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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.



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The Real Times

Vol.36 No.4

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December 1997



December, 1997 Meeting

News in the Future

Speaker

Walter Bender MIT Media Laboratory Date Thursday, December 11, 1997 (Note: 2nd Thursday)

Presentation starts at 7:00 PM. Refreshments at 6:30 PM.

Meeting Overview

The News in the Future (NiF) research consortium provides a forum for the MIT Media Laboratory and member companies to explore and exploit technologies that will affect the collection and dissemination of news. The goals include enhancing the efficiency of production, the timeliness of delivery, the convenience of presentation, and the relevance of editorial and advertising content to the consumer. NiF focuses on four areas: description of news by and for computer; observation and modeling of consumer behavior; presentation and interface design; and application. The consortium develops technologies for managing data, building linkages between news providers and consumers, and enabling new approaches to the look and feel of news content. It investigates the application of these technologies by means of experiments at MIT and field experiments set up in cooperation with individual member companies.

Speaker Biography

Mr. Bender is a Principal Research Scientist at the MIT Media Laboratory and Principal Investigator of the laboratory's News in the Future consortium. He received his BA from Harvard University in 1977. Mr. Bender joined the Architecture Machine Group at MIT in 1978. He received his MS at MIT in 1980. A founding member of the Media Laboratory, Mr. Bender is engaged in the study of new information technologies, particularly those which affect people directly. Much of the research addresses the notion of building upon the interactive styles associated with existing media and extending them into domains where a computer is incorporated into the interaction. He has participated in much of the pioneering research in the field of electronic publishing, including the "Aspen Movie Map", and the "NewsPeek Electronic Newspaper", both early examples of personalized interactive multi-media.

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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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:

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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.

Software Process Improvement Network (SPIN) December Meeting Announcement

"QFD and Software Development: So, what's the problem?"

Lou Cohen - Consultant

Tuesday, December 16, 1997 at 6:30pm (networking & refreshments), 7:00-8:30pm (meeting)

(Admission Free)

**GTE, Building #5, 77 A Street, Needham, MA
(Wheelchair accessible)**

**Maureen Harris (617) 455-3393,
maureen.harris@GSC.GTE.com**

Ken Oasis (617) 563-4197

ken.oasis@fmr.com; or www.cs.uml.edu/Boston-SPIN/

ABSTRACT

Do you ever feel alone? Do you think you are the only person who is facing challenges related to implementing process improvements? The networking round tables might help you! The goal is to: Share experiences on particular topics. Hear what others have done to solve problems. Ask questions, Answer questions, Learn what, why, and how people in similar situations have done. Learn what has worked and what has not worked Network more effectively Meeting / Program: Quality Function Deployment (QFD) is a method for structured product planning. It uses several matrices to model the relationships between customer's needs and technical requirements. Its first use was in the early 1970's for the development of an oil tanker, and has been used with great success in the design of many popular automobiles, a large array of consumer items, military components and even the design of services offered by large financial organizations. Lou Cohen, has applied QFD to many products including to software products, and finds more resistance to QFD from software engineers than from members of other product development disciplines. In this presentation, Lou Cohen will provide an overview of QFD and will discuss the problems software engineers raise in the process. He will describe a variety of answers to these problems.

SPEAKER

Lou Cohen is a consultant in the general area of product development and Voice of the Customer acquisition. He has worked as a product developer, computer and software development manager, quality manager and consultant for 38 years. His recent book: "Quality Function Deployment: How to make QFD work for you" is published by Addison-Wesley.

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.



Seminar & Book Titles	Advance Registration	Walk-in	Enter Amount
Web-based Data Access Programming	\$75	\$85	
Web Development with Visual Basic 5	\$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:			
Address: Home Work			
City: State: Zip:			
Home Phone:			
E-mail:			
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**DECEMBER GB/SIGCHI MEETING AN-
NOUNCEMENT**

**Designers Cafe and Holiday Party: Come cel-
ebrate and schmooze
Thursday, December 4, 1997**

Refreshments at 6:30 ongoing, cash bar

**The Royal Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge Parkway,
Cambridge, MA**

**University BC and Foyer overlooking the river
(directions & parking info below)**

Free and open to the public.

