

**The IEEE South Alberta Section's Computer Society
presents a seminar titled:**



The Next Generation in Software Estimation

Speaker: Brian Donaldson

Co-founder, Quadrus Software Development Inc. (Calgary)

Thursday, January 21, 2010 @ 5-7 PM

LOCATION: University of Calgary, Engineering Block A, Room ENA03

COST: Free to everyone.

Abstract:

Developing reliable software estimates continues to elude many organizations. Recent studies suggest that over one-third of software projects suffer from schedule and/or cost over-runs severe enough to warrant the projects as failures. One reason for such poor industry performance is that progress in this area has been relatively slow compared to the tremendous advances in technology and software methods over the last three decades. Traditional industry techniques for estimating software projects (e.g. COCOMO II, SLIM) remain highly complex, require non-intuitive inputs, and are geared toward large waterfall projects. The advent of Agile and other progressive-elaboration software methods has seen a trend towards empirical estimation techniques that focus on relatively short iterations, but fail in their attempt to accurately estimate entire software projects. In the face of these difficulties, many organizations continue to rely on naive "seat-of-the-pants" estimation approaches. In response to these issues, Quadrus has developed an easily accessible and accurate estimation methodology that successfully models real-world software projects through the use of simulation and Monte Carlo methods - the next generation in software project estimation.

Speaker's Biography:

Brian Donaldson co-founded Quadrus in 1993 and continues his active role as a senior member of the Quadrus leadership team and strategic advisor to Quadrus clients. He began his career as a technical software architect, advancing early to project management, ultimately progressing to overall program planning, IT business strategy and executive management. Brian has served as a member of Microsoft's Partner Advisory Council and has also worked with many other IT industry leaders including Sun, Oracle, IBM, Sybase, Business Objects and the Agile Alliance. Brian holds a B.Sc. (honours) degree in digital system design from Simon Fraser University and a Masters degree in computer and electrical engineering from the University of Calgary. With a 20-year track record as an IT industry leader - and as co-designer of the Quadrus Estimation Methodology (QEM) - Brian offers a unique perspective on why good software estimates are so hard to create, the theory behind QEM, and the technologies Quadrus has developed to make QEM available to the software industry.

Seminar Coordinator:

The seminar is coordinated by Vahid Garousi (PhD, PEng), the Computer Society Chair of the IEEE South Alberta Section. Contact him at vgarousi@ucalgary.ca.

For more information, visit: <http://sas.ieee.ca/new/computer>

Did you know?

The Computer Society (CS) is the largest society among all 38 IEEE societies.