



## Welcome Newsletter

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### Dear Reader,

Autumn has come by kicking summer out on its powerful reign. It has not only made our earth ripe but it has also made Essence attractive. More and more companies are on their way to adopt Essence and more and more universities teach Essence. This issue describes Semat's priorities of today and plans for the future. It also presents the state of practice of adopting Essence and the results of some of the SEMAT Chapters and Areas.

*Mira Kajko-Mattsson*

## Industry discovers Essence

Until the Essence standard was adopted in June it was hard for the industry to get any concrete value out of SEMAT. Now, however, many large and well-known companies are getting more and more engaged and are introducing Essence in their teams at different levels. Typically for these engagements, there is interest both at the team level and at the executive level. The executives see great value in the lightweight governance that Essence provides and in being able to accommodate the teams with a practice library from which they can mix and match practices that work for them. The developers are interested in being able to independently measure progress of the practices they use and in being able to learn from other teams in a systematic way.

We are now working with a rather large set of potential adopters. Some of them are:

- A company owning one of the most popular web sites in the world. The task is to evaluate Essence and SEMAT in a team.
- A national transportation company. It is about agile but not just as a craft but as an engineering discipline.
- A large service provider who has invested in the practice-based approach over several years is now seeing great progress and is going to scale up.
- One of the largest outsourcing companies in the world. The team to start is the company's process organization interested in the lightness of Essence and its support for agility in an engineering manner.
- A global telecom equipment vendor is using the practice-based approach supported by Essence.
- One of the most innovative product companies in the world, which is, in particular, interested in Industrial internet.
- One of the largest financial institutions in the world.

Most likely several of these critical engagements will turn into adoption.

*Mira Kajko-Mattsson*



## SEMAT Tomorrow

SEMAT's priorities of today and plans for the future have been discussed among active members of SEMAT. We summarize them below.

### ***OMG Standard for the Essence Kernel***

The kernel and language as adopted by OMG are expected to be stable but not static. To remain relevant to users, we will aggressively and rapidly adapt to feedback from the users. Therefore, a high priority requirement for SEMAT is to set up easily-accessible channels through which to collect users' feedback and apply governance to prioritize and incorporate important feedback into future versions of the Essence standard.

### ***Essence User Guide***

The Essence User Guide aims to explain how Essence is used in different scenarios, and to provide answers to frequently asked questions. The SEMAT Practice Area will soon start releasing the User's Guide incrementally encouraging user feedback so that future guide updates address priority needs.

### ***Practice Library***

The practice library will allow people to share, and exchange practices from different domains worldwide and publish them as part of a SEMAT hosted catalogue. It will provide an accessible environment where developers are given appropriate freedom to use their preferred ways of working within their specific context and share innovative ideas.

### ***Tools***

Tools already being developed by IJI and other vendors will continue to be developed. As an example, *uEngine Solutions*, an open source process engine provider in Korea, has begun developing an Essence-based practice authoring and method orchestration tool, and plans to publish it as open source software. We expect to see major tool vendors providing Essence-based tools integrated with their existing or new tools.

### ***Essence Extensions***

SEMAT is open to the whole community. Apart from the ongoing projects in the SEMAT Practice Area for developing Essence User Guide and Practice Development Guide for software engineering, we welcome several new areas to be set up in the future. The Russian chapter is already working on extending Essence to support Systems Engineering. Moreover, a book titled "*Software Engineering in the Systems Context*" is on its way edited by Ivar Jacobson and Bud Lawson.

### ***Essence Education***

SEMAT will establish and offer education to help people understand its concepts and put them into practice. Based on the existing work in the SEMAT Education Area, new and more systematic SEMAT-based foundations for teaching software engineering will emerge, which supports learning in academic and professional environments. A department at a university in Russia is exploring the opportunity of education in software development at a high school level, starting from Essence.

### ***General Theory of Software Engineering***

The series of workshops held by the SEMAT Theory Area under the title "SEMAT Workshop on a General Theory of Software Engineering" (GTSE) are a key component in building awareness of the importance of theory in the software engineering community. The theory will demonstrate predictive capabilities that software engineering practitioners can use for goal-oriented decision-making. Development of a more abstract kernel than the Essence kernel will be pursued so that it encompasses not only software engineering but also systems engineering, business engineering, etc.

### ***Engaging Our Supporters***

The SEMAT Community Area recently initiated establishing SEMAT as a non-profit organization in the state of Florida, USA. SEMAT, Inc. has been registered and is in the process of developing its bylaws to define its operating rules. Legally incorporated, SEMAT, Inc. will be able to raise more funds to support volunteers who actively participate in developing theories, guidelines and practices.

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# Chapter Reports

## Japan Chapter

In Japan Chapter, some members are now translating the article "Agile and SEMAT - Perfect Partners" into Japanese. Moreover we have a plan to have a seminar on the connection between SEMAT Essence and CMMI in November.

*Hironori Washizaki*

## Russian Chapter

SEMAT Russian Chapter (SRC) has finalized the translation of the article about SEMAT, SEMAT Glossary and has transferred them for publication to Software Engineering Magazine #11, 2014. Also, the article about the role of SEMAT is being prepared by one SRC member.

Another member of SRC has defended MSc dissertation about Essence development for describing critical system software maintenance and evolution in their system life cycle.

*Boris Pozin*



## South African Chapter

A presentation made to a group of students at the University of Pretoria is becoming an annual event and was well received again this year. The group is studying for the degree: "Master of Information Technology".