**For more information please contact
the program chair:**

Ron Perkins

rperkins@shore.net

978-465-6083 (email preferred)

The Designer's cafe is simply small groups of people talking about their current design issues and solutions. If you don't have problems, then it's time to celebrate the successful year of GB/SIGCHI with a holiday party! Get reconnected with your colleagues and friends and begin the holiday spirit. Past speakers are invited to come as well as non-members who may be interested in joining the organization. Food will be provided as well as a cash bar in a room with a view of the city lights and Charles river.

DIRECTIONS

Tel. (617) 491-3600 Fax: (617) 661-5956

FROM THE NORTH via ROUTE 93 SOUTH: Take 93 South to Exit 26, "Cambridge/Somerville & Storrow Drive" Follow directions "FROM THE SOUTH"

FROM THE AIRPORT: Take the main airport roadway (one-way) and follow signs for "Sumner Tunnel, Boston/Rt. 93 North" Go through the tunnel and take immediate right onto 93 North. (Follow directions "FROM THE SOUTH")

FROM THE SOUTH via ROUTE 93 NORTH: Take 93 North through Boston to Exit 26, "Cambridge/Somerville & Storrow Drive." Go down and around exit ramp and stay to the far right, following signs for Cambridge. DO NOT GET ON STORROW DRIVE. At the end of ramp, at set of lights, take left on Nashua Street (you will pass beneath the bridge on which there is a sign for Museum of Science) and take immediate right on Rt. 28 North/O'Brien Highway. Go past the Museum of Science and at first set of lights take a left on Edwin Land Blvd. The Royal Sonesta is on the left, across the street from the Cambridgeside Galleria Mall.

FROM THE WEST via TURNPIKE/ROUTE 90 EAST: Take the Mass. Turnpike to Exit 18, "Allston/Cambridge" (left-sided exit). Go through the toll booth and bear right, following signs for Cambridge and Somerville. Proceed through two sets of lights and go straight over the River St. Bridge, crossing over the Charles River, and take a right on Memorial Drive East (the Mobile Gas Station will be in front of you). At the first split stay in the left lane and proceed over bridge ("Cars Only").

At second split, shortly after the Hyatt Regency Hotel on left, stay left and go under the overpass ("Cars Only"). Move immediately to the right lane and bear to the right at the last split. Memorial Drive now turns into Edwin Land Blvd. Proceed under the Longfellow Bridge and the Royal Sonesta Hotel will be on your right at the second set of lights.

FROM THE WEST via ROUTE 2 EAST: Take Rt. 2 East and follow signs for "Watertown/Boston & Rt. 3." You will pass the Alewife train station on the right. At rotary stay to the left and continue on Route 3; merge onto Memorial Drive East (the Charles River will be on the right) Follow directions according to

"FROM THE WEST via MASS PIKE"

The Royal Sonesta is accessible from the GREEN LINE, Lechmere Station. Exit Station-cross street, follow First Street alongside Galleria Mall, take left onto Cambridgeside Place, still alongside Galleria-The Royal Sonesta is straight in front of you. From the RED LINE, Kendall Square Station, take complimentary Galleria Shuttle from Kendall Square to Galleria Mall.

The Royal Sonesta has two parking garages to accommodate overnight guests and visitors. If our internal garage is full, the parking attendant in booth will direct you across the street to the Cambridgeside Galleria Mall, in which we have our own small section.

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 turn left where Lechmere store used to be at the end of the block. Go to the end of the street and cross Cambridge Parkway, the Sonesta is directly across from Paparazzi's italian restaurant.

____ Ron Perkins, Design Perspectives <http://www.shore.net/~rperkins/> 508-465-6083 office 508-465-1041 fax



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

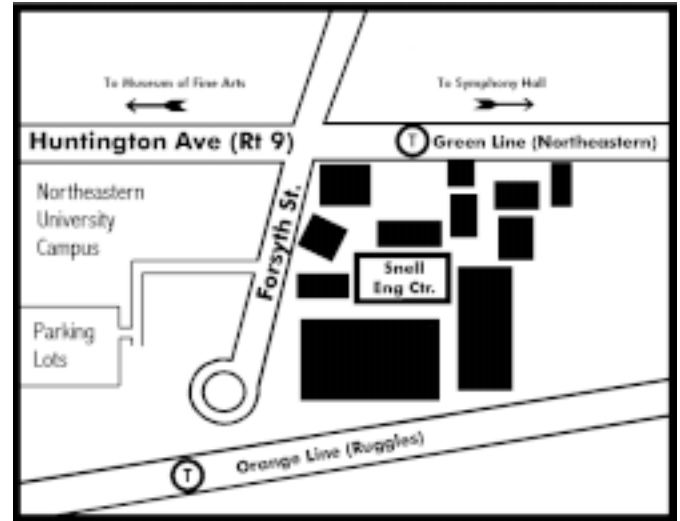
LECTURERS:

