



# The Real Times

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April 2008

## GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting Thursday, April 3rd, 2008 *Coding with Eclipse: Modern software Development*

**Speaker:** Vineet Sinha, Architexa

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

**Location:** MIT Room E51-325

**Details:** <http://www.gbcaacm.org/node/16>

**Overview:** The buzz around Eclipse has only been growing. Since its initial start as a Java development tool, Eclipse has rapidly evolved into a reusable platform for building IDEs, rich desktop applications, and more recently server-side applications. This talk covers the latest happenings in the Eclipse world and brings highlights from this year's EclipseCon.

We will give an overview of the different aspects of Eclipse and the updates of the various Eclipse projects. We will demonstrate using the tools that make up Eclipse as well as show how to reuse the platform, covering both how you can effectively use it for software development, and how you can extend it to do what you need it to do by providing your own plug-ins. We will also show some of the non-traditional tools built by the Eclipse community, ranging from tools designed to reduce developers' information-overload to ones aimed at providing for easier development of mobile and rich web based applications.

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## GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting Thursday, April 17th, 2008 *Gold and Fool's Gold: Successes, Failures, and Futures in Computer Systems Research*

**Speaker:** Butler Lampson, Microsoft

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

**Location:** MIT Room 54-100

**Details:** <http://www.gbcaacm.org/node/112>

**Overview:** People have been inventing new ideas in computer systems for nearly four decades, usually driven by Moore's Law. Many of them have been spectacularly successful: virtual memory, packet networks, objects, relational databases, and graphical user interfaces are a few examples. Other promising ideas have not worked out: capabilities, distributed computing, RISC, and persistent objects. And the fate of some is still in doubt: parallel computing, formal methods, and software reuse. The Web was not invented by computer systems researchers. In the light of all this experience, what will be exciting to work on in the next few years?

**Lecturer's Biography:** For more information about the speaker see the following URL.

<http://research.microsoft.com/lampson/One%20para%20bio%20plus%20pic.htm>

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Please check for any last-minute changes to meeting arrangements by visiting the GBC/ACM website <http://www.gbcaacm.org> before the meeting.

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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 emailed to:  
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**GBC/ACM Membership, P.O. Box 465, Lexington, MA 02420**

## Mar-Apr 2008 Meetings

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

**Topic:** The Pitfalls and Hidden Costs of Offshore/Outsourced Testing

**Speaker:** Matt Pappas, SAS-Marketmax

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 9th, 2008, 6:00pm - 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>

### Upcoming SQGNE Meetings

#### Having a Defined Target for Software Security Testing

Robert Martin, Mitre, May 14th, 2008

#### How Managers Get So Stupid

Robin Goldsmith, GoPro Management June 6th, 2008

#### Annual Hot Topics Night...

You!, July 9th, 2008

### The Greater Boston Network Users Group

**Topic:** Leveraging Your Infrastructure for Performance Management

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 1st, 2008, 6:30 pm

**Location:** Microsoft, Waltham, MA

**Directions:** <http://www.bnug.org/directions-microsoft.html>

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE READ

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*Since 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/privacy>

## GBC/ACM Events at the Cambridge Science Festival

### *Balancing Your Internet Cyber-Life with Privacy and Security*

**Tuesday, April 29th, 2008**

**Speaker:** Joseph Guarino, Evolutionary IT  
**Time:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
**Location:** Cambridge Central Square Branch Library  
**Details:** <http://www.gbcacm.org/node/125>

**Overview:** Whether you're a teenager or college student on MySpace or FaceBook, or a professional using LinkedIn and job posting sites, and whatever your level of technical and social sophistication, you'll find something valuable in this presentation. Social networking, blogs, forums, email, IM all represent evolutionary opportunities to communicate and collaborate but they carry distinct risks. Learn the real world tools and techniques to minimize your risks, protect your privacy/identity and shield your financial health - all while getting the most out of your online existence. The digital world can be a dangerous place; this presentation will give you the practical knowledge to protect yourself.

**Lecturer's Biography:** Presented by Joseph Guarino, Evolutionary IT -- [www.evolutionaryit.com](http://www.evolutionaryit.com)

**Cost:** Free!

**Directions:** The Cambridge Central Square Branch Library is located at 45 Pearl Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. More information can be found at the Cambridge Public Library website located at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/~CPL/hours/central.html>

### *One Laptop Per Child -- Community Jam* **Saturday, May 3rd, 2008**

**Speaker:** TBA  
**Time:** 10:00am - 2:00pm  
**Location:** MIT Stata Center, Room 32-044,  
 32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA  
**Details:** <http://www.gbcacm.org/node/126>

**Overview:** Have you heard about the XO, the innovative "\$100 laptop" from the non-profit organization One Laptop Per Child which wants to provide children of the developing world with low cost laptops? Did you get your own through their "Give One Get One" donation program? Or do you wish you did? (Maybe next time.) Do you want to learn what people in other countries are doing with them, what kids are doing with them, or how they can be used for education and creativity in the classroom and elsewhere? Maybe you have ideas of your own for software games and applications?

