

From: Louis Birta [mailto:lbirta@eecs.uottawa.ca]
Sent: May 9, 2017 12:23 AM
To: 'Tuncer Oren' <oren.tuncer@sympatico.ca>
Subject: RE: 2017-04-19_SCS Technical Committee on M&S Body of Knowledge Index

Hi Tuncer;

I think my April 23 email contains the main thoughts that I felt warranted some serious discussion.

... Lou

From: Louis Birta [<mailto:lbirta@eecs.uottawa.ca>]
Sent: April 23, 2017 9:07 PM
To: 'Tuncer Oren' <oren.tuncer@sympatico.ca>
Subject: RE: 2017-04-19_SCS Technical Committee on M&S Body of Knowledge Index

Hi Tuncer;

I hope I didn't give the impression that I'm not a supporter of "professionalism". It most definitely needs to be present in a host of domains just like a general code of ethical behavior for us humans is essential for the human race to survive (lately it's becoming less clear that such standards actually exist in our contemporary world!!).

Your section called "M&S Perceptions from Different Perspectives" raises some important issues. You've clearly tried here to be "all inclusive" and you've been pretty successful. But is all of this meaningful for the task at hand (creating the M&S BoK)? What I'm getting at here is the question: "what BoK"? Is the BoK for someone involved with simulation in the entertainment business the same as the BoK for someone (e.g. working for CAE) who is developing training environments, the same as the BoK for someone who is using simulation for military procurement, the same as the BoK for folks that are trying to design the most efficient emergency room for some hospital? **I really don't think so!!**

So in my view, the first task for "the team" is to come to some agreement about the "version" of M&S we are all talking about. In other words, a general agreement about the definition/interpretation of M&S that we choose to work with. For example, are we going to include the realm of hardware simulators, are we going to include the realm of the entertainment industry? Or, as an alternate perspective, are we going to insist that the notion of building a model is a fundamental ingredient of "our" view of M&S -- in other words, the "M" in M&S is crucial to our considerations.

I'm glad that you've made reference to the CMSP certification program. In principle, one might assume that the foundations for an M&S BoK must be contained in some of their documentation. I, along with several members of the Tiger Team, were active in the original initiative for CMSP and the conversations were, as I recall, on the boundaries of the BoK concept. Unfortunately the two interesting headings "Exam Topic index" and "Exam Question Sources" at the website don't reveal much. I noticed that John Sokolowski who was included in that original group was active in some recent revisions of the certification. Since he's also a member of the Tiger Team, it might be useful to get his views on what aspects of the CMSP program could be directly relevant. Always wasteful to reinvent the wheel!!

... Lou