Software Engineering

What is Software?

30 August, 2016

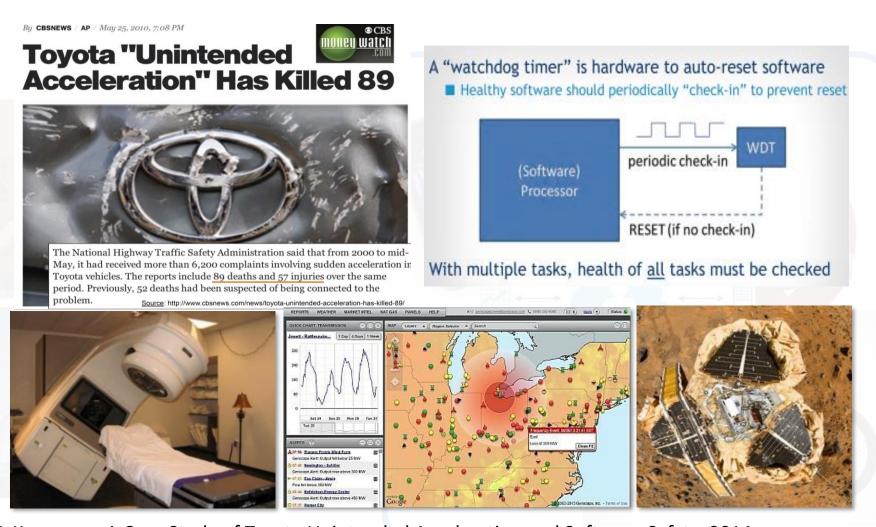
2016-09-02

What is Software Engineering?

The IEEE Std. 610.12-1990's Standard Glossary of Software Engineering Terminology defines 'software engineering' as follows:

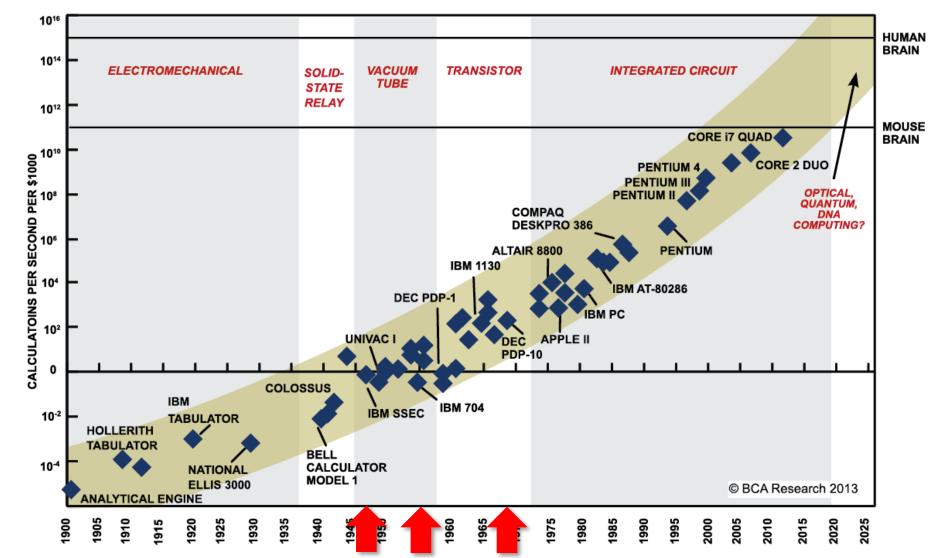
- (1) the application of a systematic, disciplined, quantifiable approach to the development, operation, and maintenance of software: that is, the application of engineering to software.
- (2) the study of approaches as in (1).

