CS-480—Senior Seminar
Study questions for *Software Engineer Licensing*
Fall '03

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17/Sept.

Primary Papers

Knight, John C. and Nancy G. Leveson "Should Software Engineers Be Licensed?" *Communications of the ACM*, Vol. 45, No. 11, pp. 87–90, November, 2002.

White, John and Barbara Simons "ACM's Position on the Licensing of Software Engineers." *Communications of the ACM*, Vol. 45, No. 11, pg. 91, November, 2002.

Bagert, Donald J. "Texas Licensing of Software Engineers: All's Quiet, For Now." *Communications of the ACM*, Vol. 45, No. 11, pp. 92–94, November, 2002.

Kennedy, Ken and Moshe Y. Vardi "A Rice University Perspective on Software Engineering Licensing." *Communications of the ACM*, Vol. 45, No. 11, pp. 94–95, November, 2002.

Parnas, David Lorge "Licensing Software Engineers in Canada." *Communications of the ACM*, Vol. 45, No. 11, pp. 96–98, November, 2002.

McCalla, Gord "Software Engineering Requires Individual Professionalism." *Communications of the ACM*, Vol. 45, No. 11, pp. 98–101, November, 2002.

Reddy, Saveen "Should computer scientists worry about ethics? Don Gotterbarn says, "Yes!"" *ACM Crossroads*, Vol. 1, No. 4, (unnumbered), May, 1995.

Mucklestone, Connie "Roundtable looks at issue of licensing software engineers." Electronic Frontier Canada, 1/Jan/98, `<http://www.efc.ca/pages/media/engineering-dimensions.01jan98.html>`, accessed Sept. 2003. Also in *Engineering Dimensions*, Jan/February, pp. 28–29, 1998.

DeMarco, Tom "Letter to the Editor On Certification." Cutter Consortium, July1998, `<http://www.systemsguild.com/GuildSite/TDM/certification.html>`, accessed 3 September2003. Also in *Cutter IT Journal*, Vol. XI, No. 7, (Page numbers missing), July 1998.

Additional Papers

ACM/IEEE-CS Task Force on SEEPP "Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice (Version 5.2)." Association for Computing Machinery, 1999, `<http://www.acm.org/serving/se/code.html>`, accessed Sept. 2003.

Denning, Peter J. "The Somatic Engineer." Association for Computing Machinery (Ubiquity), 2000, `<http://www.acm.org/ubiquity/views/p_denning_2.html>`, accessed 3 September 2003.

Communications of the ACM

1. What process/licensing is necessary to become a professional engineer?
2. Who is exempt from necessary licensing?
3. How can licensing software engineers be detrimental to the field? How can this make a positive contribution?
4. What makes engineering a self-regulating profession?
5. What might the social repercussions of licensing software engineers be? How would this institutionalization affect both the engineering and scientific branches of the software profession?

Gotterbarn

1. In the view of Don Gotterbarn, why should certification and/or licensing exist in the software field?
2. How does licensing encourage educations, and what type of education does licensing encourage?
3. How is viewing professionalism (e.g. licensing, certification, etc.) as social consciousness affecting the software field? What other factors should be considered concerning social consciousness in this context?

Roundtable

1. Do you think that software engineering as it stands now is more art than science? How does this relate to Levi Strauss' notion of bricolage?
2. How does this article raise the question of software science rather than software engineering?

3. Is licensing applicable to all software engineers?
4. What are some factors driving the push for licensing? Who would benefit most from. . . ?

DeMarco

1. How are the results of certification different in DeMarco's point of view when compared to those of Gotterbarn?
2. If certification was established, what are the problems with decertification?