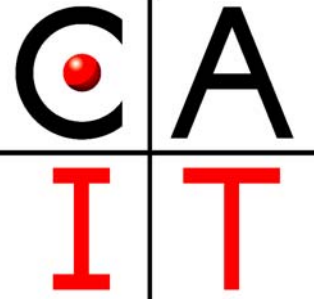


# CAIT Connection

Center for the Application of Information Technology  
Washington University in St. Louis

Nov/Dec, 2005



## Portals are Focus of December Event

Portals ... are they "just another pretty interface"? Or might they represent an important value proposition? Join us on Wednesday, December 7 as we explore these and other related questions at an event entitled, "The Business Value of Portal Technology," featuring **Michael Minkler**, Solutions Director, Perficient, Inc.



Michael Minkler,  
Solutions Director  
Perficient, Inc.

This event will be held on Wednesday, December 7 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at World Trade Center St. Louis in Clayton. Executive Member organizations may register up to 11 individuals; Supporting Members up to 5; SME Members up to 2. To register, please contact

(314) 935-4444 or  
EventRSVP@cait.wustl.edu.

Mr. Minkler will cut through the portals "hype" to answer those

questions that are most on the minds of IT executives and managers. These include: What exactly is a portal? How can you make a business case for portal technology? Is my organization currently ready for portal technology? What services will a portal provide, and how do these services complement my existing IT investments? How should we get started with portal technology? What solutions are best delivered on portals? What are the best practices for rollout and implementation? Where is the portal movement headed beyond business to employee, business to business and business to consumer portals?

*Portals, (Continued on page 2)*

## Join CAIT in 2006! Executive, Supporting, SME & Vendor Levels Available

With the new year and fresh goals approaching, there is no better time for current non-members to join the CAIT community. We have held the line on our costs, so 2006 membership rates will be the same as those in 2005.

CAIT helps member organizations keep-up with emerging trends and technologies to give their enterprises a competitive edge. The 10 member events each year include presentations by world-class experts, forums for shared learning, and opportunities for interaction and collaboration among senior IT management from St. Louis' leading organizations.

CAIT member organizations also

receive discounts on CAIT classroom training -- rates 10-25% below the standard cost based upon their level of membership. All training is geared to IT professionals, and we cover a wide range of technical and professional development areas. We offer nearly 500 classes per year with more than 200 different titles. Most are two, three, or four days in length and are available both during the day and evenings.

Last year we introduced a new Small & Mid-sized Enterprises (SME) membership level to make CAIT more affordable for smaller enterprises.

Now we are pleased to announce a

new "Vendor" membership for companies whose primary offerings are computer solutions and IT services. This membership is structured to encourage these companies to bring clients and prospects as guests, which is funded by waiving some or all discounts on training classes.

For more information on CAIT membership, visit us on the web at <http://cait.wustl.edu> or contact Director Laurie Koetting (lauriek@cait.wustl.edu, 314-935-5398) or Associate Director Steve Boriss (steveb@cait.wustl.edu, 314-935-4850). We hope to welcome your organization into the CAIT community in 2006!

## WHAT'S COMING

### "Business Finance & Budget Fundamentals" (MGT290)

Two Days:  
Mon-Tue, Dec 12-13 or  
Wed-Thu, Feb 15-16  
8:30 am-4:00 pm  
CAIT  
5 N. Jackson

### "Rational Application Developer 6.0 J2EE Development" (RADV60)

Five Days:  
Mon-Fri, Jan 30-Feb 3  
8:30 am-4:00 pm  
CAIT  
5 N. Jackson

### "Leading Change Across IT and the Enterprise" (MGT270)

Two Days:  
Wed-Thu, Feb 1-2  
8:30 am-4:00 pm  
CAIT  
5 N. Jackson

### "EI for IT: Using Emotional Intelligence in Information Technology" (MGT295)

Two Days:  
Mon-Tue, Feb 27-28  
8:30 am-4:00 pm  
CAIT  
5 N. Jackson

To enroll, contact CAIT  
Training Services at  
(314) 935-4444 or  
[training@cait.wustl.edu](mailto:training@cait.wustl.edu)

