

Dept of Industrial & Systems Engineering, NUS, Singapore
&
IEEE Engineering Management Society, Singapore Chapter

JOINT SEMINAR

on

Strategic Interaction and Knowledge Sharing in OSS community

Speaker: George Kuk, University of Nottingham, UK

Date: 7 January 2005 (Friday)

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Venue: E1-06-01, Faculty of Engineering, NUS

Abstract: This talk argues that open source software (OSS) developers often strategically select to work with other highly motivated and resourceful individuals. The selectivity inadvertently results in forming a smaller but better organized network to manage a large but potentially chaotic OSS community. Based on 128 discussion threads, we tested the extent to which knowledge sharing capability was affected by three key characteristics of the strategic network including participation inequality (i.e. the participation distribution), conversational interactivity (the structure and organization of threaded messages) and boundary spanning (the number of weak ties). Findings indicate that all three characteristics expanded knowledge sharing capability but with a caveat that extreme concentration of code development on a few could have an opposite effect.

Biography: Dr George Kuk is faculty member at the Nottingham University's Business School. His current research examines knowledge creation in the open source software development communities, and issues related to the design of services portals and technology mediated learning. His major publications have been in the areas of social and organizational psychology, electronic commerce and electronic government. He has published papers in *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Information and Management*, *Journal of Occupational and Organisational Psychology*, *Quarterly Journal of Electronic Commerce*, among others.

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