"WOW"
ICSE's
Window On the World
Special Post-Conference Issue
Volume 8, Issue 4

The Neverending WOW
By Hal Hart (TRW), WOW Editor

Will and I decided to publish this short post-conference issue of WOW to complete the set of reviews of ICSE 2002 keynote presentations *(obviously the last day's keynote occurred after we put the last onsite issue to bed)* and to take advantage of one more *travelogue* of Argentina which we had received – just to further let you know what we missed when our venue was yanked away from Buenos Aires. And, to provide additional pictorial previews of ICSE 2003 in Portland!

So, with no further ado,

-H² (Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG)

Friday's Keynote Address

By Yuanfang Cai (U. of Virginia)

Friday, May 24 was the last day of ICSE 2002, and included a *winner* of a keynote address by Bob Balzer, the Chief Technical Officer of Teknowledge Corporation. He successfully held his audience to the end with his interesting talk, colorful slides, and intriguing demos. The many questions asked proved the appeal of Bob's talk.

Mr. Balzer made the point that researchers should focus more on exploiting COTS rather than standalone applications, and more and more on assisting users rather than developers. The idea is based on the reality that many useful COTS products exist, allowing significant economies in building systems and

tools extending or integrating these COTS products. Also, user satisfaction is the primary criterion of success, and building on existing commercially successful products makes sense.

Bob pointed out major opportunities for software engineering in this direction: extend COTS by wrappers and generators to add user functionality and safety according to specifications; assist software users by developing new tools (or add-on's) to understand what the user is doing within a COTS tool and to infer user goals in order to provide usage guidance and scripting assistance.

He also demonstrated the feasibility of the idea by several interesting demos, such as Design Editor Demo (with an example satellite-tracking system) and Safe-Email Attachments Demo demonstrating *user-programmable* extensions within PowerPoint to add his own "semantics" to various drawing objects and then bolt on his own analyzers. Along with these demos, he illustrated the architectures of extended functionality, wrapper defenses, contained execution, etc. These demos and slides revealed rich experiences in software development and made the presentation compelling for most attendees.

Questions after Mr. Balzer's talk revealed considerable curiosity and allowed him to elaborate on some of

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Inside this Issue

"Cry for Me, Argentina"
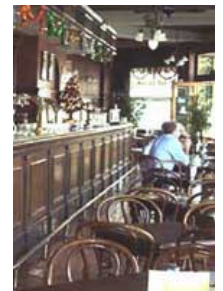*(Part 3)*

By Jane Pryor
(UNICEN, Tandil, Argentina)

Editors Note: In issues 1 and 2 Jane enticed us with the charm of the Buenos Aires (by day) and travels in Argentina we're missing with ICSE's venue change to Orlando. Today she concludes by telling us about Buenos Aires after dark.

BUENOS AIRES BY NIGHT

Buenos Aires is famous for its very active and varied nightlife: theatre, music, dancing, eating out; there is entertainment for all tastes. A short "siesta" is advisable as the evening does not begin until 8 p.m. or come to an end before 1 a.m.

A stroll round the Recoleta District, with its park and nearby restaurants and design center and art museum, will reward the visitor with a glimpse of different types of locals: the smart yuppies having a drink after office hours at a sidewalk table, teenagers eating delicious Italian style ice-cream, clown and juggling acts, living statues, tarot readers and fortune-tellers, and young musicians playing rock or classical music for some coins. People dress for the evening in all imaginable styles, yet always with elegance and class, even among punks.

The choice of evening entertainment is very vast: theatre, concert, opera or tango, usually followed by a late dinner. In the city alone there are over 60 theatres without counting the amateur or underground ones that do not advertise in the traditional newspapers. An English playwright visiting the city considered that, overall, Buenos Aires had more theatrical activity than London or New York!

If you prefer music, once again the choice is difficult: jazz, rock, classical, folklore, Brazilian, flamenco. There are cafés where the atmosphere is more intimate, and spectators sit at tables and eat or drink during the performance. For the tourist, a tango show or bar is a must, and this may take the form of a show with top professional dancers, or a more local bar where tango is played and locals dance to show off their talent.

As for classical music, the world-famous Colón Theatre has a performance nearly every evening. This week the National Symphony Orchestra is playing with a Blues Band, the Mercosur Ballet with Maximiliano Guerra (first figure at the Royal Ballet in the UK) is performing, A.Honegger´s oratory of Joan of Arc with Dominic Sanda is showing, and the Philharmonic Orchestra of Buenos Aires will be giving a free recital. Tickets at the Colón vary from one to fifty dollars depending on the performance, and some opera performances are free. There are two other opera theatres in the city, mostly with local figures and productions of excellent quality.

For more light-hearted entertainment, discos and dinner dancing abounds, but activity in these places does not start until after midnight.

