

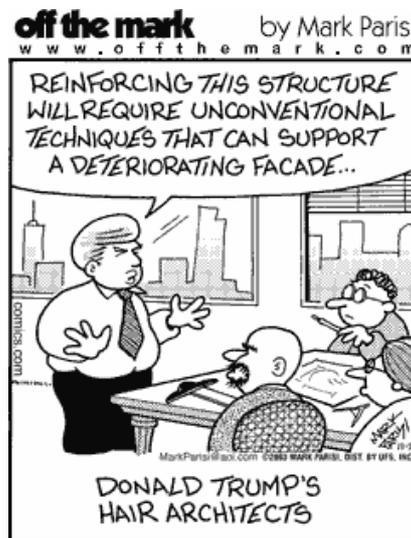
NEWSLETTER  
of the

**it Architecture**  
special interest group

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2006

### Introduction

Welcome to this year's one and only issue of the IT Architecture SIG Newsletter! This document consists of a rambling assortment of articles outlining, in relation to the SIG, what was, what is, and what will be. Well, thankfully at least, it has cartoons.



### Service Oriented Architecture

First I'd like to thank Ian Holmes, the Chief Enterprise Architect from Origin Energy, for his excellent presentation on SOA as implemented at Origin Energy. This was also a great way to round off our trilogy on SOA presentations - the other two presentations being given by Kym Farnik of IBM, and Franco Ucci and David Reid of Oracle.



There may well be more presentations on SOA however next year. For instance Paul Vial, Technical Architect with Power Health Solutions, has indicated he could be available to give a presentation on SOA, as being implemented on legacy applications using Oracle products, at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Zlatko Unterweger, Technical Architect at Flinders Medical Centre, is also well placed to give a presentation in SOA but his main interest at this time is in object-oriented design patterns, a la Gamma et al, on which he could present if the interest was there.

If any of you are keen to hear more on any of these areas please let me know and I'll see what we can organise. On the other hand, if there is an area of IT Architecture in which you have some knowledge and are willing to give a presentation, please again let me know and we'll assess the level of the group's interest in that area.



## November Meeting

For the meeting next month, I unfortunately wasn't able to arrange a presentation by David Wilson (IBM) on Rational in time. However, I have been able to arrange, in partnership with Murali Ramakrishnan, a joint meeting with the IT Service Management Special Interest Group. This is the tricky bit though – this meeting will be on the **first** Thursday of November, rather than the second. This places it on the 2nd November, which is only a week after next Thursday. It will be again held at Excom Education, 191 Pulteney Street, at the usual time of 5:30pm for the presentation start of 6:00pm.

This joint meeting will be on IT Architecture and ITIL – what each is, their objectives, how they relate to each other and how they can fit together. Hopefully this will result in architects being able to better understand the roles, objectives, challenges, approaches, etc, of service managers and vice versa, and what they can do to make each others jobs a little easier.

This presentation will be in three parts:

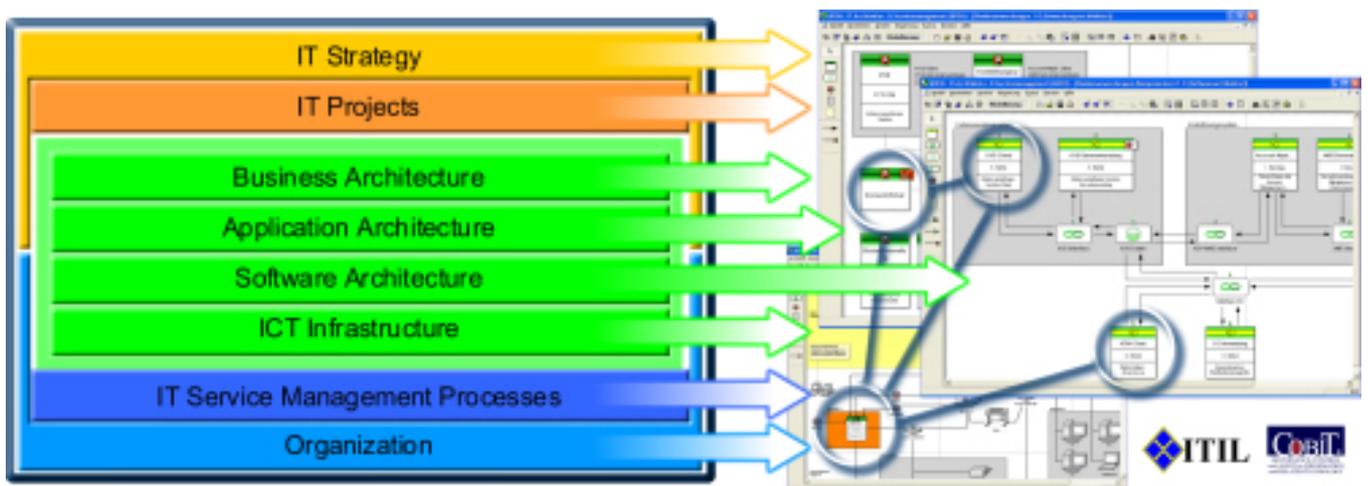
1. Harry Powell of EDS to speak on ITIL.
2. Cameron Collie of Fujitsu to speak on IT Architecture.
3. Harry and Cameron, with input from the audience, to explore and discuss the interface between these two.

