services to work on network and network management products and services. Jeff later invented the first working iconic network management prototype for DECnet networks and now works with various organizations to help them better understand the strategic implications of peoples' contemporary and future computing environments. He is also the author and editor of "The Rapidly Changing Face of Computing," a free technology journal which has a weekly global distribution to over 30,000 people. Jeff has several patents issued and on file in the areas of network management and user interface technology, and brings all of this together to help demonstrate and track current and future product and services opportunities. "The Rapidly Changing Face of Computing" technology journal is available

(continued on page 7)

(continued from pages 4 and 5 - PDS second seminar at UMASS - BOSTON CAMPUS)



On the MBTA: Take the Red Line to JFK/UMass Station. A free shuttlebus will carry you from the "T" parking lot to the campus. MBTA buses following routes 8 and 16 also stop at the campus.

By car from the north: Take Interstate 93 south through Boston to exit 15 (JFK Library/South Boston/Dorchester) and follow the University of Massachusetts signs along Columbia Road and Morrissey Boulevard to the campus.

By car from the south: Take Interstate 93 north to exit 14 (JFK Library/Morrissey Boulevard) and follow Morrissey Boulevard northward to the campus.

By car from the west: Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) east to the turnpike's end at Interstate 93. Take I-93 south one mile to exit 15 (JFK Library/South Boston/Dorchester) and follow the University of Massachusetts signs along Columbia Road and Morrissey Boulevard to the campus.

Indoor and outdoor parking space is available for \$3.50 per day

(continued from page 2 - Siggraph/Boston)

over the

World Wide Web at <http://www.digital.com/rcfoc/>

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 and sign in at the entrance for the courtyard from this northeast-most building.

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

Seminar & Book Titles	Advance Registration	Walk-in	Enter Amount
Large Scale C++ Software Design	\$75	\$85	
<i>Large Scale C++ Software Design</i>	\$30	\$30	
Java for C & C++ Developers and book only (required)	\$100	\$110	
additional CDROM (optional)	\$15	\$15	
Web-based Data Access Programming	\$75	\$85	
<i>Working with Active Server Pages</i>	\$25	\$25	
International ACM# _____		Subtotal	
GBC ID# _____ or \$10 (required)		\$10	
Pay to GBC/ACM with Check or money order Only		Total	
Batch:	Chk #	Trans. #	Date
Name:			
Affiliation:			
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City: State: Zip:			
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E-mail:			
Restrict use of my name to: ACM use only Professional societies only			

Professional Development Seminars - 1997 Fall Series

Large Scale C++ Software Design

With John Lakos
October 4, 1997 (Saturday)
Northeastern

OVERVIEW:

Developing large systems introduces issues that don't arise in systems easily comprehended by a single person. Lakos presents practical techniques to improve maintainability and testability of large systems.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Experienced C++ programmers, system architects, and proactive quality-assurance professionals

SEMINAR TOPICS:

- ground rules
- components
- physical hierarchy
- levelization
- insulation
- packages

LECTURER:

John Lakos works at Mentor Graphics, a company that was among the first to attempt large scale C++ projects. Lakos has been programming in C++ since 1987 and in 1990 developed Columbia University's graduate course in Object-Oriented Programming.

SESSION CHAIR:

Jim Byrd, Byrd@acm.org

Java for C & C++ Programmers

With Paul Deitel
November 8, 1997 (Saturday)
UMass, Boston Harbor Campus

OVERVIEW:

This is a fast way to get started learning Java.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Practicing C or C++ programmers interested in a fast-paced introduction to Java programming.

SEMINAR TOPICS:

- Applets and applications
- Object-oriented programming
- Graphics
- Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs)
- Exceptions
- Multithreading
- Multimedia: Images, image maps, animation and audio
- Files and Streams - Networking
- Server communication

LECTURER:

Paul Deitel has delivered Java, C and C++ courses for many industrial clients. Paul and Harvey Deitel are coauthors of many books. Their books are used in thousands of universities in more than 100 countries and have been translated into Russian, Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Paul is a graduate of MIT Sloan School of Management.

SESSION CHAIR:

Mike Plusch, plusch@ultranet.com

Seminar Book Offer

Large-Scale C++ Software Design

by John Lakos

List: 41.91 PDS Price: 30.00

Seminar Book Offer

(This seminar includes a book in lieu of notes.)

Java: How to Program, second edition

Harvey and Paul Deitel

seminar and required book only \$100.00

optional CD \$15.00

Professional Development Seminars - 1997 Fall Series

Web-based Data Access Programming

With Michael Corning and Bob Beauchemin
December 6, 1997 (Saturday)
Northeastern

OVERVIEW:

This seminar leads the participants through the world of basic data access from using Active Data Objects in VBScript to complex distributed transaction processing with Microsoft Transaction Server to Remote Data Services implemented with Internet Explorer 4.0. Specific "gothchas" with Oracle and SQL Server will be described. The seminar explains the nuances of Microsoft's data access models and their effect on applications.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

People interested in understanding Microsoft's data access technologies in the context of the IIS 4.0 and Active Server Pages.

