

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear CROSSTALK Editor,

I just wanted to thank the CROSSTALK staff and the authors for the April 2002 edition "Risky Requirements." I read every article with diligence. This is a very important issue that focuses on the most important piece of the software puzzle, software requirement.

Yet, in my opinion, it is the most neglected. You may have the best of everything: management, technical staff, resources, budget, schedule, customers, and even CMM® Level 5 processes. But, if you do not have a good set of well-defined validated requirements that are understood and agreed to by all stakeholders you have absolutely NOTH-

Did I say nothing? Well, you do have something. You have a whole lot of something: re-work, missed schedules, low quality, failed projects, irate management, customer dissatisfaction, canceled projects and additions to failure statistics.

We all know that there are no silver bullets for software development. But, if you have a good set of well-defined, validated requirements that all stakeholders can drive a stake into in the early stages of development, then that is the closest you will come to that silver bullet. Everything else will fall easily into place for the remainder of the life cycle. I know. I have experienced both phenomena.

Al Florence