

Project Performance International

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SYSTEMS ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER

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Project Performance International (PPI)

SyEN 41 – February 17, 2012

Dear Colleague,

SyEN is an independent free newsletter containing informative reading for the technical project professional, with scores of news and other items summarizing developments in the field, including related industry, month by month. This newsletter and a newsletter archive are also available at www.ppi-int.com.

Systems engineering can be thought of as the problem-independent, and solution/technology-independent, principles and methods related to the successful engineering of systems, to meet stakeholder requirements and maximize value delivered to stakeholders in accordance with their values.

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- Engineering a Safer World: Systems Thinking Applied to Safety
- Basiswissen Requirements Engineering
- The International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process
- How to Save a Failing Project: Chaos to Control
- BA Connection Newsletter February 2012
- Requirements Engineering Fundamentals
- Requirements – Engineering und – Management
- UML 2 glasklar
- Requirements Engineering Grundlagen, Prinzipien und Techniken
- More About Software Requirements: Thorny Issues and Practical Advice
- Optimieren von Requirements Management & Engineering: Mit dem HOOD Capability Model
- Mastering the Requirements Process
- Writing Better Requirements
- Discovering Requirements – How to Specify Products and Services

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Conferences and Meetings

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Education and Academia

- Help for Individuals Selecting Engineering Schools and Programs
- NASA Graduate Certificate in Space System Engineering
- Research Fellow and Post-doctorate Positions Available, Financial Services Governance Risk and Compliances Competence Centre (GRC3), University College Cork, Ireland
- Position Available at INRIA Sophia Antipolis, France
- New Student Group Opens Doors to Careers in Systems Engineering
- Texas A&M University Faculty Position at Full Professor Level

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Some Systems Engineering-Relevant Websites

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Standards and Guides

EN 50126 / IEC 62278 Railway RAMS Standard

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A Definition to Close on – Essential Unified Processes

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PPI at the Singapore Airshow

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Quotations to Open On

“Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately transition into hard work.”

- Peter Drucker (1909-2005)

“To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty. To the systems engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be”

- Unknown.

Feature Article

The Lifecycle Modeling Language

A new, functional language for systems engineering applications across the product lifecycle

Steven H. Dam, PhD

<http://www.specinnovations.com>

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The purpose of this paper is to describe the features of the Lifecycle Modeling Language (LML) that provides a simpler, more effective means to design, operate and maintain large, complex systems.

So Why Do We Need LML?

Many in the systems engineering community have espoused the need for Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE), where information describing the system design is captured in a model, from which the documentation can be produced. For some, they have advocated the use of the Systems Modeling Language (SysML), which is a profile of the Unified Modeling Language (UML) developed for software engineering. The logic of using SysML mostly comes from the idea that most systems today are software-intensive and that software is “the problem.” By it being “the problem,” we mean software is difficult to develop, validate, and have complete confidence in its ability to meet all the potential uses of a system. This problem will be exacerbated by the advent of cloud computing, which has the potential to scale databases to very large sizes, hence enabling us to capture the complete design to the part level, test and evaluation data, operational procedures, and all the other aspects that describe the system throughout the lifecycle. SysML is meant to enable systems engineers to better communicate with the software developers and hence improve the implementation of the system requirements into the software.

However, no other discipline uses to any great extent the underlying object-oriented approach that SysML models. Also, SysML is diagram focused, thus leaving the underlying data schema elements needed to describe a system up to the implementers of SysML (i.e. the tool vendors).

The user community in particular seems to have little or no interest in these abstract diagrams, which represent people as stick figures.

We also discovered that the software development community has moved on to “Agile Programming” techniques, which require functional requirements, not objects.

So the bottom-line is that SysML does not meet the needs of most of the user and developer communities, so systems engineers, whose primary job is to facilitate communication between users and the other disciplines, do not have a language that most find understandable, let alone useful.

Therefore, we explored other approaches and languages that might reduce complexity, while being more useful to all the stakeholders in the lifecycle. The result was LML.

Lifecycle Modeling Language (LML)

LML provides a functional language that captures the minimum set of information needed to describe the system fully. Clearly, “minimum” and “fully” form a difficult set of criteria and thus required a significant amount of effort to balance the two. It also needs to describe not only the technical elements of the systems, but also program management aspects as well; otherwise the systems engineer cannot perform the optimization of cost, schedule and performance.

As such, we analyzed a number of different schemas and used our experience in systems engineering to form the following taxonomy:

Technical Elements:

- Action
- Artifact
- Asset (Resource subclass)
- Characteristic
- Input/Output
- Link
- Statement(Requirements subclass)

Program Management Elements:

- Cost
- Decision
- Location (Physical, Orbital, Virtual subclasses)
- Risk
- Time

These elements represent the essential elements of information needed to describe the systems and the program that builds the system. For example, the Action class can be used for functions, activities or tasks. So we can capture information on how the system operates (functions), what the operators do (activities), and the steps necessary to design and build the system (tasks). We can distinguish between these different types of actions using the “Type” attribute. This attribute contains a list of these aliases to enable us to easily separate them in diagrams and reports. Having the different types of attributes in the same “bin” enables us to reduce the potential for duplication of the same information in different classes. Sorting a list of Actions by name quickly helps us identify potential duplicates.

Several of the elements have subclasses (e.g., Requirement is a subclass of Statement). These subclasses have additional attributes, which are not needed by the parent class. In the case of Requirements, we have included attributes that describe the quality of the requirement (clear, complete, correct, consistent, feasible, modular, design, and verifiable).

In the Program Management elements, in addition to cost and schedule (Time), we explicitly capture Decisions and Risks, thus enabling them to be linked to other technical elements. Hence, we can trace the decision path for choosing particular design solutions, including the “who” and “when” a decision was made, as well as the “why.” Note also the Location element. Since many factors depend on where something is located, we included that element, along with the three subclasses. We have found that few schemas consider all three of these possibilities and they each clearly have very different attributes to fully describe them. Now with the combination of time and space, we can also add the full dynamics of the design, along with operations and support.

Connecting these elements, we establish relationships between them in both directions to enable full traceability between each of these elements. Figure 1 shows a summary of the elements and their relationships. Each relationship has a defined inverse to enable traceability from the top-down and the bottom-up. We also made sure all relationships and their inverses had the same verb. So an Action element is performed by an Asset and the Asset performs the Action. At times, a better inverse verb might have been chosen, but we decided to use the same verb in each case to avoid confusion.

Similarly, we made all the parent-child relationships to be decomposed by/decomposes. Again, these may not be the best word choices in every instance, but avoiding complexity and confusion was our primary objective. Having used other schemas that did not do this caused significant problems over the years.

We also allow/enable attributes on the relationships, such as Amount on the captures relationship used between Actions and Resources. We used this feature in a very limited way. Of course, the users of LML can extend the schema as needed to accommodate special circumstances.

