

Paul Ramsay

From: WWISA New Zealand Chapter [info@wwisa.org.nz]
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Welcome to the latest Worldwide Institute of Software Architects (WWISA) New Zealand Chapter newsletter.

In this our 30th issue we look at:

- Activities in Auckland
- What's next in Wellington
- Seven leadership strategies for IT success
- Business architecture in perspective
- Architecture and information management
- Architects with revolting thoughts, and
- Blush.

ACTIVITIES IN AUCKLAND

Our next meeting in Auckland will be held on:

Thursday 17 June 2004

6:00pm for 6:30pm - 7:50pm

Peace Software
100 Symonds Street
Auckland

The speaker will be Murray Knox, Independent Software Architect.

Murray has over 15 years experience in the information technology sector and has worked in a wide range of industries including aerospace, security, telecommunications and insurance.

Murray will be discussing "Pragmatic Software Development Processes" in a presentation that covers:

- Risk-based process selection
- Tailoring of processes to changing conditions
- The role of architecture in the software development process
- Process patterns and anti-patterns.

Please feel free to extend an invitation to attend to any interested friends or colleagues (there is currently no cost involved with any chapter events).

WHAT'S NEXT IN WELLINGTON

Our next Wellington branch meeting will be held on:

Monday 26 July 2004

12:00pm for 12:10pm - 1:00pm

Equinox Room
Level 5
Equinox House
111 The Terrace (or 222 Lambton Quay)
Wellington

The speaker will be Horia Slusanschi, Technical Consultant, Unisys New Zealand Limited (<http://www.unisys.co.nz>).

In what he hopes will be a highly participative session, Horia will be deploring - and exploring! - some of the common misconceptions around waterfall development and discussing the thorny road to adoption of more iterative / agile approaches to software development in a commercial setting.

SEVEN LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES FOR IT SUCCESS

The November/December 2003 issue of "iQ Magazine" - Cisco's quarterly publication for small to medium enterprises - featured an excellent article on leadership strategies for IT success.

The seven strategies are: align IT to business strategy; make IT governance a priority; use metrics, but don't let them dictate strategy; commit to a unified information infrastructure; create a shared CEO and CIO vision; develop CIO skills beyond technology; and know when and how to partner.

While all are highly relevant, committing to a common architecture is of particular interest to enterprise and software architects alike.

This particular strategy notes that: "In the 1990s, IT groups focused on building systems to manage growth within each part of a business. Today, the focus is on returning to the basics and setting a foundation for systems that reach across the business to increase productivity."

Brad Boston, senior vice president and CIO at Cisco Systems, points to the success of Southwest Airlines as an example of the power of standardisation: "Southwest does so well because it has only one type of aircraft. All the crew can fly that plane, every aircraft can park at any gate, and any mechanic can maintain the fleet. Operational simplicity is the foundation of its success, and the same principle holds true for IT."

You also have to be willing to make an exception when the business case requires it. "Exception management is just as important as compliance management, and both should have a place in your IT model," says Kathy Harris, group vice president with Gartner. "If you have too many exceptions, you don't have it right yet. But if you have no exceptions, you may be too rigorous in your compliance and may be stifling innovation."

The full article can be viewed under "Archived Issues" at <http://cisco.com/go/iqmagazine>.

BUSINESS ARCHITECTURE IN PERSPECTIVE

John Bernhard and Henk van der Merwe gave a detailed presentation on "Business Architecture in Perspective" at our last meeting in Auckland.

A full copy of this presentation can be found on the Chapter website at <http://www.wvisa.org.nz/downloads.asp> and includes:

- Definitions
- Business architecture
- Learnings and benefits from the business architecting process

- Enterprise architecture modelling
- Business patterns
- Business and software product line architectures.

The presentation was also covered in Computerworld New Zealand under the heading "Understanding processes key to bridging IT-business gap".

A full copy of the article can be found on the Computerworld website at <http://idg.net.nz/news.nsf/UNID/D03E0EEFB35DCD96CC256E81007D42A6!OpenDocument>.

