

Semat Governance

2 June 2010

Introduction

Semat (Software Engineering Method and Theory) is an *informal* group of people worldwide interested in improving the state of software engineering, through the introduction of a widely-adopted, rigorous theoretical underpinning for the field. It is not a standards organization, nor a formal consortium, and does not have formal rules nor a formal governance structure. Rather it is a collection of self-selected, self-appointed interested parties that are willing to work together to deliver a valuable result in a limited time. All are welcome to participate, as long as they participate in a spirit of openness that includes listening to and placing value in the ideas of others.

There is sufficient interest in the project already – as of June 2010, nearly 1200 people have agreed to support the effort – that any useful result will have impact on the world of software engineering and software engineers. At the end of the first year, however, there will be an open program to make the initial Semat results widely known and adopted, through publishing of books & articles, proposals to open standards organizations, and support of open implementations of tools supporting the theory.

The Troika

Semat was initiated by, and is overseen by, an equal partnership composed of Ivar Jacobson, Bertrand Meyer and Richard Soley. This “troika” oversees the requirements & goals, work programs and daily activities of the Semat project with the support of a management and outbound communications team (the Outreach Group) led by Prof. Shihong Huang and Dr. Carlo Furia. All final decisions about the direction and structure of the Semat project will be decided by the Troika, and all documents published as official output of Semat must be agreed by the Troika.

Track Leadership

The day-to-day track activities will be managed by the Track Leaders, appointed by the Troika. The Track Leaders are key to the success not only of the individual tracks, but of the entire process. Track Leaders have the primary responsibility to

- Organize the efforts of their tracks, including accepting participants, developing draft goals, and organizing the group to deliver against the accepted goals & timelines
- Keep the entire Semat community updated on their progress on a weekly basis

- Present for the track at Semat face-to-face meetings
- Manage the face-to-face meetings of their tracks to deliver against the goals

Organization Committee: The Outreach Group

As far as possible, the day-to-day organization should be carried out with appropriate infrastructure, as professionally as can be done with a volunteer effort. This includes

- organizing face-to-face meetings
- organizing electronic means of meetings (teleconference, wiki, email, etc.)
- organizing official reports of Semat for publication, posting, etc.
- report to the Troika on current status of all activities
- manage outbound communications, including the blog and web site

Discussion Groups

To support reasonable discussion, there are group email lists which are archived and available for those that wish to track Semat but not necessarily contribute. The following addresses (all @semat.org) exist:

- troika: just the Troika
- signatories: all of the signatories, including corporate signatories
- participants: all participants in the definition of Semat
- all-supporters: union of troika, signatories, participants & supporters
- track-leaders: only the Track Leaders and co-Leaders
- definition-track: subset of the participants taking part in the Definition track
- theory-track: subset of the participants taking part in the Theory track
- language-track: subset of the participants taking part in the Language track
- universals-track: subset of the participants taking part in the Universals track
- assessment-track: subset of the participants taking part in the Assessment track
- requirements-track: subset of the participants taking part in the Requirements track