

The Standby-me Story of “NEAT/14” Oldboys in Japan

By NEAT/14 members worked in NCR Software Era,

Dated in December, 2006

守 · 破 · 離

Shu_Ha_Ri, ref. (1)

The NEAT/3 programming language has been well known by NCR Century computer programmers since 1968 when was the birth year of the third generation architecture computer of NCR. There are two syntaxes of the programming level in the NEAT/3 language. The level I is user-friendly for programmers who implement the data-oriented application system. On the other hand, the level II is convenient for software engineers who are responsible for the effective computation in the Century operating system or the online real-time processing system.

We would like to introduce the training story of Japanese 14 persons through the NCR Century computing, along the Japanese old saying educational scenario that firstly young man used to keep and follow the discipline, then secondly he has to break following to the discipline by adding his new idea to the theory and applying the theory, and thirdly he should create his own concept by the final departure from the training of himself.

In April 1969, Mr. William S. Anderson's NCR Japan had welcome 457 just-graduated people who were covered by 60% as field engineers, 30% as marketing specialists, 7% as clerical staffs and 3% as really software specialists. In the orientation day, we, the selected 14 freshmen as only 3% resources, had gotten their jobs in the Sales Support Division of NCR Japan. We do not know the reason why we were selected for the division, because we were new comers who had been five men from the engineering or physics specialty and nine men from the economy or law specialty.

At the freshmen's desk corner, our first jobs were to keep the NCR Century discipline, that is, the reading and understanding of the NCR Century hardware/software volume reference manuals, and were to follow the trial to program and debug our NEAT/3 level-I

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artifacts on the NCR Century 100 system. These disciplines were very hard for us the Japanese beginner to understand, because all the documents were written by English based sentences which had specified the software description language, the hardware functional description flow-charts and the system procedures. However, these jobs had encouraged us to complete our keeping and following the NCR Century technology. It does not need to spend much time to organize our fellows named 'NEAT/14' for sharing our knowledge, happiness and sadness together.

After the education and training in several months, we had started our second stage to break following the NEAT/3 level-I language category by browsing the software overlay structure with noticing the versatile of the NEAT/3 level-II language. One person, who found the calendar handling overlay program, informed the miracle to another guy who imagined a special utility program to patch the object program file in the C-655 disk drive unit. Again one person made a new utility program that illustrated a flowchart of the software overlay algorithm. Then it was very supportable for the other persons who would like to know the capability of the NCR Century operating system. The shared information caused us, many times, to change our gears into the high-top quickly like the big bang in our fellows, similar to the packet message traffic on the internet of today. Our second reading and understanding were done on the NCR Century functional specification documents through the microfiche. We could get to know the new software operating world, like the file extremity handling or the verify-2 procedure that had been very far from the memory resident application program area. At last, some guys of our fellows had developed the TOX operating system under coaching by Mr. Ikuo Akiyama who had designed and developed the C-315 RMCs networked huge online banking system for the Sumitomo Bank, the first computed whole-accounting real-time online service system, in 1967 when it was almost more two years advanced than Mr. Neil Alden Armstrong, the moon walker, had presented on the moon during the Apollo 11 Mission of NASA, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind," in 1969. The TOX operating system had been already sophisticated by supporting some kind of the object-oriented feature like the abstract data type, the information hiding and the inheritance with the efficient passive task handler in 1975 when we, however, did not know the existence of the way of the named "object-oriented software engineering" itself. We are proud of working together during the great progress era of the NCR software technology.

Well, several decades later now, let us introduce the third stage of our current activities.

<http://www.thecorememory.com>

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Four persons are an advisory staff for the IT vendor.

Two persons are a president of the IT vendor.

One person is a president of the call center service.

One person is a senior director of the IT vendor.

One person is a management consultant for the merchandiser.

One person is a voluntary guide for sightseeing visitors.

One person is an instructor of the software engineering.

Three persons have been retired.

The new century's story of NEAT/14 has been started at the meeting with our fellows in November 2006. We could confirm not only the personal style to walk the one's own way to contribute to the society through the business and enjoy one's own future life, but also the NEAT/14's continuous relationship toward the next meeting in several years later.

We are appreciated of your participation to our Standby-me story.

Reference

- (1) Shu_Ha_Ri: one of the Japanese old saying for the educational procedure;

守・破・離

Roman pronounce : Shu

Ha

Ri

English pronounce: [Pú]

[hJ]

[ri]

Means:

Shu = Understanding the principle, and Keeping and following the discipline,

Ha = Breaking through the general understanding, and Adding new value
through applying the knowledge;

Ri = Creating the own principle, and Contributing through the unique way.

Originator of this saying:

Rikyu Sen (1522-1591); an originator of the method of Japanese tea ceremony.