



The Real Times

Vol. 47 No. 5

www.gbcaacm.org

May 2008

GBC/ACM Meeting **Saturday, May 3rd, 2008** ***One Laptop Per Child*** ***Community Jam***

Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Location: MIT Stata Center, Room 32-044,
32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA
Details: <http://www.gbcaacm.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.

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GBC/ACM Meeting **Saturday, May 3rd, 2008** ***Birdsongs of the Mesozoic*** (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, MA
Details: <http://www.gbcaacm.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 individually 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

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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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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. The Real Times is published electronically and can be downloaded from our website <http://www.gbcacm.org>

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Timely notices of events, meetings, and other activities of interest to the Chapter's Membership should be submitted by the 15th of the month Before the intended issue and emailed to:
editor@gbcacm.org

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>

The Chapter's annual membership dues is \$10.00 and may be renewed online or via mail. Membership renewals via mail should be mailed to: **GBC/ACM, P.O. Box 465, Lexington, MA 02420**

Online membership status lookup is currently not available. For membership status or any other questions, please email membership@gbcacm.org.

May-June 2008 Meetings

Software Quality Group of New England (SQGNE)

Topic: Having a Defined Target for Software Security Testing

Speaker: Robert Martin, Mitre

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 14th 2008

6:00pm - 6:30pm Networking

6:30pm - 8:00pm Presentation

Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

Directions: <http://www.swqual.com/SQGNE/directions.html>

Upcoming SQGNE Meetings

How Managers Get So Stupid

Robin Goldsmith, GoPro Management June 6th, 2008

Annual Hot Topics Night...

You!, July 9th, 2008

BostonPHP

Topic: May User Group::Designing, deploying and operating high-traffic PHP

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 7th, 2008, 6:30pm

Location: IBM/Lotus

1 Rogers Street

Cambridge, MA 02142

Details: <http://www.BostonPHP.org>

Overview: We've all heard stories of PHP in high volume applications like Yahoo, Facebook, and Wikipedia, etc. but how many of us really know what that means? Please join Jack Steadman of Smarter Travel Media and BostonPHP as we explore the ins-and-outs of running "consumer-grade" websites.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE READ

*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.

GBC/ACM, IEEE CS and IEEE RAS Meeting
Grand Challenges in Engineering for the 21st Century
Thursday, May 15th, 2008

Speaker: Ray Kurzweil

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Broad Institute Auditorium
 MIT Building NE30
 Main St (between Vassar and Ames Sts)
 Cambridge, MA

Details: <http://www.gbcaem.org/node/6>

Overview: The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) this year issued a report in which it attempts to identify the greatest engineering challenges humanity will face in this century. With input from people around the world, an international group of leading technological thinkers were asked to identify the Grand Challenges for Engineering in the 21st Century <http://www.engineeringchallenges.org/>. We've invited Ray Kurzweil, who is one of the leading authors of the report, to present some of its findings, give his impressions of the important technological trends and challenges likely to occur over the next hundred years or so, and challenge you, some of the leading students, researchers, and industry practitioners from the Boston and New England area, to help solve them.

Lecturer's Biography: Kurzweil was the principal developer of the first omni-font optical character recognition, the first print-to-speech reading machine for the blind, the first CCD flat-bed scanner, the first text-to-speech synthesizer, the first music synthesizer capable of recreating the grand piano and other orchestral instruments, and the first commercially marketed large-vocabulary speech recognition. Ray has successfully founded and developed nine businesses in OCR, music synthesis, speech recognition, reading technology, virtual reality, financial investment, cybernetic art, and other areas of artificial intelligence. All of these technologies continue today as market leaders. Ray's Web site, KurzweilAI.net, is a leading resource on artificial intelligence.

Cost: Free!

Directions: The meeting will be held at the Broad Institute Auditorium. MIT Building NE30 (also known as the Broad Institute) is next to the Whitehead Institute on Main St. between Vassar and Ames Streets. You can find it on MIT's map server. The main auditorium is on the first floor near the entrance. More detailed directions are available at the MIT Broad website.

