GSAW 2004 Tutorial III:

An Evolutionary Process for Integrating COTS-Based Systems

Length: Half day

Overview:
Industry and government organizations are escalating their use of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) products in support of business and mission critical applications. However, project managers who want to exploit the benefits promised by the use of COTS products are finding that traditional requirements-driven processes (fully defining requirements, formulating a detailed architecture, and then searching for COTS products that meet the requirements within the defined architecture) don't work. Different skills, changed roles and responsibilities, and new processes are required. This tutorial will explore the challenges of building systems using COTS products, the implications of using COTS products on system development and maintenance processes, and describe the Evolutionary Process for Integrating COTS-Based Systems (EPIC) --a negotiation-driven process that helps identify and manage the differences between what users want and what COTS products can deliver.

Instructor: Lisa Brownsword, Software Engineering Institute

Biography:
Lisa Brownsword is a senior member of the technical staff at the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) in the Commercial-off-the-shelf-(COTS)-Based Systems (CBS) Initiative. Lisa co-develops CBS awareness courses for executives, managers, and program office staff, authors articles for Crosstalk and IEEE Software to highlight the implications of CBS on development processes, and co-developed a process for developing CBS. As a consultant at Rational Software Corporation, Lisa mentored managers and technical practitioners in the use of architecture-centered development, object technology, and the Rational Environment. Lisa earned a BA in Computer Science from San Diego State University.

Description of Intended Students and Prerequisites:
Participants should be system managers and/or developers with an interest in COTS-Based Systems. Experience with using COTS products and/or spiral development processes is preferred, but not required.