**From the Director's Chair ...**

During this time of year, the CAIT staff is a lot like Santa's elves. Everyone else is wrapping up the end of the year and beginning to look forward to a little R&R, but we're very busy getting everything ready so the beginning of the year offers our members and students the opportunity for a fast start. We may not have a list of individuals who have been naughty or nice, but we do have a list of ideas, recommendations, suggestions, class and event evaluations, and survey results with which to make plans for next year. We're working on an updated website which is close to being ready to release. We've announced a new level of membership for our vendor organizations. Several new classes have been introduced, and the planning phase for the 2006 roundtables is actively underway. And, over the holidays, we're upgrading the desktops and monitors in one of CAIT's training labs to maximize your training pleasure!

As we wrap up 2005, it's natural to look back on the year and jump forward to the upcoming year and beyond. As the U.S. continues to struggle to maintain its position as a world leader in innovation and technology, we will find ourselves contemplating and discussing topics which will impact how we apply, implement and manage technology initiatives, in addition to the technology itself. Government and social policies, governance and compliance requirements, an education system that is not keeping up with what the U.S. needs to be a global innovator and competitor, wide availability of high-speed internet access or broadband, insufficient R&D and a waning engineering and IT talent pool are some of the key topics.

Over the course of 2006 we'll engage subject matter experts in several of these areas, as well as those of you who have experience and knowledge to contribute. In the meantime, please know that we're extremely passionate about bringing continued value to our members and the St. Louis IT community. It's not too late to let us know what you're thinking and would like to see from us in 2006. Enjoy the holiday season!



*Laurie Koetting*  
Laurie Koetting  
Director, CAIT

*Help Plan Roundtables: Service-Oriented Architecture, Business Continuity*

CAIT is now establishing 2 monthly roundtable series for 2006 and is seeking potential participants to aid in their development. One roundtable will focus on Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA), and the other on Business Continuity.

As in the past, the attendees themselves will drive the agenda, determining as a group which aspect of the topic they want to discuss and whom to invite as presenters. This format not only provides a way to obtain "textbook" learning, it also allows participants to learn from the experience of their colleagues in the St. Louis area.

**Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA)** is an approach that allows enterprises to adapt and respond to demands for change with a consistent, low-cost, and high-functionality architecture. Recently, SOA has finally turned a corner -- companies have now shifted from taking tentative first steps and are now engaging in strategic SOA rollouts of all sizes that have the full buy-in of IT and business executives. The questions being asked are no longer primarily the 'whats' or 'whys' of SOA, but rather the 'hows' and 'whens.' This CAIT roundtable will provide a solid foundation for assessing your enterprise's readiness for SOA and creating your own "Roadmap to the Service-Oriented Enterprise."

*Portals, (Continued from page 1)*

Michael Minkler is a Solutions Director with Perficient, Inc. Mike helps his clients develop strategies for the implementation of transformational technologies. Over the past few years, he has led many portal engagements including solutions focused on employees, partners, and customers. Mike received his Bachelor of Science in Management from Purdue University and his Masters in Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis.

Perficient is a rapidly growing informa-

**Business Continuity** has been a topic of heightened interest since 9/11, as tales of business survival and extinction have arisen from the ruins of the World Trade Center. We learned how vulnerable our lives and enterprises can be at the hands of even a small number of evil individuals, and we responded with initiatives to deal with worst case scenarios. But now that we recognize that our businesses must think about the unthinkable, we are realizing that terrorists are not the only threat to the continuous operations of our businesses. For example, in the 11/17/05 online edition of Business Week, we learn that Avian Flu represents yet another possible threat to our enterprises that could lead to panicked workers, supply disruptions, and economic upheaval. This CAIT roundtable will help define the universe of threats and the practical steps IT managers can take to minimize losses of life and corporate value.