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

**SIGGRAPH/Boston Meeting Announcement
Wednesday, December 3, 1997
Showfx - an Animation System for Television Weather
Doug Dempster - Weather Systems International**

Abstract

Advances in computer and software technology have significantly increased the visual quality of computer graphics used during television weathercasts. Weather Systems International (WSI) recently introduced Showfx, an animation system specifically geared towards the needs and capabilities of television meteorologists. The system allows users to combine text, images, 3-dimensional models and video to produce animations which are both informative and entertaining. The Showfx design tries to balance the visual quality and artistic results achievable with high-end animation packages with the tight time schedules and the skill set of the typical television weather office.

About the Speaker

Doug Dempster is the Manager of Media Systems Development at Weather Systems International (WSI) in Billerica. WSI is the world's leading source for weather data, analysis and presentation systems. They provide solutions for over 60% of the television market and most major US airlines, as well as consumer weather through their Intellicast website. Doug's group is responsible for developing systems for television meteorologists to perform weather analysis and forecasting tasks as well as to develop and present on-air graphics.

Before joining WSI, Doug was the Manager of Graphics Applications at Merit Technology in Dallas, TX. He was responsible for developing a set of products and foundation libraries for mapping and flight simulation, used primarily by the military community.

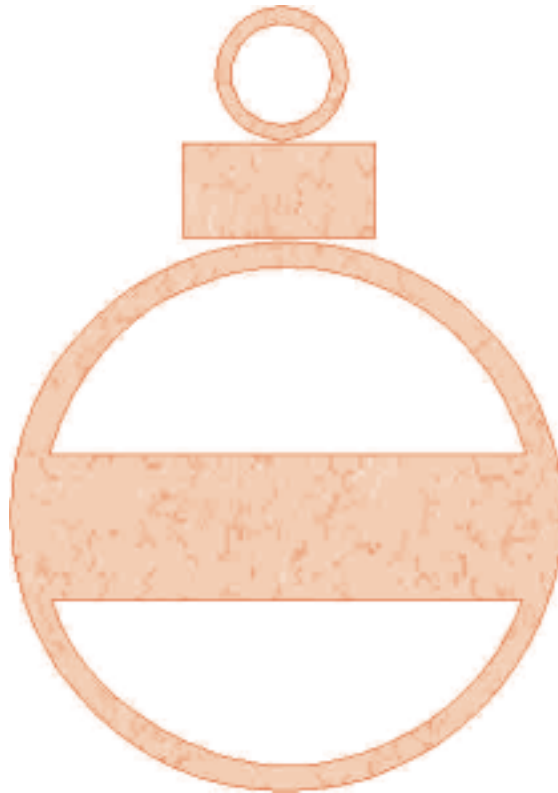
When
Wednesday, December 3, 1997. Networking time at 6:30pm, announcements and feature presentation at 7:00pm.

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).





Panel discussion on different technologies for using persistent data and databases in Java and internet applications

**featuring Ken Arnold from JavaSoft,
Jack Orenstein from Novera,
Dan Weinreb from Object Design.**

Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 pm

**Bechtel Lecture Hall MIT bldg 1 rm 390
(see website for directions)**

Contact Dan Jacobs, Chairman daniel.jacobs@acm.org (781) 273-5825 <http://www.acm.org/chapters/webtech>

The focus of the panel discussion will be on the different reasons for using persistent data in Java and internet applications, and the ways in which different technologies address and solve different problem areas.

Ken Arnold is one of creators of Java, and a lead designer of RMI and JavaSpaces.

Jack Orenstein is a software architect at Novera Software where he is the lead designer of their object-relational mapping software.

Dan Weinreb is a lead design of ObjectStore and of ObjectStore PSE at Object Design.

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Chairman Boston ACM WebTech Group: <http://www.acm.org/chapters/webtech>