	ACTION	ARTIFACT	ASSET	CHARACTERISTIC	COST	INPUT/OUTPUT	DECISION	LINK	LOCATION	RISK	STATEMENT	TIME	
ACTION	decomposed by related to relates	references	captures consumes performed by produces	specified by	incurs	generates receives	causes resolves	-	located at	causes mitigates resolves	based on	takes occurs	ACTION
ARTIFACT	referenced by	decomposed by related to relates	referenced by	referenced by specified by	incurs advanced by	referenced by	causes referred by resolves	defines protocol for referenced by	located at	causes mitigates advanced by resolves	based on referred by source of	occurs	ARTIFACT
ASSET	captured by consumed by performs produced by	references	decomposed by obtained by relates related to	specified by	incurs	-	causes resolves responds to	connected by	located at	causes mitigates resolves	based on	occurs	ASSET
CHARACTERISTIC	specifies	references specifies	specifies	decomposed by related to relates	incurs specifies	specifies	causes resolves specifies	specifies	located at specifies	causes mitigates resolves specifies	based on specifies	specifies occurs	CHARACTERISTIC
COST	incurred by	incurred by references	incurred by	incurred by specified by	decomposed by related to relates	incurred by	causes incurred by resolves	incurred by	located at	causes incurred by mitigates resolves	based on incurred by	occurs	COST
INPUT/OUTPUT	generated by received by	references	-	specified by	incurs	decomposed by decomposes related to relates	causes resolves	transferred by	located at	causes mitigates resolves	based on	occurs	INPUT/OUTPUT
DECISION	caused by resolved by	caused by resolved by	caused by resolved by responded by	caused by resolved by specified by	caused by resolved by	caused by resolved by	caused by decomposed by related to relates resolved by	caused by resolved by	located at	caused by causes mitigates resolved by	caused by resolved by	occurs	DECISION
LINK	-	defined protocol by references	connected to	specified by	incurs	transfers	causes resolves	decomposed by decomposes related to relates	located at	causes mitigates resolves	based on	delayed by occurs	LINK
LOCATION	locates	locates	locates	locates specified by	locates	locates	locates	locates	decomposed by decomposes related to relates	locates mitigates	based on locates	occurs	LOCATION
RISK	caused by mitigated by resolved by	caused by mitigated by references resolved by	caused by mitigated by resolved by	caused by mitigated by resolved by	caused by incurs mitigated by resolved by	caused by mitigated by resolved by	caused by causes mitigated by resolved by resolves	caused by mitigated by resolved by	located at mitigated by	caused by decomposed by decomposes related to relates resolved by	caused by mitigated by resolved by	relates	RISK
STATEMENT	basis of	basis of references sourced by	basis of	basis of specified by	basis of incurs	basis of	causes resolves	basis of	basis of located at	causes mitigates resolves	decomposed by decomposes related to relates	relates	STATEMENT
TIME	takes by occurred by	occurred by	occurred by	specified by occurred by	occurred by	occurred by	occurred by	delays occurred by	occurred by	related to	related to	decomposed by decomposes related to relates	TIME
	ACTION	ARTIFACT	ASSET	CHARACTERISTIC	COST	INPUT/OUTPUT	DECISION	LINK	LOCATION	RISK	STATEMENT	TIME	

Figure 1. LML relationships provide traceability between all the classes.

Note that only a few combinations of elements have no relationships (e.g., Action/Link). These few instances are due to the separation of functional and physical information. In all other cases, we see relationships between the classes as an important part of overall design traceability.

This schema has a number of benefits. First, as stated above, reducing the number of primary data elements means less complexity for analysts to deal with, thus enabling quicker capture and presentation of the information for analysis and decision making.

Another benefit comes from including programmatic, as well as technical, elements of information in this base schema, such as cost and schedule.

A third benefit comes from eliminating the overlap between similar data elements (requirements, constraints, performance criteria, etc.), which are all just textual Statements. Making Requirements a subclass of Statements instead reduces the potential for duplication of information which cuts the time and cost of data gathering. As a result of these three benefits, a more cost-effective way of describing an architecture or system design can be provided.

LML Describes Behavior

Many modeling techniques, such as IDEF 3, and UML Activity Diagram, capture functional sequencing using a variety of constructs to represent logic. They use symbols such as a diamond or plus sign to indicate decisions or AND logical elements.

As we explored these and other types of logic diagrams, including electrical engineering diagrams, we realized that something very important was missing. The constructs only showed up on the diagrams, but never as part of the function list. Hence, the critical decision functionality was not being captured explicitly as a function! Since those functions include command and control functionality, as well as how we perform information assurance, we changed the way everyone else captured that information. As a result, Figure 2 shows the LML simplified logic.

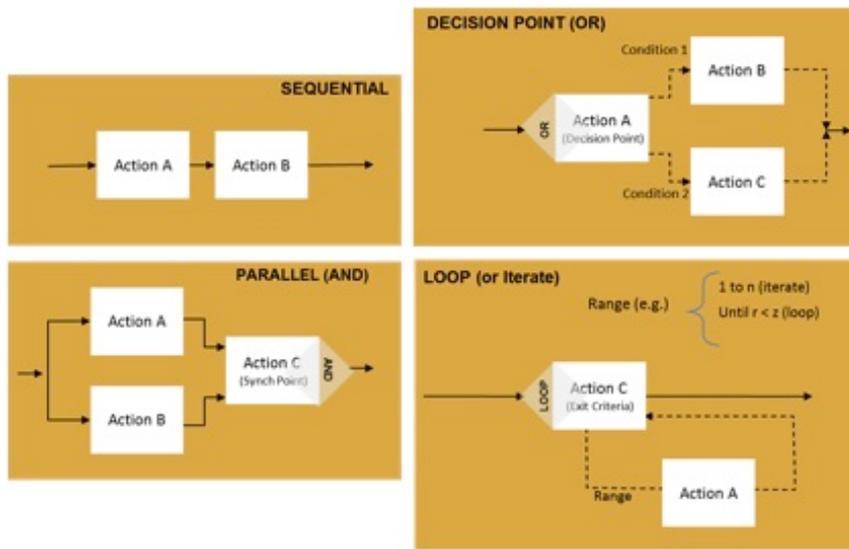


Figure 2. LML's simplified logic captures the functionality of all decision points.

Actions are represented by rectangles. A special case of the Action is a decision point, indicated by a diamond superimposed on the rectangle. The decision points come in three varieties: OR, AND, and LOOP. The OR represents the logic of two paths you might go down, choosing one path or the other. The AND indicates two paths that can proceed independently and must be synchronized before continuing. Finally, the LOOP identifies Actions that repeat until the exit criterion has been achieved. Note also the dashed lines on the OR and LOOP. These indicate that the paths are optional depending on the decision point criteria.

These logical elements can be combined to create a process flow or functional sequence. Figure 3 shows an example of such a logical flow. It also includes a new symbol to represent the data flow between actions. Using parallelograms for the data (Input/Output) elements (from the old standard flow chart symbols), we use curved lines to connect them to the Action elements to avoid confusion between the functional sequencing lines and the data flow lines. You may remember these from the old Yourdon-DeMarco Data Flow Diagrams (DFD). A special case of the Input/Output element is also shown in green. These trigger elements limit the Actions from proceeding until that piece of information is received.

By combining these older, recognizable symbols with the decision points, the result is an approach that many people should find easier to understand; it looks like a useful drawing, and the diagram has semantic meaning. Hence, we can simulate the process flow and see how it executes, thus validating the logic and determining the timing of the sequence. Thus, we can input this diagram information into a discrete event simulator and show how it works (or doesn't work) since it is straight-forward to design logic with bottlenecks or failure modes).

Other diagrams, such as a Physical Diagram, are currently being defined. A complete draft LML specification is under development and should be available in the second quarter of 2012. It will enable tool builders to implement LML. We will be very interested in community feedback on the language and associated diagrams.

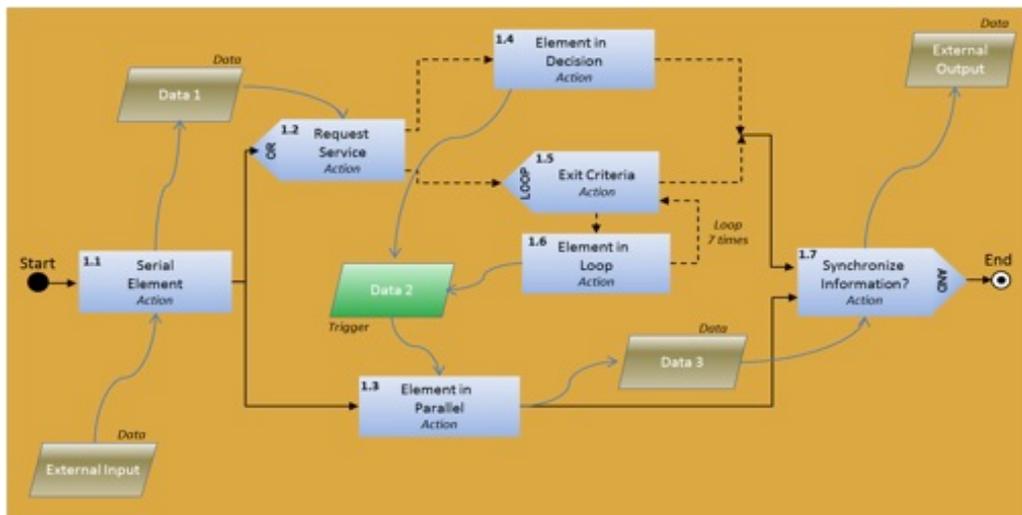


Figure 3. The LML Action Diagram captures functional behavior.

