

Greetings:

April 27, 2008

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March was the DAMA International Meeting in San Diego so a short paper was not done nor an announcement. For this April 2008 announcement there are five topics:

- DAMA International Meeting
- Free Metabase System
- Manufacturing Project Plans Short Paper
- Data Semantics Management Book
- Whitemarsh Website

First, the DAMA International Meeting was really great. Whitemarsh made a presentation on the topic: Waterfall vs CMMI vs Agile: A Report from the Battlefield. This was a different kind of presentation because it was a “report” not an advocacy. What was clear from the five month observation of this project, Agile seemed to be employed as a way to avoid doing certain project-related activities. In short, the project was not really an Agile effort. We also observed that the effort was really a Waterfall methodology with CMMI being used as a reporting strategy. All in all, the first phase of the project was completed successfully.

Several presentations from very notable organizations are reporting very positive results from metadata management. Here we’re talking many millions of dollars saved in IT systems development and maintenance. This is directly attributable to Metadata Management. We are going to contact these organizations further and report in later newsletters.

Second, the Whitemarsh metabase system is now free. Requests for downloads of the Single-User and Single-Metabase version can be submitted to Whitemarsh from the website. The link is from the front page. We have received requests from all around the world. Please ask for yours today.

The March 2008 version of the Metabase System, V6.9.8 has been posted. The ReadMe file for this new version is posted to the Metabase page.

There is going to be a May 2008 version, V6.9.8.1. It contains several adjustments and bug fixes that were discovered during the work on the *Data Semantics Management* book.

Third, a new Short Paper, *Manufacturing Project Plans*, has been posted to the website. This is a logical successor to the Information Systems Plans short paper which represented the time sequenced blueprint for implementing the database and business information systems critical to achieving Enterprise Architectures.

This *Manufacturing Project Plans* short paper presents a strategy for both engineering project plans and also how to “manufacture” them. Here I mean that you would select an already built

Project Template and press Build, and then the Project, Tasks, and Deliverables would all be automatically created. All that would be left would be to allocate the quantities of items, for example, Data Elements, Tables, etc., then allocate work environment factors, and staff. Once these are allocated the process generates a complete project plan. Work on the project can then be recorded and new/revised project plans can be generated.

All of this exists in the Whitemarsh Project Management System that will be integrated with the Metabase System in the next few months.

The Whitemarsh approach to Project Management Plans is significantly different from traditional approaches. A most critical difference is that it is based on deliverables, not expended time. Deliverables and the quantity of unit efforts for products such as Data Elements, Tables, Systems, etc. then produce real time and schedule products. With this approach, Earned Value Reporting is a snap.

Another key difference is that the Whitemarsh approach is a database-centric approach. The underlying project management database can store and interrelate many different projects. This gives an enterprise view of staff, projects, deliverables, time-expenditures, and work accomplished.

You may have wondered if there is a sequence to the Short Papers. Yes there is. The master plan was set out in 2006, and we are proceeding according to that plan. The last Short Paper was Information Systems Plans. This one is on how to construct the plans. The next one will be on the use of Function Point. The one after that is on generating Metrics. There are 21 Short Papers in all. We're doing them one at a time.

Fourth, the new Whitemarsh book, Data Semantics Management is "rounding third and heading towards home." There remains just three chapters to finally construct and review. We're going through them to ensure complete integration between data semantics engineering, and Metabase system execution. Because the book will likely exceed 1,000 pages it has been broken into volumes. We are posting the Table of Contents and Chapter 1 of Volume 1 on the Website. There is also a link to the Table of Contents to Chapter 2.

Fifth, here's some "stats" about the Whitemarsh website, and about how popular the Short Papers are? There's been about 3700 short paper downloads in the 10 months. In the previous year there was about 5,000 downloads.

In the last 10 months, 116 countries have visited the Whitemarsh website about 117 thousand times and downloaded data management materials.

So thank you and please visit, read-awhile, and download some data management materials. And finally if you have any questions, please email me directly at mmgorman@wiscorp.com.

Regards,

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