Happy Birthday

Dresden OCL Tool Kit

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The True Nature of OCL

Let me try to explain to you, what to my taste is characteristic for all intelligent thinking.

It is, that one is willing to study in depth an aspect of one's subject matter in isolation for the sake of its own consistency, all the time knowing that one is occupying oneself only with one of the aspects.

We know that a program must be correct and we can study it from that viewpoint only; we also know that it should be efficient and we can study its efficiency on another day, so to speak.

In another mood we may ask ourselves whether, and if so: why, the program is desirable.

But nothing is gained --on the contrary!-- by tackling these various aspects simultaneously.

It is what I sometimes have called

"the separation of concerns",

which, even if not perfectly possible, is yet the only available technique for effective ordering of one's thoughts, that I know of.

It is being one- and multiple-track minded simultaneously.

Edsgar W. Dijkstra, "On the role of scientific thought", EWD-447

OCL is a language for separations of concerns.

Lehrstuhl Softwaretechnologie

Happy birthday, OCL tool kit!