Tool Requirements

Different people are comfortable with different tools for a variety of reasons. We have formed preferences over the last 20 years of using these kinds of tools to do system engineering and architecture development. Having used a number of these tools over the years we found that many lacked the ability to do much more than draw a picture (and sometimes it wasn't even a pretty picture). Some have a database, but limited or no report writing capability. Most do not have any way to simulate the diagrams they draw, so you can not verify the logic. Many also have no way of extending the schema; even if they let you see the schema (most hide that from the user). The most popular

tool has no schema whatsoever, so one has to spend a significant amount of time developing the schema first.

LML can provide a schema for you to collect the information. You can use drawing tools, such as MS PowerPoint or Visio to draw the diagrams, but these will not help you verify the logic through execution. As such, the LML tool will need to be developed to fully implement the new ideas and capabilities LML offers. We are aware of at least one tool under development that should be available later this year (2012). Ideally any tool would take advantage of cloud computing capabilities for creating large scale models and simulations, as well as potentially worldwide collaboration. The ability to translate to and from LML with other languages would be welcome.

We hope to see a number of the tool vendors add LML to their list of capabilities in the future.

LML: The Way to Reducing Complexity

LML was developed as a result of over 18 years of performing system engineering and architecture development using portions of the technique. The latest twist to the technique comes from the new schema.

Some of the cost-effective features of LML include:

- Simplification of MBSE techniques developed over the past 30 years
- Application across the entire product lifecycle (concept to disposal)
- Inclusion of both technical and program management elements to enable the optimization of cost, schedule and performance
- Capture of functional sequencing (as explicit decision points) to enhance the modeling of command and control, as well as information assurance functions.

We also recognize that LML is only the “80%” solution. Users will want to modify it for particular uses, but LML should provide a good starting point for any design, development, operations, or support activity.

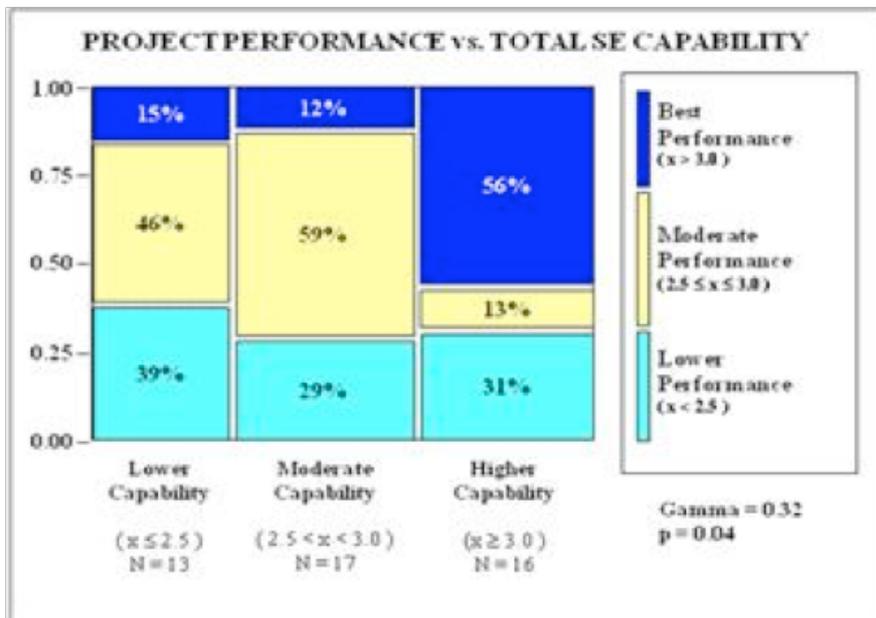
Please send any suggestions, comments, or questions on the language or diagrams to our website <http://www.specinnovations.com>.

Systems Engineering News

INCOSE Renews Call for Participation in the NDIA/IEEE/SEI Systems Engineering Effectiveness Study

In 2006, the SE Effectiveness Committee of the NDIA Systems Engineering Division conducted the Systems Engineering Effectiveness Study (SEES). Using survey techniques, this study identified statistical relationships between the application of specific SE practices to development projects and the performance of those projects, as measured by satisfaction of budget, schedule, and requirements. The results, published in 2007 and 2008, clearly demonstrated the benefits of SE, showing that:

- In the set of projects applying the least SE, only 15% delivered the highest levels of performance;
- In the set of projects applying the most SE, 56% delivered the highest levels of performance.



The study also identified relationships between specific SE practices (e.g., requirements development, trade study performance, architecture development) and project performance. For more information about the SEES, you may download several reports, papers, and presentations from the BCSE web site: <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/go/bcse2/>.

Based on the success of the prior study, in 2010 the NDIA embarked on the BCSE project to update and enhance it by gathering data from a larger and more diverse population. This study will survey individual product-producing projects to assess: 1) the characteristics of the project, 2) the SE activities applied to the project, and 3) the resulting project performance. Completion of the survey will require approximately 30 minutes for each project. Like the prior survey, data security and confidentiality will be paramount. ALL DATA WILL BE COLLECTED ANONYMOUSLY. No information identifying the project, organization, or respondent will be requested. The Software Engineering Institute will do the data collection and analysis. Only they will see responses, and only statistical summaries of the aggregated data, untraceable to any project, organization, or person, will be released.

Similar to the original study, those who participate will be rewarded with early access to more detailed levels of aggregated data and analysis for one year prior to these results being published for everyone. This will allow participants to assess their organization/project results relative to the rest on the industry, showing strengths and areas of weaknesses that should be addressed.

To participate, contact Joan E. Nolan, INCOSE SE Effectiveness Working Group, on +1 410 765-9423, or by email: joan.nolan (at) incose.org

The 3rd TUM Spring School on Systems Engineering (TUMS3E)

The third "TUM Spring School on Systems Engineering" is going to take place in Munich, Germany, over 26 - 30 March 2012. The event will be held in cooperation with the Stevens Institute of Technology. The spring school refers to PhD students of all disciplines whose working areas are related to any aspects of systems engineering. The aim of the four day course is to encourage international scientific exchange on important literature, definitions, and actual and future topics. Furthermore, the PhD students should be enabled to gain an insight into industrial implementation and application of systems engineering. Besides general talks on Systems Engineering, the participants of the course will present their own topics, and there will be intense discussions with invited guests from academia and industry. Guests will also present current requirements for systems engineering and challenges in their companies.

[More information](#)

Call for Nominations - 2012 User Centered Product Design Award

The Product Design Technical Group (PDTG) of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) welcomes submissions for its 11th Annual Stanley Caplan User-Centered Product Design Award. The award emphasizes innovative and user-centered approaches to HF/E and industrial design. For the past 10 years, the PDTG has recognized outstanding product design and the methods used to specify and achieve that design, and we invite you to help us celebrate our 11th anniversary. This year's winning product or system will be recognized during the HFES 2012 Annual Meeting at the Westin Boston Waterfront in Boston, Massachusetts. The winner will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and make a presentation on the product and the development methodology during the PDTG's award session. Submissions may address products, software, or systems that are purchased for use in the home, in the workplace, or while mobile. They may include consumer, commercial, and medical products but exclude military equipment and systems. The product or system being nominated must be operational and capable of being marketed with no more than minimal changes. Products already on the market for more than three years will not be considered. Past winners have been highly diverse in terms of types of products and have spanned the technology spectrum from low to high.

[More Information](#)

International Journal of Education Research (IJER) Call for Papers

The International Journal of Education Research (IJER) is currently accepting manuscripts for publication. IJER publishes, monthly, high-quality solicited and unsolicited articles, in English in all areas pertaining to education and educational administration, psychology and counseling, policy studies, technical education, vocational studies, English and literature, physical education. The journal also encourages education researchers to join its editorial and reviewers teams. The International Journal of Education Research provides free access to all articles as soon as they are published.

[More information](#)

LAI Researchers Receive 2011 INCOSE Working Group Award for Collaboration

LAI researchers Drs. Josef Oehmen and Bob Kenley have received the 2011 INCOSE Working Group Award for Collaboration with the Lean Systems Engineering Working Group. The award recognizes the group's collaborative work with PMI, LAI, and INCOSE Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) companies to bridge the gap between program management and systems engineering. The award was presented during the Opening Plenary at the 2012 INCOSE International Workshop on Saturday, January 21, in Jacksonville, Florida.

[More Information](#)

Workshop on Systems Thinking for Solving Complex Problems

Systems Thinking is a scientific approach to problem solving that deals with hidden complexity and sustainability. It:

- Provides tools and techniques for solving complex problems.
- Improves understanding and anticipation of long term consequences of decisions, actions, policies and strategies.
- Aims to avoid unintended consequences.

