Keynote #2

A Perspective on Software Consumability

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ABSTRACT
Reliability questions are often directed at the core values of a software product that is at the features and functions. After all, the client imagines a to-be state where the software is running and the client achieves their business goals. So reliability concerns appropriately have mapped to the question: can the client reasonably achieve those goals through this software? This line of investigation is not, however, the only critical path constraint on client success.

The client has to travel a path from their as-is state in order to get to the values promised by product features and functions; this path requires successful execution of a set of meta-tasks. These meta-tasks can interfere with value attainment or even prevent it. We call the impact of these meta-tasks on a product “consumability”. We will discuss this and the measurement models we have built around consumability to formally address this topic in our development activities.

BIO:
Carl Kessler is vice president of world wide development and quality for IBM’s Software Group. He is responsible for architecting approaches to componentization, community and consumability, and for assuring the effective execution of projects across Software Group’s world wide development laboratories. Kessler has led large development organizations at IBM for the past 10 years. Prior to that, he was with IBM’s Research Division where his roles included director of software technology and chief information officer. Kessler is a senior member of the IEEE and holds several US patents.