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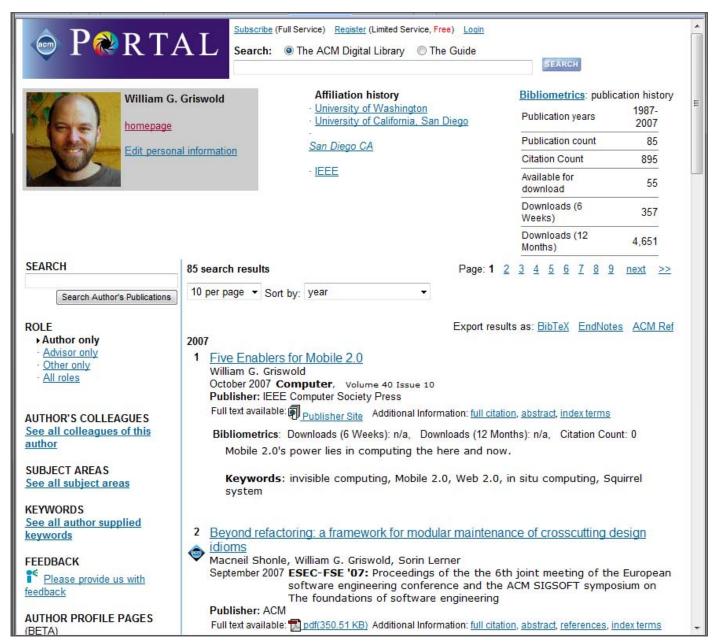


Association for Computing Machinery

# Letter from the Chair

William G. Griswold <wgg@cs.ucsd.edu>

"A web page is worth 1K words1"



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 1K pardons for the bad pun – and the editorial liberty I took of putting Bill's web page on the 1<sup>st</sup> page of the newsletter – he intended it to go on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page, but with a prize winning grin like that – I mean – if we had been looking for a SIGSOFT Poster child and I think we have found our winner ... Seriously, I hope your curiosity has been peaked and you will read his column as well as the rest of the issue, which is jammed packed with some keen insights you aren't going to pick up on CNN. - editor

# Letter from the Chair

<continued>

Just over a year ago, in my March 2007 letter, I wrote about the ACM Digital Library's upgrades, and now ACM has done it again. What they've done is to create a "home page" for virtually every published author, called the ACM Author Profile Page, that aggregates all of the author's published work. See the snapshot of my page, below. This was no small feat. Each time an author writes a paper, there is a chance that his or her name will appear slightly differently: with or without a middle initial, first name or initial, anglicized spellings versus native spellings, misspellings, change of name, etc. Yikes! Using techniques described here like those http://www.acm.org/membership/author pages, **ACM** managed to collapse all these varieties of spellings into a single identity (with some mistakes, I'm sure). As a consequence, anywhere in the ACM Digital Library or the ACM Guide you can click on an author's name and be taken to this page. You can also find ACM Author Profile pages via search or navigate to the name via the Guide's author index.

Once at an author's page, you can see virtually everything an author has published. If the author has customized his or her page, it may also contain a photograph and URL to a home page. The author's papers are organized by year starting from the present and going back in time. It's possible to search the papers, navigate by subject areas or keywords, even download their citations en masse. Of course, clicking on any paper's link takes you to the paper's own "home page", which includes the abstract, citation, references, PDF of the paper, etc., as I described last year. In addition, to the papers, there is a linked listing of all the author's co-authors and institutions over time, as well as bibliometrics – statistics on the author's publication history. Nice.

This feature is more than fun (and boy, is it fun). I went to David Parnas's page, since Parnas is one of my favorite authors, and discovered that he was involved in a paper revisiting the topics of Fred Brooks's "No Silver Bullet" paper. Crank up the printer! This is a new way to keep up with your tribe. Using web technologies like watchthatpage.com you can effortlessly track your favorite authors. Maybe ACM will add RSS feeds sometime in the future, too.

In speaking with some colleagues about this new feature, one declared that he will delete his self-managed publications page on his web site and simply link to the ACM's page. I may have to do the same. My web site always seems months out of date, hence failing to serve its purpose of making my research readily available to others. For you authors out there, I encourage you to visit your page and take a look. I think you'll be impressed. Then login to edit your personal information to display your photograph and personal home page, as well as to have your name shown as you prefer.

