

The EVOLUTION of *CrossTalk*

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As this issue takes a look back in time at software technology and practices, it is interesting to see how CrossTalk has also evolved.

Did You Know...

How long has CrossTalk been in existence?

11.5 years — the first *CrossTalk* was published in July of 1988.

How many subscribers did CrossTalk originally have?

Approximately 200

What were some of the topics addressed in the July 1988 issue?

- Artificial Intelligence
- Recap of Ada conference for Air Force users. The conference included briefings on:
 - Standard Automated Remote to Autodin Host) — a software package which allowed a user in and out of the Autodin system without punch cards or paper.
 - Software Life Cycle Support Environment — a computer-based environment of integrated software tools, which included one to evaluate software in DOD-STD- 2167 format.
- Software Technology Support Center's (STSC) Electronic Bulletin Board System
- Software Engineering Institute Affiliates Program

Who was on the CrossTalk staff in 1988?

Bill Frost, publisher, and Susan Kelsey, editor

When did CrossTalk become an official Department of Defense publication?

June 1994 — Maj. Peter Vaccaro was the publisher.

When did CrossTalk go purple?

July 1996. The format change included adding purple color to the cover. The purple signifies the tri-service coverage of software issues affecting all United States armed forces as we all share the same software concerns and needs.

What happened to the Curmudgeon's Corner?

It never went away. In July 1997, with the help of our readers, we changed the title from Curmudgeon's Corner to BackTalk. The column makes light of the many engineering and management obstacles that are so common in the software engineering workplace. BackTalk continues to be one of our readers' favorite monthly features.

How many subscribers does CrossTalk have today?

More than 19,000 — although readership is hard to quantify as many of our issues are sent to libraries and organizations. We also receive comments from readers wanting to subscribe after they have repeatedly borrowed a co-worker's copy.

How many monthly hits does CrossTalk entertain on its web site today?

An average of 50,000 per month.

A Look Ahead

As *CrossTalk* enters the 21st century, its mission remains the same:

to encourage the engineering development of software in order to improve the reliability, maintainability, and responsiveness of our warfighting capability and to instruct, inform, and educate readers on up-to-date policy decisions and new software engineering technologies.

Upcoming themes will include risk management, education and training, cost estimation, software security, and Capability Maturity Model IntegrationSM (CMMI). As a forum for sharing your knowledge and ideas, *CrossTalk* is counting on your continued excellent ideas and quality articles (see the Call for Articles on page 30).

Capability Maturity Model Integration and CMMI are service marks of Carnegie Mellon University.



old *CrossTalk*

new *CrossTalk*