Murali and I really appreciate the willingness of these two learned gentlemen to put together and deliver this presentation at such short notice.



**Harry and Cameron often put a little extra into their presentations to the welcome delight of their colleagues**

You can find more information on this presentation at <http://www.acs.org.au/index.cfm?action=event&temID=eventdetails&eveID=1814> once we have gotten ourselves organised. Murali has successfully motivated the speakers into hurrying along their bio's and abstracts and this should be available in the next day or so on an ACS website near you. However, we know of course that this will be worth attending in any case, so you can simply register at this same web address, or just turn up! :)



**The IT Architecture/ITIL "Wormhole" theoretically exists but has never been physically observed**

### **Australian Computer Society (ACS)**

Just a note to also let you know that the ACS Annual General Meeting is happening this Wednesday, 25th November. More information on this can be found at <http://www.acs.org.au/sa/news/201006.htm> .



**The excitement is almost unbearable as the agenda progresses slowly and tantalisingly towards the reading of the previous year's minutes**

Unfortunately for us, Brenda Aynsley will be finishing her long term role as Chair of the ACS, SA Branch – a role in which she has ushered in many welcome advances and improvements in both the organisation and in its profile in the IT, business and political arenas. Her enthusiasm, wisdom and support have provided me with the energy to get the IT Architecture group going, the motivation to keep it moving, and the answers and information for me to avoid falling on my face.

With Brenda no longer in the Chair, I am now, of course, doomed. However, there will hopefully be a new Chairperson who is also happy to address my flurries of annoying emails, and who can patiently answer my multitude of rather naive questions with that very same look of mild amusement. But then again, maybe Brenda now has the time to be part of the IT Architecture SIG!



**Brenda leads the way**

Thankfully however, we still have Mandy Watson (I hope!) running the office in such a cheerful and incredibly efficient manner. Not to mention the fact she has valiantly and successfully managed to guard our bottles of sparkling burgundy between all our meetings. This is particularly impressive as, incredibly, none of these virtues are actually specified in her duty statement. I now intend to leave a box of chocolates in the fridge in order to subject Mandy to the ultimate test. Results will be available in next year's newsletter.



**Mandy, a Massively Parallel Multiprocessor  
built by the ACS/Vogue Consortium,  
seen here switching between tasks**

### **International Association of Software Architects (IASA)**

As well as being the Convenor of the Adelaide Java Users Group, Derek Munneke is also the contact for the IASA. The IT Architecture SIG is looking at gaining recognition from this organisation, whilst maintaining its strong link with the ACS.

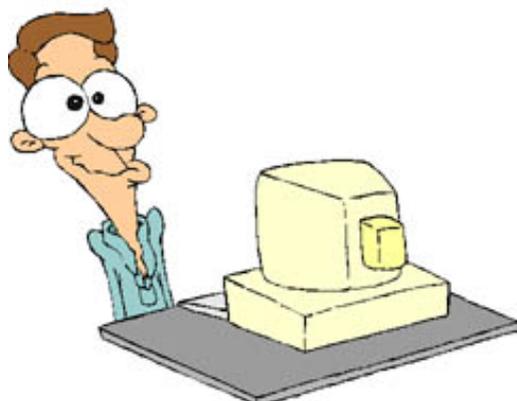
The IASA home page is at <http://www.iasahome.org> but has been pretty slow for some months while they have been going through an upgrade. However, it is now quite fast and their Software Architecture news stories, accessible on their home page, are kept up to date and are certainly well worth reading.



**Derek mulls over a suggestion that  
Java be dumped in favour of C#**

### **WIKI**

Just a reminder too that Peter Kelley has set up a Wiki for us at <http://architects.wetpaint.com/>. Not a lot has happened there yet but the more that is added to the site of course, the more useful and used it will be. It will just be a bit tedious getting the first few items of information on there, and in getting some discussion started on the forum.



**With undiminished enthusiasm, and as another month passes, Peter waits expectantly for the first contribution to his Wiki**

## **IT Architecture Certification**

Just some short notes on gaining certification in IT Architecture.

### Microsoft

1. Award - Microsoft Certified Architect.
2. Costs around AUS\$13,500.
3. Not technology specific.
4. Some discussion can be found at <http://www.delphi.co.za/PermaLink,guid,181e047c-d1f9-4a66-a398-6b926149012c.aspx>.
5. More info at <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/architect/default.msp>.