SEMINAR TOPICS:

- The heritage: ODBC, DAO, and RDO
- The Heir Apparent: OLE DB and ADO
- The Fine Print: a detailed examination of ADO
- The Best of Both Worlds: ADO and ODBC
- The New Economics of Data Access: Microsoft Transaction Server
- The Sky is Not the Limit: Remote Data Access Services using IE4

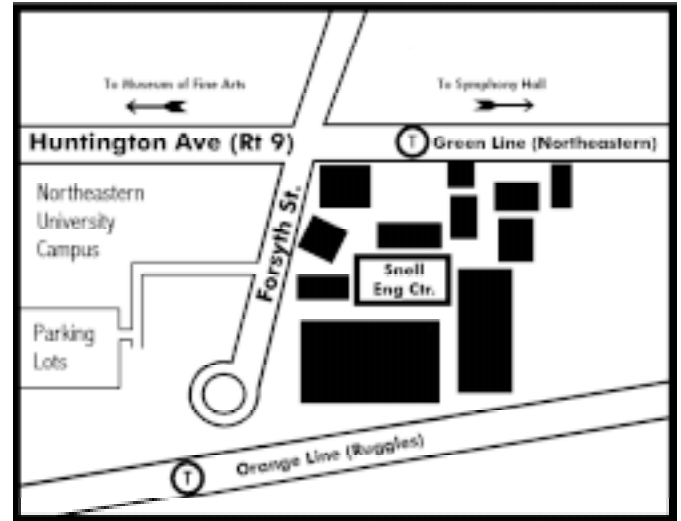
LECTURERS:

Michael Corning is an Active Server Pages Developer Support Engineer at Microsoft. He is also the coauthor of "Working with Active Server Pages" and a contributor to "Web Development with Visual Basic 5" both published by Que in 1997. He has also contributed high technology articles to the Journal of Financial Planning, Smart Access, and Microsoft Interactive Developer.

Currently Bob Beauchemin is a senior software engineer and information systems architect at STEP Technologies, Portland OR, a consulting company specializing in Microsoft technologies and web-based software solutions. He certified MCT, MCSE, MCSA (Microsoft certified trainer, systems engineer, solution developer). He has taught most of Microsoft official systems administration, database and web development curriculum.

SESSION CHAIR: Peter Mager, psm@tiac.net

GENERAL INFORMATION



NORTHEASTERN LOCATION

Northeastern University, Boston, is within walking distance of the MBTA Green Line (Arborway/E Train) Northeastern station and the Orange Line Ruggles station. Free parking is also available.

SCHEDULE

8:30am - 9:00am	Registration (continental breakfast)
9:00am - 12:15pm	Morning session (break at 10:30am)
12:15pm - 1:30pm	Lunch (provided on-site)
1:30pm - 4:30pm	Afternoon session (break at 2:30pm)

REGISTRATION FEES

Included in the \$75 fee are seminar materials, lunch, and refreshments. Registrants not current members of the GBC/ACM are charged an additional \$10, and become members of the chapter for a year. This is distinct from ACM membership. Surcharge for on-site registration is \$10. Purchase orders, credit cards, faxes and e-mail cannot be accepted. **Enrollment is limited and on a first come, first served basis.** Early registration must be made by a check or money order at least three weeks in advance of the seminar to receive confirmation from GBC/ACM.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Cancellations must be received in writing. The full fee will be refunded if the PDS Registrar receives written notification on or before the day of the seminar, addressed to GBC/ACM, PO Box 465, Lexington MA 02173. Refund requests received after the seminar date will be subject to a \$15 administrative fee. The \$10 membership fee will not be refunded.

ANY QUESTIONS?

See: <http://www.acm.org/chapters/gbc> or Call (617)862-1181

(continued on page 7 - PDS Second Seminar Location)

Seminar Book Offer

Working With Active Server Pages
Michael Corning
List: \$39.99 PDS price: \$25.00

Learning from Users in their Natural Environment
Dennis Wixon, Digital Equipment Corporation
Sponsored by SIGCHI
18-Sept-1997
Refreshments at 6:30 PM, meeting 7:00 - 9:00
Digital Equipment Corporation
550 King Street
Littleton MA, 01460
Free and open to the public. Wheelchair accessible.

OVERVIEW

Today companies realize that to design effective systems they need to understand their customer's needs and work practices. Increasingly, companies are turning to field research methods to understand user's work and its context.

Are you about to undertake a program of customer visits but are not sure how to proceed?

Have you done some customer visits but are not sure how to analyze the results?

Have you done customers visits and found them ineffective?

Dennis Wixon, from Digital's Usability Design Group, will present the top 10 simple rules to make customer visits effective. These rules are based on both his experience over the last 10 years at Digital, and on the new book, "Field Methods Case Book for

Software Design", edited by Dennis and Judy Ramey. In addition, we will run a group exercise to determine the top 10 questions for practitioners of field research. We may even have answers for some.

