



“WOW” ICSE's *Window On the World*

Monday, May 5
Volume 9, Issue 0



Portland Hilton
Portland, Oregon, USA
2003 May 3-10

Welcome to ICSE 2003 About WOW

By Hal Hart (TRW), WOW Editor



Welcome to ICSE 2003, the 25th International Conference on Software Engineering!

WOW, an ICSE tradition since 1995, brings attendees late-breaking “news” stories, interviews with speakers and organizers, thought pieces, and interesting bits of information about the conference, the location, and the current and next generation of software engineering researchers and practitioners – with occasional humor and light-heartedness. See “Articles Welcomed” on this page if you want to contribute.

Today’s issue #0 starts off with a mix of information about the area, where to eat, a workshop review, notes from the Pioneers Symposium, and some techie humor. Tomorrow’s conference-opening issue will be rich in “technical content.

A warning: 3 or more consecutive busy conference days can lay to waste the best of minds, so recharge your batteries along the way by taking advantage of the concentration of diversions here in unique Portland and in the immediate area. In other words, *have some fun this week too!* -H²



SPORTS SCORES

Detroit Pistons	108*
Orlando Magic	93
Dallas Mavericks	107*
Portland Trailblazers	95 ☹

*: Wins series & moves on to next round of playoffs

ARTICLES WELCOMED

WOW won't exist without reporters. Short reviews of the technical sessions you attend are welcomed for publication in WOW. Indicate whether you want them printed anonymously or signed. Submission is via drop-off at Hilton room 2323 (Alexander's Suite) or hand to anyone with a “Press” ribbon. *(Floppies preferred, but hand-written paragraphs are accepted too – we'll do the data entry).*

WOW Staff Meetings

WOW volunteers should note that the staff will meet at **1pm** each day in the WOW suite (room 2323) for a very brief check on writing assignments.

Production of the next day's issue will begin at **7pm** each evening.

Weather Forecast

Today: Showers

High: 17 C (60 F)
Low: 6 C (42 F)
Sunrise: 5:54am
Sunset: 8:34pm

Tomorrow: Partly cloudy

High: 18 C (62 F)
Low: 8 C (46 F)

HEADLINES AROUND THE WORLD:

USA: "US-Syria tensions rise"
USA: "Tornados in Mid-West kill 19"
ASIA: "India-Pakistan peace hopes rise"
CANADA: "WHO says SARS 'contained' in Toronto"



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Portland Orientation

Edited by Antoinette Ahiable (Aalborg University, Denmark)

The 5 Quadrants

Portland is divided into North and South by Burnside (a street) and East and West by the Willamette River. The Hilton, being west of the river and south of Burnside is in "SW" Portland. It is centrally located in the business district. The fifth quadrant is created by the geographic reality that the Willamette leaves downtown flowing northwest. This means that there is a region east of the river that is west of where the river transects downtown. That region is called North and it includes the University of Portland.

Center for the Performing Arts. The PCPA is served by several very nice, relatively high-end restaurants including: Higgin's, South Park, and the Heathman Hotel's dinning room. All three of these are pricey, but generally quite good. South Park specializes in Seafood and is a personal favorite. Restaurants are dense in this downtown business district.

Major Pedestrian areas

Downtown: (SW near the Hilton). This is primarily the business district. It includes some very nice restaurants and venues for the performing arts. The Hilton is just east of Portland's Center for the Performing Arts.

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If you walk south on Broadway you will get to the PSU campus. There are some interesting and moderately priced options near there, including a Vietnamese restaurant and bakery. Another, more attractive route to PSU is to go west from the hotel to the "park blocks" and go south to campus. This will take you by the art museum and the Oregon Historical society.

If you go east from the hotel you get to the waterfront. This is a great place to go for walks during the day.

Other interesting parts of downtown include the northwest corner of the downtown SW district, where established restaurants Jake's and Cassidy's are located. This area also has the Crystal Ballroom, a classic dance ballroom that has been restored by the McMenamin's pub chain. If you are into dancing this is an amazing venue.

