



My reaction is to give the authors a general “thumbs up” in spite of the caveats I outlined above. The information can be useful in either starting a metrics database for object-oriented development, or for benchmarking, albeit in a limited fashion, a currently implemented database.

References: Grady, Robert B. and Caswell, Deborah L., 1987. **SOFTWARE METRICS: ESTABLISHING A COMPANY-WIDE PROGRAM**, Prentice-Hall, 288p.

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Software Creativity

Robert L. Glass
Computing Trends

Software Creativity (Prentice Hall, 1995, paperback, ISBN 0-13-147364-6, 268 pp., \$27.95)

If you, like the author, feel that:

- Software construction is primarily a problem-solving activity;
- All problem-solving requires creativity;
- Software problem-solving is deeply complex;
- Software problem-solving requires the ultimate in creativity,

THEN this book is for you. In **Software Creativity**, Robert Glass answers the question, “Which is more important in software construction: Brilliant process or brilliant people coming down solidly on the side of people?”

Reviewed by Dr. Peter G. Neumann.

Software Engineering Standards and Specifications: An Annotated Index and Directory

Stan Magee, CDP – Software Engineering Process Technology and
Leanard L. Trip – Boeing

Software Engineering Standards and Specifications: An Annotated Index and Directory (Global Professional Publications, Englewood, CO, 1994, hardbound, ISBN 1-912702-82-6, 228 pp., \$79.50)

This is one book that anyone who wants to call him/herself a “software engineer” should consider having on their bookshelf. It nicely categorizes and summaries (one to a page) 220 standards, guides, and supporting technical reports related to software engineering.

Besides having a helpful cross-reference index, this book has an easy-to-browse icon in the form of a matrix. This icon lets the reader quickly determine the applicability of each document (i.e., it shows what phase(s) of the software development lifecycle the standard applies to, the type of body that produced the standard, the type of standard (i.e., process, product or resource), and what artifacts it influences).

Reviewed by Will Tracz.

Computer Related Risks

Peter G. Neumann
SEI International

Computer Related Risks (ACM Press Books and Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1995, softbound, ISBN 0-201-55805-X, 367 pp., \$22.25 to ACM members, and \$24.75 to non-members)

To me **Computer Related Risks** makes a great addition to anyone’s personal collection of computer-related technical material. It should appeal to system developers and project managers (notice I didn’t just say “software” developers and managers) as well as college professors who have been assigning the **Risk** section of SEN to their students as part of their course reading list. The focus will come as no surprise to SEN readers, as Peter has brought together the labors of his love for the past decade detailing how fickle the finger of fate can be to anyone dealing with computers.

As a used-program salesman, I can’t help but relate to not re-inventing any wheels. Many of the lessons learned this book reveals are ones that I surely would like to avoid. This is book is one that I keep on my night stand to sample as a tasty morsel before I retire.

The book contains 9 chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the terminology and sets the stage for the examples found in chapters 2 through 6. Chapters 7 and 8 discuss avoiding problems from a technical and non-technical (human-oriented) perspective respectively. Chapter 9 provides a summary of the lessons learned and looks toward future problems.

Reviewed by Will Tracz.