



She who sees Horus and She who sees Seth

Welcome Newsletter

01/01/2014

2014-1

In this issue:

- Use of the Kernel Has Become a Real Success!
- Semat Area Reports
 - Education Area
 - User Guide Track in the Practice Area
- Chapter Reports
 - Japan Chapter
 - Korea Chapter
 - South Africa Chapter
 - Latin America Chapter

Dear Reader,

We have stepped into the New Year of 2014 with confidence and optimism. Semat has made much progress in the year of 2013 and some of it is being reported in this issue. Four of the Semat Chapters provide a brief account of their local activities. Two Semat Areas present the concrete results that may already be used by the Semat community. Last but not least, Cecile Peraire reports on a very successful use of the Kernel within education.

Mira Kajko-Mattsson (editor)

Use of the Kernel Has Become a Real Success!

The field study of the SEMAT Essence framework investigates the Essence kernels' novel approach to monitoring and steering software development projects. The study was conducted at Carnegie Mellon University. It involved seven co-located and distributed graduate student teams working on different industrial projects with different methods. All teams used a different set of generally accepted practices, mostly from Scrum and XP.

The result of the study was very positive. Since the kernel is method agnostic, it was possible to monitor progress and health so the different teams' states could be understood and projects at risk identified. This provided the faculty, also playing the role of program managers, with a standardized way of understanding the state of the various projects based on each team self-assessment.

Eighty percent of all participants said they would use the SEMAT kernel in their future projects. Here are some voices: "Essence provides a structured way of thinking about critical aspects of the project. Without Essence, our team could have overlooked some of these aspects." "Essence is great for team reflection and risk management." Compared to previous years, the faculty in charge of the practicum course noted "much better early project organization with a lot less floundering".

The study was presented during the LACREST 2013 keynote address. The keynote slides are available at: <http://www.slideshare.net/peraire/semat-se-education-lacrest-2013-keynote>.

Cecile Peraire

Education Area

The *Education Area* is in the process of creating hands-on exercises to be used by the novice learners. So far, it has created the first version of an exercise called "Lady Bug". The exercise deals with a private kindergarten, Lady Bug, that has commissioned a small software company to develop a kindergarten administrative tool. The exercise is already available for use and may be retrieved at <http://semat.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Lady-Bug-exercise-RELEASE-1.pdf>.

Cecile Peraire and Mira Kajko-Mattsson

User Guide Track

The *User Guide Track* within the *Practice Area* has just finalized a scenario illustrating how to use the Essence's Kernel to help a team figure out where it is and what it needs to focus on next. It describes events that occur at the beginning of a project. It can, however, be used at any time during a project to enable a team (1) to checkpoint the current project state, and (2) to determine the goals to be addressed in the near term. The Scenario is titled "Kick-starting a Project" and it can be found on <http://semat.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Kickstarting-a-Project.pdf>.

Paul McMahon



Chapter Reports

Japan Chapter

After having launched the Japan Chapter, we held three study meetings in June, August, November. We also had one talk at a domestic *Symposium on Agile Development* in September whose important ingredient was, of course, the Essence.

Recently, the article titled "*Agile and SEMAT Perfect Partners*" has been introduced on the Japan Chapter's Facebook page. The Chapter members have happily shared the idea presented in the article. The article is going to be soon translated into Japanese.

Hironori Washizaki

South African Chapter

The South African Chapter is going to conduct a workshop titled: "*Using SEMAT Essence for Project Health Check and Action Planning*" in the New Year. The workshop's purpose is (1) to introduce delegates to SEMAT, the Essence and the Kernel and (2) to apply the Essence Kernel in the context of a software development case study.

The *South African Chapter* has already conducted a dry run of the workshop. Its purpose was to introduce practitioners to SEMAT and the Alpha State Cards. The participants agreed that the workshop was ready to be rolled out in the New Year. More information may be found on <http://www.semat.org.za/>.

Barry Myburgh

Korea Chapter

LG Electronics, SK Telecom, Samsung SDS, Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering, and National Information Society Agency are among about 50 members of the Korea Chapter that was inaugurated in October 2013 (<http://semat-korea.org>). Member activities have just started and they are the following:

- *2e Consulting* has started rewriting their IT service engagement methods using the Essence Kernel and translating the Essence book into Korean,
- *uEngine Solutions* has started developing a tool to orchestrate the Essence Kernel based practices into a project method (<http://www.processcodi.org/>).
- Korean government supports KAIST research in Essence (<http://www.kaist.edu/edu.html>).
- Prof. June Sung Park at KAIST presented a paper on Essence on the *Symposium of Korea Society of Standards and Standardization* in November 2013.
- Park, together with Paul McMahan and Barry Myburgh, are preparing a paper to compare the native Scrum with the Essence-powered Scrum as an example of using the Essence Kernel to describe software engineering practices and to demonstrate the values created by doing so.

June Sung Park

Latin American Chapter

The *Latin American Chapter* has been very active and productive in the year of 2013. Some of the chapters activities are the following:

- Spanish translations of the Essence book and the CACM article "*The essence of software engineering: the SEMAT kernel*" that was published in the Latin American Journal on Software Engineering.
- As many as six game-based Semat tutorials have been given on various events, such as, for instance, the *8th Colombian Computing in Armenia* (Colombia), the *2013 Latin American Conference on Informatics* in Naiguatá (Venezuela), and the University College in London.
- Four keynote speeches have been organized and given (1) on the *International Conference on Science and Technology for Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation*, (2) on the *Andean Congress on Computation, Informatics, and Education* and (3) on the *Latin American Congress on Requirements Engineering and Software Testing*.

Finally, the Latin American Chapter has held several virtual and face to face meetings with the purpose of promoting the Semat work in Latin America.

Carlos Mario Zapata Jaramillo