This workshop will introduce 'systems thinking' as a tool for helping central and local government work better together and address complex problems. Led by Professor Kambiz Maani, an internationally renowned expert in systems thinking and sustainable strategies, you participants will learn how to use systems thinking as a tool for multi-dimensional, multi-stakeholder decision making at local and national levels.

[More information](#)

Formation of INCOSE Chapter in Brazil

Planejamos nos reunir em Assembléia Geral, no LIT do INPE, São José dos Campos, na segunda feira 19 de março de 2012, à tarde, para aprovamos a versão final do estatuto e confirmarmos a escolha dos membros da diretoria e conselhos do INCOSE Brasil. Brasileiros, reservem essa data em suas agendas.

A meeting is planned at LIT of INPE, São José dos Campos, Brasil, on the afternoon of Monday, 19th March, to approve the final version of the proposed bylaws of INCOSE Brasil and to appoint office holders. Brazilian engineers, reserve this date in your diary!

INCOSE News – New Chapters

INCOSE members and volunteers in Eastern Washington & Oregon USA have re-established a regional network of professionals interested in systems engineering. These efforts have progressed to the point of accreditation of the Cascade INCOSE Chapter in the area.

INCOSE Switzerland is also newly accredited as a Chapter, with the primary goal of offering events and resources on anything Systems Engineering for the Swiss community. An organizational meeting took place in September 2011 at RUAG Space in Zurich. See <http://incose.ch/home/> for more information.

We wish both chapters every success in advancing systems engineering practice..

Featured Society

The Association of Business Process Management Professionals International (ABPMP International)

The Association of Business Process Management Professionals International is a non-profit, vendor-independent, professional organization dedicated to the advancement of business process management concepts and practices. ABPMP International is practitioner-oriented and practitioner-led. The mission of ABPMP International is:

- To engage in activities that advance the practice of business process management,
- To promote and evolve a Common Body of Knowledge in this field,
- To foster the development and advancement of the skills and competencies of the professionals who work in this discipline,
- To validate the professional qualifications and certify BPM practitioners.

ABPMP International considers Business Process Management (BPM) to be both a management discipline and a set of technologies that support managing by process. According to the ABPMP International's Guide to The BPM CBOK®, "Business Process Management (BPM) is a disciplined approach to identify, design, execute, document, measure, monitor, and control both automated and non-automated business processes to achieve consistent, targeted results aligned with an organization's strategic goals. BPM involves the deliberate, collaborative and increasingly technology-aided definition, improvement, innovation, and management of end-to-end business processes that drive business results, create value, and enable an organization to meet its business objectives with more agility. BPM enables an enterprise to align its business processes to its business strategy, leading to effective overall company performance through improvements of specific work activities either within a specific department, across the enterprise, or between organizations."

ABPMP International's CBPP® is a certification that has been developed by and for BPM practitioners. It is said to be the first independent, professional examination and certification program in the area of BPM. CBPP® has been designed to comply with international certification standards, with the goal of becoming the internationally recognized standard for BPM professionals.

ABPMP International has local chapters in all regions of the United States and in Brazil, with many more forming in the United States and elsewhere – Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Mexico, Norway, and Pakistan. The organization is affiliated with BPM organizations in Austria, France, Germany, and Switzerland. ABPMP International is governed by an elected Board of Directors. Each chapter president is an ex-officio and voting member of the International Board of Directors. ABPMP International has a Board of Advisors made up of well-known authors, practitioners, and thought-leaders in the field. They are also volunteers, and periodically offer the Board of Directors and chapters advice on the industry and how ABPMP can best serve its members.

Grades of membership are from Student, through Associate/Academic/Affiliates, Corporate, to Professional. All grades require formal commitment to a code of ethics.

[More information](#)

INCOSE Technical Operations

In-Service Systems Working Group

<http://www.incose.org/practice/techactivities/wg/iss/>

Charter

The Charter of the In-Service Systems Working Group (ISSWG) is to provide improved advice on:

- The difficulties encountered in practice in applying authoritative guidance on SE, including the INCOSE SE Handbook, to systems which are in service. The Group should restrict itself to difficulties which are related to the fact that the systems are in the in service phase of the lifecycle.
- Best current practice in adapting SE guidance to overcome these difficulties

The success criteria for the working group should be that their recommendations are generally supported by the SE community and capable of being put into practice.

Leadership

- Chair: Marcel van de Ven, Kroon
- Deputy Chairs: Jon Hulse, Delcan; Joe Talik, Verizon

Members: 24

Accomplishments / Products

(May 2011) Delivery of report on applying SE to in-service systems. This contains guidance on In-service SE in four areas: Requirements, Validation and Verification; Architectural Design; Implementation and Transition; and Information and Configuration Management. It also contains for recommendations for integrating this guidance with other SE guidance and for promulgating the guidance.

Current Projects

The group is currently liaising with others within INCOSE to take forward the recommendations above forward.

Systems Engineering Tools News

JIRA

This low cost product has been used for requirements management in small agile projects, sometimes integrated with Confluence (an editor which can integrate JIRA with MS Office).

[More information](#)

Pivotal Tracker

Pivotal Tracker includes basic requirements management functionality intended for use in an agile development environment.

[More information](#)

Cradle - RM/SE Tool from 3SL - Version 6.6

SE Tools Company 3SL is on track to release a new version of its requirements management/systems engineering tool Cradle, version 6.6, on schedule. A Beta copy is available to Cradle users for feedback over a very limited time.

More information: Contact contact Mark Walker by email at: mark.walker (at) threesl.com

Relatics

PKM Solutions' product Relatics, is a generic web-based information management application which aims to support projects and processes in a flexible and intuitive way. To use Relatics for Systems Engineering purposes, PKM Solutions has build, in corporation with its partners, a Systems Engineering template. This template covers elements like building/construction parts, design requirements, documents in relation to process related objects like organizations, verifications, inspections and responsibilities.

[More information](#)

6D Project Catalyst Desktop

6D Project Catalyst Desktop by 6D Tech Inc. allows the engineering manager to build a reusable WBS Dictionary and save methodologies inside Microsoft Project Standard or Professional. Project Catalyst allows you the user to build a Process Asset Library - author, assemble, deploy and improve your the organization's practices inside Microsoft Project. Project Catalyst's knowledge base is said to have a flexible design to support all projects within an organization, based on any process standard (e.g. CMMI, PMI PMBOK® Guide, ISO, or PRINCE2).

Some additional capabilities include:

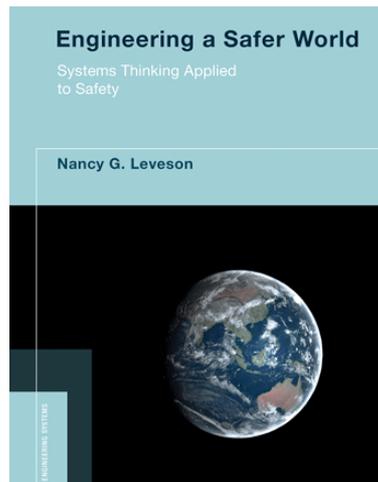
- Definition of roles and responsibilities;
- Attachment of reference and deliverable documents, including examples, templates and project deliverables; and
- Capture of lessons learned.

[More information](#)

Systems Engineering Books, Reports, Articles and Papers

Engineering a Safer World: Systems Thinking Applied to Safety

Nancy Leveson



Published by: MIT Press

ISBN-10:0-262-01662-1; ISBN-13:978-0-262-01662-9

Publication Date: December 2011

Binding(s): Cloth

Abstract: The book takes a new, systems approach to safety that is suited to today's complex, sociotechnical, software-intensive world. Leveson uses an extended model of causation (Systems-Theoretic Accident Model and Processes, or STAMP), then shows how the new model can be used to create techniques for system safety engineering — including accident analysis, hazard analysis, system design, safety in operations and management of safety-critical systems. She applies these techniques to real events, such as the friendly-fire loss of a U.S. Blackhawk helicopter in the first Gulf War; the Vioxx recall; the U.S. Navy SUBSAFE program; and the bacterial contamination of a public water supply in a Canadian town.

