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Kasey Thompson
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I find it comforting to know that some structure exists in a world of increasing confusion, fragmentation, and uncertainty. Amongst the crashing economies, warring nations, and natural disasters, we find software architectures quietly, resolutely, even purposefully adding stability to our software world which can be chaotic itself

at times. While I may be waxing a little too poetic about software architecture in the face of larger calamities, you have to admit, there is certain serenity and solace in the construction and formation of peacefully co-existing relationships between systems. Call me a geek, but I get excited thinking about a well designed architecture which provides strength, security, foundation, functionality, and communication for the system users. Think of a world where an engineered substructure is designed and tested for all future users prior to adding additional systems and functions. Governments of the world take note; architecture adds to strength, durability, and potency when performed thoughtfully.

So where is Architecture Today? Grady Booch answers this question as he shares his thoughts on the subject while reflecting on the power of open-source principles and systems engineering as the keys to success in **CROSSTALK'S** lively and entertaining "Interview with Grady Booch." Grady also discusses the evolution of UML, the constraints of the DoD software world, the stagnation of languages, and the benefits of interdisciplinary training of our teams.

CROSSTALK also offers a healthy line-up of informative articles exploring architectural topics such as how risk-driven models can guide architecture developers by mitigating risks using design techniques in the article "Just Enough Architecture: The Risk-Driven Model," and how acquisition and architecture can all altruistically co-exist in the article "Service

Incentive: Towards an SOA Friendly Acquisition Process." See the practices used by the U.S. Army to promote architectural practices while increasing acquisition workforce talent by establishing Chief Software Architects in the article "The Chief Software Architect in U.S. Army Acquisition" and the intelligence community's efforts to advance architectural practices while satisfying tough requirements in "XDDS: A Scalable Guard-agnostic Cross Domain Discovery Service." Two final articles titled "Enabling Agility through Architecture" and "Agile Integration of Complex Systems" explore the practice of maintaining flexibility and innovation while implementing sound architectures.

"Global Workforce Development Projects in Software Engineering" is our final article which further explores the software engineering education concerns identified earlier in this issue by Grady Booch. The authors share information on two current software community projects: *Integrated Software and Systems Engineering Curriculum* and *The Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering*, both of which are aimed at garnering an agreement on how to educate, guide, and certify the systems and software engineering workforce. The community includes DoD, INCOSE, IEEE Systems Council, IEEE Computer Society Educational Activities Board, and the Association for Computing Machinery. Anyone related to this community should not miss this update.

The authors of this issue have provided me additional fodder to go on waxing poetic in regard to our theme. Again, call me a geek, but there is certainly something to be said for taking the time to contemplatively reach out to stakeholders and design a masterful architecture today.