

Fall 2004 PDS Series (Dates: TBD)

Symantic Web

Speakers: Eric Miller & Tim Berners-Lee

Web Bloopers

Speaker: Jeff Johnson

Perl & Python

Speaker: Dan Sugalski

Volunteer Growth - Volunteer Opportunity

by Jay Conne & Glenn Hoffman

We are delighted to have many new volunteers join our GBC/ACM team in the last year. From just this last PDS season we have had over 30 new people express interest in helping make our ACM chapter thrive. Our goal is to have a primary person and backup for every role. So there are many opportunities available - see some of them listed below with how to contact us to discuss helping.

Many have expressed interest in helping us evolve our website to better support our volunteers' responsibilities and our membership at large. We are just now changing our website development process to permit more distributed and parallel development. As that transitions, we will be able to get many more hands involved in adding long-wished-for functionality.

Here are some of the new volunteers and the active roles they are playing:

- Geoffery Baum has just become assistant Secretary
- Rochelle Goren took on the critical role of Real Times Newsletter Editor this year and is looking for more members for her committee.
- Glenn Hoffman was just appointed Chair of the Volunteer Committee. He was formerly Volunteer Coordinator for the former Boston Computer Society Mac User's Group. He will be leading the process of getting volunteer jobs well documented and posted to the web.
- Dick Knowles has joined the Membership Committee and is helping get address changes applied.
- Lena Lau has take over coordination of our PDS ACM display materials and the critical role of PDS Brochure Editor.
- Marianne Lepp joined the Nominating Committee to select the slate of offices to be voted on this month.
- David Levine will help the Treasurer as mailbox coordinator.
- Jeff Perry, is taking a leadership role in our website development process including: distributed development with MySQL; Bugzilla introduction for web-based bug and new feature management; CVS support for our new distributed development process; and a simplified and faster release procedure.
- Carol Rice wrote a review of our 1st PDS on Eclipse which appeared in the previous newsletter.
- Rosemary Mitchell Simpson is now liaison to the CS Dept. at Brown University in Providence, RI
- Jeffrey Thompson wrote a review of our 2nd PDS on Mac OS X which appears in this issue.
- Patrice Wolfe is now liaison to the USAF Research Lab at Hanscom AFB.

Here are some open positions:

- Membership Chair and others - manage the membership database and assist in its evolution to the web.
- Assistant Treasurer
- PDS Registrar - both advance and day-of roles
- PDS Food Coordinators - obtaining food items at cost effective prices
- PDS Lecture Notes Coordinator & Editor - for 6 PDS's per year
- PDS A-V Coordinator - coordinating with MIT A-V and others
- PDS Financial Coordinator - help with budgeting and actuals for comparison
- PDS Old Book Coordinator - a short term role to sell or dispose of ~100 former PDS books.
- GBC Phone Message Coordinator - time and location independent
- GBC Archivist - lots of history to cull through - could use many hands.

Please contact Jay Conne or Glenn Hoffman to talk about how you may help us. Just send email with whatever thoughts you have and tell us when we may have a phone conversation with you. <conne@acm.org> <glennhoffman@mac.com>

Review of Max OS X for Unix Geeks PDS presented April 24, 2004

The presentation was coupled with the sale of three related Mac OS and Unix books, one of which had the same title as the seminar, and not coincidentally, the authors of the book were the presenters: Brian Jepson and Ernest Rothman.

The seminar was divided into 8 parts:

- 1) The Mac OS X Terminal (the terminal is a Mac application that serves as a window for command line Unix instructions)
- 2) Mac OS X Filesystem
- 3) Open Source applications
- 4) Remote Access
- 5) Scientific Computing on Mac OS X
- 6) The Mac OS X Startup Process
- 7) Directory Services
- 8) Security on Mac OS X

These topics are covered in the book, but in more detail than in the seminar. Because of time constraints, many topics covered in the book were omitted from the seminar. Some items in the seminar were not covered as well as in the book, such as Darwinports, mentioned below. Perhaps more has happened with respect to Darwinports since the book was printed.

The seminar consisted of an overview of the important points on each topic, and only occasionally included the nitty-gritty details. Again, time constraints limited the presentation material. But enough material was presented the audience to get a grasp of what needed to be done and why, and which important items not to forget.

The most interesting items from a software developer's perspective was information about the Mac OS X Startup Process and the Open Source applications. By Open Source applications the presenters mean free and readily available web Unix software that can be installed to run under Mac OS X. Two applications that provide access to open source material are Fink and Darwinports. Fink has 1500 packages available and Darwinports has 1200. Darwinports is newer and is being actively supported by some Apple employees.