North of Burnside and east of the park blocks is Portland's China town. This is an economically very mixed area. It contains the new Oregon Classical Chinese Garden, which is highly recommended. I would recommend navigating this part of town in daylight.

North of Burnside and west of the park blocks is the most recently gentrified region of downtown: The Pearl district. This is an excellent place to find good food in what initially looks like a bunch of warehouses. There is also a very nice Vietnamese place here called Pho Van. There is a very upscale restaurant called Blue Hour here. The Pearl has lots of gallery's as well. This region is accessible by Street Car.

West of the Pearl is Portland's most established nice, upscale pedestrian district. It is frequently referred to by street numbers "NW 23rd" or "NW

21st". These two streets are packed with boutiques and restaurants. This neighborhood has small streets, old houses, and lots of character. At night it feels alive. Some of my favorites in this area include Lucy's table, and Paley's place.

East of the river there are also several interesting areas. There are some great neighborhoods, including "Irvington" and "Ladd's addition" that are nice places to walk and look at lawns and houses with character. There are also some interesting shopping and restaurant districts. Two areas of particular interest are Broadway east of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Hawthorne, particularly in the vicinity of SE 38th. A unique and moderately priced dining experience can be found at Jarra's Ethiopian restaurant at 1435 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

Getting Around

Portland prides itself on mass transit. Not only can you get from the airport to downtown by the MAX train (which can also take you to within a mile of OGI in the Beaverton/Hillsboro area), but you can get around downtown on a street car that came into service in the past few years. The streetcar begins near the Portland State University campus at the south end of downtown, goes through campus, and heads north on 10th and 11th, just west of the Park blocks. It continues north across Burnside (going by Powell's) and gives access to the Pearl district, finally turning West to link with the northern end of the shopping district on NW 23rd.

Local color not to miss

Powell's Books

You can find both the main bookstore "City of Books" and the technical bookstore. They have a walking map of Portland which is the best such resource around, and can be found in your registration package.

Microbrews: One of particular note is the local McMenamin's chain. This is a collection of distinct but thematically similar little pubs started by two brothers. Each has its own unique somewhat hippie feel. The closest to the Hilton is the Market

Street pub 1526 SW 10th Avenue. One of the most interesting is the Crystal Ballroom, which is the big dance hall.

Several of the pubs also double as movie theatres, with schedules at: <http://www.mcmenamins.com/Theaters/>. In most, if not all, you can eat and drink while viewing the movie.

Gardens

Portland, the rose city, is home to several gardens including the Portland Classical Chinese Garden (in Chinatown); Portland's Japanese garden, located in Washington Park near the zoo; Portland west hills, accessible by bus or MAX or an ambitious walk; Portland's International Rose Test Garden, also in Washington Park.

Good walks

You can walk both the east and the west side of the river. Also, you can walk in Washington Park, which in addition to everything else enumerated has the Hoyt Arboretum and a series of trails that link with Forest park, a 17 mile long near wilderness park that reaches like a finger into downtown.

Destinations for Families

Favorites include the Oregon Zoo, World Forestry Center, and Children's museum (in Washington Park, MAX stop), and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (a very nice museum with a planetarium). This is east of the Willamette, just south of the I5 bridge. You can see the big red smokestack and the submarine from the waterfront park on the west side.

Other interests

Learn about the practice of Shanghai in a Portland Underground Tour. You need to make reservations and prepay beforehand; info about the practice and tours is available at: http://members.tripod.com/cgs-mthood/shanghai_tunnels_FAQ.htm

Credits: James Hook (Oregon Health & Science University), Mike Adams (Portland State)

Quote of the Day

*Not everything that counts can be counted,
Not everything that is counted counts.*

A. Einstein



The Pioneers Symposium

By Reid Holmes (Univ. of Br. Columbia)

On Sunday afternoon, in honour of the 25th anniversary of ICSE, the Pioneers Symposium was held. Approximately 55 people attended this event in which four researchers, each of whom have done research of lasting value, talked about the past, present, and future of the field. Barry Boehm, Victor Basili, Michael Jackson, and Nancy Leveson all offered their opinions on these topics and others. The historical aspects of the field contributed by Basili, Boehm, and Jackson all served to provide an insight into the suggestions and commentary they were to provide throughout the rest of the talk.

