Deep Agile
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting
Thursday, April 19th, 2007
Debugging Backwards in Time
Speaker: Bil Lewis,
Tufts University & Lambda Computer Science
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Location: MIT Room E51-315
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02142
Directions: http://whereis.mit.edu/bin/map?locate=bldg_e51
Details: http://www.gbcacm.org/website/semInfo.php?id=1125

What if a debugger could allow you to simply step BACKWARDS? Instead of all that hassle with guessing where to put breakpoints and the fear of typing “continue” one too many times... What if you could simply go backwards to see what went wrong? This is the essence of the “Omniscient Debugger” -- it remembers everything that happened during the run of a program, and allows the programmer to “step backwards in time” to see what happened at any point of the program. All variable values, all objects, all method calls, all exceptions are recorded and the programmer can now look at anything that happened at any time. In this talk, I will describe the design of the “ODB” -- an implementation of Omniscient Debugging for Java programs -- and discuss the various costs and trade-offs.
The last half of the talk will be a demonstration of the ODB, showing how the various pieces of data are displayed and how the programmer can “navigate” through time to see what the program was doing, where values were set, when various threads ran, etc. At the conclusion of the talk, the audience will be invited to use the ODB to find some actual bugs. Anyone having a laptop with Java on it can download the ODB (beforehand!) and try using it to find the bugs themselves.
The ODB is an experimental program under development. It is written in 100% pure Java and has been tested under Solaris, MacOS, and Windows. It is freely available at Bil’s web site.

GBC-ACM Professional Development Seminar
April 28-29, 2007, MIT, Cambridge, MA
Speakers: Jeff Sutherland (Scrum Co-creator)
Ron Jeffries (Extreme Programming)
Jay Conne(Agile/ Lean/ Scrum)
Details on Page 3

GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting
Thursday, April 26th, 2007
One laptop per child: a software design
Speaker: Jim Gettys, MIT Media Lab
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Location: MIT Room E51-315
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02142
Directions: http://whereis.mit.edu/bin/map?locate=bldg_e51
Details: http://www.gbcacm.org/website/semInfo.php?id=1131

This event is offered as a part of the Cambridge Science festival running April 21-29. Software and hardware are very different. Software is malleable and has no cost to reproduce; hardware is a very different experience. Hardware systems design is like sausage making:
• You can only make as much sausage as you can get *all* the ingredients for
• Some parts of the recipe can be substituted, but not others
• There are only a finite number of ingredients you can use in a recipe
• If you know the right ingredient suppliers, you may be able to get custom ingredients made for you, so long as you are making a *lot* of sausage
• Some of the major ingredients take years to grow, rather than a season. You can at best let the farmers (custom chip designers) know what kinds of ingredients you’d like the next time, and have to live with those commodity ingredients that are available in the quantity you need
• It isn’t a pretty process.
• You don’t know exactly how it is going to taste until you’ve cooked it. I will explore the sausage making that is the first One Laptop Per Child System, a novel, very low cost and low power laptop for kids education in the developing world, that runs Linux. The realities of life for many or most of the world’s children present novel challenges to our hardware and software design, particularly due to lack of power, infrastructure, and available expertise in the field.

Continued on page 4

Please check for any last-minute changes to meeting arrangements by visiting the GBC/ACM website http://www.gbcacm.org before the meeting.
April/ May Meetings

Software Quality Group of New England (SQGNE)

Speaker: Derek Kozikowski, SAP
Date/Time: Wednesday, April 11th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
6:00 - 6:30 Networking
6:30 - 8:00 Business and Presentation
Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA
Directions: http://www.swqual.com/SQGNE/directions.html

Speaker: TBA
Date/Time: Wednesday, May 9th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
6:00 - 6:30 Networking
6:30 - 8:00 Business and Presentation
Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA
Directions: http://www.swqual.com/SQGNE/directions.html

