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➡ SEMAT White Paper

At the end of 2009, Ivar Jacobson, Bertrand Meyer and Richard Soley started a new initiative called Semat (Software Engineering Method and Theory) with the aim of refounding software engineering as a rigorous discipline.

A January 15 white paper recaps the progress to date, how it relates to the Object Management Group's RFP for a "set of kernel elements and a language" allowing people to describe software methods in a formal and rigorous way, and the work that will need to be done after the OMG's adoption process completes.

➡ In Search of the Swiss Army Knife

Responding to the discussion with St�phane Dumothier, in The Kit No. 63, about "a single corporate social platform," Max Cacheux of AgreeYa Mobility pointed out that MS Office 365 (the cloud-based version of Office) provides unified access to documents, workflows, calendars, contacts, the Lync instant communication capability (instant messaging, voice and video) and Sharepoint collaboration in a single environment. Yet it may still be a stretch to call this unified platform a *social* one, at least in comparison to Cisco Quad, but the evolution of Sharepoint may get us there within a few years.

The next step is to provide native access to this environment from tablets and other mobile devices. That's precisely what AgreeYa, a Microsoft strategic partner, is piloting.

➡ What Is the World Coming To?

The announcement that Target's experiment with "stores within a store" would include Apple mini-shops elicited a chorus of comments (uncoordinated) from a number of colleagues: "oh, now we really know that Steve Jobs is dead." It is remarkable that people quickly identify certain developments as unworthy of the Apple we knew and loved, *and* put it in personal terms about the late leader.

➡ Splitting an Application Over Many Screens

Paul Hunkin, a student at the University of Waikato in New Zealand, developed ClusterGL, which allows an application to control a display wall of multiple screens to form one big picture, for example for an immersive Google Earth experience. Beside Google, NASA also uses the software.

Russia's Supercomputing Advances

According to the Exascale Report, quoted by Computerworld. Russia aims to have exascale computation capabilities by 2018-2020, and T-Platforms is developing a 10-petaflop water-cooled supercomputer for M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University. The machine should be running by the end of 2013.

Enterprise vs. Consumer Social Networks

In this InformationWeek article, David Carr warns that people's familiarity with consumer-oriented social networks (Facebook) does not automatically translate into adoption of enterprise social networks.

-- Tweeted by Dion Hinchcliffe

SAP Gets No Respect

Twitter conversation:
Mike Kavis: "Just received some spam about SAP made simple. Must be uninstall instructions..."
Aleks Buterman: "The only time I've seen SAP uninstall be simple is when the admins wiped the (many) servers at the OS layer."

Seen Recently...

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

-- George Bernanrd Shaw
cited on Twitter by Olivier Lemoigne