Victor Basili discussed the evolution of empirical software evaluation over the past 30 years. Specifically, through cooperation with NASA, they found that by examining and optimising process development defect rates were decreased by 75%, and cost was reduced by 55%, while reuse was improved by 300% ('87-91). With success stories like these, it is easy to see why this has been viewed as a valuable area of research. Further developments to the field in the future will see more maturity in the sophistication of the goals being pursued as results are built upon previous research that has been conducted. Also, more studies are being conducted in the field, rather than in the isolated nature of the lab.

Boehm recalled being told on his first day on the job in 1950 that "The computer costs \$600/hour and you cost \$2/hour. Act accordingly." Insights into the rise in the importance of software were also provided by Boehm who showed a graph from his time working with the air force which showed that in 1955 20% of their computing costs were from software resources while in 1985 this had risen dramatically to 80%. The most critical future direction, according to Barry, is the need for adaptive processes, versus optimised processes that are resistant (or slow) to change.

Michael Jackson spent many years during the '70s "hacking... that is to say agile methods." Michael's entertaining talk ended with the presentation of 5 key lessons. These were that researchers must:

- Focus on the real world;
- Understand, and take advantage of, the value of structure;
- Value purism (that is, do not underestimate the value of simplification);
- Understand the value of formalism (and know that the natural world, with all its inconsistencies, will only lend itself to an approximate model);
- Many problems do not lend themselves to general solutions, but instead are best approached by particular, tailor-made, solutions.

Leveson strongly emphasised in an entertaining display of opinion, experience, and suggestions that new researchers need to select problems, before they know their solutions. She also stressed that picking easy problems, or using the solution that you know how to employ, do not lead to research of lasting impact. Lasting impact can only be achieved by doing the work to solve difficult problems. Additionally, Nancy differentiated between large problems and scalability, "Scaling is not the problem. Large problems and small problems are different."

The discussion period was dominated by the debate over working on large, industry-scaled problems, or working on smaller problems and understanding them individually. Jackson stated that "realistic problems are compositions of smaller sub-problems." This contrasted strongly with Leveson's opinion that SE researchers need to look at problems that real-world development teams are having and find solutions for these teams, in ways they will actually find useful. Ultimately, no resolution to the tension between small 'toy-problems' and large 'industry problems' was agreed upon; the debate will no doubt continue.



OSSE Workshop

By Davor Čubranić

The third workshop on Open-Source Software Engineering took place on Saturday, May 2. As its motto – "Taking stock of bazaar" – implied, the workshop program reflected the growing interest in the state of open-source software (OSS) development, with assessments of existing tools and practices dominating the proposals for new tools and techniques (which, in all honesty, would probably be a tough sell to the OSS developer crowd, most of which seems to be stuck in the 1980's as far as their development tools go).

Given the fact that the open source community employs development methods that sometimes run counter to the accepted good software engineering practices and yet result in programs that can compete with commercial offerings from the market leaders, it is no surprise that software engineering researchers would be so interested in what makes OSS projects work as well as they do. Furthermore, since OSS projects typically have publicly-accessible source code repositories and archives of developer mailing lists stretching back to the project's beginnings, researchers have access to the complete history of these projects virtually from the viewpoint of their members at the time.

This openness gives some interesting research opportunities. Not only is it possible to look at the evolution of a project's code base, but also to look at the interaction between the developers and examine decision processes. (Indeed, one of the attendees remarked that one day soon the OSS projects will certainly be a rich subject of social science research.) Consequently, the "assessment" papers ran the gamut from case-studies on open-source software's organizational culture and internal politics, to tools and processes used, to tools that can help in retrieving the data from OSS project repositories so that researchers can focus on the more interesting questions of interpreting it.

The workshop was divided into four sections, which consisted of a paper presentation followed by an hour and

a half of discussion. Each of the four papers sparked lively discussion – even if largely free of controversy. The only drawback with this format is that the focus of the day was on descriptive assessments of current practices (which did comprise the majority of the papers published in the workshop's proceedings), while papers on tools to help with development received little attention.

