





# The Real Times

Vol. 46 No. 7 www.gbcacm.org September 2007

# GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting Thursday, September 20th, 2007

What's Cool about Fortress

**Speaker:** Guy L. Steele Jr., Sun Microsystems

**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**Location:** MIT Bartos Auditorium

**Directions:** The MIT Media Lab is at 20 Ames St, on the side of the MIT Campus closest to the Kendall Sq T stop. The Bartos Auditorium (room E15-070) is one flight down, in the basement of the Media Lab. **Details:** http://www.gbcacm.org/website/semInfo.

php?id=1137

Joint Meeting with IEEE Computer Society and Boston DAMA

Overview: The Fortress programming language is now catching on outside of Sun. During 2004-2006 it was an internal research project, funded in part by Sun's contract with DARPA for High Productivity Computer Systems. In January 2007 it became an open-source project with an open-source community. People outside Sun are now writing Fortress code and testing it using the open-source Fortress interpreter. In this talk we will discuss some of the recent activity in this community as well as features of Fortress that have made it so appealing. While the language design was originally aimed at high-end ("petascale") parallel supercomputers, it appears also to be well-suited for programming multicore chip and multicore cluster systems.

Lecturers Biography: Guy leads a small computer language research group at Sun Microsystems. Prior to that, he worked at (among other places) Thinking Machines, Tartan Labs, and MIT, where the Scheme language he helped develop as his thesis project was in widespread use for introductory computer science courses for many years. His involvement in developing computer language concepts and standardizing computer languages has had a widespread impact on

the entire industry.

In 1975 he codesigned (with Gerald Sussman) the Scheme language, which was heavily influenced by his graduate work at MIT. Scheme has been standardized as IEEE Standard 1178-1990 for the Scheme Programming Language; the 6th revision of this standard is going out for public balloting this summer.

Guy's two dozen or so papers on Lisp-like languages and their implementation (sometimes referred to as the "Lambda Papers") have had widespread influence in the computer language community; in particular, they persuaded the community that denotational semantics could be used effectively not only as a descriptive formalism but as a practical means of implementing a programming language.

Guy was vice chair and then chair of the X3J13 committee that standardized Common Lisp. He also formalized the grammar of Java, helped define several language features (including support for generic types), and coauthored (with James Gosling and Bill Joy) the Java Language Specification (in print for the last 10 years and now in its third edition). His book "C: A Reference Manual" (co-authored with Samuel Harbison) has been in print for 23 years and is now in its fifth edition. His book "Common Lisp: The Language" has been in print for 22 years and is now in its second edition. He was the project editor for the first edition of the standard for ECMAScript (popularly known as "JavaScript"), which is used in every Internet web browser. He also served on the X3J11 standards committee (C programming language).

One important thrust of Guy's work has been the extension of programming languages to support parallelism and high performance computing. In this

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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-class postage paid at Boston, MA, 02101.

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# **Sept/Oct Meetings**

#### **Software Quality Group of New England (SQGNE)**

**Topic:** Software Security Requirements

**Speaker:** Paco Hope, Cigital

Date/Time: Wednesday, Sept 12th, 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

**Topic:** System Testing – Why, What and How **Speaker:** Carol Perletz, Jupiter Networks

Date/Time: Wednesday, Oct 10th, 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

#### **Boston Area Windows Server User Group**

**Topic:** Longhorn \ Powershell and Neat stuff with hypervisor as well

Speaker: John Kelbey, Microsoft

Date/Time: Tuesday, Sept 9th, 2007, 6:00 pm

Location: Microsoft, Waltham, MA

**Directions:** http://www.microsoft.com/mscorp/info/usaoffices/neweng-

land/waltham.mspx

## **Boston Linux and Unix Group**

**Topic:** PGP/GnuPG Keysigning Party **Location:** MIT Building E-51, Room 315

Time and Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2007 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

**Details:** http://www.blu.org/cgi-bin/calendar/2007-sep

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#### IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE READ

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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.

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# **IEEE Communications Society**

**Topic:** The Transition to Standards Based Platforms in the **Telecom Industry** 

Speaker: John Fryer, Director of Technology Marketing, Embedded Communications Computing, Motorola, Inc.

