COVERAGE BY SILICON VALLEY SENTINEL-OBSERVER

* Bart Matthews killed(decapitated) by Robbie CX30 on May 17, 1992
* Prosecution basing the enactment over Randy Samuel’s the programmer
* Randy Samuel charged with homicide/manslaughter
* On the surface, faulty line of code was responsible for the mishap
* McMurdock without a sweat brought the press together and announced she has got hold of the faulty line of code written by Samuel and tries to encase all the blame onto a programmer(not thoroughly analyzing all other possibilities manipulating the case to see no further hearings and hopefully trying her luck out for an open and shut case): conspiracy theory: saving the trip to court for the management level staffs who could be held(one upmanship should be stopped) accountable for the mishap, silently working for the tech company itself putting the company and its head out of the picture
* There were 3 similar formulas each describing the motion of robot arm
* Showed it to Bill Park, a professor a pro in C language without a hiccup noticed the fault
* Average was taken instead of derivative, also treating Samuels guilty
* Samuel was contactless, gf over phone answered he was equally feeling guilty and depressed about the incident and that he would need some time to get over it, and would definitely come up to share his side of things
* Further development into the case of Killer Robots: an anonymous source comes up, probe that the people working on the project were put under enormous stress
* Tensions build over Robotics division chief Ray Johnson and Robbie CX30 project manager Sam Reynolds
* Project was already six months behind schedule which really pissed off Ray, which according to Martha’s inside information said that the entire division would be terminated if they didn’t have a success in their hands.
* Sam was yelled at threatening to screw everyone on his division off their jobs if the project wasn’t ready by 1st Jan
* He was instructed to pace up by skipping some trials
* 20 newbie programmers added out of the blue by Johnson without notifying Sam
* It was a matter of technicality that the project was behind schedule and Sam knew more hands would be of no use
* Expectations were high from the management level who had little to no knowledge about the technicality of the matter.
* The management just wanted an advanced robot that would be the next face for their company
* No proper testing could be made in the given time and 10 robots inclusive of the robot that killed Bart Matthews were shipped out.
* The newbie programmers spent six months reading manuals and were not familiar with anything related to robots and Sam had a deadline to catch up so he had no time to spare to teach them
* June 12 meeting, Ray brought up his naiveness with presentation that spoke the Ivory Snow theory from head to toes saying that it was time for launch as nothing is perfect with threats
* That was a big mistake to compare apple to bananas, and theory mind you could be applicable for many entities, but also comes up with a list of exceptional cases that would deem it devastating
* Another source, gave the info that earlier robots were to gather a lot of press due to its promised tagline of “state of the art technology” that was sure to turn some heads.
* Ray underestimated the level of sophistication of the new robot that was unlike anything (little knowledge a dangerous thing)
* Totally disregarded perfection, a term that gets thrown around quite a lot that nothing can be perfect
* Perfection is a word that has no place in the field of science and technology, it has to be redefined with a degree of comparison namely, accuracy and approximation
* And in field of technology accuracy stands above all, however approximation at least has to be sought out
* Another side of the story portrays Randy Samuels as a Prma Donna who couldn’t take criticism seriously
* Several coworkers also find Randy guilty(may be set up by Silicon Techtronics) playing with sentiments(Bart father of 3)
* Sharon Skinner(software psychology) allowed to listen to interview to analyze the psychological stature of the programmer
* Randy had task-oriented personality(ego centric) which was bad news
* Not directly pointing finger at him, rather defying it with possible indictment through analogy of his personality
* The team was supposed democratic whereby all the voices were supposed to be heard but it turned out to be an opinioned one.
* Randy was a bit arrogant even if he didn’t hold the same degree of stature as his coworkers
* Something was put up at the code review meeting one of the three readers mentioned that Randy had an inefficient algorithm which was completely ignored
* Blaming of quality assurance, communication gap
* Randy(banner wall)  'You give me the specification and I'll give you the computation.' The level of arrogance can be illustrated
* One female coworker supported Randy of being helpful one to one, and someone who hated meetings and was very concerned
* He should’ve focused on his work rather than dumping everything he knows onto others without taking other things into considerations