Another intriguing opportunity which unfortunately remained only in the proceedings was a report on a fourth year project course that was run in an open-source manner, including project web site on Sourceforge.net. Could that be the answer how to deal with students' plagiarism?

ICSE 2003
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RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS

This list was compiled by Andrew P. Tolmach.

Price guides are for impoverished academics (specifically students), so "expensive" roughly means entrees are >= \$15

DOWNTOWN: These are a walkable distance.

Name	Address	Phone	Type	Price Scale
Abou Karim	221 SW Pine	503-223-5058	Middle eastern	Inexpensive.
Alexis	215 W Burnside	503-224-8577	Greek	Moderate
Jake's Famous Crawfish	401 SW 12 th	503-226-1419	Fish	Expensive.
Koji Osakaya	606 SW Broadway	503-294-1169	Japanese	Moderate.
McCormick & Schmick's, ,	235 SW First	503-224-7522	Fish	Moderate/expensive
Mothers's Bistro	409 SW 2 nd	503-464-1122	Comfort food	Moderate/expensive
Pazzo	627 SW Washington	503-228-1515	Italian	Expensive
Southpark	901 SW Salmon	503-326-1300	Fish	Expensive.

On the other side of the river. These are quite a distance from the Hilton.

Name	Address	Phone	Type	Price Scale
Lucere	Riverplace	503-295-6166	French	Expensive
Fernando's	824 SW 1 st	503-248-4709	Spanish	Moderate/expensive
Harborside / Pilsner Room	Riverplace,	503-220-1865	Fish/beer	Moderate/expensive
Higgins Restaurant	1239 SW Broadway	503-222-9070	Eclectic (good veggie options),.	Expensive
Little River Cafe	Riverplace pier	503-227-2327	Sandwiches and ice Cream	Inexpensive.
Morton's of Chicago	213 SW Clay	503-248-2100	Steakhouse	Very expensive.
Murata	200 SW Market	503-227-0080	Japanese	moderate/expensive
Newport Bay	Riverplace pier	504-227-3474	Fish	Moderate
Paradise Bakery and Café	1310 SW 3rd,	503-222-5664,	sandwiches, salads, desserts	Inexpensive
Pizzicato Gourmet Pizza	1708 SW 6 th	503-227-5800	Pizza	Inexpensive
Veritable Quandary	1220 SW 1 st	503-227-7342	Italianate	Moderate/expensive

OTHERS: A highly selective list. You'll need wheels (or a bus or streetcar).

- Cafe Des Amis, 1987 NW Kearney, 503-295-6487, French, expensive. (Northwest)
- Genoa, 2832 SE Belmont, 503-238-1464, the famous 7 course Italian blowout, very expensive. (Eastside)
- Three Doors Down, 1429 SE 37th, 503-236-6886, Italian, moderate. (Eastside)
- Rimsky-Korsakoff House, 707 SE 12th, 503-232-2640, dessert, inexpensive. (Eastside)
- Wildwood, 1221 NW 21st, 503-248-9663, Northwest eclectic, expensive. (Northwest)

BREW PUBS. Portland was the birthplace of the nation's micro-brewing revival. The best way to sample a variety of beers is to visit a brewpub. Each pub features the beers of one brewer, but typically sells a sample of the competitors too. Food is mostly burgers or pizza. Here's a short list (there are more!).

- Barley Mill Pub (McMenamins Brewery), 1629 SE Hawthorne, 503-231-1492, *shrine to the Grateful Dead.*
- Bridgeport Brew Pub, 1313 NW Marshall, 503-241-3612.
- Lucky Labrador, 915 SE Hawthorne, 503-236-3555, very little food.
- Market Street Pub (McMenamins Brewery), 1526 SW 10th, 503-497-0160.
- Pilsner Room (Full Sail Brewery), Riverplace, 503-220-1865.
- Widmer Brothers Gasthaus, 955 North Russell, 503-281-2437, German food