



The Body of Knowledge and Curriculum to Advance Systems Engineering Project

Art Pyster, Stevens Institute of Technology

Dave Olwell, Naval Postgraduate School

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October, 2010

1. BKCASE background and objectives
2. Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge status and plans
3. Graduate Reference Curriculum on Systems Engineering status and plans
4. Questions

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How We Got Here

In Spring 2007, 3 phase effort was proposed:

1. A reference curriculum* for graduate software engineering with the “right” amount of systems engineering
2. A reference curriculum for graduate systems engineering with the “right” amount of software engineering
3. A fully interdisciplinary reference curriculum for systems and software engineering

*A reference curriculum offers recommendations on outcomes at graduation, entrance expectations, curriculum architecture, required knowledge, and possibly objectives. Recommendations are expected to be tailored. They do not specify course offerings or packaging.

You Are Here...

DONE

Phase 1. A reference curriculum for graduate software engineering with the “right” amount of systems engineering

NOW

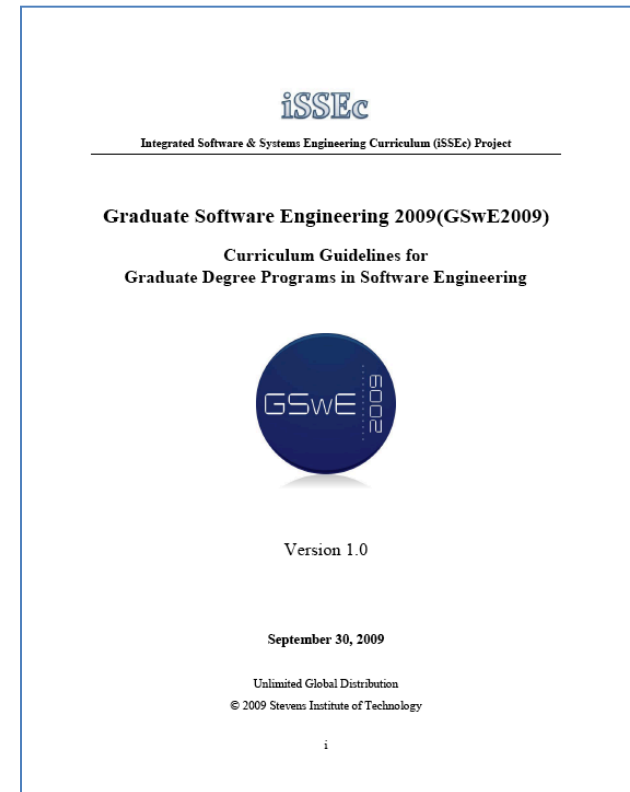
Phase 2. A reference curriculum for graduate systems engineering with the “right” amount of software engineering

FUTURE

Phase 3. A fully interdisciplinary reference curriculum for systems and software engineering

Phase 1 Primary Products

- Graduate Software Engineering 2009 (GSWE2009): Curriculum Guidelines for Graduate Degree Programs in Software Engineering
- GSWE2009 Companion Document: Comparisons of GSWE2009 to Current Master's Programs in Software Engineering
- GSWE2009 Companion Document: Frequently Asked Questions on Implementing GSWE2009



Endorsed by INCOSE, NDIA SE Division, Brazilian Computer Society
Originally sponsored by DoD. Now sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society and
ACM

What is BKCASE?

- Project to create:
 - Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge
 - Graduate Reference Curriculum in Systems Engineering (GRCSE™ – pronounced “Gracie”)
- Started in September 2009 by Stevens Institute of Technology and Naval Postgraduate School with primary support from Department of Defense
- Project will run through 2012
- Intended for world-wide use



What is the SEBoK?

Describes the boundaries, terminology, content, and structure of SE that are needed to systematically and consistently *support and enable*:

Task Name	Task Description
<i>Inform Practice</i>	Inform systems engineers about the boundaries, terminology, and structure of their discipline and point them to useful information needed to practice SE in any application domain
<i>Inform Research</i>	Inform researchers about the limitations and gaps in current SE knowledge that should help guide their research agenda
<i>Define Curricula</i>	Define the content that should be common in undergraduate and graduate programs in SE
<i>Certify Professionals</i>	Certify individuals as qualified to practice systems engineering
<i>Decide Competencies</i>	Decide which competencies practicing systems engineers should possess in various roles ranging from apprentice to expert

Guide to the literature, not all the content of the literature

What is in GRCSE?