BIOGRAPHY

Dennis Wixon is currently Program Manager at Digital Equipment Corporation and leads the Usability Design Center. He has been an active member of the usability community for the last 15 years. During that time he has specialized in methods understanding user work and its relation to design. Dennis has published numerous articles and book chapters on topics such as usability engineering, contextual inquiry, and the cost benefit of usability work. Dennis was papers co-chair for CHI97 and is currently chair of the Greater Boston SIGCHI.

Directions to Digital Equipment Corporation, Littleton, MA
508-486-7425 - Security at Main Lobby

From Boston:

Take Route 2 West to 495 North.
Go about 2 miles take exit 31 (Route 119 Groton/Littleton Common).
At the end of the exit ramp take a left (going east to Littleton Common) proceed approx. 1/4 mile and take first left to go to Digital's (LKG1) main entrance parking lot. Drive down the drive way and bear right (Farmhouse on right/large facility ahead and to left), take second left to parking lot; go up inclined walkway to main entrance.

Take Route 495 North.

Go about 2 miles take exit 31 (Route 119 Groton/Littleton Common).
At the end of the exit ramp take a left (going east to Littleton Common) proceed approx. 1/4 mile and take first left to go to Digital's (LKG1) main entrance parking lot. Drive down the drive way and bear right (Farmhouse on right/large facility ahead and to left), take second left to parking lot; go up inclined walkway to main entrance.

From the North:

Take Route 3 South to Rte I-495 South/West.
Take Exit 31 (Rte 119 Groton/Littleton Common).
At end of ramp, turn right crossing over I-495, proceed approx. 1/4 mile and take first left to go to Digital's (LKG1) main entrance parking lot. Drive down the drive way and bear right (Farmhouse on right/large facility ahead and to left), take second left to parking lot; go up inclined walkway to main entrance.

Ron Perkins, Principal, Design Perspectives Design Consulting and Usability Research <http://www.shore.net/~rperkins/> O. St. Plum Island 508-465-6083 office
Newburyport, MA. 01950 508-465-1041 fax

From the South:

**Boston SPIN Meeting - September
Software Process Improvement Network (SPIN) September Meeting Announcement
"A Simple Approach to Achieving CMM Level-2"**

**James R. Driscoll - Division Manager for EDS Personal Communications
Unmesh Gundewar - Maturity Models Program Manager for EDS Personal Communications
Tuesday, September 16, 1997 at 6:30pm (refreshments), 7:00-8:30pm (meeting)
Sponsor - Boston area Software Process Improvement Network (SPIN) (Admission Free)
GTE, Building #5, 77 A Street, Needham, MA (Wheelchair accessible)
Maureen Harris (617) 455-3393, maureen.harris@GSC.GTE.com or Ken Oasis (617) 563-4197, ken.oasis@fmr.com**

OVERVIEW

Organizations face difficulties establishing CMM-based process improvements while sustaining business objectives. Process improvements are difficult to achieve because it takes a lot of time and resources, and the effort often is not focused. When push comes to shove, process improvement effort always becomes a lower priority. This presentation describes a project model that offers a process improvement framework within the context of the organization business practices. Project managers can use the project model to focus on project management, improving quality, increasing productivity, and meeting customer requirements, while simultaneously supporting CMM common features, abilities, commitment, activities, measurement and verification.

BIOGRAPHIES

James R. Driscoll is Division Manager of the Central Organization at CIG Personal Communications, which he joined in September, 1987. In this capacity, Jim has executive responsibility for the customers served on-site and the Waltham infrastructure that supports them. Prior to joining EDS, Jim was the Director of Information Systems at Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems and Vice President of Information Services at Brae Corporation.

Unmesh Gundewar is currently Maturity Models Program Manager for EDS Personal Communications, CIG, Communications Industry Group of EDS where he heads the Software Engineering Process Group in Waltham and leads the CMM initiative at the group level. For over 20 years, he has been involved in developing and improving software engineering processes and providing project management training and consulting.

Directions: To get to GTE, Building #5:

From Route 128 in Needham, take exit 19A onto Highland Avenue East. At first traffic light turn RIGHT onto Second Street. Go 1/4 mile (passing hillside Sheraton entrance on right) and turn RIGHT onto A Street. Go 1/5 mile and before GTE HQ building on left (multi-story glass facade), turn LEFT into Parking lot. Please enter at the cafeteria.

**If you are a Software Engineer, User Interface Designer, Programmer, Project Leader, Web Designer, Technical Writer, or Product Manager
please join us for these two courses:**

September 9, 1997

PRODUCT USABILITY: SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES

September 10, 1997

TECHNIQUES FOR COMPLEX APPLICATIONS

Two 1-day courses to help you build better applications faster.

Presented in Andover, MA, by User Interface Engineering.

More than 2,000 participants from all over the world have already benefitted from these courses.

I would be happy to email you detailed course descriptions and registration information. All you need to do is send mailto: COURSES@UIE.COM with the words SEND INFO in the subject field.

Or you can visit our web site at <http://www.uie.com> to get more information.