
Subject: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development
Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Mon, 22 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Thought some of you might be interested in this - an article about S/W development at the "on-board shuttle group".

--

Paul van Delst Ph: (301) 763-8000 x7274
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Rm.202, 5200 Auth Rd. Email: pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov
Camp Springs MD 20746

Subject: Re: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development
Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Mon, 22 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Norm Clerman wrote:

>
> An excellent article, describing software of a quality we all aspire to
> write.

The thing I liked best about it was the description of how these coders/managers weren't the hot-shot fly-by-the-pants stereotype that is portrayed in the media today, i.e. they have a "regular" life outside of work. After watching the PBS documentary detailing the goings on at Netscape before they released their code to the world, it sure was nice to read of a place where they do things right, rather than the "held together with chicken wire and spit" type of software house. I no longer get mad when Netscape crashes on my linux box once a day. Now, I expect it. Same goes for Microsoft products.

paulv

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Subject: Re: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development
Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Mon, 22 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

>
> Paul van Delst (pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov) writes:

>
>> Thought some of you might be interested in this - an article about S/W
>> development at the "on-board shuttle group".
>
> Uh, we *would* be, if you gave us a reference to it. :-)

<Insert sound of whip cracking right.....here!>

Yow!

There's always *one*. :o)

--

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Subject: Re: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development
Posted by [Norm Clerman](#) on Mon, 22 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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An excellent article, describing software of a quality we all aspire to write. I'm sure everyone is interested to know what language the shuttle program is written in. Perhaps someone could enlighten us.

--

Norm Clerman
Opcon Associates, Inc.
opcon@fuse.net
www.opconassociates.com
Paul van Delst <pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov> wrote in message
news:392936A6.1E44B16D@ncep.noaa.gov...
> Thought some of you might be interested in this - an article about S/W
> development at the "on-board shuttle group".
> --
> Paul van Delst Ph: (301) 763-8000 x7274
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Subject: Re: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 22 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Paul van Delst (pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov) writes:

> Thought some of you might be interested in this - an article about S/W
> development at the "on-board shuttle group".

Uh, we *would* be, if you gave us a reference to it. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Mon, 22 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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opps.

forgot the link... he he...ehem

<http://www.fastcompany.com/online/06/writestuff.html>

> Paul van Delst wrote:

>>

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Subject: Re: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development

Posted by [Jan Vorbrueggen](#) on Tue, 23 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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"Norm Clerman" <opcon@fuse.net> writes:

> An excellent article, describing software of a quality we all aspire to
> write. I'm sure everyone is interested to know what language the shuttle
> program is written in. Perhaps someone could enlighten us.

It is written in HAL/S, originally developed by a company called Intermetrics, IIRC. The S is for Shuttle, dunno what the HAL stands for. It is designed to support real-time and threaded apps, and has in-built functionality for vector and matrix calculations. There also was an article in the CACM in 1985 or so on the subject.

Jan

Subject: Re: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development

Posted by [mcalhoun](#) on Wed, 24 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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>> An excellent article, describing software of a quality we all aspire to
>> write. I'm sure everyone is interested to know what language the shuttle
>> program is written in. Perhaps someone could enlighten us.

> It is written in HAL/S, originally developed by a company called Intermetrics,
> IIRC. The S is for Shuttle, dunno what the HAL stands for....

Isn't "HAL" (which was also the name of the computer in the movie "2001") simply "IBM" shifted right one character?

--Myron.

--

Five boxes preserve our freedoms: soap, ballot, witness, jury, and cartridge
PhD EE (retired). "Barbershop" tenor. CDL(PTX). W0PBV. (785) 539-4448
NRA Life Member and Certified Instructor (Home Firearm Safety, Rifle, Pistol)

Subject: Re: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development

Posted by [Mirko Vukovic](#) on Wed, 24 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <392936A6.1E44B16D@ncep.noaa.gov>,

Paul van Delst <pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov> wrote:

> Thought some of you might be interested in this - an article about S/W
> development at the "on-board shuttle group".
> --

> Paul van Delst Ph: (301) 763-8000 x7274
> CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Fax: (301) 763-8545
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> Camp Springs MD 20746
>

For my first widget program, I followed the methodology of OO modeling and design by Rumbaugh, Blaha et al. Somewhat complex, several hundred lines. The only mistakes were those in variable spelling.

Knuth's book on Literate programming shows his error log for the TeX program. Very instructional. I decided to keep a similar one for a later application, and sure enough, I could see patterns in errors I was making (the most annoying ones were the self-inflicted ones, where by fixing carelessly one piece, the code would be affected 10 lines down. However, I eventually got the point, and even those started to go away.

As I read in some book, quick and dirty allways ends up long and expensive. Even the shortest program will grow into a bigger application.

My two cents

Mirko

Sent via Deja.com <http://www.deja.com/>
Before you buy.

Subject: Re: Good article on shuttle systems S/W development
Posted by [Jan Vorbrueggen](#) on Thu, 25 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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mcalhoun@ksu.edu (Myron A Calhoun) writes:

> Isn't "HAL" (which was also the name of the computer in the movie "2001")
> simply "IBM" shifted right one character?

ACC has always denied the connection. Now that I think about it, HAL (as in the Shuttle programming language) are the initials of its inventor, IIRC.

Jan