Sincerely,



# Letter from the Editor

Will Tracz

<Will.Tracz@ACM.org>

Wow – I wonder who blew out the candles at ICSE's 30th birthday party this month...and if the Gewandhaus Orchestra played "Happy Birthday?" I guess we will have to wait until next issue to hear Bill tell us about the party and the SIGSOFT town meeting at this year's ICSE – BTW, now it isn't too soon to start thinking about ICSE 2009! (See page 3 for the link.)

Is this issue not that late! Then again, the March issue (electronic version) hit the net 25 March – and the hard copy hit my desk on April 3<sup>rd</sup> – in case you didn't notice – this is a lot better than past issues. Speaking of noticing, I can't help but wonder how many people don't read their hardcopy issue and just read the DL edition? (Of course, that thought leads me to wonder how many people don't read either the hardcopy or the softcopy, in which case they aren't reading what I am writing right now, so it doesn't matter what I wonder. ;-) That said, whatever copy you are reading – this is a great issue. Peter SEEds some tempting thoughts, Mike goes to Hell's Kitchen for a meaningful morsel, Peter paints perpetual pathos, and Mark makes meaty messages surfing. What more could you ask for?

BTW, I have included some SIGSOFT web content (many thanks to our information manager, Nels E. Beckman - infodir\_sigsoft@acm.org). The SIGSOFT web site has much to offer.

So much to read – so many places to read it – so little time – until next time – or drop me a line. Your Humble Newsletter Editor



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# **Letters to the Editor**

# The Second Annual SE Crossword Puzzle Contest

No, we don't have any new submissions. I guess I will have to dig out my old green card and create a crossword puzzle made up of IBM 360 BAL Op codes... or whatever.

Submissions will continue to be accepted for the second annual Software **Engineering Crossword Puzzle Contest**. Single page PDF file entries should be sent to the SEN EOC (Will.Tracz@ACM.org). Entries will be published in SEN as they are submitted. Prizes will be awarded (though I can't say what they will be now). As always, if you need help creating your crossword puzzle, you can go to <a href="http://www.armoredpenguin.com/crossword/">http://www.armoredpenguin.com/crossword/</a>

#### **SIGSOFT Awards**

http://www.sigsoft.org/awards/

ACM SIGSOFT is responsible, both directly, or by encouraging organizers of SIGSOFT-sponsored conferences to designate their recipients, for four different awards:

- the Distinguished Service Award,
- the Outstanding Research Award,
- the Distinguished Paper Award,
- the ICSE's Most Influential Paper Award, and
- the Frank Anger Memorial Award.

## **SW Engineering PhD Dissertations**

 $\underline{http://www.sigsoft.org/phdDissertations/new\ index.php}$ 

This list is provided as a resource for PhD candidates, researchers, scientists, and engineers who are actively pursuing advanced research in Software Engineering.

PhD graduates are invited to submit information about their dissertations by using this form. The information they provide will be evaluated by our committee before being added to the list below.

Please observe that only completed dissertations will be accepted and that decisions about their acceptance for posting on the site are final. Furthermore, dissertations must be in English; for dissertations that are not available in English, an English-language publication that summarizes the results of the dissertation may be submitted instead.

Finally, observe that SIGSOFT is making this information available without warranty and assumes no responsibility for its accuracy. All information was provided on a voluntary basis. Any issues of copyright are the sole responsibility of the person submitting the information to SIGSOFT.

Those interested in PhD dissertations in the area of software engineering may also be interested in Tao Xie's Software Engineering Academic Genealogy.

http://people.engr.ncsu.edu/txie/sefamily.htm

# Announcing the First International Workshop on Requirements Engineering and Law (RELAW)

Laws, regulations and treaties present significant challenges to the development, deployment and maintenance of software systems across multiple jurisdictions. Requirements are situated to capture and reflect what software must do to ensure systems comply with relevant laws. This multi-disciplinary, one-day workshop will probe important issues, including processes for identifying relevant laws and jurisdictions, aligning laws with requirements, managing requirements and changes in law and demonstrating legal compliance through evidence-based mechanisms such as documentation, testing and certification. Submission Deadline: July 4th, 2008. Learn more at: http://www4.ncsu.edu/~tdbreaux/relaw

#### **ICSE 2009**

May 16-24, 2009 Vancouver, BC

http://www.cs.uoregon.edu/events/icse2009/home

### "About SIGSOFT" Web page

http://www.sigsoft.org/about/index.htm

SIGSOFT focuses on issues related to all aspects of software development and maintenance. Areas of special interest include: requirements, specification and design, software architecture, validation, verification, debugging, software safety, software processes, software management, measurement, user interfaces, configuration management, software engineering environments, and CASE tools.