The lecture material was worthwhile. The main factual point was the cost performance comparison: Virginia Tech 10.28 Tflops (Teraflops) for \$5.2 million. In comparison, the top 2 were 36.88 Tflops for \$350 million (Los Alamos ASCI Q) and 13.88 Tflops for \$215 million (Earth Simulator in Japan). The age of the top two supercomputer clusters was not given, which will make a difference since by Moore's "law" the performance/cost doubles every 2 years.

Ernest Rothman, a math professor at Salve Regina in Rhode Island, handled himself well. Brian Jepson had a casual ease of addressing the audience in comparison.

The bargain basement price provided through GBC-ACM and the book availability and discount were a nice bonus. Slide notes (printed images of the slides presented, formatting not preserved) were provided by GBC-ACM free for attendees. The Slide notes included space for handwritten additions by attendees who didn't have laptops.

The books available for purchase at the seminar were:

- Mac OS X for Unix Geeks by Brian Jepson and Ernest Rothman; Publisher O'Reilly
- Learning Unix for Mac OS X Panther by Dave Taylor and Brian Jepson; Publisher O'Reilly
- Running Mac OS X Panther by James Duncan Davidson; Publisher O'Reilly

by Jeffrey Thompson

Future Meetings

Boston University Project Management Free Seminar

Multiple Dates/Locations:

July 14, 2004 6-9 PM

Boston University Corporate Education Center
928 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA

August 10, 2004 6-9 PM

Boston University Corporate Education Center
1050 Winter Street, Suite 1400 Waltham, MA

August 12, 2004 6-9 PM

Boston University Corporate Education Center
72 Tyng Road, Tyngsboro, MA

Attend this FREE class, and experience for yourself Boston University's project management training. Gain a greater understanding of the recent trends in project management, why project management is so popular, and the benefits and requirements of PMP Certification. This session will be taught by one of our more than 50 PMP certified expert instructors who will lead you in discussion and engage you in an exercise to rate your organization's project management readiness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://butrain.bu.edu/misc/z100.asp>

Boston University Free Seminar

Defeating the Hacker and Understanding the Need for Security

September 21, 2004 6-9 PM

Boston University Corporate Education Center
1050 Winter Street, Suite 1400 Waltham, MA

This free event will cover the following topics: concerns for your organization (attackers, hackers, crackers), the hacker's methodology (information gathering and probing for security weaknesses), types of attacks (eavesdropping, data modification, identity spoofing, password-based attacks, and more), security objectives (data integrity, data confidentiality, data availability, and more), intrusion analysis (prevention, detection, response and recovery), incident preparation (risk management, host preparation, a response toolkit, the incident response team, and more), risk management (asset identification, threat identification, vulnerability analysis, risk analysis, safeguard selection, and more). Most importantly, is your organization secure?

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://butrain.bu.edu/misc/z100.asp>

June Meetings

Boston SPIN- Joint Meeting with ASQ

Topic: Interpretive Guidance for CMMI: What We've Learned

Speaker: Mary Beth Chrissis

Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Time: 6:00-6:45 PM - networking and roundtables; 7:00-7:10 PM - announcements; 7:10 PM - speaker

Location: Mite Corp, S Building Bedford, MA

Since the release of version 1.1 of the CMMI Product Suite, the SEI has worked to aid the adoption of CMMI. The interpretive guidance project was formed to find out if there was information in CMMI models that might be more easily used by software, information technology, and information systems organizations—as well as the community at large—if special guidance or interpretation was provided.

This project collected information from birds-of-a-feather sessions at conferences, workshops at SPIN meetings, expert group meetings, detailed interviews with select software organizations, feedback from SCAMPI appraisals, and a Web-based questionnaire. Based on the information collected, the project determined what guidance or interpretation of CMMI model best practices is warranted to help these organizations upgrade or adopt CMMI for their process improvement programs.

This presentation will describe the interpretation issues that were found and how the SEI is addressing them.

Mary Beth Chrissis is a senior member of the technical staff at the Software Engineering Institute (SEI).

Since joining the SEI in 1988, Chrissis has been a coauthor of all releases of the Capability Maturity Model for Software and all releases of the Capability Maturity Model Integration models.

Currently, she is leading the CMMI Interpretive Guidance Project that focuses on understanding and addressing CMMI adoption issues and perceived barriers in the software community with a special focus on information technology (IT), information systems (IS), and commercial software.

Chrissis is a member of the CMMI Configuration Control Board and is an instructor of various SW-CMM and CMMI model-related courses at the SEI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.boston-spin.org/>

Exchange Server Seminar Series (HP and Microsoft)

Boston

June 17, 2004

Businesses are under ever-increasing pressure to provide users and customers with better access to information, from a variety of locations and devices. On top of that, businesses are being asked to meet this demand—ensuring the dependability and security of mission-critical communications infrastructure—while being forced to cut costs through consolidation.