April/ May Meetings

ACM SIGGRAPH

Topic: An Evening of State-of-the-Art Computer Animation
Date/Time: Wednesday, April 25th, 2007, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Location: MIT E51-149 on the first floor of the Tang Center
Directions: This event is offered as a part of the Cambridge Science festival running April 21-29. Selections from the recent SIGGRAPH 2006 Animation Festival chosen to demonstrate how computer graphics is used in various fields of science and technology. Examples of animation in meteorology, physics, chemistry and analysis of algorithms will be shown, as well as a few “fun” animations that demonstrate the state of the art in computer graphics. Sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics (ACM SIGGRAPH) -- http://boston.siggraph.org/

GBC-ACM Professional Development Seminar
Deep Agile - April 28-29th, 2007
Jeff Sutherland, Ron Jeffries, Jay Conne
Details on Page 3

IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE READ

Starting with January 2007 - we have switched from a hard to soft copy of the Real Times. In order to send you notification of the Newsletter posting, we need your email address. We are asking members to send their email address to membership@gbcacm.org.

Please include your first and last name, if you would like to receive email copy/notification of the Real Times soft copy.

The GBC/ACM will not disclose your email address outside the chapter without your permission. Please check our privacy policy at:

http://www.gbcacm.org/website/privacy.php
The last Saturday and Sunday in April 2007 is the date for our next Professional Development Seminar.

TOPICS:
- “The Plan is the Problem!”
- “A Fallacious Professionalism Standard”
- “Show me the software” – Running, tested and documented
- Scrum Basics
- XP Basics
- How New Teams Fail
- User Stories Used Right
- Roots of Scrum - Toyota & Lean; the story and lessons
- Test Driven Development (TDD) demo
- Testing Safety-Net
- Putting Scrum and XP successfully together
- Panel – Wrap-up Q&A

Date: April 28 and 29th, 2007

Place: Deep Agile will be held at the MIT-Sloan Building E51 in Room 345. This building is also known as the Tang Center with an entrance at the intersection of Wadsworth and Amhurst Streets. It is also a block from the Kendall Red-line T-station.

Parking: Parking on weekends is usually no problem at the big Sloan lot on Main Street between Wadsworth and Memorial Drive. This is only accessible from the East-bound side of Main.

Cost: $495 before April 13th
       $600 after April 13th
       $650 on day of conference.
       Special group rates - see registration page.

Registration Link Click Here

Map: http://whereis.mit.edu/bin/map?locate=bldg_e51

SPEAKERS: Our speakers are original signers of the Agile Manifesto: http://www.agilemanifesto.org/ - Jeff Sutherland and Ron Jeffries.

Jeff Sutherland – http://www.jeffsutherland.com/
Scrum/Agile Development, Co-Founder of Scrum CTO / VP PatientKeeper & Worldwide Scrum Consulting Practice Manager
Jeff has been CTO / VP of Engineering or VP of Object Technology in nine software companies. He conceived Scrum Agile development process in four of them and has implemented it company wide in the other five. He is well known as the Co-Creator of the Scrum Agile Development Process, which influenced the design of the other leading Agile processes. He is currently CTO of PatientKeeper, Inc., and is doing consulting engagements for Scrum training, certification, assessment and team motivation in the US, Europe and Latin America.

Ron Jeffries – http://www.xprogramming.com/
Extreme Programming (XP) Innovator, Author, Coach and Trainer
Ron is author of Extreme Programming Adventures in C#, senior author of Extreme Programming Installed, and was the on-site XP coach for the original Extreme Programming project. Ron has been involved with Extreme Programming for over five years, presenting numerous talks and publishing papers on the topic. Proprietor of www.XProgramming.com, a well known source of XP information, Ron was one of the creators of, and a featured instructor in, Object Mentor’s popular XP Immersion course.

Jay Conne – http://www.jayconne.com/
Lean/Agile Coach and Trainer, ScrumMaster-Practicing
Jay is a Lean/Agile Coach, Trainer and Certified ScrumMaster-Practicing. His consulting practice focuses on integrating techniques from Scrum, XP, Lean and Thomsett’s project discovery approach. Jay has a particular interest in the ethical and psychological factors that inform and integrate Agile principles and practices.
Deep Agile

Who Should Attend
This seminar is designed for software developers, project managers and team leaders who have to deliver projects with solid business value - with the help of users who don’t know their needs, changing requirements, tight schedules, and an ever-evolving business and technical environment.

