

Software Technologies Distinguished Lecture Series 2012

Florida Gulf Coast University

Academic 7 – Auditorium 114

March 1, 2012, 6:30-7:30pm

The Evolution of Software Development: 1972 to 2012

Jonathan A. Titus, Independent Consultant and Former Editor-in-Chief

EDN – Electronic Design News, Herriman, Utah

Abstract. When Intel introduced the first 8-bit microprocessor chip in April of 1972 we could not have imagined the impact forty years later. Except for a small number of electronics enthusiasts and hardy engineers, few saw potential in an 18-pin "computer on a chip" with a tiny instruction set. This lecture describes similarities and differences in software development over those 40 years and examines some of the tools programmers and engineers can use today to simplify software development. The presentation concentrates on small processors and microcontrollers rather than on PC- or mainframe-based software.

Speaker's Bio. Dr. Jon Titus works as a freelance technical writer and contributes regularly to publications such as ECN and Design News and weekly blogs. He worked as the chief editor at Test & Measurement World and EDN magazine. Before joining EDN in 1984, Titus has had experience designing with microprocessors and microcontrollers and developed several data-acquisition and instrument-control systems. He has written several books about computers and electronics.

Jon is credited by many people as being the inventor of the first personal computer, the Mark-8, which was featured as a construction project on the cover of Radio-Electronics magazine in July 1974. The computer used an Intel 8008 microprocessor chip. The original Mark-8 now resides at the Smithsonian Institution.