If you might consider participating in either the SOA or Business Continuity Roundtable and want to help establish their foundations, please contact CAIT Senior Technical Programs Specialist Bill Darte at billd@cait.wustl.edu or (314) 935-7575. We hope you will participate in these unique and exciting programs, in which area companies will collaborate to benefit themselves and the entire St. Louis community.

tion technology consulting firm serving Global 2000 and midsize companies in the central United States. Since their founding in 1998, they have grown from startup to more than \$105 million in run-rate revenues, with more than 575 full-time professionals serving clients from 11 locations in the central US and Canada. Perficient is publicly-traded on the NASDAQ National Market System under the symbol PRFT.

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, December 7 to learn more about the real world value of portals.

### New "IT Professional Development" Certification For Increasing Your Impact

With ongoing changes in technology, today's IT professionals must continually "reinvent themselves" to maintain and increase their value to their employers. Those who simply stick with technology as their primary skill value run the risk of having their jobs outsourced or off-shored right out from under them, while those who limit their role to "individual contributor" can get passed over for opportunities that require collaboration or business-oriented solutions.

The new CAIT "IT Professional Development" certification track is designed to help all IT professionals at all levels determine and make progress toward the professional development path that is best for their circumstances -- their own optimal intersection of personal strengths, employer needs, and business conditions. Students who start now can earn this certificate in 2006, taking classes at a comfortable pace. Some of the required classes are described below.

**Take Action: Contribute to Your Firm as a High Impact IT Professional (MGT305)** - Since there is no "one-size-fits-all" path for every IT professional, maintaining a successful career path requires each individual to find their own track. This class helps you understand and crystallize in your own mind which path is best for both your career and your enterprise. Areas explored include credibil-



ity, collaboration, leadership, responsible agenda-setting, business insight, and relationship management. Included with this course are three, half-hour individual coaching meetings in the weeks following the classroom sessions to help students integrate learning with their real-world situations.

**EI for IT: Using Emotional Intelligence in Information Technology (MGT295)** - The degree of Emotional Intelligence (EI) possessed by an IT professional is now a key predictor of

successful leadership and personal effectiveness, distinguishing the outstanding IT professional from the average. In IT, EI applied can make all the difference -- how you create value, capture value and deliver value for your organizations. This course provides an introductory understanding of Emotional Intelligence -- what it is, the science behind it, and its relevance to IT professionals today in achieving their mission critical objectives. Course content includes thought-provoking exercises, high-profile case studies, and analysis of everyday workplace scenarios.

**Writing Skills for IT Professionals (MGT300)** - Companies consistently rate written communication skills near the top of the desired skills list for employees at all levels. In this class, you will learn to recognize what makes "good" business writing so much more effective than "bad" business writing, and learn principles of plain language included in the 5 components of good writing: Complete, Con-

*IT Professional, (Continued on page 4)*

### Connecting with the CAIT Staff

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### Maverick Tube Corporation Joins CAIT

We are pleased to announce that  Maverick Tube Corporation has recently become a member of CAIT -- the 9th new member organization we have announced this year! Please be sure to welcome individuals from Maverick Tube Corporation

at upcoming member events. Maverick is a leading provider of products and services for the drilling, completion, and production cycles of oil and natural gas. Maverick started in 1978 as a mechanical tube manufacturer. Today, they have nearly 2.1 million tons of pipe and tube production capacity. They have over

2,300 skilled employees in eight locations. Representing Maverick Tube Corporation on CAIT's Board is **Patrick Melanson**, Vice President, Chief Information Officer.

*New Programming Classes: Ruby, Boost, Java*

CAIT is committed to helping area companies become early adopters of technologies that can give them competitive advantages. We are especially interested in developments that provide important new benefits and are showing rapid growth in acceptance.

Below are some of the latest programming classes we have added to CAIT's curriculum. To register or for more information, contact [training@cait.wustl.edu](mailto:training@cait.wustl.edu) or (314) 935-4444.