We are bringing together some of the leading practitioners of Agile and Extreme Programming – people who have “been there and done that” (and lived to tell about it…) and giving them the time to delve into the details of what it takes to make effective teams and meet nearly impossible demands.

If you are looking for high level overviews, marketing presentations and academic theory, this is not the course for you. On the other hand, if you are “up to your eyeballs in alligators” and want to learn from people who have already drained this swamp, then we’ll see you in April!

Toyota’s Secret — A seven digit number... (from M.E. May’s The Elegant Solution...)
“One million... new ideas... Toyota... implements every year. These ideas come from every level of the organization--from the factory floors to the corporate suites.”

You Will Learn
What “Agile” is all about.

What you can do to improve both productivity and effectiveness. How people factors, communication, and process are as important as computer languages, toolkits, development environment or other technical factors.

Most importantly, you will learn from experts – hear the story behind the approach, including strengths, weaknesses, pitfalls and best practices. You will have the chance to ask questions, to learn more about the items that interest you, and to interact with your peers and the speakers.

Seven Lean Principles
(from Poppendieck’s Lean Software Development...)

1. Eliminate Waste
2. Amplify Learning
3. Decide as Late as Possible
4. Deliver as Fast as Possible
5. Empower the Team
6. Build Integrity In
7. See the Whole

Jim Gettys: One laptop per child: a software design

Continued from page 1

Its recipe, while made out of standard or at most semi-custom ingredients, makes it a novel system: Our display has higher resolution than 95% of the laptop displays on the market today; approximately 1/7th the power consumption; 1/3rd the price; sunlight readability; and room-light readability with the backlight off, mesh networking, a novel dual mode touchpad that can function both as a standard touchpad and be used with a stylus, and novel power conservation capabilities. These include the ability to leave the screen and wireless mesh network fully on while the machine is suspended to RAM.

These also presents challenges to our software: the power conservation techniques needed are very new. Conventional GUI’s are intended for adult office workers: our audience are young children learning to read or getting a basic education, since most children only receive 5-6 years of education in many parts of the world. I’ll touch on some of these aspects as well.

These capabilities present novel challenges to Linux, and are possible for us to implement precisely because Linux is open source. The ability to design hardware knowing that the software can be modified as needed is liberating.
Schedule of Deep Agile

Saturday

Welcome/Sign-in (8:00am-9:00am)
Get your badge, enjoy a continental breakfast, pick out a seat and take advantage of the opportunity to meet people facing the same challenges you are.

Introduction - Common Sense and The Professionalism Fallacy (9:00am-9:10pm) Jay Conne
Methodologies: Why has the software development industry continued to practice what has so consistently failed them? There has been an unquestioned standard of professionalism which we need to question.

The Plan is the Problem (9:10am-10:30am) Jeff Sutherland
“Much of present-day software-acquisition procedure rests upon the assumption that one can specify a satisfactory system in advance, get bids for its construction, have it built, and install it. I think this assumption is fundamentally wrong.” (Fred Brooks. Author of The Mythical Man Month.) Iterative and incremental development, an alternative approach, grew from the 1930’s work of Walter Shewhart, was vigorously promoted by Edward Deming, father of the Japanese quality revolution, and found its way into Scrum through best Japanese practices. The difference between plan-driven development and value-driven development will be discussed.

Break (10:30am-11:00am)

“Show me the Software” (11:00am-12:30pm) Ron Jeffries
Perhaps the most profound difference between Agile methods and the rest is this: the Agile methods focus on delivering real software, week in and week out. We’ll explore what that means to management and to the development team itself.

Lunch (12:30pm-1:30pm)
Lunch is provided, so you can sit with your fellow attendees and discuss the morning’s topics.