#### History

The field of software engineering is generally considered to have begun with the two <u>NATO Software Engineering Conferences</u> of the late 1960s.

#### **Newsletter**

Software Engineering Notes is the bi-monthly ACM SIGSOFT newsletter. For more information see <a href="http://www.acm.org/sigsoft/SEN/">http://www.acm.org/sigsoft/SEN/</a>

#### **Awards**

ACM SIGSOFT is responsible for several different awards which are described on the <u>Awards Page</u>.

#### **Organization**

SIGSOFT is run by a volunteer <u>Executive Committee</u> composed of officers elected every two years, and assisted by a professional program director employed by the ACM.

The following policies and guidelines regulate the main activities related to SIGSOFT:

- Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy for Program Committees
- Policy for Software Engineering Notes (SEN)
- Guidelines for Obtaining SIGSOFT Cooperation Status
- Guidelines for Obtaining SIGSOFT Sponsorship Status
- <u>Guidelines for organizing a SIGSOFT-Sponsored</u>
   Workshop

Information about the main SIGSOFT activities in the last years can be found into the SIGSOFT annual reports: <u>2001-2002</u>, <u>2000-2001</u>, <u>1999-2000</u>, <u>1999-2000</u>, <u>1998-1999</u>, <u>1997-1998</u>, <u>1996-1997</u>, <u>1995-1996</u>.

#### Resources

The following set of resources should be of interest for SIGSOFT members:

- Creating your own ACM Account
- Free ACM Member Email Account
- Advice for Authors
- Resources for Event Organizers
- <u>PhD Dissertations</u> (to view a list of PhD dissertations relevant to Software Engineering and submit your own)
- Academic Genealogy of Software Engineering
- ACM and SIGSOFT <u>logo images</u> for use in publicity and publications
- Computing Curricula on Software Engineering, an initiative of ACM and IEEE/CS to provide curriculum guidance in the area of SE for undergraduate programs in computing. Mail to Joanne M. Atlee for more information about CCSE and SIGSOFT involvement in this issue.
- NATO Software Engineering Conferences
- Great Help on Preparing Latex documents for the World-Wide Web
- The Ada Project (Women in Computer Science)
- <u>SEWORLD Email Distribution List</u>
- <u>The issue 41-1 of the IBM Systems Journal</u> which focuses on Software Testing and Verification.

# The Second SEN Logo Design Contest

Yes, submissions are still being accepted for the second **SEN Log Design Contest**. Single page PDF file entries should be sent to the SEN EOC (Will.Tracz@LMCO.COM).

## **SIGSOFT SEN Keywords**

Authors are encouraged to use the keywords found on the ACM Computer Classification System (CCS) that is available online at: <a href="http://www.acm.org/class/1998/">http://www.acm.org/class/1998/</a>

# Author Profile Pages Available in the ACM Digital Library

**ACM Bulletin Service** 

ACM has introduced Author Profile pages as well as citation and usage statistics to the Digital Library.

The new features, which also include Bibliometrics, provide a snapshot of an individual author's contributions to computing, and a basic measure of their influence on the field.

You will find these pages by clicking on any author or colleague from a Citation Page in the <u>ACM Digital Library</u>.

We invite you to visit these pages at your earliest opportunity, and encourage you to share this information with your colleagues and peers. A Digital Library subscription is not required, but you will need to establish a free <a href="ACM web account">ACM web account</a> if you don't have one already.

Learn more by visiting ACM's <u>Author Profile Overview</u> <u>Page</u> or reading our <u>Press Release.</u>

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the Author Profile pages. Your input will be used to shape the next set of developments to this new facility, so please forward your thoughts to authorpagefeedback@acm.org.

## **Software Engineering Notes Online**

http://www.acm.org/sigsoft/SEN/senonline.html

The full text of current and recent back issues of Software Engineering Notes (*SEN*) (including proceedings) is available online as part of ACM's Digital Library

#### http://portal.acm.org/dl

The Digital Library also includes some articles from *SEN* issues from the 1990's, as well as tables of contents and citations from some older issues.

Access to SEN in the Digital Library is free for members of SIGSOFT; all you need is an ACM Web Account and password.

If you're a SIGSOFT member and you don't have a Web Account yet, you will first have to set up your free Web Account:

https://campus.acm.org/public/accounts/create.cfm

While you're at it, why not create or update your ACM e-mail alias (yourname@acm.org)?

It's a free e-mail forwarding benefit for ACM members. Go to:

https://campus.acm.org/public/clientfunctions/acmorg.cfm