GBC/ACM and IEEE CS Meeting
The Semantic Web: It's not just for searching anymore!
Thursday, June 19th, 2008

Speaker: Kenneth Baclawski
 Northeastern University

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: MIT Room NE51-345, Cambridge, MA

Details: <http://www.gbcaem.org/node/141>

Overview: The WWW is currently dominated by human-computer interactions using web browsers. However, automated interactions are becoming increasingly common. The Semantic Web is an extension of the WWW in which the meaning of information and services is formally defined, making it possible for machines to understand and satisfy requests. In this talk I will briefly introduce the Semantic Web, and then give some examples of the wide variety of applications that the Semantic Web makes possible. I will also discuss some of the recent progress that has been made in the development of Semantic Web tools and protocols. The application domains include the following:

1. Interoperability and integration of information
2. Web services and composite applications

3. Records management
4. Uncertain, incomplete, conflicting and misleading information
5. Decision and policy making
6. Collaboration tools
7. Wireless communication
8. Behavioral health counseling
9. Epidemiology: disease tracking

Lecturer's Biography: Kenneth Baclawski is an Associate Professor in the College of Computer and Information Science at Northeastern University. Professor Baclawski's primary research area is ontology based computing. This includes research in the Semantic Web, ontology-based methods in the health sciences, and methods for decision making in the presence of uncertainty.

More information about the lecturer can be found at his personal home page.

<http://www.ccs.neu.edu/home/kenb>

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

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Adults and kids, families and individuals are invited. Please pre-register (for free!) at <http://www.gbcaacm.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.gbcaacm.org/cambridgesciencefestival>

Birdsongs of the Mesozoic
Saturday, May 3rd, 2008

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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.

Cost: Free

Performers Biographies: For 25 years, **Erik Lindgren** has been prolific as a composer with over 4 dozen contemporary classical works. Along with Rick Scott, Lindgren is a charter member of Birdsongs of the Mesozoic, which formed in 1980. He also runs Arf! Arf!, an archival label with over 5 dozen releases dedicated to the preservation of '60s Garage/Psychedelic Rock and "Incredibly Strange Music"; Arf! Arf! has also issued 4 CD retrospectives of his 1970-'80's studio moniker The Space Negros. Since 1979, Lindgren has run Sounds Interesting, a state-of-the-art 24-track digital studio and commercial music production company. Credits include scores for all three networks, PBS, Polaroid, Boston Globe, Prentice Hall, and Eastpak. His passions include travel, horseback riding, lap swimming, and record collecting.

Ken Field is a Cambridge-based saxophonist, flautist, percussionist, and composer. A member of Birdsongs since 1988, he has recorded eight CDs with the group. Field has performed in the US, Canada, France, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, and Japan, and has been Composer-in-Residence at the Ucross Foundation (Wyoming), the Fundacion Valparaiso (Spain), and the Atlantic Center for the Arts (Florida). His releases include the solo CDs *Subterranea* and *Pictures of Motion*, documenting Field's compositions for layered alto saxophones, and *Tokyo in F*, a live recording of a spontaneously improvised Tokyo concert with three renowned Japanese musicians. His projects have been released on the Cuneiform, O.O.Discs, sFz Recordings, Sublingual, and Innova Recordings labels, and have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Saxophone Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, and many other publications. *Year of the Snake*, recorded with his brass band the Revolutionary Snake Ensemble, was included on best-of-year lists in New York City, New Orleans, and Milan. Field is a Vandoren Performing Artist. His music is also heard regularly on the children's television program *Sesame Street*. Information and CDs are available at <http://www.kenfield.org>

Rick Scott is a founding member of Birdsongs, and still a man of few words.

Originally from Detroit, **Michael Bierylo's** early musical education came from a wealth of encounters ranging from Contemporary Composition with William Bolcom at the University Of Michigan to a misspent Summer playing Union halls with Motown sidemen. Further enlightenment followed under the tutelage of Guitar Pedagogue Jon Damien and Composer Michael Gibbs at Boston's Berklee College Of Music. Upon graduation (yes a BM.....) Bierylo spent most of the Reagan years in the wild and woolly Boston Rock scene. During this time, an ongoing interest in technology and introspection yielded two nationally distributed solo recordings, *Lifeline* and *Cloud Chorus*. In 1991, Bierylo replaced founding member Martin Swope in Birdsongs Of The Mesozoic. Mr. Bierylo is currently an Associate Professor of Music Synthesis at Berklee College of Music. His project studio, Virtual Planet, has been the source of music and sound design for numerous Film, Video and Multimedia projects over the last several years, serving clients such as Hasbro Interactive, Nintendo and Nickelodeon. A recent project with Olive Jar Animation Studios yielded music and sound design for Universal Studios *Island Of Adventure*. The studio continues as a laboratory for ongoing research. Mr. Bierylo lives at home (not his studio) with wife, child and 3 cats in lovely Brighton, Massachusetts.