Scrum Basics (1:30pm-2:10pm) Jeff Sutherland
Scrum has:
• Three roles: Product Owner, Scrum Master, and Team
• Three ceremonies: Sprint Planning, Daily Meeting, Sprint Review
• Three artifacts: Product Backlog, Sprint Backlog, and Burndown Chart
How many ways can new teams screw up?

Sample Burndown (2:10pm-2:20pm) Jay Conne
Real data with real lessons learned...and not.

XP Basics (2:20pm-3:00pm) Ron Jeffries
• How extreme?
• If code review is good, why not do it continuously?
• If testing is good, why not do it continuously?
• Hyper-productivity with a Safety-Net?
• Continuous simplification - refactoring

Break (3:00pm-3:30pm)

User Stories Done Right: Requirements (3:30pm-5:00pm) Ron Jeffries and Jeff Sutherland
Whether you call them features, backlog items, or stories, all the Agile methods focus on the cyclic delivery of increments of software in which the product owner sees value. We’ll explore some alternative ways to break a big project down into bits that can be done in a few weeks -- or a few days.

Evening Activities
You are invited to join the speakers, leaders of the GBC/ACM and your fellow students for an optional dinner at a local restaurant (walking distance). Time and location will be announced at the seminar. (Note: price of dinner is not included in seminar; everyone is responsible for their own charges.)

Sunday

Welcome/Sign-in (8:00am-9:00am)
You should still have your badge from Saturday, but you can enjoy a continental breakfast, pick out a seat and take advantage of the opportunity to talk with others.

Roots of Scrum: Toyota and Lean (9:00am-10:30am) Jeff Sutherland
Scrum derives from best practices in Japanese lean product development. Lean is revolutionizing manufacturing worldwide and Scrum is revolutionizing software development.

Break (10:30am-11:00am)

Test-Driven Development Demo (11:00am-12:30pm) Ron Jeffries
Delivering software every week or two means that things are changing all the time. One of the key techniques for managing the rate of change is Test-Driven Development (TDD), where every line of code is written in response to a test that shows the line is needed. We’ll use a little live demonstration of TDD as a foundation for discussing this practice.

Lunch (12:30pm-1:30pm)
Sunday lunch is also provided, so you can sit with your fellow attendees and discuss the morning’s topics.

Putting Scrum and XP Together Successfully (1:30pm-3:00pm) Ron Jeffries and Jeff Sutherland
You don’t see high performing Scrum teams without XP engineering practices. It is difficult to scale XP teams without Scrum and Scrum solves the management interface issues for XP. Be careful about doing pieces of anything and calling it Agile.

Break (3:00pm-3:30pm)

Panel and Wrap-up (3:00pm-5:00pm) Jeff Sutherland, Ron Jeffries, Jay Conne
We’ll end with a freewheeling conversation between the speakers and the audience.
NEJUG - The New England Java Users Group

Topics: The Top Ten Ways to Botch a Java Technology-Based Application

Date/Time: Thursday, April 12th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Speaker(s): Cameron Purdy

Location: Bentley College Campus, Waltham, MA

Directions: http://nejug.org/directions_bentley.jsp

Overview:
Although most JavaOne conference sessions are designed to teach developers magic incantations that guarantee project success, this session sets out on an insidious journey to spread the best practices for guaranteeing project failure. Based on actual real-world experiences (with names and details changed to protect the guilty), the speaker shares some of the best-kept secrets in the industry, including architecture and development tips that are certain to push projects over budget and beyond deadlines.

About the speaker:
Cameron Purdy is the founder and CEO of Tangosol and has over twelve years of experience with Java and Java-related technology. Since 2000, his leadership, vision, and commitment to exceptional product quality and customer satisfaction have made Tangosol the market leader in delivering in-memory caching and data grid solutions to companies building and running mission critical enterprise applications. As a software visionary and industry leader, Mr. Purdy is a frequent presenter at industry conferences and has received a number of awards in recognition of his contribution to the Java community. He regularly participates in industry standards development and is the specification lead for JSR 107 (jCache).

