A U R U M

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The Canadian Newsletter for IEEE GOLD

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From the Editor

Happy Spring everyone!

Spring is definitely one of the best times of the year. There's abundance of hope and excitement in the air. All this positive vibe makes for an excellent time to start planning some outdoor activities, such as a bike race, BBQ or a tour of an electrical substation. These events can provide a fun social and learning environment for existing members and help engage new ones. Careful planning and effort to hold a successful event early on lays solid foundation for more events throughout the year.

I encourage you to take maximum advantage of this newsletter. Please email me news on your GOLD events and activities to share with other members across Canada. My email address is ahsan@ieee.org. I look forward to getting reports on your exciting events. Best wishes for a successful year!

Enjoy the warm temperatures!

Ahsan Upal, P.Eng.
Publisher, Aurum

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About Aurum

"Aurum" is Latin word for "gold" and is where the periodic symbol Au originates. The Aurum newsletter is published quarterly each year, with the next issue being for January/February 2004. The next deadline for submissions is February 7, 2004.

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Volunteer Position: Aurum News Reporter

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to report news related to our profession. Anglophones and Francophones welcome. Job requires reporting minimally one article per season. Topics at the reporter's discretion and may involve interviewing technical experts. Excellent opportunity to practice written and oral communication skills. Please contact editors if interested in this volunteer position.

Free Download: Sting is a GUI based network simulation package

Helen Ho, Vancouver GOLD

There's a free network simulation package that's available for downloading at www.yellowjacket.ca. The company is giving away copies of the prototype of their flagship product in hopes of testing market viability.

The two components in the package are the editor and the player. The idea is that you start off by composing a simulation in the editor, and then use the player to animate the simulation.

Here are highlights on the package features:

- protocol support includes modeling of: logical channels, messages, timers, state machines and stack hierarchies
- built-in support for message ladder diagrams, signal strength monitoring and channel monitoring
- simple to animate message flows, state machines, stack hierarchies and mobile drive paths
- trigger-based simulations with easy-to-use editor timeline and player runtime control
- hooks for incorporating real-world testing hardware into simulations
- simulations that can be created are protocol independent
- editor and player are built underneath a GUI for ease of use

Links

Downloading Sting   http://www.yellowjacket.ca/download.htm
Contacting Yellowjacket Software   email: info@yellowjacket.ca

Getting the Show on the Road: Mobile Computing from Infowave and Microsoft

Helen Ho, Vancouver GOLD

Evan is the vice president of sales for a major multinational computing conglomerate. In a normal business year, he spends 6 months a year in transit (in planes, trains and taxi-mobiles). Efficient logistical management is essential to managing his life. Evan and his staff simply have to be at the right place at the right time, with the right information. Tonight Evan in London England, racing to the airport for a flight back to NYC. Back home in Toronto his inbox has received two new meeting invitations for next week. A regional director has identified a credible sales lead for a multi-year, multimillion with a potential client in San Francisco. A meeting on the client's site has been scheduled back-to-back to an emergency meeting that Evan's CEO has called. There seems to be a revenue leakage that is pointing straight back to sales being generated by his group. There is speculation circulating around post-sales incentive pay rollbacks being put around the sales compensation.

The story of Evan the VP is a fictional one. But it very well could sound uncomfortably familiar to a lot of busy professionals. In an ideal situation Evan would have received both meeting invitations on his PDA immediately after they appeared on his calendar. Vancouver based Infowave Software has come to the rescue with its Wireless Business Engine (WBE). WBE 4.6 is a middleware solution that will allow secure access to enterprise systems through mobile computing devices operating on Windows platform. By providing full two-way calendar management with MS Exchange, Evan can review incoming meeting invitations in a timely manner, as well as propose changes while he's on the road. In addition to being able to manage his calendar, he'll be able to use email and access the internal employee directory in its current state; he won't be making do with static capture of the directory from his last live visit into the office. More importantly this middleware application offers increased security for synching to enterprise servers through authenticated Intranet access and client-server applications over remote connections of all types, including cellular, Wi-Fi and dial-up.

"Today's release (of WBE 4.6) better positions the company to take advantage of a enterprise mobile application market opportunity sized at US$1.2 billion dollars this year." Infowave CEO & President Jerry Meerkatz.

Organizations that are currently using WBE include Hydro One, Shell Oil, Unilever and the U.S. Navy.

Links

Infowave (TSX:IW)	www.infowave.com
Microsoft Exchange Server: Unified Messaging Partners	http://www.microsoft.com/exchange/partners/unifiedmessaging.asp
TELUS Mobility	http://www.telusmobility.com/bc/business_solutions/velocity_wireless.shtml

New @ IEEE: Computer Discounts and Personalized Connection

IEEE partnering with Insight, Inc. to provide over 250,000 computer products for IEEE members in the US, Canada and UK. This on-line service provides a member's only discount especially negotiated for the IEEE membership. Getting started is easy, just visit Insight, Inc on-line at http://www.insight.com/ieee, click on your country flag and set up an account. Start browsing today!

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Is GOLD mute in your neighbourhood? Get involved in your local GOLD group today. Not have one yet? Start one yourself! Training will be provided. Contact IEEE Canada GOLD Chair Verona Wong today.

Time Saver: Submitting GOLD Activity Reports Electronically

When you are ready to submit your GOLD Affinity Group activity reports to your Section, did you know that you could submit the reports after each meeting and take care of it electronically on the IEEE web site? Submit your meeting report electronically at http://www.ieee.org/L31 and a copy will be sent to your Section. This is the best way to insure your meetings are recorded and the Section is notified

The minimum meeting requirements to earn a rebate each year is two (2) meetings for Affinity Groups.