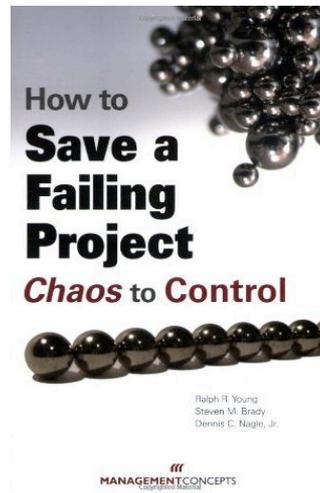
[More Information](#)

The International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process

The International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process has just published its latest issue. The publishers invite you to review the Table of Contents at <http://www.ijahp.org/index.php/IJAHP> and then visit their web site <http://www.ijahp.org/index.php/IJAHP/issue/current> to review articles and items of interest.

The International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (IJAHP) is an electronic journal about multi-criteria decision making using the AHP, published by the Creative Decisions Foundation (CDF).

How to Save a Failing Project: Chaos to Control



From a review on Amazon.com: "This is, simply put, an outstanding resource for any project manager, whether your project is going well or failing. It's written in plain English, is a fast read, and is loaded with valuable information. I would recommend that this book be read before starting any project to put in place the mechanisms and processes to prevent the chaos from developing. My favorite aspect of the book is the notes and references. The authors have loaded this book with numerous references - hard copy and on the web - and I can't wait to go back through the book a second time just to begin following up on those. I will be using this text with my project managers as well as my offshore team to reinvigorate the process-based approach and the fact-based management techniques. I strongly recommend this book to all project and program managers." Clifford B. Vaught, Glen Allen, VA United States

[More Information](#)

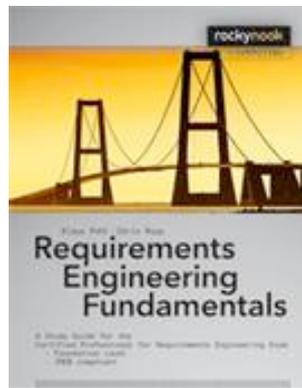
BA Connection Newsletter February 2012

The February 2012 edition of BA Connection, newsletter of the International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA), includes the following articles:

- Empowering Business Analysts
 - 7 Steps to Choosing a Vendor Tool
 - New Academic Diploma in Business Analysis
 - Registration is Now Open for BBC 2012!
 - The Role of Educators in the Community of Practice
 - A Global Community of Business Analysts
 - Creating Bulletproof Business Cases Part 4: Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - The Requirements of Connected Requirements, Estimates, and Work Plans
 - Modeling for Business Analysts Part 8: The Tale of Two Constructs
 - Benefits of CCBA and CBAP Certification - We want to hear from YOU!
 - Post your Feedback on the Agile Extension to the BABOK Guide - Deadline Extended to February 29
-

Requirements Engineering Fundamentals

Klaus Pohl, Chris Rupp



Published by: Rocky Nook Inc.

ISBN-13: 978-1933952819

Publication Date: April 2011

Paperback

Description: The ideal preparation book for the certification exam "Certified Professional for Requirements Engineering" of the IREB. Conform to the IREB CPRE Foundation Level Syllabus 2.1

On the one hand you can use this book for self-study to train specifically for the certification exam. On the other hand it can be used as a supplement for one of the exam preparation courses offered by training providers. The first edition of the English book covers the entire basic knowledge necessary for the exam of the English syllabus for CPRE Foundation Level (version 2.1).

In practice, requirements engineering tasks become more and more complex. In order to ensure a high level of knowledge and training, the International Requirements Engineering Board (IREB) worked out the training concept "Certified Professional for Requirements Engineering" which defines a requirements engineer's practical skills on different training levels. The book covers the different subjects of the curriculum for the "Certified Professional for Requirements Engineering" (CPRE) defined by the International Requirements Engineering Board (IREB). It supports its readers in preparing for the test to achieve the "Foundation Level" of the CPRE.

[More information](#)

Requirements – Engineering und – Management

Chris Rupp, die SOPHISTen



Published by: Hanser Fachbuchverlag

ISBN-13:978-3-446-41841-7

Publication date: 2009

Abstract: This mini-tutorial will provide high-level guidance on designing a requirements management solution and selecting a requirements management tool. The guidance will focus on first understanding the context, stakeholders and tasks, so on articulating the problems that need to be addressed and the constraints that shape viable options. The guidance will also attend to the equally critical issue of managing the high expectations that are typically associated with requirements management tool adoption and use. Through examining the minimum and desirable requirements, based upon the type and size of project, the question of whether a requirements management tool is needed at all can also be considered.

UML 2 glasklar

Chris Rupp, Stefan Queins, Barbara Zengler



Published by: Hanser Fachbuchverlag

ISBN-13:978-3-446-41841-7

Publication Date: 2007

Flexcover Edition

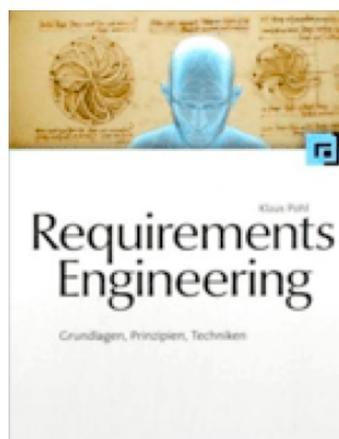
Description: The following questions are inter alia answered:

What are the charts there in UML 2? Which elements are the charts? What should I look at the modeling with a particular chart? For Updater: What has changed since the UML 1.x? How can I customize the UML to my project needs? As the most important diagrams in the program code can be represented? What I really need from the UML?

[More information](#)

Requirements Engineering Grundlagen, Prinzipien und Techniken

Klaus Pohl



Published By: Dpunkt.Verlag GmbH

ISBN-13:978-3540211785

Publication date: 2007

Description: The book provides a comprehensive introduction to the fundamentals, principles and techniques of requirements engineering. The compact representation of the content and structuring a framework by making it both a reference book for practice, teaching and research.

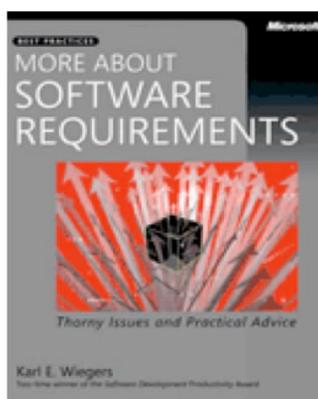
- From the contents:
- From analysis of the system for continuous requirements engineering
- A framework for requirements engineering
- Techniques for the documentation, collection and compliance requirements
- Techniques for validating and managing requirements
- Techniques for identifying sources of requirements and context analysis
- The use of targets, scenarios and their interactions
- Traditional requirements models: Daten-/Struktur, function and behavior
- The goal-and scenario-based requirements engineering method COSMOD RE
- Requirements-based testing, requirements engineering in CMMI and in the product line development

Numerous examples, checklists and guidance on the practical application of the techniques and annotated recommended reading complete this textbook.

[More information](#)

More About Software Requirements: Thorny Issues and Practical Advice

Karl E. Wiegiers



Published by: Microsoft Press

ISBN-13:978-0735622678

Publication date: 2005

About The Book: Your up-to-date, practical guide to the real-world software requirements engineering process

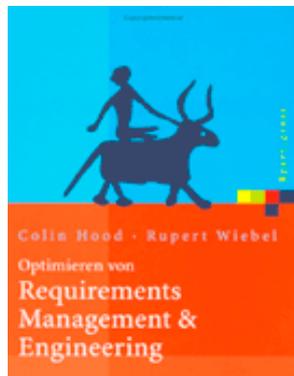
No matter how much instruction you've had on managing software requirements, there's no substitute for experience. Too often, lessons about requirements engineering processes lack the no-nonsense guidance that supports real-world solutions. Complementing the best practices presented in his book, *Software Requirements, Second Edition*, requirements engineering authority Karl Wiegiers tackles even more of the real issues head-on in this book.

With straightforward, professional advice and practical solutions based on actual project experiences, this book answers many of the tough questions raised by industry professionals. From strategies for estimating and working with customers to the nuts and bolts of documenting requirements, this essential companion gives developers, analysts, and managers the cosmic truths that apply to virtually every software development project.