Date/Time: Thursday, 20-Sep-2007, 7:00 PM Location: Verizon Labs, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham

Contact: Paul Zorfass <paul.zorfass@embeddedtrade.

com> or 781-263-9090

Over the last several years there has been an accelerating trend to adopting standards-based technology within the telecom industry. Standards such as AdvancedTCA and MicroTCA are beginning to be utilized as the computer platform building blocks for communications servers and varieties of network elements.

This technology is based upon industry standards developed by PICMG which is a consortium of over 450 companies who collaboratively develop open specifications for high performance telecommunications and industrial computing applications. The members of the consortium have a long history of developing leading edge products for these industries.

These xTCA telecom standards have the prospect of accelerating time to market and decreasing cost for manufacturers and carriers while providing flexibility for equipment manufacturers to differentiate themselves. Additionally, there is an increasing trend to adopting standards-based high availability middleware software using specifications based on the Service Availability Forum's Application Interface Specification.

The presentation will focus on the impacts of these developments on the telecom industry, the application areas where these technologies are having an impact and the future steps necessary to ensure profitable business opportunities for carriers, equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

John Fryer is Director of Technology Marketing for Embedded Communications Computing within Motorolaís Networks business. Fryer is responsible for determining market trends and future customer requirements to develop strategic directions of Motorolais AdvancedTCAÆ and MicroTCAô based communications servers. Previously he was responsible for the worldwide product marketing of AdvancedTCA communications servers. Fryer joined Motorola in January 2003 with the acquisition of NetPlane Systems, Inc., where he was Vice President of Marketing for control plane and data plane software applications including suites of IP routing, MPLS and ATM protocol software based on IETF, ITU and industry forum standards. He has a strong

technical background with over 25 years of experience in the communications industry, in a variety of marketing and engineering positions.

Prior to NetPlane, Fryer was employed by Cascade Communications where he held positions in product marketing and lead international marketing initiatives. Prior to that he held a variety of product marketing and engineering positions at General DataComm, Inc. and Standard Telephones and Cables PLC.

Fryer holds a B.Sc. with Honors from the University of Nottingham, England.

The Boston Chapter of the IEEE Communications Society is sponsoring this meeting. It begins at 7 PM. at Verizon Labs, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham. All are welcome; there is no meeting fee. The meeting will be preceded by dinner with the speaker at Bertucci's, Winter St, Waltham, at 5:30 PM Please send email to paul.zorfass@embeddedtrade.com if you plan to attend the dinner. Directions are given below.

For further information, please contact Paul Zorfass at the above email address or by phone at 781-263-9090.

Directions to Bertucci's restaurant in Waltham:

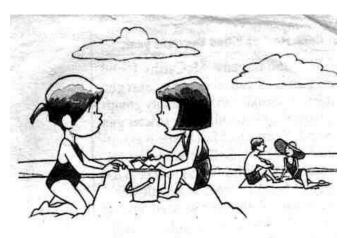
Take Exit 27B on 195/128, heading west on Winter Street. After exiting, stay all the way to the right and take the first right turn into the shopping plaza. Bertucci's is at the far end of the plaza.

Directions to Verizon Labs, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham: Take Exit 27B on I95/128, heading west on Winter Street. On exit, stay all the way to the right.

Verizon Labs is 1/2 mile ahead. After the passing the second traffic light, turn left onto SYLVAN RD. toward the Verizon campus. After entering the campus, take the second right into the courtyard parking lot (go under the pedestrian overpass between buildings and go left for parking). Move diagonally on the walkway to enter building #1 at the northeast corner of the courtyard.

The talks are normally held in Auditorium B. Entering building #1 from the courtyard entrance, go past the guard's desk on the right, and past the cafeteria entrance on the left, then turn left down a corridor behind the cafeteria. Go past Auditorium A, on the right, to Auditorium B, also on the right.





"I'm never having kids. I hear they take nine months to download."

# GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting Thursday, September 20th, 2007 What's Cool about Fortress...continued

context, he designed Connection Machine Lisp (for fine-grained parallel symbolic computing) and C\* (an extended C language for data parallel programming), and contributed heavily to the design of Fortran 90 and High Performance Fortran, for which his book "The High Performance Fortran Handbook" (with four co-authors) is one of the main reference sources. His current work in the design of the Fortress language extends this work.

Guy has served on over 30 program committees, 4 as chair, and one as subfield chair and 7 PhD thesis committees.

