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IT Eminent Lecture Series

Scaling Software Analysis

Gerard J. Holzmann, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Fellow, Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Faculty Associate, Computer Science, California Institute of Technology

Coates Hall 155
April 24, 2009 - 02:30 pm

Abstract:
We live in an extraordinary period of time where the amount of software that supports our infrastructure is increasing exponentially fast. This does not just apply to the software that empowers our laptops or desktop PCs, but also to the software that helps to fly airplanes and drive cars. When the size and complexity of even safety critical software application is changing this fast, it becomes especially important that we pay close attention to the processes that are followed to develop that software, and the methods we use to get it right. I'll address some of the issues we face in analyzing larger and larger software systems.

Speaker's Bio:
Gerard J. Holzmann is a Fellow at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and a Faculty Associate in Computer Science at the California Institute of Technology, both in Pasadena, California. Dr. Holzmann received his MSc in 1976 and his PhD degree in 1979 from the Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands. He received a number of awards for his work in software verification, including the 2001 ACM Software Systems award. In 2005 he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. Dr. Holzmann is best known for designing and building one of the most widely used formal verification systems for multi-threaded systems software: the Spin model checker. He has published monographs on image processing, communication history, and logic model checking.