Come to our OLPC community workshops. Bring your XO if you have one. Learn how you can develop software, play games, connect to the international XO development community, and get involved in the Boston/Cambridge XO user community.

Adults and kids, families and individuals are invited. Please pre-register (for free!) at <http://www.gbcacm.org/cambridgesciencefestival> to help us plan this event. Also check that website for more details in the weeks before the event.

**Cost:** Free!, but space is limited, so register now at <http://www.gbcacm.org/cambridgesciencefestival>

**Additional Cambridge Science Festival Events  
on Page 4**

***Birdsongs of the Mesozoic***  
**Saturday, May 3rd, 2008**  
 (Multi-media Concert Performance)

**Performers:** Michael Bierylo, Ken Field,  
 Erik Lindgren and Rick Scott

**Time:** 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm

**Location:** MIT Stata Center, Room 32-123  
 32 Vassar Street, Cambridge

**Details:** <http://www.gbcaem.org/node/127>

**Overview:** Birdsongs of the Mesozoic is a 4-piece electrified modern music ensemble formed in 1980. Michael Bierylo (guitar/laptop), Ken Field (sax/flute/percussion), Erik Lindgren (piano), and Rick Scott (synthesizer) have been recognized both in-

dividually and collectively as significant contributors to the world of modern creative music. With over twelve releases, the group has received international acclaim for its unique and creative blend of musical styles. Additional information is available at <http://www.birdsongsofthemesozoic.org>.

Birdsongs' performance will be augmented by large-screen real time projected visuals, including algorithmic imagery by musician and software designer Ned Resnikoff. Resnikoff will be employing his own custom music animation software Vizzy Lights, a real-time version of his Vizzy program. Vizzy is a music visualization process that uses multi-resolution wavelet-based spectral analysis to produce a responsive, detailed view of sound. Spectral data is embellished using OpenGL graphics, and controlled by a custom software application that allows the user to travel visually through sonic space.

***Coding with Eclipse: Modern Software  
 Development***  
**Thursday, April 3rd, 2008**

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**Lecturer's Biography:** Vineet Sinha started building Eclipse plug-ins in 2003 as part of research in improving developer productivity. This research was the basis of his recent PhD in CS at MIT, and his tool has been rated as one of the top Eclipse tools in its category. Vineet is currently working on building out this functionality as the president and CTO of Architexa <http://www.architexa.com>.

**Directions:** Map showing the MIT campus: <http://whereis.mit.edu/bin/map?mapterms=e51> The red building is Bldg. E51; the T symbol at the top is the Kendall T-Station. Building E51 is located near the Eastern extremity of MIT, on Memorial Drive close to the Longfellow Bridge. It also adjoins Amherst Street and Wadsworth Street. Building E51 is a short walk from the Kendall T station. Room 325 is on the third floor. Parking: Driving westbound on Memorial Drive you may park on the street near Building E51. There are often spaces available there in the evening. Driving eastbound on Main Street you will see an MIT parking lot on the right between the Kendall Square T and the Longfellow Bridge.

***Gold and Fool's Gold: Successes, Failures,  
 and Futures in Computer Systems Research***  
**Thursday, April 17th, 2008**

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**Directions:** Check a map showing the MIT campus. The red building is Bldg. 54; the Kendall T-Station is on Main Street off the right side of the map. Building 54 at the MIT campus is the 21-story building with a radome on the top; it is entered at 21 Ames Street, which is perpendicular to Mass Avenue.

## Boston SPIN

### Topic: Cave Dwellers and Chatter Boxes: Demystifying Introversion and Extraversion

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 17th, 2008 6:00-8:30pm  
 6:00-6:30 Registration/social/networking  
 6:30-7:30 Dinner  
 7:30 pm Speaker's Presentation

**Speaker:** Naomi Karten

**Location:** Hilton Garden Inn, 420 Totten Pond Road, Waltham 02451

**Details:** <http://www.boston-spin.org/>

**Overview:** This meeting is a joint meeting between the Boston SPIN and ASQ. Buffet dinner and cash bar will be available before the presentation. The deadline for dinner reservations is midnight April 13th. If you do not want to attend the dinner, please plan to arrive at 7:30 pm for the speaker. As always, there is no cost to attend the presentation.