**Ruby Programming (RUBY10):**

Ruby is a programming language that is often compared to Python and Perl. It is an object-oriented, dynamically typed language that features a very compact syntax. Benefits of using Ruby include increased productivity, which is enabled by being able to implement a large amount of functionality in a small amount of code. This course will introduce students to programming in the Ruby language. Next offering begins April 11.

**Modern C++ Programming Using Boost (TTPL30):**

All C++ developers should be using Boost. It provides immediate access to new libraries that would otherwise be unavailable until

the next C++ standard (expected later this decade). This course will expose class participants to the most widely used and useful libraries that make up Boost. Students will learn how to easily apply these powerful libraries in their own development through detailed expert instructor-led training and by hands-on exercises. Your investment in learning Boost today will be one that will benefit you for years to come. This course has been designed both for those seeking to apply Boost to their applications as well as those interested in evaluating Boost for possible inclusion in future projects.

**Java Performance Tuning (JPT) -- TTJV40:**

This workshop provides a comprehensive introduction to tuning Java programs. It includes discussion of the basic memory model of Java, the HotSpot optimizing compiler, and Java profiling tools. It demonstrates ways to assess common performance problems such as excess memory and thread usage, and how to tune programs to perform better. Next offering begins May 9.

We hope to have the opportunity to help you keep your edge in 2006!

**Visit CAIT at**  
<http://cait.wustl.edu>  
 CAIT offices are located at:  
 5 North Jackson, Suite 130, Clayton

For general or membership information, contact Steve Boriss at: [steveb@cait.wustl.edu](mailto:steveb@cait.wustl.edu) or (314) 935-4850

For training information, contact Carole Swindle at: [caroles@cait.wustl.edu](mailto:caroles@cait.wustl.edu) or (314) 935-5367

To register for courses, contact: [training@cait.wustl.edu](mailto:training@cait.wustl.edu) (314) 935-4444

*IT Professional, (Continued from page 3)*  
 sistent, Clear, Concise, and Correct.

The IT Professional Development certification is one of more than 20 tracks now offered by CAIT. To learn more, visit us on the web at <http://cait.wustl.edu>. To register for classes, contact [training@cait.wustl.edu](mailto:training@cait.wustl.edu) or (314) 935-4444.

# 2005 CAIT MEMBER EVENTS

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Date	Topic	Presenter	Time	Location
Wed, Dec 7	The Business Value of Portal Technology	Michael Minkler, Perficient	7:30-9:30am	World Trade Center St. Louis

**PREVIOUS EVENTS**

Fri, Mar 4	2005 IT Trends	Daryl Plummer, Gartner Research	8:15-10:30am	Saint Louis Art Museum
Tue, Mar 22	Combating Spam, Viruses, Spyware	Kenneth Schneider, Symantec	7:30-9:45am	Eric P. Newman Center, Forest Park
Wed, Apr 20	ITIL (IT service mgt best practice framework)	Ken Wendle, HP	2:45-7:30pm	Dennis Jones Visitor Center, Forest Park
Wed, May 18	Outsourcing & American Competitiveness	Murray Weidenbaum, Ph.D., WUSTL	5:30-8:30pm	Whittemore House, Wash U Campus
Thu, Jun 9	Emotional Intelligence in IT	Edie Varley, The Varley Group	8:15-10:30am	Whitaker Hall, Wash U Campus
Wed, Aug 31	Leveraging IT to Drive Corporate Innovation	R. Keith Sawyer, Assoc. Prof, WUSTL	7:30-9:30am	John S. McDonnell Planetarium
Fri, Sep 23	Strategies & Metrics for Vendor Management	Bart Perkins, Leverage Partners, Inc.	7:30am-5:00pm	Innsbrook Golf Resort
Wed, Oct 19	The Information Workplace	Erica Rugullies, Forrester Research	8:30-10:30am	Chase Park Plaza
Thu, Nov 17	Data Quality Strategies & Best Practices	Frank Dravis	3:00-7:00pm	St. Louis Zoo

Please RSVP for events to [EventRSVP@cait.wustl.edu](mailto:EventRSVP@cait.wustl.edu) or (314) 935-4444