* (Angle of Conspiracy) Sources claim, there was a cut throat decisive conflict on what model of development is to be applied( waterfall model or prototype model)
* Prototype model refers to the organizing of software project whereby the software goes through definite stage of development. Firstly the requirements analysis and specification must be made with little to no opportunities to make amends that keeps it away from proper testing by different analysts.
* The prototyping model follows the approach whereby emphasis is given to produce working model early to help arrive at a final specification of the proposed system. This allows for potential users to interact with prototype system way before the final system is coded or produced allowing making amends in the due course time.
* Memo of Jan Anderson(dec 12) member of original team opposed on Sam Reynolds decision to apply the Waterfall model for which she was fired on dec 24 by Sam( it was a malpractice considering her past experiences where the model was used) she had strongly given her reasons in the memo
* She also spoke for Randy Samuels, as he had no much of a say in the proceeding of the model so in her view Randy was somewhat innocent and the total blame onto him isn’t fair, as the project was doomed from its get go long before the programming was put into it.(D.O.A)
* Reynolds was transferred to robotics division by president Michael Waterson of the Silicon Techtronics to replace John Cramer, who managed earlier CX10 and CX20 project who died in a sky diving incident Ray Johnson had strongly opposed the decision to appoint Raynolds as head of the robotics division.
* The whole decision was based on a cost cutting measure of utilizing the currently associated employee rather than to appoint a new one
* And Waterson was also skeptic about appointing someone new due to the insecurities involved with it so he always wanted someone who could be trusted around.
* Jan Anderson and Reynolds also burst out on the User Interface part, as for Reynolds it was only a peripheral issue which he had totally downplayed as Jan was an expert in the field of UI.
* He was a fixated person who wouldn’t want something new, and narrow minded in the sense that he totally disregarded the interface, programming, testing etc because he was a hustler.
* Anderson had reviewed the memo by Sam that listed waterfall model which she strongly opposed and was distressed that her voice was not heard.
* Sentinel-Observer through acute investingation probed that Bart Matthews was a guinea pig to test out the CX30 for the first time. Initial use was hidden by media however in a great irony, the silicon techtronics annual report of shareholders published last march had a picture of Bart Matthews smiling and operating same robot that crushed him to death after ttwo months after the photograph was taken(attempt to falsify image and reputation of product)
* Blame game continues and the rag tag group of programmers who supported Randy Samuels distributed document that showed Silicon Techtronics promised to deliver robots that were safe, so they are to blame. The case in a jiffy turning political
* In their view Randy was a victim who was considered expendable by the company to save their image and their ticket to get out of the mess and a potential tie up between the company and the prosecuting lawyer.
* And Sentinel-Observer also confirmed a large contribution that had been made by Waterson to McMurdock re election campaign.
* The document had proof that Randy was not legally responsible to be indicted for the manslaughter.
* The promises made by company to deliver something was under public interest signed on British Code Of Conduct which they had signed.
* Professional Competence and Integrity, a major set of concern in BCS was totally thrown out of water in this case by the company assigning the works to individuals who were totally not meant for the work they were assigned
* The whole idea of team-work was disregarded by not listening to the viewpoints of the team members that totally violate the BCS.
* False promises were being made just to make the idea for the robot sound swell
* Witherspoon explained with exceptional condition 5.2.4.26 that explains exceptionally violent and unprecedented robot arm motion which required operator intervention. Bart Matthews was confused and could not enter the code successfully and the entry on manual was left blank
* And due to the provision made by 5.2.4.26, there was a fair warning before it but it was misinterpreted
* Witherspoon also quoted the section of requirement document mentioning 40 hours or training to be provided to operator however this section was not being followed and only 1 work day that too only 8 hours were spent on operator training which was itself a violation of their own code of conduct
* Their own employee disregarded and never took the codes seriously that led to the accident and he also asserted that Silicon Techtronics also did not give much thought into mandating the requirements.

