

IN CONFIDENCE

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL  
RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY

INFORMATICS DIVISION

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING GROUP NOTE 83

END GAME DEBATE  
Some Agenda Items

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R W Witty  
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DISTRIBUTION: D E Talbot  
R W Witty  
H K Nichols  
F M Russell  
T Dignan  
D Simpson  
M Falla  
D C Findley  
W Newman

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KEYWORDS: SEGN 83 End Game Debate - Some Agenda Items

(see next page)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Here are some initial thoughts about items we could discuss during the End Game Debate. These thoughts are not 'deep' but 'random' - just to help fuel the discussion so do not quote me!

## 2. QUESTIONS

### 2.1 Strategy

We could go through the Yellow Book and its companions (the detailed strategies for FM, IKBS-SE and R&M) 'page by page' to see if we have

- a. achieved the objectives/implemented the strategy
- b. had an obvious failure (eg 1st gen IPSE).
- c. how much is 'in progress' and how much 'finished' or 'never will be started' or 'still to be done'
- d. where has the strategy been changed - but not documented?

### 2.2 Progress/Evaluation

We obviously need to put in hand a review of progress to date. Which areas are going well? Which are under strength? etc.

### 2.3 Law of (Rob's) Jungle

- . Is it now time to pick a few winners and give them increased support?
- . Is it now time to pick out the losers and give them the chop to free up resources?

### 2.4 Management/Monitoring

Major item to be planned at this time.

### 2.5 Non-Project Activities

- . How are the Club, SIG, Conference, Workshop programmes going?
- . What should be achieved before end of the Programme?

### 2.6 The End

One of the most important questions is how to end the programme cleanly. SERC did this quite well with the DCS Programme's Final Conference and two books.

We need to

- a. Know the end date
- b. Know what if anything follows
- c. Have a final conference/wake for SE?
- d. Publication of results of SE programme?
- e. Publication of lessons learnt? (not Rob's memoirs).

3. DETAILED POINTS

1. ML: Implementation of new Standard ML.
2. Should we back Modula 2?
3. Academic 'carry out' programme needs planning.
4. Maximising Technology Transfer will be difficult - who will help us?
5. Managing the current work needs detailed planning.
6. We should publish an End Game Strategy document.
7. IPSE conferences in 87, 88, 89?

seg2/lv