Editor's Notes:

"Ah, there's the RUP"

Over the past several years, *The Rational Edge* has published a number of articles about implementing the Rational Unified Process, or RUP, as a means to improving software development predictability, performance, and repeatability. Just to name a few, these articles include Leslie Probasco's "The Ten Essentials of RUP" (December 2000), Gary Evans' "A Simplified Approach to RUP" (January 2001), D.J. deVilliers' "Introducing the RUP into an Organization" (January 2002), and Maria Ericsson's and Per Lofnertz's "Repeatable RUP Deployments via Solution Components" (May 2003). In all of these articles, the focus is on simplifying the often unwieldy process of changing organizational behaviors and attitudes -- especially in organizations previously committed to traditional, or "waterfall," development processes.

This month, we add to the growing body of knowledge regarding successful implementation of RUP. Many sound approaches recommend introducing RUP via a small project, during which you can try out the four phases, "Inception, Elaboration, Construction, and Transition," before moving on to mission critical projects, but the new *RUP implementation guide* actually offers a way to treat the introduction of RUP as a project in and of itself. Conceived, written, and vetted by a committee including many customers and a handful of IBM Rational RUP experts, this guide was created "...to advise organizations on best practices to follow as well as practices to avoid." The authors characterize the guide's content as "what we wish we had known" when they began RUP implementation projects in their own organizations. So, whether you see yourself...
becoming your own organization's RUP champion, or simply want a comprehensive method for getting teams to standardize on RUP practice, this guide is for you.

Taking a different perspective on RUP, Murray Cantor returns this month with his latest view of systems engineering as a software-related discipline and how RUP can support it. This is the first installment in a three-part series that will run through October. And there's even more RUP-related material for you: Dennis Moya's "Delivering packaged application solutions with Rational Unified Process" presents challenges and solutions for incorporating off-the-shelf software for CRM and ERP systems into business operations, and Eric Cardozo and D.J.deVilliers take us on a RUP-guided tour of "Project planning best practices."

As many IBM Rational customers know, visual modeling with the UML is one of our long-held Rational best practices for developing software. But before we ever thought about designing and building software, our brains were at work modeling the world around us in hundreds of ways, according to Ben Lieberman, whose series "The art of modeling" begins this month. He examines modes of system analysis, along with practical applications and techniques for modeling that can help software developers think about the essential elements of design. At the other end of the theory-practice spectrum, Joe Noonan explains "the major attributes of IBM Rational Rapid Developer that enable architectural and construction control, thereby ensuring high-quality business applications."

Book reviews this month include Beth Benoit's on "Waltzing with Bears: Managing Risk on Software Projects" by Tom DeMarco and Timothy Lister; and Peter Hanschke's on "Writing Better Requirements," by Ian F. Alexander and Richard Stevens. And our August Kite is by Grady Booch, who reflects on why so many of us take personally our efforts in software development. As ever, he'll give you something to think about.

Happy iterations,

Mike Perrow
Editor-in-Chief