



What Is Up and Coming



If you have listened to a speech or presentation from our Department of Defense (DoD) leadership, then you have certainly heard the terms net-centric architecture and global information grid. The net-centric concepts are a key to the strategic vision for increasing our joint forces' capability. In an issue dedicated to "A New Twist on Today's Technology," it is important to consider our technology trends in the context of our warfighter's needed capability. The need for ubiquitous information and increased dependence on joint and allied cooperation should be a primary driving force of our technology innovations. The

DoD vision will require more robust security, accurate/current data, reliable data transmission, improved wireless bandwidths, and overcoming other unforeseen technical challenges.

As you read this month's articles and consider your company's developments, think about how you are going to leverage information and global networks to give our warfighters the advantage.

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Improving a Little at a Time



Many ideas to better our lives are not original inventions, but alterations of existing technology to create a new use. One example is the disposable cell phone with calling card capabilities. Customers buy the disposable cell phone with pre-set time on it, and then when the time has expired, dispose of it, recharge it for more time, or return it for a partial refund. The only thing new with this idea is the way existing technologies are leveraged for a new use. CROSSTALK's February theme authors focus on this strategy as they discuss new ways to take advantage of today's technologies.

We start this month with Dr. John A. Hamilton Jr.'s article, *DoDAF-Based Information Assurance Architectures*. The Department of Defense Architecture Framework (DoDAF) is not new, but the idea to leverage the DoDAF to develop information assurance architecture to enhance security is. Next, Dr. Kelvin Nilsen discusses a new specification for the Java programming language that will include safety-critical requirements in *Applying RAMS Principles to the Development of a Safety-Critical Java Specification*. Faced with the daunting tasks of illustrating the status of multiple programs with differing development schemes, Dr. Alistair Cockburn suggests a new way of combining information to provide this overall picture in *A Governance Model for Incremental, Concurrent, or Agile Projects*. In *Project Estimation With Use Case Points*, Roy K. Clemmons discusses how use cases can be used as more than just requirements documentation and also help with the estimation process. In our final online theme article, *Hard Skills Simulations: Tackling Defense Training Challenges Through Interactive 3D Solutions*, Josie Simpson suggests using computer simulations to augment hands-on training.

In our supporting article, three prominent members of the software estimation community discuss the similarities and differences of three popular software estimation models in *Software Estimating Models: Three Viewpoints*.

The CROSSTALK staff is constantly considering improvements in the way we provide information to our readers. The latest twist we are attempting is Really Simple Syndication (RSS) that will provide our online readers with an avenue to easily review the latest topics that have been published in each month's issue of CROSSTALK. Look for the RSS icon on our Web site soon.

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