To register and/or pay in advance for the dinner portion of the meeting please follow instructions on the ASQ web site [http://asqboston.org/Section\\_Information/meeting.htm](http://asqboston.org/Section_Information/meeting.htm)

**Abstract:** The introvert/extravert dynamic is a complex one. Introverts and extraverts typically exhibit significant differences in behavior, interaction preferences, and work style. And the two often differ in what, when, and how they communicate. Such differences can lead to frayed nerves and ruffled feathers. Worse, they can create misunderstandings and flawed problem solving.

In this presentation, Naomi will help you gain insight into your own preference for introversion or extraversion and improve your effectiveness in working with your more introverted and extraverted colleagues, co-workers and customers. We'll take both a serious and a light-hearted look at the introvert/extravert dynamic, so as to:

- Broaden your understanding of this dynamic.
- Dispel misconceptions and stereotypes.
- Understand the positive and negative perceptions each has of the other.
- Determine what each would most appreciate from

the other review techniques for working together productively

**Speaker:** Naomi Karten ( [www.nkarten.com](http://www.nkarten.com) ) has delivered seminars and presentations to more than 100,000 people internationally to help them improve customer satisfaction, manage change, strengthen teamwork, and enhance communication skills.

Naomi's books, *Communication Gaps and How to Close Them* and *Managing Expectations*, provide proven strategies and techniques for delivering superior service, carrying out projects, implementing change, and building strong relationships. Her ebooks include *How to Survive, Excel and Advance as an Introvert* and *Changing How You Communicate During Change*. Her Web-based newsletter, *Perceptions & Realities*, offers serious advice in a lively, chuckle-generating manner.

Prior to forming her training and consulting business in 1984, she earned a B.A. and an M.A. in psychology and gained extensive IT experience in technical, customer support, and management positions.

### Upcoming Meetings:

#### **Project Management Isn't Enough: Essentials of Effective Sponsorship**

Payson Hall  
 May 20th, 2008

#### **Putting the engineering in software engineering: technology infrastructure in process improvement**

Drs. Dorota Huizinga and Adam Kolawa  
 June 17th, 2008

### **Online chapter membership signup and renewal now available!**

We 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.gbcaacm.org/membership/join>

If you have any questions, please contact the membership volunteer at [membership@gbcaacm.org](mailto:membership@gbcaacm.org)

## Boston CHI

**Topic: Tabletop Displays and Remote Collaboration**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 8th, 2008 - 6:30 PM

**Location:** Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

**Speakers:** Mark Ashdown, MIT

**RSVP :** [BostonCHI@sun.com](mailto:BostonCHI@sun.com)

**Details:** <http://www.bostonchi.org>

**Abstract:** Tabletop displays have become a popular research topic in recent years, partly because of the 'cool factor' and partly because horizontal direct-touch interfaces offer a different style of interaction from conventional computer interfaces. First I will describe my own work on creating a tabletop display. Then I will describe the issues that make tabletop interfaces different from conventional ones and which cause various assumptions implicit in conventional graphical user interfaces to be challenged, such as the assumption that there is only a single pointing device. Finally I will describe the project I am working on to link a tabletop display with handheld devices for synchronous communications within emergency response teams.

**Lecturer Biography:** Mark Ashdown is a research scientist in the Humans and Automation Lab at MIT where he is working on asymmetric remote collaboration for distributed teams. He is investigating the design of synchronous collaboration systems between a tabletop display in a command centre and handheld displays for mobile team members, particularly in an emergency response scenario. He is funded by a European Union Marie Curie Fellowship. He previously ob-

tained a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Cambridge Computer Lab in the UK in 2004, for creating a novel tabletop system called Escritoire. He was a postdoc in the University of Tokyo, Japan, from 2004 to 2006, working on geometric and photometric calibration for projectors. More information is available at <http://mark.ashdown.name>.

**Directions:** <http://www.bostonchi.org/directions.html>

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## 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](mailto:volunteer@gbcacm.org)

Membership Chair

## BostonPHP User Group

**Topic:** April User Group::The mystery of CSS and Design

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 2nd, 2008, 6:30pm

**Location:** IBM/Lotus  
1 Rogers Street  
Cambridge, MA 02142

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

**Website:** <http://www.BostonPHP.org>

**Lecturer:** There was a time when programming and visual design lived on opposite sides of the brain, however, in today's web 2.0 environment, it's wishful thinking that coders and artists can exist in isolation. Although it's always good practice to separate business logic from presentation (can you say MVC) it is equally important (for your career) to at least become conversant in the elements of design and style... and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is the lingua franca to which you should aspire to speak. Neither fish nor fowl, CSS straddles the brain hemispheres to provide the tools of elegant design/web-apps while promoting the separation of presentation and business logic that we all strive for.

