

cooperatively with other companies strengthens our position as a serious contender when introducing our core components to the real world.

6. Worldwide Solutions

As a culmination of the previous 5 points, our ultimate advanced technology goal is to incorporate our existing core components into a killer solution to a pressing, global social or environmental problem. This integration of components into the development of a solution application requires a new kind of team: a solution team. Like a component team, it is a small, talented, efficient focus group dedicated to creating a world-class solution to an existing problem. However, solution teams may interact with several component teams as they drop specific core components into their solution. Interaction between such groups is essential for rapid development using the components and for passing bugs and feedback back to component teams.

5.2 Open Systems for Robotics

Part of our corporate vision includes becoming a key source for open software systems in the robotics and automation industry. This is a very large industry with many players. Even so, there are many opportunities that, given time, focused effort, and smart decisions, will allow us to crack into many facets of this technologically rich industry. The following sections describe our definition of an open system and how we plan on building them.

5.2.1 Definition

What is an open system? An open system is one that can easily be extended and expanded to support new technology related to the system. For example, the Windows Graphics Display Interface (GDI) is an open system that expands the graphical device interface to a myriad of hardware vendors implementing many different types of video cards. In the GDI the API, used by application developers, are separate of the SPI functions, implemented by hardware vendors. Creating this separation allows hardware vendors to easily plug software implementations, for new hardware, into the system without affecting the applications running on the system. What is the link between the API and SPI? The standard SPI protocol programmed to by the implementations of the API. Fixing the SPI protocol allows the API to use it without being concerned of any SPI implementation details. Microsoft has coined a name for this type of open software system -- WOSA, or Windows Open System Architecture.

Now, for the \$100,000.00 question. "How does all of this API, SPI, and WOSA stuff effect us at ROY-G-BIV?" All core technology developed at ROY-G-BIV Corporation should fit into a WOSA model. Doing so gives us tremendous flexibility that allows for market changes and new advances in the rapidly advancing technological markets that we are tapping into. Adopting the WOSA standard architecture also gives the technology we develop a longer life time. Hopefully after each software technology, we build, stabilizes in both design and function, our efforts will focus on broadening the functionality based on the core technology.

5.2.2 Component Teams

WOSA technologies are neat and all, but how can we coordinate our efforts of analysis, design, construction, testing, and maintenance to produce superior products? Component teams are the key to creating a living and breathing WOSA component. Initially, a component team may only be comprised of one developer who wears many hats. Once a component starts gaining momentum by attracting new opportunities, the component team will grow to compensate for the new work.

There are several phases to creating a component, and within each phase there are several required skill sets. The following describes each.

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