[More information](#)

Optimieren von Requirements Management & Engineering: Mit dem HOOD Capability Model

Colin Hood, Rupert Wiebel



Published by: Springer

ISBN-13:978-3540211785

Publication date: 2007

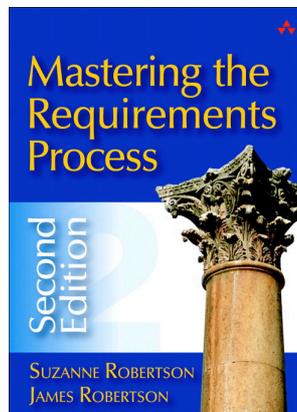
Paperback

Description: Reduced budgets, tougher competition, increasingly complex products and ever shorter product cycles require improved measures when collecting and further processing of requests. Efficient capture and organize requirements is always more than one of the most cost-effective way known to increase the performance of an organization. Structuring of requirements improves the quality of the finished system and reduces the risk of time and cost overruns. Requirements Management & Engineering (RM & D) supports development organizations in achieving these goals. The book describes the products developed by the HOOD Group RM & D process. This process is adapted to the specific conditions for customers, integrated into the development process and implemented a culture change process.

[More information](#)

Mastering the Requirements Process

Suzanne Robertson, James Robertson



Published by: Springer

ISBN-13:978-3540211785

Publication date: 2007

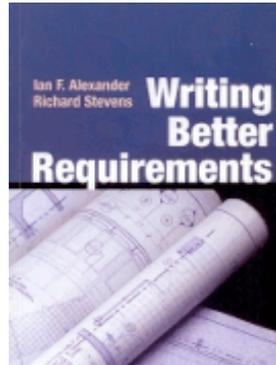
Paperback

Description: Reduced budgets, tougher competition, increasingly complex products and ever shorter product cycles require improved measures when collecting and further processing of requests. Efficient capture and organize requirements is always more than one of the most cost-effective way known to increase the performance of an organization. Structuring of requirements improves the quality of the finished system and reduces the risk of time and cost overruns. Requirements Management & Engineering (RM & D) supports development organizations in achieving these goals. The book describes the products developed by the HOOD Group RM & D process. This process is adapted to the specific conditions for customers, integrated into the development process and implemented a culture change process.

[More information](#)

Writing Better Requirements

Ian F. Alexander, Richard Stevens



Published by: Addison-Wesley

ISBN-13: 9 780321 131638

Publication date: 2002

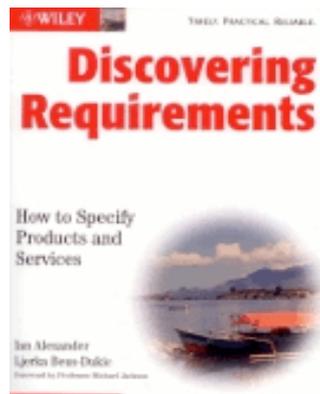
Paperback

Abstract: This book specifically focuses on how to discover and express requirements. It is not about system specification, nor how to make a design that meets user needs, nor even about how users should ensure their requirements are met. Since users own the requirements, these must be expressed in a way users can understand. This book treats requirements as simple pieces of text, supported by operational scenarios and informal diagrams. Many attempts have been made to improve on these simple means, using more formal structures and notations with varying success. We have not tried to cover all these approaches. To place requirements in context, the book must of course cover some aspects of the development process. Project management, verification, quality assurance, and the development life cycle are all closely linked with requirements and indeed each of these areas is meaningless in isolation. But in this book, we concentrate on the tasks of capturing and writing requirements. Each chapter contains exercises to help readers to practice their skills.

We recommend some good books for readers who want to go beyond writing good requirements to other aspects of systems and requirements engineering.

Discovering Requirements – How to Specify Products and Services

Ian Alexander, Ljerka Beus-Dukic



Published by: Wiley

ISBN-13: 978-0-470-71240-5

Publication date: 2009

Paperback

Description: This easy to read guide is full of carefully-checked tips and tricks. Illustrated with worked examples, checklists, summaries, keywords and exercises, this book will encourage you to move closer to the real problems you're trying to solve. Guest boxes from other experts give you additional hints for your projects.

Invaluable for anyone specifying requirements including IT practitioners, engineers, developers, business analysts, test engineers, configuration managers, quality engineers and project managers.

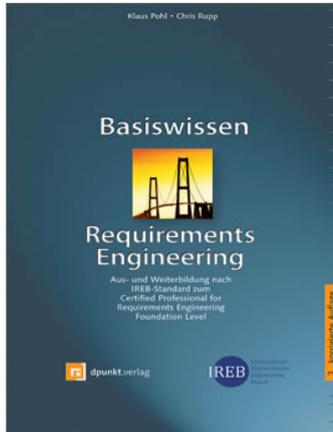
A practical sourcebook for lecturers as well as students studying software engineering who want to learn about requirements work in industry.

Once you've read this book you will be ready to create good requirements!

[More information](#)

Basiswissen Requirements Engineering

Author: Klaus Pohl, Chris Rupp



Published by: Dpunkt Verlag

ISBN 978-3898647717

Publication Date: June 2011

Description: This textbook – the only one of its kind – was written by the coauthors of the IREB syllabus Chris Rupp and Dr. Klaus Pohl with further supported granted by other IREB-members. It is designed to detail and illustrate all the topics covered in the syllabus version 2.0.

This book enables you to autonomously prepare for the certification exams, but it may also be used as a supplement to training courses offered by certified providers.

The book encompasses all relevant topics which make up requirements engineering: Elicitation of Testing, Documenting and managing requirements. The changes implemented with the 2.0 version of the syllabus have all been accounted for. It will enable you to perfectly prepare for the certification, to make sure you'll soon be a certified requirements engineer.

[More information](#)

Conferences and Meetings

ESSoS12 - International Symposium on Engineering Secure Software and Systems

February 16 - 17, 2012, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

[More information](#)

16th GfSE Workshop 2012

February 17, 2012, Hannover, Germany

[More information](#)

Right Requirements, Right Now: Strategies for Successful Software Projects International Institute of Business Analysis [IIBA]

Los Angeles  **NEW**

Feb 21, 2012, 6:00pm - 9:00pm, Los Angeles (USA)

[More information](#)

IBM Systems and Software Engineering Symposium

March 1, 2012, Dallas, TX, USA

[More information](#)

IEEE CogSIMA 2012 – 2nd International Conference on Cognitive Methods in Situation Awareness and Decision Support

March 6 - 8, 2012, New Orleans, LA, USA

[More information](#)

Willkommen zur REConf® 2012 NEW

March 12 - 16, 2012, Munich, Germany

[More information](#)

2nd International Requirements Engineering Efficiency Workshop (REEW 2012)

March 19, 2012, Essen, Germany

[More information](#)

16th International GI/ITG Conference on Measurement, Modelling and Evaluation of Computing Systems and Dependability and Fault-Tolerance (MMB & DFT 2012)

March 19 - 21, 2012, Kaiserslautern, Germany

[More information](#)

CSER 2012 – Conference on Systems Engineering Research

March 19 - 22, 2012, St Louis, Missouri, USA

[More information](#)

The 9th ENTERPRISE ENGINEERING Track at ACM-SAC 2012

March 25 - 29, 2012, Riva del Garda, Trento, Italy

[More information](#)

Fifth Edition of the Requirements Engineering Track (RE-Track'12)

Part of the 27th ACM Symposium on Applied Computing (SAC 2012)

March 25 - 29, 2012, University of Trento, Trento, Italy

[More information](#)

2nd International Workshop on Model-driven Approaches for Simulation Engineering.

Part of the Symposium on Theory of Modeling and Simulation, (SCS SpringSim 2012)

March 26 - 29, 2012, Orlando, FL, USA

[More information](#)

Symposium On Theory of Modeling and Simulation, TMS'12

Part of the 2012 SpringSim - Spring Simulation Multi-Conference

March 26 - 29, 2012, Orlando, FL, USA

[More information](#)

Software for Theory of Modeling & Simulation at TMS/DEVS'1 2

March 26 - 29, 2012, The Florida Hotel, Orlando, FL, USA.

[More Information](#)

2012 SpringSim - Spring Simulation Multi-Conference

March 26 - 30, 2012, Orlando, FL, USA

[More Information](#)

Applied Ergonomics Conference 2012

March 26 - 29, 2012, Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, TN, USA

[More information](#)

The 31st International Conference on Modelling, Identification and Control

April 2 - 4, 2012, Phuket, Thailand

[More information](#)

Fourth NASA Formal Methods Symposium (NFM 2012)

April 3 - 5, 2012, Norfolk, VA, USA

[More Information](#)

9th IEEE International Conference and Workshop on Engineering of Autonomic and Autonomous Systems (EASe 2011)

April 11 - 13, 2012, Novi Sad, Serbia, Europe

[More Information](#)

Workshop on Requirements Engineering (WER'12)

April 24 - 27, 2012, Buenos Aires This workshop will be held in parallel with CibSE'12 and ESELAW'12.

