

Short excerpt of a discussion I had with Ralph E. Johnson during a Dagstuhl seminar regarding a new edition of the Design Patterns book.

Alexandre Bergel: What will the new edition contain ?

Ralph Johnson: It will perhaps contains few new patterns, but will contains mainly new discussions about the common mistakes and failures. We will also say more about composition and relationship between patterns.

We may also talk about the plugging mechanism of Eclipse and more about Reflection. Reflection was absent mainly because we used C++ at that time, but this will change in the new edition.

Will you mention Aspect Oriented Programming in the future book?

I did not plan to.

Can you tell us a bit about the history of the GoF book ?

Before the book came out, there was a ftp site and a mailing list that contained more than 500 people. The web did not exist at that time, we therefore use mailing list and ftp as the main vector to announce new chapter and get feedback. We also also did many presentations to IBM.

Will this book be affected by the disparition of John Vlissides ?

Vlissides was a finisher, contrary to me :-)

He always had the very last look at a sentence. He was also in charge of the version repository, which will store the book written in .tex

Will you include some new authors ?

I do not know.

Which language will you use ?

Mainly Java, which will reduce the size of the code by at least 1/3.

Do you have a deadline ?

Yes of course! it was 5 years ago. This project has been in mind for years, and we know that we have to do it.