- ***Guidance for Constructing and Maintaining the Reference Curriculum:*** the fundamental principles, assumptions, and context for the reference curriculum authors
- ***Entrance Expectations:*** what students should be capable of and have experienced before they enter a graduate program
- ***Objectives:*** what students should be able to achieve 3 to 5 years after graduation based on what they learn in program
- ***Outcomes:*** what students should achieve by graduation
- ***Architecture:*** the structure of a curriculum to accommodate core material, university-specific material, and elective material
- ***Core Body of Knowledge:*** material that all students should master in a graduate SE program

Not specific courses. Not specific packaging. Adaption and selective adoption expected and encouraged.

BKCASE Vision and Objectives

Vision

“Systems Engineering competency models, certification programs, textbooks, graduate programs, and related workforce development initiatives around the world align with BKCASE.”

Objectives

1. Create the SEBoK and have it be globally recognized by the SE community as the authoritative guide to the body of knowledge for the SE discipline.
2. Create GRCSE and have it be globally recognized by the SE community as the authoritative guidance for graduate programs in SE.
3. Facilitate the global alignment of related workforce development initiatives with SEBoK and GRCSE.
4. Transfer stewardship of SEBoK and GRCSE to INCOSE and the IEEE after BKCASE publishes version 1.0 of those products, including possible integration into their certification, accreditation, and other workforce development and education initiatives.



Our Supporters



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**Authors
as of
October 2010**

Author	Organization
Rick Adcock	Cranfield University, UK
Johann Amsenga	Eclipse RDC, South Africa
Erik Aslaksen	Sinclair Knight Merz, Australia
John Baras	University of Maryland, US
Barry Boehm	University of Southern California, US
John Brackett	Boston University, US
Aaron Eng Seng Chia	National University of Singapore, Singapore
Edmund Conrow	Management and Technology Associates, US
Paul Croll	Computer Sciences Corporation, US
Cihan Dagli	Missouri University of Science and Technology, US
Heidi Davidz	UTC Pratt & Whitney, US
Joseph J. Ekstrom	Brigham Young University, US
Marcia Enos	Lockheed Martin, US
Dick Fairley	IEEE, US
Alain Faisandier	Association Francaise d'ingeniere Systeme, France
Tim Ferris	University of South Australia, Australia
Kevin Forsberg	Center for Systems Management, US
G. Richard Freeman	Air Force Institute of Technology, US
Sanford Friedenthal	Lockheed Martin, US

**Authors
as of
October 2010**

Author	Organization
Richard Frost	General Motors, US
Brian Gallagher	Northrop Grumman, US
Edward Ghafari	ICES in US
Tom Hilburn	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, US
Nicole Hutchison	Stevens Institute of Technology, US
Scott Jackson	University of Southern California, US
Ken Kepchar	Federal Aviation Administration, US
Naohiko Kohtake	Keio University , Japan
Mike Krueger	ASE Consulting, Australia
Harold “Bud” Lawson	Lawson Konsult AB, Sweden
Yeaw lip “Alex” Lee	Defence Science and Technology Agency, Singapore
Ray Madachy	Naval Postgraduate School, US
James Martin	Aerospace Corporation, US
Greg Mayhew	The Boeing Company, US
Andrew McGettrick	Association for Computing Machinery, UK
Ken Nidiffer	Software Engineering Institute, US
Dave Olwell	Naval Postgraduate School, US

**Authors
as of
October 2010**

Author	Organization
Daniel Prun	Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile (ENAC), France
Art Pyster	Stevens Institute of Technology, US
Garry Roedler	Lockheed Martin, US
Jean-Claude Roussel	EADS, France
Sven-Olaf Schulze	Berner & Mattner, Germany
Seiko Shiraska	KEIO University, Japan
Hillary Sillitto	Thales Group, UK
John Snoderly	Defense Acquisition University, US
Alice Squires	Stevens Institute of Technology, US
Massood Towhidnejad	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, US
Guilherme Horta Travassos	Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Mary VanLeer	Arkansas Scholarship Lottery, US
Qing Wang	Institute of Software Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
Brian Wells	Raytheon, US

Rules for BKCASE Activities

1. Products generated by the authors, not the sponsor or partners
2. Even though the Department of Defense is the sponsor, it does not have any authority over the content of the products, nor are the products slanted towards defense systems development and acquisition
3. Volunteer authors do the bulk of the writing
4. Core Team from Stevens and Naval Postgraduate School provides stable labor and direction
5. Core Team responsible for final integration, technical editing, and clean up of products

1. BKCASE background and objectives
- 2. *Systems Engineering Body of Knowledge status and plans***
3. Graduate Reference Curriculum on Systems Engineering status and plans
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SEBoK 0.25 Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. System Concepts and Systems Thinking
3. SE Overview
4. Generic Life Cycle Stages
5. Service SE
6. Enterprise SE
7. Enabling SE in the Organization
8. SE Management
9. System Definition
10. System Realization Fundamentals
11. System Deployment and Use
12. System Life Management
13. SE Agreement
14. Cross-Cutting Knowledge
15. SE Competencies
16. SE Applications/Case Studies
17. References
18. Glossary

