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Arnold Johnson has spent more than 20 years managing the development and operation of testing and certification programs spanning 10 federal and international IT standards including negotiating six bilateral or multilateral international agreements for mutual recognition of test results. He is currently the NIST program manager for the National Information Assurance Partnership, a joint initiative by the National Security Agency and NIST to foster the development of tests, test methods, tools, and commercial testing laboratories to evaluate the quality of IT security products.

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Phil Brashear is a senior systems engineer at EDS in Dayton, Ohio, where he leads the EDS Conformance Testing Center and the maintenance of the Ada compiler validation test suite. He previously directed compiler validation efforts at CTA Incorporated from 1989 to 1997.

From 1986 to 1989, he performed compiler validations and directed test suite enhancements at SofTech, Inc. Prior to 1986, he was a member of the mathematics and computer science faculties at Eastern Kentucky University. He has a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from the University of Kentucky, a master's degree in mathematics from Northwestern University, and has completed the course work and examinations for a doctorate in mathematics at the University of Georgia.

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Additional Reading

1. ISO/IEC Guide 2, *General Terms and Their Definitions Concerning Standardization and Related Activities*.
2. ISO/IEC Guide 25, *General Requirements for the Competence of Calibration and Testing Laboratories*, 3rd ed., 1990.
3. ISO/IEC Guide 28, *General Rules for a Model Third-Party Certification System for Products*.
4. ISO/IEC Guide 38, *General Requirements for the Acceptance of Testing Laboratories*.
5. ISO/IEC Guide 39, *General Requirements for the Acceptance of Inspection Bodies*.
6. ISO/IEC Guide 40, *General Requirements for the Acceptance of Certification Bodies*, currently under revision, April 1995.
7. ISO/IEC Guide 42, *Guidelines for a Step by Step Approach to an International Certification System*.
8. ISO/IEC Guide 43, *Development and Operation of Laboratory Proficiency Testing*.
9. ISO/IEC Guide 44, *General Rules for ISO/IEC and IEC International Third-Party Certification Schemes for Products*.
10. ISO/IEC Guide 56, *An Approach to the Review by a Certification Body of Its Own Internal Quality System*.
11. ISO/IEC Guide 60, *Code of Good Practice for Conformity Assessment*.
12. ISO/IEC Technical Report 13233, "IT – Interpretation of Accreditation Requirements," ISO/IEC Guide 25, *Accreditation of IT and Telecommunications Testing Laboratories for Software and Protocol Testing Services*, Nov. 30, 1995.
13. Rada, Roy, "Who Will Test Conformance?" *ACM Communications*, January 1996.
14. *Test Method Control Procedures Model, Workshop on Harmonization of Programming Languages and Graphics Validations*, March 15-16, 1994, NIST, Computer Systems Laboratory.

Note

1. Two concepts must be emphasized. First, validation (conformance) testing does not warrant that the product tested is free of nonconformities, even if all tests are passed. Second, validation testing is not intended as a means of performance benchmarking.

WebTALK: A New On-Line Discussion Forum



CROSSTALK is based on the premise that sharing information is the fastest way to learn. The software engineering field, still in its infancy, is still trying to define itself—no other industry can serve as a model for the process and techniques needed to produce good software. Trial and error is still the predominant, but we hope doomed, method.

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