ARCHITECTURE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

In preparation for the Data Management Association (DAMA) International Symposium in Los Angeles last month, Duncan McMillan gave a preview of his presentation "Adding Value in a Changing Environment - A Case Study" at a special meeting in Wellington.

The case study examined how the approach to architecture and information management (IM) within Westpac New Zealand has changed over the last ten years in response to changing circumstances, and what lessons have been learnt. It covers a period in which there has been significant changes including a major merger, varying strengths of relationships with the parent company and competitive pressures.

Duncan - assisted by Paul Brady - gave a number of different examples of how architecture and IM approaches have been used to gain value for Westpac and summarised the key messages as being:

- Change is an opportunity
- Add value in a visible way
- Evolve a foundation
- Don't forget the importance of relationships.

A full copy of this presentation can be found on the Chapter website at <http://www.wvisa.org.nz/downloads.asp>.

ARCHITECTS WITH REVOLTING THOUGHTS

Mark Carroll gave a thought-provoking presentation at our last meeting in Wellington.

With the catchy title of "Viva le architects with revolting thoughts", Mark explored how building an application architecture first can have benefits in the subsequent development of an over-arching enterprise architecture. He went on to suggest that it may well be a case of "moving the business thinking closer to IT thinking" rather than the other way around.

A full copy of Mark's presentation can be found on the Chapter website at <http://www.wvisa.org.nz/downloads.asp> and covers:

- Why an enterprise architecture?
- Architecting to constructing
- Key concepts in application architecture thinking
- Towards teams
- Teams as the new objects
- Call to action.

BLUSH

Sometimes it's possible to take the building analogy a bit too far and - with a word like "architect" in your name - end up with some interesting items in the mail as a result.

The latest is "Blush"- "ply with personality".

Blush is a ready finished interior plywood lining designed to give the look of traditional tongue and groove timber. The three finishes supplied are Blonde, Naturale and Radiance.

See <http://www.blushply.co.nz> if you'd like to incorporate any of these features into your next "architectural" endeavour!

THANK YOU

As a voluntary, non-profit organisation we are reliant on a wide range of individuals and organisations for support.

We would particularly like to thank:

- Equinox (<http://www.equinox.co.nz>) for hosting and providing development services for our local chapter website, and for providing the venue for our Wellington meetings.
- Peace Software (<http://www.peace.com>) for providing the venue for our Auckland meetings.
- The New Zealand Computer Society (<http://www.nzcs.org.nz>) for their support and promotion of selected chapter events.
- Computerworld New Zealand (www.computerworld.co.nz) for their promotion and coverage of chapter activities.

These organisations enable us to offer all our services at no cost to you - so please support them so that they can continue to support us!

MAILING LIST

If this newsletter has been forwarded on to you and you'd like to be added to our mailing list, just enter your details on our chapter website at <http://www.wvisa.org.nz/MailingList.asp>.

You'll then be registered to receive notice of upcoming meetings, workshops and other significant chapter events.

Our mailing list is used for no other purposes, and your right to privacy is respected at all times.

Likewise, if you wish to be removed just send an email to info@wvisa.org.nz.

BOOKMARKS

- Microsoft .NET Architecture Center
<http://www.msdn.microsoft.com/architecture>
- New Zealand .NET User Group
<http://www.dot.net.nz>
- Softpanorama University (Slightly Skeptical) Software Architecture Links
<http://www.softpanorama.org/SE/index.shtml>

Don't forget to check out our Chapter website (<http://www.wvisa.org.nz/Links.asp>) which includes links to a wide range of software architecture and related sites.

QUOTABLE VALUE

"Patterns are just a way of codifying knowledge."
- Shaun Forgie

Kind regards ... Paul

Paul Ramsay
WWISA New Zealand Chapter

info@wwisa.org.nz
<http://www.wwisa.org.nz>

Phone: +64 4 494-3716
Mobile: +64 27 444-9023

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