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The KIT - Knowledge & Information Technology No. 168 - 16 May 2016

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In This Issue

Augmented Reality

Collision-Free Roads and Skies

BPMN, CMMN and DMN

CISQ on Software Resiliency

Business Architecture Immersion Workshop

Seen Recently



Is Augmented Reality Coming of Age?

National Instruments and PTC have collaborated on a testbed, soon to be installed as a permanent demo in N.I.'s office in Austin, of a condition-based monitoring (CBM) and predictive maintenance. The demonstration equipment is a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit with about 8 sensors that measure flow, temperature, pressure and vibration at different points. A display shows the estimated time to failure of various components, and anomalies can be introduced artificially to show how the system responds to them.

One of the "coolest" aspects of the demo is the use of PTC's ThingWorx visualization platform for augmented reality (AR). A technician can aim an iPad's camera at the unit and see on the screen the values of the various gauges superimposed on a realtime video of the equipment.

The technology is not new -- there were prototypes to facilitate the maintenance of mechanical parts over ten years ago -- but the uptake has been very slow. Let's hope that the work done by N.I. and PTC, which is quite impressive, will help finally bring AR from the gaming world to the industrial one.



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Collision-Free Roads -- and Skies -- Thanks to IoT

In a recent article about self-driving cars, TIME Magazine considered what could happen if all cars within a certain area were driverless and able to communicate with each other. With full knowledge of each other's position, speed and route, cars could not only avoid each other, but traffic lights and stop signs would no longer be needed. Cars could simply modulate their speed to pass each intersection at different times.

The same idea is being considered to avoid air traffic hazards likely to arise from the proliferation of drones once they are used for goods delivery. This is the goal of the AT&T Labs' Geocast Air Operations Framework, or GAOF (they need to find a better name), described in a recent paper in IEEE Internet Computing, available online to subscribers of the IEEE Xplore Digital Library, and to others for a fee.

Process, Case and Decision Modeling

Last Thursday's webinar on "BPMN, CMMN, DMN: An Introduction to the Triple Crown of Process Improvement Standards," presented by Denis Gagné of Trisotech with an introduction by Claude Baudoin, attracted 450 live viewers and about 300 more people who viewed the recording within a few hours.

CISQ on Software Resiliency

"When software for complex systems is developed for functionality only, it is fragile and insecure." This is the message from the Consortium for IT Software Quality (CISQ), as summarized in a recent tweet, which is linked to this article in FedScoop on "Bringing resiliency to software acquisition." FedScoop is a daily online news collection aimed at US government IT decision makers. The article does a good job of presenting CISQ's view of the importance of software development practices aimed at ensuring four qualities: reliability, maintainability, performance efficiency and security.



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Arquitectura de Negocios

William Ulrich, founder of the Business Architecture Guild, will teach a two-day "business architecture immersion" workshop in Mexico City on June 25-26, organized by the Cutter Consortium. Bill will teach in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish.

Seen Recently...

"The only irreplaceable capital an organization possesses is the knowledge and ability of its people. The productivity of that capital depends on how effectively people share their competence with those who can use it."

-- Andrew Carnegie

"[...] developers who write code for IoT devices are almost unaware of the security practices of these devices and control systems like SCADA that are plagued by vulnerabilities. Their understanding of security came from the 90s.'

> -- Alexander Polyakov, CTO at ERPScan, interviewed during Black Hat Europe in December 2015