Is CSS a mystery to you? Do you find yourself editing your styles over and over just to get them to display correctly in IE and Firefox? Have you created a powerful application, and want it to look nice and clean? Do you want to take your knowledge of CSS and Design to the next level?

Join Michael Bourque, Director Parametric Technology Inc. (PTC), when he shows us how to make a powerful impact on end users by applying style and design through the construct of CSS. In this session you will learn:

- \* Basics of CSS
- \* Design & Layout
- \* Web Standards
- \* Usability Testing
- \* Tips & Tricks
- \* Rich Visual Behaviors

Michael will start by covering the basics and then move on to more advanced topics such as web standards, design & layout, and usability testing. He will explore the dramatic transformation that occurs when CSS is applied to non styled web apps.

**Info/Notes:** BostonPHP is the unofficial, highly biased and overly ambitious PHP Users Group for Boston and its surrounding communities. Our membership ranges from newbie-to-techie. We discourage RTFM attitudes and encourage you to come see what PHP is all about.

BostonPHP works in conjunction with BostonPHP Meetup, usually meeting the first Wednesday of every month for structured presentation at a local university or business location, and then typically moves on to a nearby restaurant/bar/pub for more informal discussion.

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## Independent Computer Consultants Association (ICCA Boston Chapter)

**Topic:** Assessments: A Consultant's Tool for Organizational Change

**Date/Time:** April 22, 2008, 6:00pm - 9:00 pm  
 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 - 9:00 Presentation

**Speaker:** Johanna Rothman

**Location:** Rebecca's Cafe, 8 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA

**Details:** <http://www.icca-boston.org/>

**Overview:** You've made contact with a potential client. They need you—and you're perfect for them. But they have a bunch of problems, and they can't figure out how to effectively use you. What do you do?

One of the best tools in a consultant's toolbox is the assessment. You can't help the client change until you (and they) know where they are. But aren't all assessments long and expensive? Don't you need an army of consultants to do them right?

No and No. Any consultant can determine how to use effective assessments in his or her practice. All you need is to know how to bound your problems, so you can see how to sell the service to your clients.

You can learn where you're starting with no more than three simple questions. In this session, you'll learn how to design three questions that work for you to start an assessing conversation. We'll explore which questions work, which questions are traps, and how to stay out of trouble with questions. You'll learn to develop a framework for assessments for your business.

If you don't offer an assessment service as part of your consulting practice, you are missing a qualitative data gathering approach that clients find invaluable. In this session, Johanna will explain a framework for assessments, her initial questions. We'll work together to help you find your initial questions.

**Lecturer Biography:** Johanna Rothman helps managers identify, define, and solve their problems. She is the author of *Manage It! Your Guide to Modern, Pragmatic Project Management*, the coauthor (with Esther Derby) of *Behind Closed Doors: Secrets of Great Management*, and the author of *Hiring the Best Knowledge Workers, Techies & Nerds: The Secrets and Science of Hiring Technical People*. She has posted over 150 articles, as well as two blogs, on [www.jrothman.com](http://www.jrothman.com).

### 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.)

**NEW** - Online membership signup and renewal available. Please see instructions on Page 5

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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\*\*\* *April & May 2008 Events Calendar* \*\*\*

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Apr 2th	BostonPHP User Group - <b>April Users Group: The mystery of CSS and Design</b> - Michael Bourque - 6:30pm	IBM/Lotus, Cambridge, MA	Page 7
Apr 3th	GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting - <b>Coding with Eclipse: Modern Software Development</b> - Vineet Sinha - 7:00pm to 9:00pm	MIT Room E51-325, Cambridge, MA	Page 1
Apr 8th	Boston CHI - <b>Tabletop Displays and Remote Collaboration</b> - Mark Ashdown, MIT - 6:30pm	Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA	Page 6
Apr 9th	SQUNE - <b>The Pitfalls and Hidden Costs of Offshore/ Outsourced Testing</b> - Matt Pappas, SAS-Marketmax - 6pm to 8pm	Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA	Page 2
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Apr 17th	Boston SPIN and ASQ - <b>Cave Dwellers and Chatter Boxes: Demystifying Introversion and Extraversion</b> - Naomi Karten - 6:00pm to 8:30pm	Hilton Garden Inn, Waltham, MA	Page 5
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May 3rd	GBC/ACM - <b>Birdsongs of the Mesozoic</b> - Michael Bierylo, Ken Field, Erik Lindgren and Rick Scott - 8:00pm to 10:00pm	MIT Stata Center, Room 32-123, Cambridge, MA	Page 4

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.