Ned Resnikoff has been playing with music and computers for 25 years. His music visualizations have played in various film festivals and venues, including the Boston Visual Music Marathon and SIGGRAPH 2007. For more information about his work, please visit <http://www.nedwaves.com>.

Boston SPIN

Topic: Project Management Isn't Enough: Essentials of Effective Sponsorship

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 20th, 2008 6:00-8:30PM

- 6:00-7:00 Networking with pizza
- 6:00-6:45 Roundtables (also with pizza)
- 7:00-7:10 Announcements
- 7:10-8:10 Presentation
- 8:10-8:25 Questions and Answers
- 8:25-8:30 Raffles and Gifts

Speaker: Payson Hall

Location: The MITRE Corporation
M Building
Bedford, MA

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

Special Notice: The May and June meetings will be held in building M. Roundtables are focused group or “birds-of-a-feather” discussions, with a Facilitator to stimulate and moderate discussion. These discussions are held during the Networking portion of the SPIN meeting before the speaker (from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.)

Abstract: Project management folklore (and PM product vendors) assure us that abundant spending on project management training and tools guarantees project success. Real world results often disagree. While most organizations recognize a return on past investments in project management, many remain frustrated by projects that exceed schedule or resource goals, don't deliver promised functionality or acceptable quality products, or fail outright. Was the whole “PM thing” more hype than substance? Has the ROI peaked? Will the next tool, method, process, or class solve the problem?

During this talk, Payson will argue that:

- Some projects cannot succeed as defined no matter how well they are managed, and
- Effective project management is necessary, but insufficient for supporting informed executive decision-making

Payson asserts that there are limits to what project management practices can do for an organization without effective sponsorship. Sponsors establish project

goals and organizational priorities, setting a context for project management. Sponsorship is essential for project success... yet poorly understood in some quarters and often difficult to secure.

This talk is for project managers sponsoring executives provides practical insights to improving organizational success through better sponsorship by:

- Defining the Sponsor's role and why it is essential
- Explaining how to request and encourage good sponsorship
- Exploring how effective sponsorship encourages more realistic expectations and better business decisions

Speaker: Payson Hall is a consulting project manager and founding member of Catalysis Group, Inc. Trained as a software engineer, Payson has performed and consulted on a variety of hardware and software systems integration projects in both the public and private sectors throughout North America and Europe during his 25-year professional career. His consulting clients have included the State of California, Hewlett Packard, Motorola, IBM, Agilent, Citibank, the State of New York, the Defense Communications Agency, and a number of smaller public and private sector organizations.

He is a valued member of many project consulting and project review teams because of his combination of IT project management experience, problem solving skill and communication ability. He has taught project management seminars attended by over 5000 people during the past 15 years. He is a popular conference speaker on topics of systems integration, project management, and risk management and has published over 60 project management articles in publications as diverse as PM Network, Computerworld, The Cutter IT Journal, and the Journal of the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

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

Boston CHI

Topic: CHI 2008 Recap

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 13th, 2008 - 6:30 PM

Location: Sun Microsystems, Burlington, MA

Speakers: TBA

RSVP : BostonCHI@sun.com

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

Abstract: Members of BostonCHI who attended the international CHI 2008 conference in Florence, Italy in April will share with us some of their experiences, photos, stories & favorite papers. The theme of this year's conference was "art.science.balance".

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

The Greater Boston Network Users Group

Topic: The Technology of VMWare

Speaker: Mark Petrie, VMWare Corporation

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 6th, 2008, 6:30pm

Overview: Virtualization lets one computer do the job of multiple computers, by sharing the resources of a single computer across multiple environments. Virtual servers and virtual desktops enable hosting multiple operating systems and multiple applications locally and in remote locations. In addition to energy savings and lower capital expenses due to more efficient use of your hardware resources, virtualization provides high availability of resources, better desktop management, increased security, and improved disaster recovery.

Location: Microsoft, Waltham, MA

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

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.gbcacm.org/membership/join>

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

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

GBC/ACM Annual Business Meeting (before June Meeting)

Thursday, June 19th, 2008

Time: 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Location: MIT Room NE51-345, Cambridge, MA
Details: <http://www.gbcaacm.org/node/142>

The Chapter's annual business meeting will be held 30 minutes before the June evening meeting. The meeting agenda will include a year-end review by the President, the Treasurer's report and officer elections. The nomination committee has selected the following candidates to run for the following positions. The nominee's position statements and biographies are included below. The candidates are running uncontested this year.

