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SATURN - 1



The SEI Software Architecture Technology (SAT) User Network (SATURN) brought together 48 software system developers and acquirers to exchange best practices and lessons learned in applying SEI Software Architecture Technology in an architecture-driven development or acquisition project.

Charter Meeting: April 6-7, 2005, Pittsburgh, PA

<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/architecture/saturn>

Keynote speakers

- Nanette Brown, Director of Applied Architecture and Quality Assurance at Pitney Bowes
- Stefan Ferber, head of the SEPG at Robert Bosch
- Paul Nielsen, Director of the SEI

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SATURN Goals

- Share experiences using SEI software architecture technology.
- Jointly discuss ideas, issues, and needs with regard to software architecture practices.
- Grow a network of those interested in using and improving software architecture practices.

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Attendee Breakdown

- DoD – 4
- DoD Contractor – 4
- US Commercial – 13
- International Commercial – 5
- Academia – 7
- FFRDC (other than SEI) – 1
- SEI – 13 (4 outside SEI Product Line Systems Program)

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SATURN Format

- 13 Talks (including keynotes)
- 2 Working Sessions
- Reception



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SATURN Emergent Themes

- quality attributes are key
- tips and lessons learned applying SEI SAT
- need for software architecture advocacy
- quantifying the benefits of software architecture practices
- architecture is about thinking and communicating
- future: the changing role of the architect

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High Points for Attendees

- peer collaboration (ATAM – friendly group)
- shared understanding
- case studies
- metrics from Bosch and breakout group
- what's new in software architecture
- SEI MTS presence
- acquisition support available for software architecture
- Software architecture technology has reached the "early majority."

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To Do's for the SEI

1. Publish:
 - most frequent risks, non-risks, quality attributes
 - trends in industry
 - checklists for domains to aid facilitators
2. Develop an education program for executives.
3. Be more aggressive about PR and outreach (road show in hub cities).
4. Partner with SATURN participants to write articles and make conference presentations (target SSTC, OOPSLA, SD East, SD West, UML World, WASP, WICSA, Eclipse Con).
5. Target product developers and managers.
6. Write an article for the Harvard Business Review on software architecture.

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To Do's for SEI (cont)

7. Re-brand the ATAM and other SAT; SEI is too much associated with process and that is a deterrent to adoption.
8. Offer a service to include external participants in SEI ATAM exercises.
9. Set up an SEI SAT Partner Network.
10. Influence SWEBOOK to include SAT.
11. Get involved in ECLIPSE Con and develop plug-ins for architecture support.
12. Influence tool vendors.
13. Have another SATURN.

NOTE: The SEI will take these under advisement, but will likely not do all (particular #7).

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To Do's for SATURN participants

1. Organize an E(urope)-SATURN
Matt Bass and Stefan Ferber to investigate
2. Organize local meetings – "Rings"
3. Set up BLOGS
4. Set up virtual organizations
5. Create Web casts

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Evaluation Feedback

- Have more working sessions with fewer participants.
- Hold in a hotel/conference center.
- Screen presentations better.
- Screen any marketing pitches.
- Focus working sessions better.

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