EXPERIENCES WITH OIGS

by Kris OOsting

Today at a customer site I was stopped by the System Architect who said: "Darn! This Fusion method—it's unbelievable". "What do you mean," I asked him a little cautiously, because he was the Coad/Yourdon and OMT promoter. He responded, "I have never worked with a method that is so complete. We had to add functionality to our existing application during the new release job. Well, by using OMT and Coad/Yourdon the communication structure between the various objects was never clear and therefore the code was more or less hacked together. Now we have created an Object Interaction Graph of the part of the

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application that we had to change. Guess what! We DELETED code to add a new functionality! A lot of functions were already there but nobody knew it. After drawing the Object Interaction Graph the structure became clear and we redesigned it. This led to less code, better structured code, and more functionality! The other method didn't help us in this area. Fusion will be used from now on!"

And they did. They even bought FusionCASE tools to support it. He also confirmed the estimate that engineers produce design models for 2 to 4 system operations in a day. [Kris is referring to the data he presents in chapter 7 of the "Fusion in the Real World" book.] Here I demonstrated that Fusion is easily measurable and can deliver good estimates.

FUSION IN THE REAL WORLD

Announcing: *Object-Oriented Development at Work: Fusion in the Real World*. Editors: Ruth Malan, Reed Letsinger, and Derek Coleman. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. It will be available in bookstores late 1995.

This book deals with best practices in object-oriented software development. The focus is on the use of the Fusion object-oriented analysis and design method.

Fusion was developed at Hewlett-Packard Laboratories in Bristol. The method integrates and extends the best features of earlier methods, including OMT, Booch, and CRC. Since its introduction in 1993, the use of Fusion has spread rapidly and is being used to develop a broad range of products. Today, many companies worldwide are employing the method on a variety of applications.

The book contains a coordinated collection of papers on the practical use of Fusion. It features:

- An introductory overview of Fusion together with full reference documentation.
- Detailed experience reports of live projects discussing how to introduce the method into a project and how to succeed using it.
- An account of how to minimize risk by integrating Fusion into an incremental and evolutionary life cycle.
- A report on metrics and defect tracking in a Fusion project.

This book collects together reports from the field that describe the practical lessons that have been learned from projects using Fusion. Numerous contributors combine their expertise to give the most comprehensive look yet at how Fusion is changing the world of object-oriented development.

The papers in the book are grouped under the following topics:

- *Case Studies*: Detailed case studies share with the reader hard-won lessons about what works well and why, and how to address a host of challenges that arise in OO projects. Practitioners embarking on OO development for the first time will find the discussion and insights rewarding preparation.
- *Applications*: Fusion has been used in a variety of interesting applications that have led practitioners to adapt the method to meet special requirements. For example, a telecommunications project had to deal with the challenge of designing applications that must interact closely with legacy systems. A commercial software house uses Fusion to develop custom software on fixed-price contracts. In another application, Fusion was adapted for process modeling.
- *Managing Fusion Projects*: Fusion is particularly successful when combined with an evolutionary development life cycle. Based on experience with this approach within HP, guidance is provided for managing projects using Evolutionary Fusion. Techniques for metrics and defect tracking on Fusion projects are also detailed.
- *Extensions to Fusion*: The final section of the book provides a forum for constructive evaluation of Fusion, and proposals for its extension and improvement. Extensions to support the development of distributed systems are described, as well as suggested improvements and alternatives to the Fusion models and processes.