BostonPHP User Group

The ODF Alliance - http://www.odfalliance.org/: The alliance works globally to educate policymakers, IT administrators and the public on the benefits and opportunities of the Open Document Format, to help ensure that government information, records and documents are fully and natively accessible across platforms and applications, even as technologies change.

The Commonwealth of MA IT Division (ITD) - http://www.mass.gov/ITD plans to implement ODF using translator technology plugged in to Microsoft Office, in a group of early adopter agencies, including the Massachusetts Office on Disability, by January 1, 2007. Thereafter, ITD plans to migrate all Executive Department agencies to compliance with the standard, in phases, by June of 2007. These target dates are not set in stone; they are dependent on a number of factors, including the adoption by the OASIS standard setting organization of ODF Version 1.1 (which will address minor accessibility issues related to the format itself), the timely delivery of completed translators by one or more of the multiple vendors that are currently developing this technology, and the validated accessibility of the translators themselves.

As we explore:
1. what is ODF?
2. where is it going?
3. what vendors support it?
4. how does it impact the enterprise and why should I care?
**Boston CHI**

**Topic:** Channel-Surfing UX Style -- How to Achieve a Consistent User Experience across Multiple Channels

**Speakers:** Sarah Bloomer & Lori Landesman  
**Date:** April 10th, 2007  
**Details:**  
Refreshments at 6:30 pm. Meeting at 7:00 pm.  
Meetings are free and open to the public.  
Please RSVP when possible to  
BostonCHI@sun.com  
(Those who have not RSVP’d are always welcome)  
Wheel chair accessible.  
**Location:** The Stata Center at MIT,  
Room 32-141  
32 Vassar Street,  
Cambridge, MA

**Abstract:**  
This talk will be about User Experience (UX) strategy. It will be both an overview of what it is and why it’s important, and a case study on a real company, examining what kind of user experience they deliver through multiple channels.

**Bios:**  
Sarah Bloomer has designed user interfaces for 20 years. In 1991 she co-founded The Hiser Group, an Australia-based interaction design company. With Hiser, she helped establish the field of user-centered design in Australia. Upon returning to the USA, Sarah was a senior interaction designer for The MathWorks before starting Sarah Bloomer & Co, a consulting practice focusing on design strategy and facilitation.

Sarah has delivered papers, tutorials and workshops at HCI conferences in Australia and the USA. Her tutorial, Successful Strategies for Selling Usability into Organizations, became a CHI classic. Sarah also led the conceptualization and development of The Hiser Element™ toolkit, a user-centered design methodology created to help companies rapidly set up usability teams.

Sarah holds an MS from New York University in interactive software design, a BA from Smith College, and served as masters supervisor at The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Lori Landesman is a Product Designer and Architect for User Interfaces in the Software Group at IBM. Over the past ten years, she has worked at The Mathworks, User Interface Engineering and Netscape Communications managing teams of usability specialists, designers and instructors. She routinely leads groups of cross-functional teams as they develop software, web applications and web sites that meet both user and business goals.

Lori holds an MBA from Northeastern University, an MA in instructional technology from Columbia University and a BA in math and English from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

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**Are you a member? Is your membership expired? *  
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. Paying for multiple years can save effort for you and us. Please mail in your membership form today!  
(*Check your address label for expiration date.)**

