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SILICON VALLEY SOFTWARE PROCESS IMPROVEMENT NETWORK
(SV-SPIN)

Ten Minute Madness

Moderated by Ralph Porter, General Dynamics

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Following a tradition we started at the 1996 SEPG SPIN, we held our third “Ten Minute Madness” session. As a follow up, thought I’d pass along the topics discussed at this meeting:

1. Ralph Schooley (retired, Lockheed) – “Test, QA, and Software Metrics” – Ralph has recently begun teaching at the National University. Based on his past aerospace experience, he developed and is now delivering a course titled “Test, QA, and Software Metrics.” Ralph handed out the outline for the course, described it, and led a discussion on additional topics to be included in future classes.
2. Rob Robason (Cisco) – “Orthogonal Defects, per IEEE 1044” – Rob, based on past work he’s done, has put together an extensive approach to understanding and applying the IEEE 1044 standard to measuring and tracking defects. Rob presented highlights of his approach and solicited inputs on potential usage at our companies.
3. Oliver Gildersleeve (Franklin Templeton Investments) – “Action Planning Techniques for SPI” – Oliver reviewed his recent good experience applying the techniques Kim Caputo presented at her SEI SEPG 2000 Conference half-day tutorial. Oliver applied the “Results, Needs, and Actions” analysis techniques to voluminous interview results. He learned that consolidating voluminous interview results before applying this technique would enhance the value of the results in presentations to management. Kim’s tutorial was an expansion on a section from her book “CMM Implementation Guide.” Also, Kim was our guest speaker for our SV-SPIN meeting held 2/24/99.
4. Jeff Schang (MacroMedia) – “Check-In/Check-Out SCM Process” – MacroMedia, developers of Dreamweaver, has found itself challenged in the past year when the development team substantially. Previous Check-In/Check-Out procedures were not working. Jeff described their process for file control, system builds, and initial regression testing (called smoke testing).
5. Ralph Porter (General Dynamics) – “Good Engineers, Lousy Marketeers” – Ralph stated the position that those of us who become Process Engineers generally come from engineering backgrounds; as a result, we’re great analysts, but really lousy marketeers. We fail to make the shift from “stating the obvious” to “selling the obvious”. Greater attention is required to provide concrete evidence of process improvements in terms of increased productivity rates, reduced rework, strong ROI, etc.
6. Jan Feller (self-employed) – “Role of Software Tools in Process” – Based on several of the above topics discussed, it was apparent that software tools play a major role in your process implementation. As Jan put it, “Which comes first, the process or the tool?” This led to a very lively discussion on how a tool can be supportive of a process, but the process must come first (i.e., no tool will save you if you have a lousy process).