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News from the Object Management Group

Several important things for the global IT community happened last week during the quarterly meeting of the OMG in Nashville (Tennessee):

- We approved two Requests for Information (RFIs): one on Risk Management -- intended to find out the models, languages and formats used across the industry to document and manage risks, and one on Requirements Management -- with the same goal. There are guidelines and partial standards related to these subjects, but they are not sufficient to ensure the interchange of this information along a supply chain, or (in the case of risk) consistent reporting to regulatory agencies. We intend to use the results of the RFIs to generate RFPs (requests for proposals) for a standard metamodel and language in each of these two areas. Please contact us if you are interested in responding.
- We formed a new Artificial Intelligence Platform Task Force, which will focus on "foundational" elements of AI -- such as models, APIs or interchange formats for neural network designs, but that's only one area -- where standardization would reduce the burden of handling different proprietary interfaces without suppressing the creativity and competitiveness that go into actual AI applications.
- Christine Perey, from the Augmented Reality Enterprise Alliance (AREA), gave a great presentation on AR and led a mini-workshop on requirements for AR interoperability -- a preview of a longer in-depth workshop planned for January 14, 2020 in Boston.

LASER 2020

The annual LASER Foundation's conference will take place as usual on the Italian island of Elba on May 31--June 7, 2020. The theme this time will be "DevOps, Web Services and Software Development for the Age of the Internet." The advance program and list of speakers are now available. More information and registration here.

Best Practices in Industrial IoT Data Protection

Get the "why" and the "how" on data protection in Industrial IoT systems through a new technical paper, "Data Protection Best Practices," from the Industrial Internet Consortium (IIC). Niheer Patel of Real-Time Innovation (RTI), one of the co-authors, wrote an RTI blog entry on this topic, subtitled "Securing complex IIoT systems by design, not luck," which gives additional insight into recommended best practices.

From the Department of Obvious Predictions...

Computerworld announced the earth-shattering news that "Gartner sees blockchain as 'transformational' across industries -- in 5 to 10 years." To writer Lucas Mearian's credit, he starts his article with "Research firm Gartner, whose past evaluations of blockchain have been conservative to say the least, expects... "

This is not to say that Gartner's detailed analysis of its survey on distributed ledger technology, summarized in the Computerworld article, are uninteresting. But while the identification of "eight hurdles" that need to be surpassed to meet the technology's goals is useful (those are not included in the CW summary, so you need to be a Gartner client to access them), the recommendation to CIOs to "continue to develop proofs of concept" could in fact dissuade people from deploying real applications in those areas where POCs have already been completed.

→ It's 10 pm -- Do You Know Where *Their* Data Is?

"It's 10 pm -- Do you know where your data Is?" is sometimes used to motivate companies to pay attention to data residency, by analogy with the challenge to parents that preceded the late night news on some TV programs in the 1980s. In addition, the various data protection acts recently promulgated -- including the European Union's GDPR but also the California Privacy Act, require than an organization be able to give "data subjects" access to the data it holds about them, and the ability to correct the data or delete it. Many organizations, however, do not even know accurately where all this information is held. It might be in a CRM database, but it could be in one of a myriad spreadsheets on employees' hard drives.

Companies need to know where all the personal data is buried in their databases in order to respond to data subjects' queries. Data discovery tools, such as the "data intelligence" products from Brussels-based Collibra, become part of the indispensable toolset for data governance and regulatory compliance.

→ Seen Recently...

"Edge Computing today is a somewhat nebulous concept with an associated set of equally hazy related technologies."

-- Sean Kerney, writing for Enterprise Networking Planet on
" Linux Foundation Defines Edge Computing with New Glossary"