Guy's work has received appropriate recognition from a variety of organizations including: Dr. Dobb's Journal Excellence in Programming Award (2005). fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2002) member of the National Academy of Engineering (2001) ACM 1996 SIGPLAN Programming Languages Achievement Award ACM Fellow (1994, part of initial batch of fellows) AAAI Fellow (1990, part of initial batch of fellows)

ACM Grace Murray Hopper Award (1988) "for his general contributions to the development of Higher Order Symbolic Programming, principally for the advancement of lexical scoping in LISP"

ACM 1974-75 George E. Forsythe Student Paper Competition, First Place "for his paper 'Multiprocessing Compactifying Garbage Collection' published in Communications of the ACM, Volume 18, September 1975"

# Online chapter membership signup and renewal now available!

We can now offer chapter membership signup and renewal payments online using Google checkout. The annual chapter membership fee is still currently \$10.00 and you can pay for multiple years. The membership payment page is located at the following URL.

http://www.gbcacm.org/website/renew/

If you have any questions, please contact the membership volunteer at membership@gbcacm.org

#### **Boston SPIN**

**Topic:** Agile Estimating and Planning

Speaker: Mike Cohn

Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Venue: The MITRE Corporation, M Building

Bedford, MA

Abstract: "Agile teams don't plan." At least that's what some people say. In this session we'll blow that myth out of the water by looking at how agile teams do plan. Along the way you'll see why story points have become the most popular unit for estimating work on agile teams. You'll also get hands-on practice with the popular Planning Poker technique. Finally, you'll gain insights into predicting project completion using velocity and confidence intervals.

**About the Speaker:** Mike Cohn is the founder of Mountain Goat Software, a process and project management consultancy and training firm.

He is the author of Agile Estimating and Planning and User Stories Applied for Agile Software Development, as well as books on Java and C++ programming.

With more than 20 years of experience, Mike has previously been a technology executive in companies of various sizes, from startup to Fortune 40. A frequent magazine contributor and conference speaker, Mike is a founding member of the AgileAlliance, and serves on its board of directors.

He can be reached at mike@mountaingoatsoftware. com

#### **Boston CHI**

**Topic:** "Organizational Design and User Experience Teams: The Pros and Cons of Different Approaches"

A Panel Discussion with Alan Schell, EMC Corp Dan Workman, – Oracle Fred Leichter, – Fidelity Doug Gibson, Symantec

**Date:** Tuesday, September 11, 2007 - 6:30 PM **Venue:** Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

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.)

A photo ID is required to gain admittance to Sun. Wheel chair accessible.

#### **Abstract:**

As user experience professionals insinuate themselves into product teams, a question inevitably arises: What is the best way to fit UE into our organization?

Should we have a centrally managed group? Should we have a loose organization, with pockets of UE people attached directly to each product team? Should they act like consultants – available for hire on a project by project basis? And how does each of these paths translate into creating better products, individual development, and building corporate knowledge?

If you think these questions are for MBAs only, think again. They have a profound affect on the day to day life of all UE professionals, as well as how our profession is perceived and valued. The members of this panel have a great deal of real life experience with these issues. They will share their insights on this vital topic at our September meeting.

#### Call for Volunteers

There are many opportunities to help in the GBC-ACM. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please review the current volunteer opportunities listed below. If anything appeals to you or if you have a skill you would like to share, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jay Conne, M:(617) 470-5038, volunteer@gbcacm.org

Membership Chair

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

# **BostonPHP User Group**

**Topic:** Sept User Group:: Building the PHP-stack for

the enterprise

Date/Time: Wednesday, Sept 11th, 2007, 6:30pm

**Location:** IBM/Lotus

answer your questions:

1 Rogers Street

Cambridge, MA 02142

**Map:** http://maps.google.com/maps?q=1+Rogers+Stre et+Cambridge+MA+02142+USA&hl=en

PHP has become ubiquitous when it comes to personal blogs, content management systems, ecommerce sites and more. Take any list of Web 2.0 sites and you'll find that more than 50% have PHP as back-end technology. What is less known is that PHP is also making significant inroads in the enterprise. Join BostonPHP, IBM and Zend as we discuss where Enterprise PHP (and OSS) is going and how it's going to get there. This promises to be a great evening with plenty of "horsepower" to

Mark de Visser - Zend's CMO: In his presentation Mark de Visser will cover case studies of Enterprise PHP, and will discuss what drives the adoption and what still needs to be accomplished. He will cover the role of Zend and other commercial vendors in the PHP ecosystem, and will present a roadmap for the coming year of Zend's main PHP products and services.

