

The following review appeared in the last issue of the Journal, where, owing to an editing error a section of the review was inadvertently omitted. The review is now reprinted in full. The Associate Editor apologises to Dr. Tse and readers for this error.

Dr. Chris Andrews  
Associate Editor for Book Reviews

**HARES, J.S.**(1990): *SSADM for the Advanced Practitioner*, Wiley, Chichester, U.K., xvii 289pp., Stg. 21.00 (hardback).

This is an excellent book written for experienced practitioners of SSADM. It is also useful in general to software engineers who are experienced in other structured methodologies. It assesses the various features of SSADM, compares it with other approaches, and proposes enhancements and alternative uses of the method in areas where it was not originally designed.

The book is divided into five chapters. A review of the evolution of structured methodologies is presented in Chapter 1. The strengths and weaknesses of SSADM are discussed in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 presents readers with a bag of 'pearls of wisdom', or useful advice on how to handle SSADM in various practical situations. In Chapters 4 and 5, extensions of SSADM are suggested in real-time systems, distributed systems, conversational systems, expert systems and object oriented design.

The first four chapters are very useful, and illustrate the author's sound practical experience on which the recommendations are based. The points covered reinforce the feelings shared by many practitioners who are not totally satisfied with the current version of SSADM, and provide insight into the potential enhancements of the method. Although the pearls of wisdom may be a little controversial in places, they nevertheless give food for thought. The book on the whole is interesting and more than readable. It appears to be the only book on the assessment of SSADM, as against an introductory text or a manual.

There are, however, a few drawbacks:

1. There are points in the book which are erroneous or at best debatable, such as the suggestions that Yourdon and Jackson's methods were developed specifically for realtime systems (pp. 15, 17 and 189), that the sequence of processes in SSADM data flow diagrams do not reflect their relationship in time (p. 35), and that an object oriented system is simply 'an expert system without a knowledge inference mechanism' (page 221). The presentation of object orientation as logic normalization (pp. 285-289) can also be misleading.
2. The final and longest chapter, covering expert systems and OOD, is based more on text book material than on practical experience. Furthermore, only HOOD was mentioned as an example of an OOD method, but not the work of many others such as Booch, Seidewitz, Wasserman and Yourdon.
3. No bibliography is provided in the book. Readers who would like to take the advice of the author and venture into expert systems, for example, will not know where to read further.
4. The title of the book may suggest that its main objective is to present the advanced features of SSADM, rather than to provide an assessment of the method. Perhaps a subtitle is suggested in its second edition.
5. The subsection headings (down to the fourth level) look uncomfortably similar in many places. It would be useful if the major section heading could be printed at the top of every right hand page. In this way, the reader can easily distinguish those pages that cover the strong points of SSADM from those that cover the weaknesses. He can find out at a glance whether we are discussing realtime, distributed or conversational systems, so that he does not have to flip-flop between the table of contents and the main text.

In spite of the shortcomings, this book is strongly recommended to

all practitioners who have a fair amount of exposure to SSADM or other structured methods and who would like to increase the breadth or depth of their own experience.

T.H. Tse  
University of Hong Kong

**DALLAS I.N., SPRATT E.B.** (eds.) (1988): *Issues in LAN management (Proceedings of the IFIP TC6 WG6.4A Workshop, West Berlin)*, North Holland, 250pp., \$US63.25.

This book contains the proceedings of an international workshop aimed at providing

*an in-depth forum for developers and researchers in the field of Local Area Network Management.*

The treatment is essentially conceptual and descriptive rather than symbolic and mathematical. The scope of the 15 papers is wide, covering many aspects of the 5 functional areas defined by the ISO classification of management: performance management, configuration management, fault management, accounting management and security management.

Readers seeking an introduction to LAN management will find a considerable amount of tutorial material in the earlier parts of the book and a useful collection of key references. As is typical of a workshop the papers report on work at different stages of development, from early research outlines to fully developed models. Specialists in this area will be interested in the summaries of a number of collaborative projects (ESPRIT, COST II ter, MANDIS and ADMIRAL).

I was particularly interested in the paper by M. Sloman on 'Distributed Systems Management'. Apart from having excellent tutorial content, the discussion of service modelling for distributed processing raises issues relevant to future advanced/intelligent telecommunication networks. As I read this paper I found myself instinctively beginning to formulate generic service models for such networks. Another issue that has significant coverage in the collection of papers is that of network interconnection. For example, a simple algorithm is proposed for bandwidth allocation in interconnected networks, limitations of the OSI model for the internet environment are identified and problems associated with interconnecting heterogeneous networks are discussed.

In the intervening few years since this workshop no doubt some of the material in the book will have lost its lustre as new ideas have evolved, nevertheless it must be considered a significant landmark offering benefits to most readers.

Les Berry  
Centre for Telecommunication Network Research, Bond University

**SIMPSON, A.** (1991): *The WordPerfect 5.1 Cookbook*, Sybex, Supplied by Law Book Australia, 457pp., \$59.95 (softcover).

I approached this book with a deal of anticipation. You see, I have always been a devotee of the scientific wordprocessor T<sup>3</sup>, and I could not understand all the devotion to all the other wordprocessors around. I felt I could do absolutely everything in T<sup>3</sup> and once used to its slightly quirky dialogue style, I saw it as a very powerful wordprocessor for just about everything. Just needed perseverance to get on the same wavelength. Nonetheless I was aware of tremendous loyalty to WordPerfect, and indeed there were those who swore by it - and occasionally at it. So when the opportunity came to acquire WordPerfect I did so perhaps a little reluctantly, but with the rationalisation that at least I would be compatible with some of the rest of the world. For the cynical, my copy did not, in fact, fall of the back of the proverbial truck! And anyway, the purveyors of T<sup>3</sup> were under so much similar pressure that they produced a conversion program to convert documents between the two systems. The upshot - I was dragged slightly kicking and quietly screaming to WordPerfect, but with the feeling I had nothing to lose.

There is an old adage in computing, first centring around programming languages and the choice of which to use for a given application. I am sure that it is equally applicable to applications programs. Loosely translated it goes something like