As for dinner, even in moments of crisis, "porteños" eat out frequently, and one may choose any cuisine: traditional Argentine steak houses, Italian, French, Chinese, Japanese, and even American fast food. Cabaña Las Lilas is a very good restaurant for eating steak accompanied by a top malbec wine from Mendoza, all for under 20 dollars. Sushi has become very popular in the last years, and accompanied by a good chardonnay, can be had at the Gran Bar Danzon or at Sucre, whose Argentine Chef used to work at Vandam in New York. Italian fresh pasta with a multitude of sauces is best eaten at one of the informal and merry restaurants in La Boca, the working class district with multi-coloured houses founded by Genovese immigrants.

Traditional French cooking is still found at La Bourgogne or at Dora, for example, and Katrine provides a wider range of French-Italian-Argentine dishes. German / Hungarian dishes (smoked pork with chukrut, goulash with spetzli) and beer can be had at one of the many German style restaurants, of which Munich in Recoleta district is the most traditional.

After dinner, a visit to one of Buenos Aires´ famous cafés would be an excellent way to round off the evening. Locals get together for an expresso and discuss philosophy, politics, art, or any other subject that merits long and enthusiastic exchanges in fairly loud voices.

A visit to Buenos Aires would not be complete without taking a taxicab. The traffic in this city is proof of Argentina's strong Italian influence, and the cab driver will surely strike up an interesting conversation while swerving around other cars at 40 miles an hour. If you can concentrate despite the driving, you will learn what the average Argentine thinks of American, European, and Middle-Eastern politics, world economics, global trade, and human rights in Cuba. But be prepared, you will also be asked for your opinion on Buenos Aires and Argentina in a very earnest fashion: on your impressions of the political and economic crisis, and also on how you have enjoyed your stay in this most fascinating cosmopolitan city.

Techie Humor

What is "Bandwidth?"

As capacity on the Internet increased, people began to transmit material other than simple text. One notable example is digitized recordings of rock concerts. These audio files are much larger than even very long books, so they have become a standard unit of network usage. One Rolling Stone song equals one *"band"* width, and so on.

-from the annals of Ask Dr. Internet

Friday's Keynote Address
(continued from page 1)

his points. One question concerned the performance of COTS-based products; Bob answered that the performance and quality of the extended COTS applications would depend largely on the quality of the wrappers and generators. Because Bob's demo's exploited Microsoft Office applications, there were questions about both quality and about the wider application of his COTS extension methodology.

Some people proposed the issue of software upgrades: how difficult it is to adapt to new versions and how to handle the problem of needing multiple versions of a COTS tool around in order to handle all of the different add-on's that are based on different versions of the same tool. It seems that this is a question that hasn't

bothered the COTS researchers too much at present, so it has not been considered seriously, leaving at least one question-asker unsatisfied that end user pragmatics had high priority for researchers.

In summary, this keynote presentation was a call, from a respected member of the software engineering research community, pointing out an interesting research direction deserving more attention -- a direction with opportunities and challenges, benefits and risks, and the myriad of uncertainties that constitute the real nature of research. Bob concluded with he challenge for at least 3 submissions be made to ICSE 2003 on COTS integration with at least one accepted, and for ICSE 2007 to have at least 10 submissions and a whole track on COTS-based system development.

Quote of the Day

Just because you're into control doesn't mean you're in control.
                    -a Larry Wallism

More: ICSE 2003
### Portland, Oregon, USA
May 3-10, 2003

Portland, Oregon, USA

ICSE 2003 was overviewed in issue 3. Below are some key submission dates if you want to be on the ICSE 2002 technical program, followed by some more Oregon photos to entice you.

?? <u>Sep. 9</u>: Abstracts & papers for conference technical papers.

?? <u>Oct. 4</u>: Papers for the Software Engineering Education and Training (SEET) Track.

?? <u>Oct. 4</u>: Experience reports, tutorial proposals, panel proposals, co-located event and workshop proposals.

?? <u>Jan. 10 (2003)</u>: Research demo & poster proposals, Doctoral Symposium applications.

See complete CFP instructions at http://www.cs.orst.edu/icse2003/
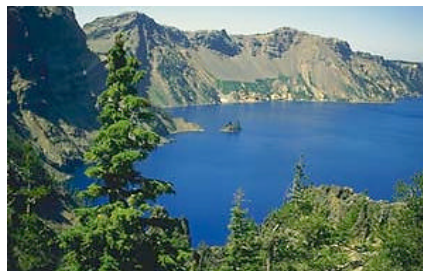
Crater Lake

Mt. Hood

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Oregon Coast

Did You Know?

All issues of ICSE 2002's daily WOW newsletters, with most photos in color, may be viewed on the web via **icse-conferences.org/2002**