David Boloker - IBM's CTO of Emerging Internet Technology: IBM's QEDWiki (written in PHP 5) began as a research project in 2004 to enable Line of Business professionals to remix Enterprise data in various ways using a graphical assembly tool. QEDWiki is part of a larger solution that creates catalog feeds as well feeds from things like Excel spreadsheets, SQL, XML documents, SAP/PeopleSoft/Siebel information and RSS/Atom feeds. Upon creation the feeds can be transformed and remixed using another tool that filters, annotates, merges, publishes and transforms them. Finally, the newly created feeds can be used by QED to create mashups. In his presentation, David will review the business drivers behind this idea as well do some extensive demonstrations of this technology.

**Topic:** Oct User Group:: What is Scrum?

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, Oct 3th, 2007, 6:30pm

**Location:** IBM/Lotus 1 Rogers Street

Cambridge, MA 02142

**Map:** http://maps.google.com/maps?q=1+Rogers+Stre et+Cambridge+MA+02142+USA&hl=en

Scrum is one of the fastest-growing Agile methodologis used to rapidly develop products in shorter time and that meets the ever changing needs of todays business.

It was formalized over a decade ago by Ken Schwaber and Dr. Jeff Sutherland, and it's now being used by companies large and small, including Yahoo!, Microsoft, Google, Lockheed Martin, Motorola, SAP, Cisco, GE Medical, CapitalOne and the US Federal Reserve. Many teams using Scrum report significant improvements, and in some cases complete transformations, in both productivity and morale. For product developers - many of whom have been burned by the "management fad of the month club" - this is significant. Scrum is simple, powerful, and rooted in common sense.

Join BostonPHP and Michael Bourque as he presents the concept of Scrum and shows why so many people are now deploying scrum to their development projects. Michael will take us through the process and talk about how his company, Parametric Technology Inc. (PTC), is successfully applying Scrum.

## **New England Visual Basic Professionals**

**Topic:** Office Groove 2007

**Date:** Sept 6th, 2007 6:30pm to 8:30pm **Speaker:** William Aboujaoude, Microsoft

The New England Visual Basic Professionals User Group meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month to discuss Visual Basic.Net and related technologies such as SQL Server, Access, Mobile Development, Object Oriented programming, Web Services, and XML. A little classic VB comes up every once in a while.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month from 6:15 to 8:30 at Microsoft's Waltham office at 201 Jones Rd

# **NEJUG - The New England Java Users Group**

**Topics:** Open Source Survey

**Date/Time:** Thursday, Sept 13th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Speaker(s): Ryan Cuprak

Location: Sun Microsystems Burlington Campus

**Directions:** http://nejug.org/directions sun.jsp

#### Overview:

This talk will cover a variety of open source java technologies. The Java universe has hundreds if not thousands of open source projects which you can easily leverage by simply adding a jar to your project.

This presentation will survey several projects that I have used or presently exploring. This is a Java 101 presentation - no prior knowledge is expected. All projects that will be discussed are production grade and have extensive communities supporting them as well as unit tests. Thus, you should definitely consider these projects before attempting to develop your own - you probably don't have the time or testing resources! The presentation will center on the survey web application I have been developing for the Java Sig. Technologies which will be covered.

#### About the speaker:

Ryan Cuprak is an e-Formulation Analyst at Enginuity PLM and heads the Connecticut Java Users Group. He previously worked at Eastman Kodak Molecular Imaging Systems and TurboWorx

# **OWASP Boston Chapter**

**Topic:** Privacy in the 21st Century

**Date:** Thursday, September 6th, 6:30pm to 9pm **Location:** The Boston OWASP Chapter meets the first Wednesday of every month, 6:30 pm at the Microsoft offices at the Waltham Weston Corporate Center, 201 Jones Rd., Sixth Floor Waltham, MA.

To find out more about the Boston chapter, please send an email to Jim Weiler: mailto:Jim.Weiler@owasp.org or just join the OWASP Boston mailing list: http://lists.owasp.org/mailman/listinfo/owasp-boston. Everyone is welcome to come to any meeting, there is no signup or joining criteria, just come if it sounds interesting. Feel free to sign up to the OWASP Boston mailing list.