The Exchange Server Seminar Series, a free half-day event, will help you find the solutions you need to enhance your messaging infrastructure to meet the growing demands of your organization. Learn how Exchange Server 2003 can make your life and the lives of your users more productive and manageable. Mobile or remote users will benefit from enhanced integrated communications and great mobile access with Windows Mobile-based devices. Management and monitoring tools are more powerful. And anti-spam and antivirus features have been enhanced. And it's easier to upgrade to the new release.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.winnetmag.com/Roadshows/exchange2003/>

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 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.

The GBC/ACM Executive Board would like to express our great appreciation to Bernie Ganino as she retires from her four years as GBC/ACM Treasurer and PDS Registrar. Bernie has done an outstanding job of managing these critical jobs and her previous roles in the PDS Committee and on the Executive Board. Now she has an even more demanding job with her twin girls (Jessica and Kate) who will soon be one year old. We wish her and her family the best of health and happiness.

Stephanie Collins

Websites of some Local Groups

GBC/ACM

www.gbcaacm.org

SIGGRAPH

www.siggraph.org/chapters/boston

Boston SIGCHI

www.gbsigchi.org

WebTech

www.acm.org/chapters/webtech

SPIN

www.boston-spin.org

IEEE

www.ieeeboston.org

IEEE Consultants Network

www.boston-consult.org

Boston-area User Group Calendar

www.bugc.org

Greater Boston Chapter Slate of Officers FY2005

Nominees:

At 7 PM on June 17th, before the GBC/ACM Monthly meeting, there will be a 15 minute annual business meeting which will include election of officers for fiscal 2005. The Nominating Committee has offered the following nominations - note the VP nomination is a change from the previous announcement:

President: Peter Carmichael
 Vice President: Jay Conne
 Secretary: Ed Bristol
 Treasurer: Yona Carmichael

Peter Carmichael is currently VP and PDS Brochure and Lecture Notes Editor; and PDS and Volunteer Committee member.

Jay Conne is currently a member of the PDS and Volunteer committees and is a former President, Membership Chair and PDS Registrar.

Ed Bristol is the incumbent Secretary and former President of the IEEE Control Society.

Yona Carmichael is currently PDS Brochure Editor and recently hosted a volunteer appreciation party at her and Peter's home. Yona is also Treasurer for the local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism.

Are you a current member of GBC/ACM?*

If not, 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. Mail in your membership form today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please make checks payable to GBC/ACM and mail to:
 P.O. Box 465
 Lexington, MA 02420

(*Check your address label for expiration date.)

*** June Calendar of Events ***

Date of Event	Page	Sponsor	Location
June 15	3	Boston SPIN	Mitre, S Building Bedford, MA
June 17	1	GBC/ACM	MIT Room 34-101
June 17	3	HP & Microsoft	Boston, MA

If the top line of your mailing label below reads ****EXPIRED****, please renew your membership (for just \$10/yr). For that \$10 you get a copy of this newsletter/local event calendar mailed to any address you choose plus the right to attend PDS seminars at the member rate. Please consider renewing for more than one year at time. Your support helps make possible the wide array of GBC/ACM activities.

Address Service Requested

**First Class:
Dated Materials**

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The Real Times

Vol. 43 No. 10 www.gbcacm.org June 2004

GBC/ACM June 2004 Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 17, 2004

Location: MIT Room 34-101

Annual Business Meeting: 7:00-7:15

Lecture: 7:15-9:15

The annual GBC/ACM business meeting and election of officers will take place just before the June lecture. See page 7 for election slate.

Parrot: Structure and Building of a Virtual Machine

Speaker: Dan Sugalski

This is a two-part talk. In the first part we'll sketch a broad outline of the architecture of Parrot, a virtual machine (VM) being designed to efficiently run the so-called dynamic languages. (Primarily Perl 5, Perl 6, Python, and Ruby) In the second part of the talk we'll cover some of the techniques and build tools we've developed as part of the process to abstract out the building and platform-specific optimizing of the VM source. (Somewhere between 75% and 80% of Parrot's source is preprocessed or autogenerated, some of it quite significantly)

Dan is the lead designer of Parrot and active contributor to Perl. He's currently employed writing compilers for a metals wholesaling company, much to his surprise, and has written a number of articles and parts of books on Perl and Parrot.

Directions: MIT is at 77 Massachusetts Avenue, just on the north side of Memorial Drive (on the north shore of the Charles River), in Cambridge, MA. Building 34 is located on Vassar Street about half way between Main Street and Massachusetts Ave. It is a small square building turned 45 degrees to the street so it may look like a diamond, especially with a glass atrium entrance. Building 34 is set back a few yards from the street and the line of other buildings. It is between buildings 36 and 38.

Parking: Vassar Street on the other side of Mass Ave has a parking lot, a garage, and plenty of spaces on the street.