Poor SW Quality Threatens Society

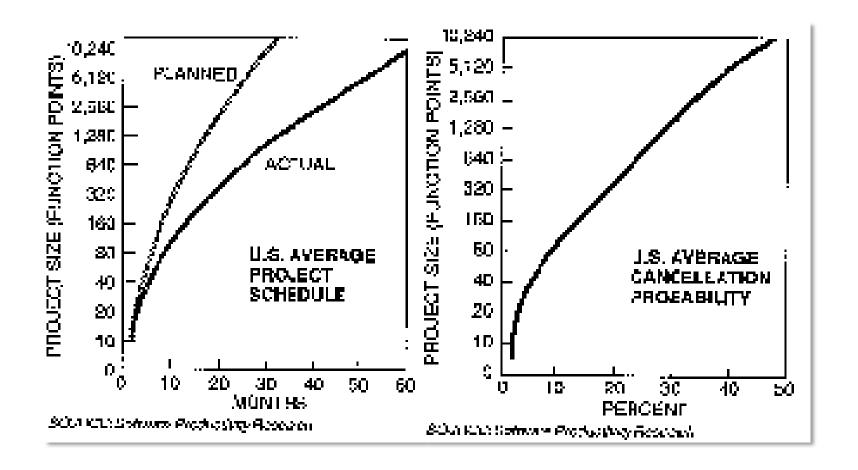


P. Koopman: A Case Study of Toyota Unintended Acceleration and Software Safety, 2014

M. Barr: Killer Apps-Embedded Software's Greatest Hit Jobs, 2014



SOURCE: RAY KURZWEIL, "THE SINGULARITY IS NEAR: WHEN HUMANS TRANSCEND BIOLOGY", P.67, THE VIKING PRESS, 2006. DATAPOINTS BETWEEN 2000 AND 2012 REPRESENT BCA ESTIMATES.





The NATO Software Engineering Conference, 1969

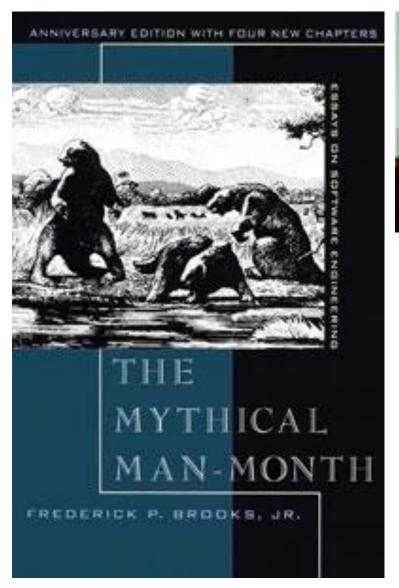
The major cause of the software crisis is that the machines have become several orders of magnitude more powerful!

To put it quite bluntly: as long as there were no machines, programming was no problem at all; when we had a few weak computers, programming became a mild problem, and now we have gigantic computers, programming has become an equally gigantic problem.

Edsger Dijkstra, The Humble Programmer (EWD340),
Communications of the ACM

It is (software) not made with a clean fabrication process. ... What se need is "software engineering".

- Friedrich L. Bauer





* most chapters can be found at Google Books

What is Software? (1/2)

 A part of a computer system, that consists of instructions to operate hardware for providing certain functionalities

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- traditional definition by John Tukey at 1958
- what is clear distinction between S/W and H/W?
- "Software" in other domains



software

software

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What is Software? (2/2)

 An artifact that represents intellectual processes for a certain functionality as an executable/interpretable form
Software is an abstraction of mental activities

, abstract

- Characteristics of software
 - software deals with problems in human society
 - software is often complicated
 - software often has a structure
 - software is mostly a logical entity and has no physical form

Characteristics of Large Software System [Brooks'86]

- Complexity
 - no two parts are alike.
 - the complexity of a software artifact increases non-linearly with the size of the artifact.
 - there is no single way to abstract software artifacts perfectly.
- Conformity
 - software artifacts need to confront arbitrariness of many human artifacts and human society.
- Changeability
 - software artifacts are intangible.
 - software artifacts are constantly subject to pressure of change.
- Malleability
 - Software artifacts can quickly become extremely complicated and expensive to change correctly.

The Nature of Software Engineering

- The system specification is mostly unknown at beginning.
- Software engineering involves multiple persons building multiple versions of software.
- Software engineering is to manage software changes.
- Software engineering is to generate not only a program itself but also associated documentation, libraries, data, tools that are needed to make the program useful.
- Software engineering is essentially modelling large and complex intellectual processes, which requires intellectual effort, creativity and time.

Role of Software Engineer

- The software engineer must develop skill to build a variety of models and to reason about those models in order to guide choices of many trace-off at software development.
- Software engineering itself is "software", and thus, software engineers are asked to manage their processes in a systematic and automated methodologies.

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( ) . automated methodologies
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- Frederick P. Brook Jr., No Silver Bullet, IFIP World Computing Conference, 1986.
 - Chapter 16 of *The Mythical Man-Month*, 1995 ed.
- Roger Pressman and Bruce Maxim, *Software Engineering: A Practitioner's Approach*, 8/e, Chapter 1.
- Carlo Ghezzi et al., Fundamentals of Software Engineering, 2/e, 2002.
- Ian Sommerville, Software Engineering, 10/e., Chapter 1.