South Africa falls into Region 8 of the IEEE and as a result gets involved in FedCSIS - the Federated Conference on Information Systems and Computer Science. FedCSIS is a yearly international multi-conference organized by the Polish Information Processing Society (PTI) in technical cooperation with the IEEE Region 8, IEEE Poland Section Computer Society Chapter, IEEE Poland (Gdansk) Section Computer Society Chapter, ACM Special Interest Group on Applied Computing, IEEE-CIS Poland Section Chapter, Asociación de Técnicos de Informática, Committee of Computer Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Polish Society for Business Informatics, Polish Chamber of Information Technology and Telecommunications, Polish Chamber of Commerce for High Technology and Eastern Cluster ICT Poland.

SEMAT "made an appearance" at this year's conference when Barry Myburgh presented the paper "Situational Software Engineering: Complex Adaptive Responses of Software Development Teams".

*Barry Myburgh*

## Latin American Chapter

The SEMAT Latin American Chapter has been very active in this period. The LASES 2014 event has been held in Barranquilla (Colombia) with several activities:

- Signing of a document including the Latin America re-commitment to the SEMAT initiative
- Keynotes of Paul McMahan and Shihong Huang
- Additional conferences of Carlos Zapata, Hanna Oktaba, and Marcel Simonette, all of them members of the Executive Committee of the Chapter
- Launching of the Spanish translation of the Essence book, including a single book-signing ceremony held by Paul McMahan
- Launching of the book entitled *Software engineering: methods, modeling, and teaching, vol. 3*, including thirteen chapters related to the work with the SEMAT initiative in Latin America. The book will be available soon for free download from: <http://bit.ly/1nTfrJR>
- Presentation of twelve out of thirteen chapters with the participation of the authors.

Last August, the first full-semester course devoted to SEMAT started in the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medellín Campus. This course has been created by Ivar Jacobson and Carlos Zapata as a way to open the discussion about similar courses in the world. The course was also presented and discussed with the SEMAT Educational Branch. The materials of the course—in Spanish—can be downloaded from: <http://goo.gl/v2fw32>. A paper related to the course can be downloaded from: <http://goo.gl/ojIOfb>.

Latin America has renewed its re-commitment with SEMAT.

Good news!

*Carlos Mario Zapata Jaramillo*



## Area Reports



### User Guide Track

The Essence User Guide Group has finalized the scenarios and introductory material for the first release of the User Guide. The group is now focusing on helping to get the Practice Development Guide complete and ready for release by working on tasks such as final changes to the Alpha state card abbreviated checklists. In the Practice Development Guide group a “Simple Introduction to the Essence Language for Practice Creation” has been developed and is being finalized.

*Paul McMahon*



### Education Area

The *Education Area* has now finalized two handouts extending one of the two scenarios that has been developed by User Guide Track. The scenario, titled - *A Scenario on Solving Pain Points*, illustrates how to introduce Essence incrementally over a number of pain point intervention meetings. This is done in the context of an existing endeavor after the first product release.

The handouts describe events that occur after the first release. They only focus on two alphas *Requirements* and *Team*. Each handout includes a mini scenario for each of the alpha and provides solutions for how to map scenario events on the Kernel checklist items.

The scenario and the handouts have already been used on one tutorial in Brazil led by Maria Augusta Nelson from PUC Minas, on August 27, 2014 at the Software Engineering Symposium of Minas Gerais (SMES 2014)([http://icei.pucminas.br/smes2014/?page\\_id=64](http://icei.pucminas.br/smes2014/?page_id=64)). The same material is going to be used on an international tutorial on the Ninth International Conference on Software Engineering Advances (ICSEA 2014) to be lead by Mira Kajko-Mattsson on October 12, 2014 (<http://www.iaria.org/conferences2014/TutorialsICSEA14.html>).

*Cecile Peraire and Mira Kajko-Mattsson*

### SEMAT Tomorrow, cont.

The Community Area is also re-building the SEMAT web site as a platform for community growth. The new website will post news on SEMAT activities and events held by SEMAT and its regional chapters throughout the world; provide a variety of resources such as publications, learning materials, videos, practices and tools, disseminate case studies and success stories; support member interactions via social networks, mailing lists, blogs and collaboration tools; and offer guidance to institutional and individual certifications.

#### ***Engaging with Regional Chapters of SEMAT***

The SEMAT Community Area will engage with existing Regional Chapters and facilitate interaction, collaboration and sharing across the chapters. SEMAT will encourage active participants in other regions such as Europe and the USA to organize chapters to expand the population of SEMAT contributors and users. Other unexplored regions such as South Asia and Middle East will also be embraced.

To conclude, SEMAT is now on its path to implement the grand vision that initiated the community. The road ahead will be filled with the challenges of a frontier expanding community. We will take the challenges as opportunities to significantly change the effectiveness of the software engineering community, so as to build software better, faster and happier.

*Jane Sung Park, Inar Jacobson, Barry Myburgh, Pontus Johnson, Paul E. McMahon*



## Events



### Latin American Software Engineering Symposium (LASES 2014)

Last month I gave a keynote talk at the Latin American Software Engineering Symposium (LASES) in Barranquilla, Columbia. The night before the talk Carlos Zapata and I discussed how we might go about generating more questions and engaging those in the audience. As it turned out, our approach to collaborate on this talk generated many great questions. You can see highlights of the talk at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyNhgZGb65o>.

*Paul McMahon*

