



Well, Actually, Associate Publisher's Choice



I especially enjoyed putting together this month's issue. Each month I am the one responsible for deciding which articles will be published in *CrossTalk*. I lobbied for this month's theme, "Publisher's Choice," so that I would have an opportunity to share several very good articles that have been waiting to be published for far too long. The only problem is that there still was not enough space to share them all. If you like this issue, please let us know and maybe we can start doing an annual Publisher's Choice.

This is a good opportunity to give a special thanks to all the wonderful authors who support *CrossTalk*. There are many great people involved with putting together *CrossTalk* each month, and this journal's quality would be greatly reduced without their continued support. However, we wouldn't have a journal at all without the continued support of our authors. These people receive no compensation from *CrossTalk* except our thanks and a few extra copies of that month's issue, yet I believe the reward to our readers is great.

I always appreciate the shared knowledge from our authors, and it is a pleasure working with them. One example is an author that is one of the top 10 software experts in the United States, yet always acts as if I am doing *him* a favor when I publish one of his articles. Another example is an author that absolutely captivates me whenever I read her articles or listen to her speak. I was foolish enough to think she was *CrossTalk*'s own special find until I noticed that she was the keynote speaker at a prestigious software conference in Europe. Then there are all the authors that I enjoy having an excuse to call and talk to for a few minutes about their article since they are just pleasant people.

We start this issue with an article that has been waiting way too long to be shared. Tom Gilb provides his insights for developing quality software in *The 10 Most Powerful Principles for Quality in Software and Software Organizations*. I hope he forgives our delay in sharing this information and will consider writing for us again.

Next is the second part of Alistair Cockburn's article, *Learning From Agile Software Development – Part Two*. Cockburn discusses the final three of 10 principles that are useful for setting up and running projects. He then concludes by discussing how plan-driven projects can borrow from agile methodologies.

Thomas C. Staab shares his experience with the Software Testing Maturity Model (SW-TMM) and how to use it either alone or in conjunction with the Capability Maturity Model for Software in his article, *Using SW-TMM to Improve the Testing Process*. Donald E. Casavecchia shares some practical approaches to configuration management (CM) in *Reality Configuration Management*. In this article, Casavecchia discusses how his organization has successfully used varying amounts of CM, depending on the needs of a project.

Gregory T. Daich's article, *Document Diseases and Software Malpractice*, provides a tongue-in-cheek discussion of some common "diseases" plaguing software and developers. Also, Capers Jones provides insight into the current state of software development within the U.S. military in *Defense Software Development in Evolution*.

I don't usually discuss *BackTalk* articles in this column, but as I stated earlier, this month was especially fun for me. After last May's *BackTalk* by Dr. David Cook, my brother e-mailed a rebuttal listing several counterpoints. I enjoyed reading them and asked him to expand them into an article for us. The result can be found in Kevin Leachman's *Trials and Tribulations of a Non-Geek Engineer*. (You know our parents will be receiving an autographed copy of this month's issue.)

Thank you again to all of the authors who contribute to *CrossTalk*. We work hard to share your ideas with our readers and hope you will continue to make them available.

Elizabeth Starrett
Associate Publisher