Edward Freedman (candidate for President)

Edward Freedman has been a member of ACM and several ACM SIGs since 1984 and has been an active member of GBC/ACM for many years. He is a member of the IEEE Computer Society and Social Implications of Technology Society, among others. Edward holds degrees in Physics, Computer Science, and Bioinformatics. He has worked at university research labs, government agencies (NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and White Sands Missile Range), and private industry (Digital Equipment and Compaq). At Digital and Compaq, he was a principal software engineer working on tools for software development, advanced development in parallel algorithms and system architecture, architecture verification tools for 64-bit Alpha processors, and consulted on the design and development of Alpha products with partner companies. He currently develops tools for genome analysis at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

Position statement: In January 2006 I became Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, in June 2006 was elected GBC/ACM Vice-President and re-elected in June 2007. Over these two and a half years, I've had the privilege to lead the Planning Committee and a group of dedicated volunteers to reengineer the functioning of the chapter. This began with my vision for a new PDS model that debuted with our very successful Deep AJAX Seminar and then Deep Agile Seminar. We've accomplished a financial turnaround for the chapter and defined a more professional model for PDS events. We've improved internal communications via a chapter administrative website and recently deployed a new public website. We've extended our educational outreach by producing events in the Annual Cambridge Science Festival. This has been an exciting transition, but we still have more work to do. We will continue to run popular and successful PDS events and monthly technical presentations. In addition, we should enhance the public website with multimedia content from our technical events, expand our educational outreach through new free or easily affordable programs and events, grow our membership, and inspire more members to join our active volunteers and help create the dynamic and vibrant organization that GBC/ACM can become.

Russ Doty (Candidate for Vice-President)

Russ Doty has been an active member of GBC/ACM for several years. He is member of the strategic planning committee and was instrumental in the planning of the Deep AJAX and Deep Agile seminars.

Marina Shalmon (Candidate for Secretary)

Marina Shalmon is a recent member of ACM, and an active volunteer in GBC/ACM. She is also currently the Secretary of the ABC (Agile Bazaar Chapter) of ACM. Marina holds a Ph.D. in Solid State Physics, and has worked for many years in the field of Computer Science, more recently as a manager. She has worked for Bell Northern Research in Montreal, Canada, Nortel Networks in Montreal and Billerica, Ma, Avaya in Concord, Ma and Wind River in Nashua, NH. She is currently Applications Development Manager at AccuRev Inc in Lexington, Ma. Marina's main expertise and interests in Computer Science/Computer Engineering lie in the areas of telecom, Operating Systems, performance and high availability, user interface and usability. On the software development side, she is a proponent of agile development methods, of simplification and elegance.

Position statement: I am interested in maintaining the GBC/ACM as a healthy and far reaching community organization, while developing its relationships and cooperations with other local chapters. I want to use my organizational skills in the service of the community, and the position of Secretary is the ideal place where I can contribute to keep things organized and in good order.

Yona Carmichael (candidate for reelection as Treasurer)

Yona Carmichael is the current GBC/ACM Treasurer. During her 4 years in office, she has analyzed the budgets and expenditures of the organization, and implemented many cost-saving measures to allow the chapter to be more fiscally responsible. She is also serving as the volunteer Treasurer of several other organizations with which she is involved.

Independent Computer Consultants Association (ICCA Boston Chapter)

Topic: Speed of Life Organizing: Creating and enhancing office organization systems that work

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 27th, 2008, 6:00pm - 9:00 pm

Speaker: Maxine Gautier, Out from Under Organizing

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

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

Directions: <http://www.icca-boston.org/directions.htm/>

Overview:

- * Do you wish there were a few extra hours each day?
- * Do you feel like you just can't get caught up on (fill in the blank)?
- * Do you find yourself avoiding tasks because you can't remember where you put the material you need to complete it?

Come to this presentation to find out how to avoid the most common breakdowns in office organization systems. Maxine will present ideas for paper flow management,

filing systems, effective use of outsourcing, how to prevent your in-basket from getting buried, and other techniques for keeping your stress level down and your productivity level up.

Maxine will draw on extensive experience with clients to answer specific questions about your office organization challenges.

Lecturer Biography: Maxine is the founder of Out From Under Professional Organizing, www.ofuorganizing.com. She is a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers, and the resident organizing "tipster" for a new mother's website produced by the Boston Globe. Her approach is pragmatic and irreverent; her clients are generally surprised at how quickly and pleasantly they achieve results.

Admission Charge: Cost for members is \$20 and \$30 for non-members in advance; \$10 more at the door

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!

Please contact membership@gbcacm.org to find out your membership status.

NEW - Online membership sign-up and renewal available. Please see instructions on Page 6

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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

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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.