State of SEBoK 0.25

1. Version 0.25 released for limited review on September 15, 2010
 - 0.25 is prototype; 0.5 for early adopters; 1.0 for everyone
2. 656 pages long, 15 out of 16 chapters drafted, lots of very good material – more than expected at this point
3. Uneven maturity, too aerospace/defense, too process-oriented
4. More than 200 reviewers signed up – hoping for > 1000 comments – direction, topics, style, references, ...
5. Reviews due December 15, 2010
6. All review comments will be adjudicated and adjudication published

State of SEBoK 0.25

7. Case studies planned for early 2011 – domain-dependent material
8. Pointers to more than 700 books, articles, and websites divided into two broad categories: primary references and additional references/ readings.
9. Primary references are for anyone who wants to understand the most important information the chapter covers.
10. Additional references/ readings are noteworthy contributions or specialized writings that would selectively be of interest to readers.

Review Questions

1. Is stated purpose of the SEBoK correct?
2. Is intended audience of the SEBoK correct?
3. Is scope of the SEBoK correct; i.e., does SEBoK cover the right topics?
4. How would you improve the writing about any specific topic? Did we leave off an important concept or discuss a concept poorly?

Review Questions

5. Did we properly identify all the primary references for a topic? The additional references and readings? Are there references or readings missing? If so, please identify them.
6. Did we properly identify all the correct glossary terms? Were important terms left out or are the definitions incorrect or incomplete?
7. How well does the SEBoK currently satisfy its stated purpose?
8. The BKCASE Team plans to convert the SEBoK into a wiki-based format. What are the considerations for this format? What capabilities should be expected from this structure?

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GRCSE Value Proposition

1. There is no authoritative source to guide universities in establishing the outcomes graduating students should achieve with a master's degree in SE, nor guidance on reasonable entrance expectations, curriculum architecture, or curriculum content.
2. This gap in guidance creates unnecessary inconsistency in student proficiency at graduation, makes it harder for students to select where to attend, and makes it harder for employers to evaluate prospective new graduates.
3. GRCSE will fill that gap, becoming the “go to” reference to develop, modify, and evaluate graduate programs in SE.

GRCSE is being created analogously to GSwE2009 – in fact, using GSwE2009 as the starting text

Version 0.25 expected on December 17, 2010

GRCSE 0.25 Draft Contents

Title - Chapters

1. Introduction
2. Guidance for the construction and maintenance of GRCSE
3. Expected objectives when a graduate has 3-5 years' experience
4. Expected outcomes when a student graduates
5. Expected student background when entering master's program
6. Curriculum architecture
7. Core body of knowledge (CorBOK)
8. Assessment
9. Anticipated GRCSE evolution

Title - Appendices

- App A. Summary of Graduate SE-centric SE programs in 2010
- App B. Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives
- App C. Systems engineering competency frameworks
- App D. Assessment and learning outcomes
- References
- Glossary
- Index

Early Draft Decisions /Challenges

Challenge	Early Decision for GRCSE 0.25
Should GRCSE scope include Domain-Centric SE programs or just Systems-Centric programs?	Systems-Centric only
How much experience should be expected of program entrants?	At least 2 years of practical experience in some aspect of SE
Focus on traditional product SE or on services and enterprise SE as well?	All 3 – product, services, and enterprise SE
One set of outcomes and objectives or several sets, reflecting the range of SE educational practice?	One set

Decisions will be revisited for GRCSE 0.5

Early Draft Decisions /Challenges

Challenge	Early Decision for GRCSE 0.25
Expect an undergraduate degree in engineering, physical science, or mathematics?	Yes
Program be ABET accreditable or accommodate a range of program focuses	?
How much content should be standardized?	No more than 50%
Learn SE abstractly or in the context of an application domain	In context of application domain

Decisions will be revisited for GRCSE 0.5

If We Are Successful...

SEBoK will strongly influence the INCOSE SE Handbook Version 4, the INCOSE SE Professional Certification Program, DoD SE competency efforts, will highlight places where research is needed, become a standard reference for practitioners, and improve the quality and richness of communication among systems engineers worldwide.

GRCSE will clearly distinguish between graduate and undergraduate education in SE and influence the content of both undergraduate and graduate SE programs worldwide.

Interested in helping? We need reviewers, subject matter experts, and a few more authors

www.BKCASE.org

bkcase@stevens.edu

Version 0.25 available December 17, 2010 - prototype
Version 0.5 available December 2011 – early adopters
Version 1.0 available December 2012 – general use

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