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Welcome to the latest Worldwide Institute of Software Architects (WWISA) New Zealand Chapter newsletter.

In this issue we look at:

- Activities in Auckland
- What's next in Wellington
- Pragmatic software development processes
- Agile development trials and tribulations
- Enterprise architecture transformations, and
- Business integration.

ACTIVITIES IN AUCKLAND

Our last Auckland meeting for the year will be held on:

Thursday 18 November 2004

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

Peace Software
100 Symonds Street
Auckland

The speaker will be Professor Nik Kasabov, PhD, FRSNZ, FNZCS, the Founding Director and the Chief Scientist of the Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Research Institute (<http://www.kedri.info>).

Professor Kasabov holds a Chair of Knowledge Engineering at the School of Computer and Information Sciences at the Auckland University of Technology. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Fellow of the New Zealand Computer Society and a Senior Member of IEEE. He holds MSc and PhD from the Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria.

His main research interests are intelligent information systems, knowledge engineering, neuro-computing, bioinformatics, neuroinformatics, speech and image processing, novel methods for data mining and knowledge discovery. He has published more than 320 publications that include 15 books, 90 journal papers, 55 book chapters, 25 patents and numerous conference papers. He has extensive academic experience at various academic and research organisations including the University of Otago; University of Trento, Italy; University of Essex, United Kingdom; Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria; University of California at Berkeley; RIKEN Brain Science Institute, Tokyo; University of Maastricht, The Netherlands; PEBL (<http://www.peblnz.com>); Fonterra; ViaLactia, and others.

He is one of the founding board members of the Asia Pacific Neural Network Assembly (APNNA) and was its President in 1997-1998. Professor Kasabov is on the editorial boards of seven international journals and has been on the Program Committees of more than 50 international conferences in the last 10 years. He chaired the series of ANNES conferences (1993-2001, University of Otago) and the Neuro Computing and Evolving Intelligence conference series (<http://www.kedri.org>).

Professor Kasabov will be providing an overview of activities at Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Research Institute (KEDRI).

This presentation is a popular introduction to building models for data mining, prediction, classification, identification, etc from data using three different approaches:

1. Creating a single global model that "covers" the whole problem space (eg. a regression formula)
2. Evolving a set of local models that cover the whole problem space (eg. a set of clusters and functions associated with each cluster)
3. Evolving a new, "personalized" model for any new data vector through transductive reasoning.

The three approaches are illustrated on simple tasks from business, bioinformatics, health and environmental study. The methods are compared for both accuracy of results and quality of the new knowledge acquired. All these methods are part of a comprehensive software environment "NeuCom" for data mining and knowledge discovery (<http://www.theneucom.com>) that will be used for demonstrations.

Please register your attendance for catering purposes by emailing reservations@nzcs.org.nz.

WHAT'S NEXT IN WELLINGTON

Our last Wellington meeting for the year will be held on:

Monday 29 November 2004

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

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

The speaker will be Mark Carroll, Architect Adviser, Microsoft New Zealand Limited (<http://www.microsoft.co.nz>).

Mark will be exploring "Reducing Technical Risk - Eight Business Drivers for Technology and Architecture Decision-Making".

Avoid creating tomorrow's project and operational failures by reducing the risk of your technical and architecture decisions today. In some cases, architectural and technology decision-making is a process doomed to fail no matter how much we slave over our understanding of technical and architectural merit. Ask yourself why some of the most elegant architectures and technologies have ended up helping create disasters?

In this session, Mark will discuss a simple checklist that architects and many other technical people can use to help mitigate the business risks faced when architectures and technologies are up for consideration. Using the checklist can help avoid some veritable minefields that can catch out the business at a later date. Many of the materials Mark has drawn on have come from reports on project outcomes, both positive and negative, and how those project outcomes can be related back to what are often called "technical risk" factors.

Before joining Microsoft, Mark was part of the team that formulated the Statistics New Zealand enterprise architecture including its application architecture and other supporting architectures. He was also heavily involved with evaluating and choosing technologies that would support the goals of the architectures developed. In the preceding nine years at Statistics New Zealand, Mark was also engaged as both a project manager and a participant in a variety of infrastructure and application

development projects including security, identity integration, portals and Year 2000.

Mark has also been involved in a number of IT industry groups holding offices as Secretary for GOVIS until his departure from public sector and as President of Software Quality New Zealand (SQNZ). He has also presented at a number of local conferences and events most recently mostly focused on enterprise and software architectures.

PRAGMATIC SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

Murray Knox gave a thought-provoking presentation on "Pragmatic Software Development Processes: An Architectural Perspective on the Software Development Lifecycle" at a recent meeting in Auckland.

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

- The need for process
- Types of process:
 - Ad-hoc
 - Planned
 - Agile
 - Others
- Risk-based process selection and customisation
- Process tips, tactics and techniques:
 - Inception
 - Elaboration
 - Construction
 - Transition
- Enterprise architecture and the software development lifecycle.

AGILE DEVELOPMENT TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

In a highly participative session at a recent Wellington meeting, Horia Slusanschi explored the trials and tribulations of agile development in a presentation which covered:

- Agile and iterative approaches versus the status quo:
 - The Agile Manifesto
 - The spirit of RUP
 - Contrasting waterfall and iterative "sweet spots"
- Business Trials (The Rock):
 - Budgeting strategies
 - Collaboration challenges
- Software Engineering Tribulations (The Hard Place):
 - Documentation? What documentation?
 - A hitchhiker's guide to the UML fevers.

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

ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE TRANSFORMATIONS

Richard Hancock gave a detailed presentation on "Enterprise Architecture Transformations" at a recent meeting in Wellington.

Noting that business vision, knowledge and information are transformed at number of places in a

functional enterprise architecture, Richard explored:

- The fundamentals of enterprise architecture
- Three contexts for an enterprise architecture:
 - Single organisation - business / IT alignment
 - Extended enterprise
 - Start-up promotion.

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

BUSINESS INTEGRATION

In a comprehensive presentation on business integration at our last meeting in Wellington, Steve Dickinson explored the challenges of gaining efficiencies through automation, and integration through the use of open standards.

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

Steve also gave a brief demonstration of business process modelling using WBI Modeller, and will follow this up with a further demonstration in the New Year using the WSDL and BPEL generated from this initial demonstration as well as looking at end-to-end visualisation.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our presenters in both Auckland and Wellington.

In some cases it is not always possible to post these on the Chapter website, so we would also like to acknowledge recent presentations by:

- Miha Kralj, Principal Consultant, Microsoft New Zealand Limited (www.microsoft.co.nz)
- Vish Viswanathan, Regional Partner The Open Group (<http://www.opengroup.org>), Vice Chair Architecture Forum, and Managing Partner CC and C Solutions (<http://www.ccandcsolutions.com>).

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.wwisa.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@wwisa.org.nz.

BOOKMARKS

- Computer History Museum
<http://www.computerhistory.org>
- International Association of Software Architects

<http://www.iasarchitects.org>

- Simon Visual Language

<http://www.simonvisuallanguage.com>

- Software Architecture Action Guide (a book in the making by Ruth Malan and Dana Bredemeyer)

<http://www.ruthmalan.com>

- Test Professionals Network

<http://www.tpn.org.nz>

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

QUOTABLE VALUE

“The nice thing about standards is that there are so many to choose from.”

- Andrew S Tannenbaum

Kind regards ... Paul

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