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The KIT — Knowledge & Information Technology
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Cloud Infrastructure Management Interface

Efforts are continuing to define standards that facilitate access to clouds and interoperability between them. A previous issue of the KIT mentioned the Cloud Standards Customer Council (CSCC). The Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF) recently issued a draft of their Cloud Infrastructure Management Interface (CIMI). Available documents include a primer in addition to the technical documents (specification, XML schema, etc.)

Manufacturing Data Mining

Michel Baudin, a consultant on lean manufacturing implementation, will give a two-hour webinar on data mining in manufacturing on November 15. The announcement says:
"In most factories, the data resides in multiple, archaic legacy systems and ad-hoc spreadsheets. Few manufacturers are effective at extracting information from their data. These few make better decisions. They anticipate the quantitative impact of these decisions before implementing them, and validate the results afterwards. With the tools presented in this webinar, you can do it too."
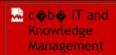The cost is $99. Find more and register here.

More Feedback on Google's Dart language

Continuing the discussion started a couple of issues ago about the new language from Google, Dart, one of the KIT's readers tweeted:
"Don't see any compelling reason to use Dart, especially without IE support. However, the logo is really good." This is a good example of what's called "damning with faint praise." It is also significant as the author of the tweet worked for Google until six months ago...

TOOLS Europe 2012

The TOOLS conference on objects, models, components and patterns will take place on May 29-31 in Prague. It is collocated, as has been the case for several years now, with three other international conferences on software engineering: ICMT (model transformation), ICSC (software composition) and TAP (tests and proofs).

For more information and the Call for Papers, see the conference Web site.

The Internets of Things

We recently encountered two very different (yet related) meanings of the phrase "Internet of Things." Each has interesting implications, but the industry will need to sort out its vocabulary.

One sense refers to the interconnection of many kinds of devices: sensors, actuators, etc., used to enable smart buildings, smart cars, remote health monitoring devices, meters that help regulate peak power consumption, and so on. The main concern that has been raised about this new phenomenon is security. In this article, Alex Salkever of Joyent Cloud argues that these systems can only store and process their data in the cloud, and that clouds will need major improvements to handle this sort of critical traffic.

Another use of the term refers to the concept of a commercial freight logistics system in which physical goods would be shipped from origin to destination using a neutral "carrier" network. Just like a computer sends a file to another computer over a complex web of circuits, fragmented into many IP packets that are re-assembled at the other end, a manufacturer could send products to a store in standard-size containers carried by a multiplicity of truck, rail and boat companies, thus optimizing the utilization (and the cost) of the vehicles.

The two are related because such a system to ship goods would require monitoring of the location of all vehicles and containers, so it would presumably employ an "internet of things" in the first sense.

Seen Recently...

"All men by nature desire to know"
        -- Aristotle, "Metaphysics" (beginning of the first sentence)