Please make checks payable to GBC/ACM and mail to:  
GBC/ACM  
P.O. Box 465  
Lexington, MA 02420
*** April/ May 2007 Events Calendar ***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 4th</td>
<td>BostonPHP - ODF - What’s in it for you?</td>
<td>IBM/Lotus, Cambridge, MA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10th</td>
<td>Boston CHI - Channel Sorting UX Style - 6:30PM</td>
<td>SUN, Burlington, MA</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12th</td>
<td>NEJUG - Top Ten ways to Botch a Java Tech based Ap</td>
<td>Bentley, Waltham, MA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12th</td>
<td>NESQL - Reporting Services 2005 (Sunil K) - 6:30PM</td>
<td>Microsoft, Waltham, MA</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14th</td>
<td>SQGNE - Software Test Cases</td>
<td>Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17th</td>
<td>Boston SPIN - The Internets Second Wave - Web 2.0</td>
<td>MITRE, Bedford, MA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19th</td>
<td>GBC/ACM IEEE Computer Society</td>
<td>MIT E51-315, Cambridge, MA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21-29th</td>
<td>Cambridge Science Festival</td>
<td>Cambridge, MA</td>
<td>Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23rd</td>
<td>BNUG - Computer/ TV Convergence - Richard Smith</td>
<td>Microsoft, Waltham, MA</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24th</td>
<td>ICCA - Boston - 6:00PM Rebecca’s Cafe</td>
<td>Burlington, MA</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25th</td>
<td>ACM SIGGRAH - State-of-the-Art Computer Animation (Cambridge Science Festival) - 7-9pm</td>
<td>MIT E51-149, Cambridge, MA</td>
<td>Page 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26th</td>
<td>GBC/ACM IEEE Computer Society (Cambridge Science Festival)</td>
<td>MIT E51-315, Cambridge, MA</td>
<td>Page 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28-29th</td>
<td>GBC/ACM - PDS - Deep Agile Seminar</td>
<td>MIT E51-345, Cambridge, MA</td>
<td>Page 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10th</td>
<td>NESQL - MS Access for SQL Services DBA - 6:30PM</td>
<td>Microsoft, Waltham, MA</td>
<td>-</td>
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If your membership has expired, please consider renewing it for one or more years. Currently the membership fee is only $10/year. Your support helps make possible the wide array of GBC/ACM activities.
Geeks and Their Gadgets

**Date and Time:** 6:00 P.M. Tuesday, April 24

**Details:**
- Would you like to know what gadgets real people use to make themselves more productive?
- Would you like to see those gadgets and hear about them from Computer Consultants?
- Do you have a handheld device, computer peripheral, software tool or website that you use regularly?
- Are you using a technique in your own business or your clients’ that helps boost efficiency?

In April we’ll have a different kind of event. Several of our members and guests have agreed to bring their favorite gadgets and suggestions. You’ll have a unique opportunity to learn what’s available and how gadgets can help you and your business.

We’ll cover handheld devices such as PDAs and smartphones. We’ll discuss computer peripherals such as business card readers and label printers. We’ll exchange ideas on software productivity tools from web browsers to office suites. And finally, we’ll talk about websites that are useful and valuable to independent consultants.

Come to our April meeting where you’ll see and hear about these gadgets. We invite you to bring your favorite gadget and share your experiences. We are including a “gadget roundtable” where anyone can offer an idea or suggestion. What works for you? What doesn’t? Which gadget do you use most? Why?

Some of the gadgets and technologies we plan to include are:
- **Smartphones** - Several models will be available for discussion
- **PDAs** - Several participants have experiences to share
- **VoIP** - Phone service delivered over the internet
- **FiOS** - Verizon’s new Fiber Optic service option for internet connectivity
- **FAX services** - Alternatives to the venerable FAX machine
- **PIMS** - Personal Information Managers such as Outlook, Act, Goldmine and others

If you want to “show and tell” your favorite gadget, we’d like you to send a message to info@icca-boston.org to let us know. We’ll reserve a few minutes for you to speak and demonstrate. If you simply have an idea (or several) that you want to offer to the group, no advance notice is needed, just register for the meeting.

**Meeting Location:** Rebecca’s Cafe You can save by prepaying. Click Here to Register for the Program.

**Meeting Schedule:**
- 5:15 - 6:15 Free In-Person Mentor Program (available by request only)
- 6:00 - 6:30 Networking
- 6:30 - 7:00 Dinner
- 7:00 - 8:30 Program
- 8:30 - 9:00 Networking

The Greater Boston Chapter of the ICCA supports and encourages the growth of individuals and small firms in the business of computer consulting through education, networking, advocacy, and the exchange of ideas and knowledge among peers.

The Independent Computer Consultants Association is a national, non-profit, professional organization. Membership benefits include:
- business insurance discount
- standard contracts for consulting and subcontracting
- marketing programs
- many discount programs, include Avis, Hertz and leading hotels