[More information](#)

CMMI Made Practical 2012 NEW

April 26 – 27, 2012 London, UK

[More information](#)

SETE APCOSE 2012

April 30 - May 2, 2012, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, QLD, Australia

[More information](#)

Software Engineering Institute Architecture Technology User Network (SATURN) 2012 Conference

May 7 - 11, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL, USA

[More Information](#)

1st Annual Systems Engineering in the Washington Metropolitan Area Conference (SEDC 2012)

May 14 - 16, 2012, George Mason Inn and Conference Center, Washington, USA

[More information](#)

2012 Industrial and Systems Engineering Research Conference NEW

May 19 - 23, 2012, Orlando, Florida

[More information](#)

Risk Engineering Society Conference: RISK 2012

May 23 - 24, 2012, Lovedale, NSW, Australia

[More information](#)

12th International Design Conference Design 2012

May 21 - 24, 2012, Dubrovnik, Croatia

[More information](#)

Australian System Safety Conference 2012

May 23 - 25, 2012, Brisbane, Australia

[More information](#)

12th International SPICE Conference on Process Improvement and Capability determination in Software, Systems Engineering and Service Management

May 29 - 31, 2012, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

[More Information](#)

Engineering Leadership Conference (ELC 2012)

May 30 - June 2, 2012, Adelaide, Australia

[More information](#)

International Conference on Software and Systems Process (ICSSP) 2012

June 2 - 3, 2012, Zurich, Switzerland (co-located with ICSE 2012)

[More Information](#)

119th American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Annual Conference & Exposition

June 10 - 13, 2012, San Antonio, Texas, USA

[More information](#)

The Third International Symposium on Engineering Systems - CESUN 2012 NEW

June 18 - 20, 2012, Delft, The Netherlands

[More information](#)

iFM2012 ABZ 2012 - Abstract State Machines

June 18 - 22, 2012, CNR Research Area of Pisa, Italy

[More information](#)

12th International School on Formal Methods for the Design of Computer, Communication and Software Systems: Model-Driven Engineering (SFM-12:MDE)

June 18 - 23, 2012

[More Information](#)

International Conference on Business Process Modeling, Development, and Support (BPMDS 2012), the 13th edition of the BPMDS series, held in Conjunction with Conference on Advanced Information Systems Engineering (CAiSE'12) NEW

25-26 June 2012, Gdansk, Poland

[More information](#)

3rd IEEE Track on Collaborative Modeling and Simulation (COMETS 2012) NEW

June 25-27, 2012, Toulouse, France

[More information](#)

PETRI NETS 2012 - 33rd International Conference on the Application and Theory of Petri Nets and Concurrency

June 25 - 29, 2012, Hamburg, Germany

[More information](#)

12th International Conference on Application of Concurrency to System Design (ACSD 2012)

June 27 - 29, 2012, Hamburg, Germany

[More Information](#)

8th European Conference on Modelling Foundations and Applications

July 2 - 5, 2012, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark

[More information](#)

INCOSE International Symposium (IS) 2012

July 9 - 12, 2012, Rome, Italy

IS2012 Call for Papers: Deadline for draft papers, and proposals for panels and tutorials for IS2012 is November 8th, 2011.

[More information](#)

Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research (INGRoup) - Seventh Annual Conference

July 12 - 14, 2012, Chicago, IL, USA

[More information](#)

IEEE SOSE 2012 7th International Conference on System of Systems Engineering NEW

July 16 - 19, 2012, Genoa, Italy

[More information](#)

International Conference of the System Dynamics Society, 2012

July 22 - 26, 2012, St. Gallen, Switzerland

[More Information](#)

4th Improving Systems & Software Engineering Conference (ISSEC) 2012

August 15 - 16, 2012, Melbourne, Australia

[More information](#)

18th International Symposium on Formal Methods NEW

August 27 - 31, 2012, CNAM, Paris, France

[More information](#)

Sixth IEEE International Conference on Self-Adaptive and Self-Organizing Systems (SASO 2012) NEW

September 10-14, 2012, Lyon, France

[More information](#)

10th International Conference on Formal Modeling and Analysis of Timed Systems (FORMATS 2012) NEW

September 18-20, 2012, London, United Kingdom

[More information](#)

20th IEEE International Requirements Engineering Conference

September 24 - 28, 2012, Chicago, Illinois, USA

[More information](#)

MODELS 2012, ACM/IEEE 15th International Conference on Model-Driven Engineering Language & Systems - Call for Papers - Deadline 19 March 2012

Sept. 30th - Oct. 5th, 2012 - Innsbruck/AUSTRIA

[More Information](#)

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society HFES 2012 Annual Meeting

October 22 - 26, 2012, Boston, MA, USA

[More information](#)

The World Congress on Engineering and Computer Science 2012

October 24 - 26, 2012, San Francisco, USA

Building Business Capabilities (BBC) 2012

October 28 - November 2, 2012, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

[More information](#)

3rd International Conference on Complex Systems Design & Management (CSD&M 2012)

December 12 - 14, 2012, Cité Internationale Universitaire, Paris (France)

[More information](#)

Education and Academia

Help for Individuals Selecting Engineering Schools and Programs

www.EngineeringDegreeGuides.org provides information concerning engineering schools, obtaining an engineering degree online, as well as degree programs, admissions requirements, tuition, and accreditation. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, engineering jobs across all specialties are expected to grow by 11 percent in the U.S. over the next six years. These statistics are not lost on recent high school and community college graduates that who are increasingly looking for solid career paths. The same can be said for mid-career path individuals looking to advance their careers. The Web site is dedicated to providing useful resources that range from, admissions requirements, degree programs, types of degrees, schools, tuition, and to accreditation.

NASA Graduate Certificate in Space System Engineering

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) (USA) intends to issue a sole source contract to Stevens Institute of Technology School of Systems & Enterprises/Castle Point on Hudson, Hoboken, NJ 07030 for a training program entitled "Graduate Certificate in Space System Engineering." The objective of the program is to provide a project management leadership curriculum for Johnson Space Center (JSC) employees selected for the Space Systems Engineering Development Program. The contractor shall provide a Graduate Certificate Program in Space Systems Engineering for 26 participants in SSED. P.

[More Information](#)

Research Fellow and Post-doctorate Positions Available

Financial Services Governance, Risk and Compliances Competence Centre (GRC3), University College Cork, Ireland

The following positions will be of interest to researchers in the systems and software engineering community as they require relevant research expertise:

1. Research Fellow in Ontology and Business Process Modeling,
2. Research Fellow in Capability Maturity Modeling,
3. Post-Doctorate Researcher in Business Process and Data Modeling,
4. Post Doctorate Researcher in Capability Maturity and Business Process Modeling,
5. Post-Doctorate Researcher in Data and Business Process Modeling

[More Information](#)

Point of Contact: tbutler (at) afis.ucc.ie

If emailing, please insert the position title in the email subject heading as follows:

GRC3 Research Fellow or GRC3 Post-doctorate position.

Position Available at INRIA Sophia Antipolis, France

EPI Aoste, from INRIA Sophia Antipolis-Méditerranée Research Center in the south-east of France, is offering a one-year position in the fields of model-driven engineering and embedded systems. The position is for a Research Associate (Post-doc) holding a PhD in Computer computer Ssciences, Computer computer Engineering engineering or Software software Engineeringengineering.

More Information Send a CV to Frederic.Mallet (at) inria.fr

New Student Group Opens Doors to Careers in Systems Engineering

Arizona State University students can delve into the field beyond their classroom studies through a student division of the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE).

"We connect students with the systems engineering resources available outside of the university," says Eric Luster, INCOSE at ASU president and doctoral student in the computer science program in the School of Computing, Informatics and Decision Systems Engineering.

Luster helped in the effort to establish the group in December 2010. The group offers students opportunities to network with system engineering professionals and get hands-on experience.

[More Information](#)

Texas A&M University Faculty Position at Full Professor Level

The Industrial & Systems Engineering Department at Texas A&M has an open position for a faculty member at the full professor level. The area of interest is systems engineering, and TAMU is considering a broad definition of this area which includes those with expertise in cognitive systems.