Interface

* Promised to set new standard, indicting software developer Randy that put the robot interface designer into trial
* The Robbie CX30 violated every one of Shneiderman’s eight golden rules
* Mabel Muckracker, special to the Magazine was allowed to simulate the case that allowed him to reconstruct what happened with uncanny accuracy and that led to him to conclude that faulty software should be viewed as culprit
* He believes that the prosecutor should’ve indicted the interface designer and not the programmer for negligence and even manslaughter as wrong man was being accused
* Eight golden rules,

Strive for consistency: requirement for consistent ui design(error message with no proper color code with no proper error music that could trigger alarm)

Enable frequent user to use shortcuts: provision to perform tasks non-tediously by power user(too much strain needed to operate)

Design dialogue to yield closure: to be able to identify the beginning,the middle and the end(no proper messages after in between tasks)

Offer simple error handling: if error is made, clear information on to nature of mistake with error code reference should be given

Permit easy reversal action: undo provision to be enacted

Support internal locus of control: to make sure that the interface makes the operator feel he/she is in control rather than the machine going haywire(took too long to carry out instructions making him feel that the robot was acting autonomous taking its time and all)

Reduce short term memory load: reduction on the users load

* Console Overview:

Design faults, no mouse, uncomfortable chair, not menu driven even when it was listed under specification, such that every input had to be given using the keyboard

Too many menu items, and no alphabetical organization and was too cluttered

Even basic tasks required a trip through the manual

Error message was green when it should’ve been red and the blood was smeared in calculator pad

Reference manual was open, that means Bart Matthews was not familiar with everything.

Pressed the emergency abort, but too late to respond and he was decapitated

* Report issued questioning the authenticity of software tests
* Tests were inconsistent
* Jane mcmurdock still feels randy samuels will be charged guilty even with this development, still might raise some indictments
* Ruth witherspoon however thinks either the management or the programmer must be held accountable
* Ceo Michael Waterson , asked software engineer Dr.Wesley Silber to conduct an internal inquiry and assured that the ones responsible will be held accountable and will be terminated from the company
* Roberta Matthews(widow) on telephone, said she wanted Samuels to be punished
* Silber told that it was next to impossible to perform all testing as test will vary by case scenarios and it is impossible to simulate the testing of the robot on case by case basis
* Dynamic and static testing and focus was always on dynamic testing
* Sandra Henderson found that the robot according to documents had gone through rigorous testing
* But there were discrepancies between the data she accumulated and the data that the company database recorded which creates two possibilities that many part of testing was faked or wrong code was inserted into delivered products due to multiple version mismanagement
* Laywer of Sam Reynolds Valerie Thomas told there was something wrong with the dynamics of the robot but Ray Johnson let the product be deployed and delivered(thanks to ivory snow theory) as according to him risk was very small compared to the loss they would acquire if there is a delay with the deployment
* All blame to Ray now
* Randy Samuels to appear on court(Alex Allendale lawyer) . Randy is totally cooperating, and expresses his deepest sympathies
* Cindy Yardley, a software tester admitted of faking tests.
* Max Worthington, chief security officer at Silicon Techtronics announced his resignation and revealing himself as the anonymously named witness Martha on CNN and various other news organizations, and he was the one who had managerial position at the company and presented surveillance records . he was made by Mr.Waterson to spy on the employees and no-one was made aware about it and no one but him, Waterson and his assistant knew about it
* He made email transcripts available as well
* Cindy Yardley created a test result rather than simulating it and sent to ray johnson, and ray secretly thanked her and requested her not to use this unsecure way of communication. ( skeptical instigation)
* Repeatedly, ray had mailed Sam Reynolds highlighting the snow ivory theory and to save himself and to keep boss happy he told him to put everything beside and be ready for deployment on schedule
* Yardley upset as her private email was exposed and she was now being questioned, a pandora’s box had surely been opened only increasing the suspect count, and making the case more complicated
* She was called upon by ray johnson to his office to express his ambition to be on the managerial position someday and for that he wanted her to fake the test results without other’s knowing it and totally off the grid
* She felt trapped as she had never been tought what to do is someone with power gives her order to do something of that sort
* Her inexperience got the best of her and pressurized her if she didn’t do what was expected of her then everyone at robotics division would lose their jobs.
* She told clearly that she was misled by Ray Johnson(master-manipulator playing with emotions totally ambitious and would violate ethics for personal benefit, very self-centered, possible culprit)
* Another development revealed that some code was stole by Randy violating copyright law