#### Beantown.NET

**Topic:** WCF: State of the Service **Date:** Thursday, Sept 6, 2007, 6:00 pm **Invited Speaker:** Richard Hale Shaw

**Meeting Location:** Hollister, Inc.

75 State St., 9th Floor

Boston, MA

http://www.hollisterstaff.com/

**Abstract:** Have you ever bought a great car, one with all the features, all the bells and whistles you've ever wanted for a car – only to find that maintenance is annoying, even a pain? That even seemingly simple tasks – such as opening the door, starting the engine and changing the seat position – are unusually difficult? Probably not: you probably wouldn't have bought the car in the first place.

While the analogy may seem far fetched, it's been much the same with WCF since its release last November. While it's a vast improvement over Remoting and .ASMX, and undeniably powerful and flexible, the WCF tools in the .NET 3.0 SDK and supplied with VS2005 have been, well, a joke. The configuration editor is buggy, the VS2005 integration only supports initial project generation, and – worst of all – SvcUtil harks back to arcane command-line tools found in long-discarded operating systems. Plus, there's been little support for design or enforcement of best practices.

In this talk, Richard will give you an update: what's happening to these tools in VS2008, and what kinds of tools are available for WCF development outside of VS2005 and the .NET Framework SDK. We'll look at a variety of options and you'll leave with some great ideas on how to enhance your WCF development practices.

**Bio:** Richard is the CEO of the Richard Hale Shaw Group, where he is a consultant, architect and lecturer who focuses on Managed Code development of distributed systems with the C# Language and the .NET Framework.

Richard is a Microsoft MVP for Visual C#, and since 2002, has been a member of the C# Customer Council: a group of hand-picked experts who consult to the C# Team at Microsoft regarding new features and new directions in the C# Programming Language.

In the Boston area, he's also known as a budding jazz bassist with a deep love of the work of Miles Davis and John Coltrane.

You can reach him at: www.RichardHaleShawGroup.com

#### **GBC/ACM Election Results**

The GBC/ACM held elections for its officers at the regular yearly business meeting in June. The results have been tallied and the 2007-2008 Officers are:

President – Stephen Evanchik Vice President – Edward Freedman Treasurer – Yona Carmichael Secretary – Steve Anthony

Thank you for attending and voting at the meeting. Your continued participation is appreciated.

# **New England M Users Group**

**Title:** Cache at Dartmouth Hitchcock **Date:** Sept 11th, 2007, 6:00pm

**Venue:** 93 Worcester Street, Wellesley,MA **Directions:** http://nemug.org/meeting\_direct.html

Founded more than a decade ago, NEMUG serves as a means for M and Caché Technology developers to meet, network, and learn. NEMUG meets bi-monthly on the second Tuesdays of September, November, January, March, May and July.NEMUG meetings usually take place at the Wellesley Gateway Building, in Wellesley, Mass.Food and socializing at 6:00 p.m., and discussion/presentations at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Windows Technical Forum**

**Topic:** Privacy is Dead

Date/Time: Tuesday, Sept 11th, 2007 6:30pm to 9:00pm

**Location:** Microsoft, 201 Jones Road 6th Floor, Waltham,

Agenda:

6:30 - 6:40 - Administrative (Bring Ideas for Future Meeting Topics)

MA 02451

 $6{:}40$  -  $7{:}30$  - Q&A from Attendees (Bring Your Questions and Tips)

7:30 - 9:00 - "Privacy is Dead, Get Over It!" - Riveting seminar video from a White Hat Hacker's Conference by Steve Rambam, followed by Discussion.

The Microsoft Windows Technical Forum usually (except July & August and Holidays) meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Microsoft, 201 Jones Road 6th Floor, Waltham, MA 02451, (781) 487-6400 (NEW Directions) from 6:30 to 9:00PM.

# Are you a member? Is your membership expired? \*

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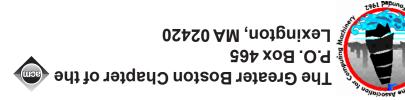
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If your membership has expired, please consider renewing it for one or more years. Currently the membership fee is only \$10/year. Your support helps make possible the wide array of GBC/ACM activities.

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