More information: Thomas Ferris, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Industrial and Systems Engineering, Texas A&M University

Phone: 979-458-2340. email: tferris (at) tamu.edu

[More Information](#)

Some Systems Engineering-Relevant Websites

<http://www.cmminevents.com/2012/>

This is the website of the 2012 CMMI Made Practical conference to be held in London over 26-27 April, 2012. The site is mentioned here for its archive of downloadable presentations for previous years' conferences – a treasure trove of practical information and experiences in implementing and using CMMI. CMMI (Capability Maturity Model Integration) is a systems and software process improvement approach whose goal is to help organizations improve their performance.

<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/cmmi/solutions/info-center.cfm>

This is the home page for the Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA's Software Engineering Institute Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI). The site contains comprehensive information about this very significant systems and software process reference model.

<http://www.computer.org/sevocab>

Find authoritative definitions for software and systems engineering terms in SEVOcab.

A project of the IEEE Computer Society and ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC7, SEVOcab includes definitions from international standards. One can search for a term as defined in the standards, or for all the definitions in a source standard. To provide an understanding of related concepts, SEVOcab will return any definition for the term, as well as all the definitions that use the term. Over 300 terms and definitions from recently published standards will be added to the vocabulary by mid 2012.

<http://www.incose.org/mdwest/presentations.htm>

This is a page of the website of the Midwest Gateway Chapter of the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSSE). The page contains about 50 downloadable presentations on aspects of systems engineering given at Chapter events. The quality of the presentations in breadth and depth is high. The site has a link for joining INCOSSE: https://www.incose.org/cc_orders/joinINCOSSE.cfm

<http://thaisysml.blogspot.com.au/2012/02/common-misunderstanding-in-using.html>

This webpage addresses the question regarding SysML of why a connector cannot be used to connect between ports on the boundaries of blocks in BDD (SysML Block Definition Diagram).

<http://graffletopia.com/stencils/849>

This webpage contains OmniGraffle stencils for SysML diagram elements. The Systems Modeling Language (SysML) is a general-purpose modeling language for systems engineering applications. OmniGraffle is a drawing application for mac which allows graphics to be quickly created by keeping lines connected to shapes even when they're moved, providing powerful styling tools, and importing and exporting Microsoft Visio files.

<http://jbconsultinginternational.com/default.aspx>

This is the website of JB Consulting International (JBCI), aka James W. Bilbro. The site contains some excellent material on technology maturity, Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), Software Readiness Levels (SRLs), Advancement Degree of Difficulty (AD2) and system maturity.

Standards and Guides

EN 50126 / IEC 62278 Railway RAMS Standard

EN 50126-1 / IEC 62278 is a railway reliability/availability/maintainability (RAMS) standard published by CENELEC – the European

Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization. There is a companion guide: CLC/TR 50126-2:2007 titled "Railway applications - The specification and demonstration of Reliability, Availability, Maintainability and Safety (RAMS) - Part 2: Guide to the application of EN 50126-1 for safety".

More information:

[The standard](#)

[The guide](#)

A blog about issues and interpretations of the standard: <http://en50126.blogspot.com/>

Definitions to Close on

Unified Processes

Unified Process: The Unified Process is a popular iterative and incremental software development process framework. The best-known and extensively documented refinement of the Unified Process is the Rational Unified Process (RUP). The name Unified Process as opposed to Rational Unified Process is generally used to describe the generic process, including those elements which are common to most refinements.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unified_Process

Agile Unified Process (AUP): The Agile Unified Process (AUP) is a simplified version of the Rational Unified Process (RUP).

Source: <http://www.ambysoft.com/unifiedprocess/agileUP.html>

Enterprise Unified Process (EUP): The Enterprise Unified Process™ (EUP) is an extension to the RUP. The extensions include two new phases, Production and Retirement, and several new disciplines: Operations and Support and the seven enterprise disciplines:

- Enterprise Business Modeling
- Portfolio Management
- Enterprise Architecture
- Strategic Reuse
- People Management
- Enterprise Administration
- Software Process Improvement.

Source: <http://www.enterpriseunifiedprocess.com/>

Essential Unified Process for software development (EssUP): The Essential Unified Process for software development, or EssUP, was invented by Ivar Jacobson, intended to be an improvement on the Rational Unified Process. It identifies practices such as use cases, iterative development, architecture driven development, team practices and process practices, which are borrowed from RUP, CMMI and agile development. The concept of EssUP is that you pick those practices that are applicable to the situation and combine them into a process. This is considered an improvement with respect to RUP, because with RUP the practices are intertwined and cannot be taken in isolation. EssUP is supported by a set of playing cards, each card describing a practice.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essential_Unified_Process

Open Unified Process (OpenUP): The Open Unified Process (OpenUP) is a part of the Eclipse Process Framework (EPF), an open source process framework developed within the Eclipse Foundation. Its goals are to make it easy to adopt the core of the RUP / Unified Process.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenUP>

Rational Unified Process (RUP): The Rational Unified Process (RUP) is an iterative software development process framework created by the Rational Software Corporation, now a division of IBM. RUP is intended to be an adaptable process framework, intended to be tailored by the development organizations and software project teams that will select the elements of the process that are appropriate for their needs. RUP has, as its major features:

- Develop iteratively, with risk as the primary iteration driver
- Manage requirements
- Employ a component-based architecture
- Model software visually
- Continuously verify quality
- Control changes.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_Rational_Unified_Process

PPI at the Singapore Airshow

PPI is proud to be exhibiting, under the Team Australia pavilion, at the upcoming Singapore Airshow 2012. This event, to take place nearby to Changi Airport. This show is expected to be even bigger than the last 2010 event which attracted 430459 trade attendees from 133 countries, 259 foreign government and international delegations, and 846 media personnel covering the event. To our Singaporean friends, feel free to stop by and visit our booth!

PPI Events (see www.ppi-int.com)

Systems Engineering Public 5-Day Courses:

Upcoming locations include:

- Melbourne, Australia
- Las Vegas, USA
- London, UK
- Sydney, Australia

Requirements Analysis and Specification Writing Public Courses:

Upcoming locations include:

- Melbourne, Australia
- Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Adelaide, Australia
- Austin, USA
- Stellenbosch, South Africa

Systems Engineering Management 5-Day Courses:

Upcoming locations include:

- London, UK
- Stellenbosch, South Africa

Software Engineering Public 5-Day Courses:

Upcoming locations include:

- Sydney, Australia
- Pretoria, South Africa
- Amsterdam, The Netherlands

OCD/CONOPS Public Courses:

Upcoming locations include:

- Pretoria, South Africa
- Las Vegas, USA
- Brasilia, Brasil

Cognitive Systems Engineering Courses:

Upcoming locations include:

- Adelaide, Australia
- Las Vegas, USA

CSEP Preparation Course (Presented by PPI subsidiary Certification Training International)

Upcoming locations include:

- San Diego, USA
- Washington, USA

- Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- San Jose, USA
- Las Vegas, USA

PPI Upcoming Participation in Professional Conferences

PPI will be participating in the following upcoming events. We look forward to chatting with you there.

- Singapore Airshow | Exhibiting | (14-19 February 2012)
- SEPG North America 2012 | Exhibiting | Albuquerque, NM, USA (12 - 15 March 2012)
- INCOSE LA Mini-Conference | Las Angeles, CA, USA (31 March)
- SETE/APCOSE 2012 | Exhibiting | Brisbane (30 April – 2 May 2012)
- ICOMS Asset Management Conference | Exhibiting | Hobart. Tasmania, Australia (4 - 8 June 2012)
- INCOSE IS 2012 | Exhibiting | Rome, Italy (9 - 12 July, 2012)
- Land Warfare Conference 2012 | Exhibiting | Melbourne, Australia (22 - 26 October 2012)

Kind regards from the SyEN team:

Robert Halligan, Managing Editor, email: rhalligan@ppi-int.com

Ralph Young, Editor, email: ryoung@ppi-int.com

Stephanie Halligan, Production, email: shalligan@ppi-int.com

Project Performance International
2 Parkgate Drive, Ringwood, Vic 3134 Australia
Tel: +61 3 9876 7345
Fax: +61 3 9876 2664
Tel Brasil: +55 11 3230 8256
Tel UK: +44 20 3286 1995
Tel USA: +1 888 772 5174

Web: <http://www.ppi-int.com>

Email: contact@ppi-int.com

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