

IEEE KITCHENER-WATERLOO
IEEE COMPUTER (CS) CHAPTER PRESENTATION

Dr. Burton Leathers
Cognos, Incorporated

[“Legacy Product Strategy: Software Product Maintenance”](#)

Abstract:

Every product has a life cycle. Some products have such value and durability that they live a long life. It includes an extended period of "maturity" in which they are, essentially, feature complete but are still very good at what they do. Such mature products are often termed cash cows because, if well managed, they generate revenue far in excess of the maintenance costs they incur. Although some cash cows happen by accident, the best are spotted early and are managed through a coherent sequence of maturation, exploitation and termination. This paper examines the mature product life phases as they apply to software products. It shows the interaction between business and technology which drive the phases. It considers the distinctive challenges of mature product maintenance, real software maintenance -- in contrast to normal software creation and enhancement. Throughout, it shows that work on mature products offers challenges and rewards comparable to those to be gained from work on new and current products.

Biography:

Dr. Burton Leathers is a Software Architect at Cognos, Incorporated where he is architect for Cognos's charter, and mature, product -- PowerHouse. During more than 15 years at Cognos he has worked on products in every phase of life from bleeding edge to trailing edge. Besides working in architecture and development, he has played leadership roles in I18N/L10N, performance analysis, technology evaluation and engineering process. In all, he has over 25 years experience in the software industry and 40 years programming experience. He holds a PhD in Sociology from Cornell University.

DATE: Thursday December 2, 2004

TIME: 1:30 - 2:30pm

LOCATION: DC 1304, University of Waterloo

All are Welcome! Refreshments available!

Invited by Prof. Ladan Tahvildari
Electrical & Computer Engineering Dept.