Keynote

Software “manufacturing” - The Meeting Ground for Art and Science

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In many a mind, the place of making software is an art studio where skilled artisans “create” works of art and this could never be made into a shop floor. This perspective also encourages our “professional artists” to draw the “sunrise” for the millionth time in their own way. There are several others who argue that manufacturing of software must be driven by a “robust process” that is compliant with the latest process framework. The global competitiveness on the other hand demands a highly efficient delivery mechanism that delivers good quality in time demanded by the business. Creating good quality may be an art but delivering on time is a science.

To leverage the global availability of skills and talent, it is required to revisit the way we defined Software engineering. To learn from the automotive industry that leverages the global sourcing aspect to its best advantage; to create the flexible manufacturing system that will allow software to be created across the globe but still meet the business demands effectively.

The talk will focus on two aspects - redefining the software engineering to be suitable for a global supply chain optimisation and creating the right talent for meeting this new world paradigm. Adequacy of the current software engineering processes from meeting the global way of doing this is a related aspect. Today’s frameworks such as ISO/ CMMi are not “inclusive”. They look at part of the supply chain. And redefining this is key to future success.

Predictable quality - defined as meeting business objective without fail will be the future direction. And vendors are only part of this. It is time for the Software engineering world to step back and re-look at the way Software Engineering is been defined now. The ability to mix Art and Science is the key to create the process that will tap in to the creativity that is not constrained and at the same time have the rigor of a six sigma manufacturing.

Biography

K. Subrahmaniam (KS) is the Head Global Operations of CSC-India Business unit (Computer Science Corporation), and is in charge all of its service lines and delivery units across the globe. KS is responsible for growth and profitability as well as creation of portfolio of services along industry verticals. Managing over 18000 professionals across the globe, KS is an executive sponsor for many initiatives of the company. KS graduated in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from the College of Engineering, Guindy, Madras University in the mid 70’s. He worked for over 15 years at ITI, India’s premier telecommunication company, handling various projects in the R&D division and was involved in various aspects of Business & Technology. He obtained his post graduation diploma in business administration from Annamalai University. Prior to taking on this role, KS was the president and CEO of Covansys India which is now part of CSC. In recent years under his leadership the Company obtained the Award for “Management excellence in service sector” from MMA, the award for “Organization that creates fun and joy at work” from DH Avenues, award for “Woman friendly organization” from MMA and the recognition that Covansys is one of the Top 10 "Best companies in India to work for", by Business Today- Mercer and TNS survey consecutively for 3 years 2005,06 and 07 as well as at 12th among the top 25 list "Best Employers in India - 2007" survey by Hewitt and the Economic Times . He was also the recipient of the “CEO of the Year 2007” award by IT People. Widely traveled, he has participated in many external activities in forums and seminars. KS is a member of the Governing Council for IIIT-Bangalore. In his spare time he likes driving, traveling, cooking, painting and photography - all of which many times seem to be distant dreams for him due to paucity of time. He finds time to associate with community development projects as a priority and has established the employee managed Binergy foundation. KS likes to describe himself as the catalyst for organizational excellence.