### The Open Group

1. Awards - Certified IT Architect and Master Certified IT Architect.
2. Costs around AUS\$2,000.
3. Not technology specific.
4. More info at <http://www.opengroup.org/itac/>.

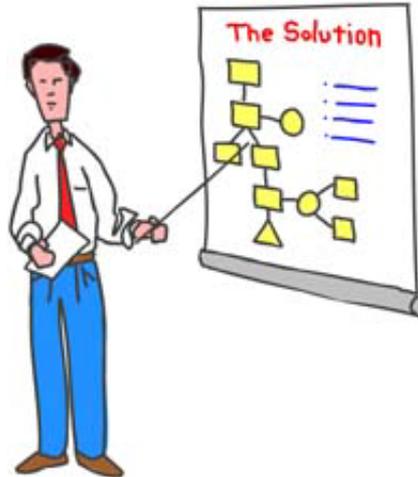
### RMIT

1. Award - Master of Technology (Enterprise Architecture).
2. Costs around AUS\$2,100 per subject x 12 subjects ~ \$25,000.
3. Java a mandatory subject, plus electives in C, C#, etc.
4. Not available by distance education (I think)
5. More info at <http://www.rmit.edu.au/csit/mc152>.

### Sun Microsystems

1. Award - Sun Certified Enterprise Architect.
2. Costs around AUS\$900 (for two exams and an assignment).
3. Technology specific – J2EE.
4. More info at <http://www.sun.com/training/certification/java/scea.xml>.

I actually obtained the Sun Certified Enterprise Architect certification a couple of years ago and thought it was excellent.



**As a Sun Certified Enterprise Architect,  
Bill is now able to use the pointer  
in a safer, less-threatening manner**

Which brings me to my favourite but much neglected topic.

### **Professional Development**

Certifications from the ACS, Sun, Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, The Open Group, etc, I believe, are a great way to specifically target our own areas of interest and need. I personally tend to do the study and exams for these certifications to quickly get up to speed in a new topic area, then prove to myself that I *probably* don't have large remaining gaps in my knowledge in that specific area, and that I am *probably* carrying out my job following best practices in that area. (Of course we never really know for sure.) Web Services is a good example, and as you guys would also be well aware, there are some horrible ways of programming these!

Now don't get me wrong, I also think that learning on the job is a great way to pick up skills too. That's as long as I'm the person doing the learning and not the poor person who has to support and maintain the putrid, stinking mess that results from this approach. "Bring back the stocks for anybody who doesn't believe in spending time on their own continuing professional development!" I say.



**Bill takes every opportunity to share his  
enthusiasm for professional development**

Thankfully, Dr David Lindley is giving a presentation at the ACS Annual General Meeting on Wednesday night in this very area. This meeting is to be held at AIM SA, Room 6, 224 Hindley Street at 6:00pm.

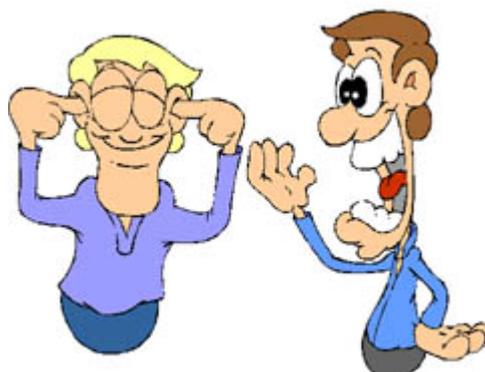
David's presentation is entitled, "A Practising Computer Professional? What is it and how can I leverage that to advance my career?" This isn't quite as drastic as bringing back the stocks but probably a lot more effective.

For those who are not aware, Dr Lindley is the Principal of ACS Education and Chief Examiner. He has also attended a couple of our IT Architecture SIG meetings.



**Dr David Lindley encourages the audience to achieve Practising Computer Professional status**

I have personally found David to be a very interesting and entertaining speaker, although I have only witnessed his presentations to relatively small audiences, ie those left after our SIG meetings, and each of us with stubby in hand. For this reason I shall be taking along a six pack to the ACS Annual General Meeting in order to ensure, for us all, a particularly enthralling and captivating evening. Hopefully my assumption of a linearly increasing relationship between the respective levels of the absorption of brewed, non-tea beverages, and the outflow of sheer genius, does not prove invalid. As you would have no hesitation in agreeing, only by attending can we find out for ourselves.



**Time runs out on yet another successful AGM and, in time-honoured tradition, the timekeeper lights the fuse in order to draw the meeting to its scheduled close**

And that's about it. Hope to see you at the AGM on Wednesday night, and at the joint meeting of the IT Architecture and IT Service Management SIGs on Thursday week!

Best wishes  
Bill