



Ballspenden: Filling Your Domain User Dance Card

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What Kinds of Dances/Domains?

- pick one: foxtrot
 - learn language and problems of one domain deeply
 - become an expert yourself
 - easier to connect with and be found by people in that domain
 - many upsides
 - Bill Lorensen, medical imaging
 - some downsides
 - how to have fun at 4am when ballroom is closed and you're at a rave?
- choose between many opportunistically
 - my model: waltz, tango, polka, slamdancing, ...
 - who to dance with?
 - how and when to choose?
 - how can both dancers be happy?
 - challenges
 - learning each others' language
 - finding right people/problems where needs of both are met

Keeping Both Dancers Happy

- holy grail: full project culminates with fabulous new technique paper and tool they use
 - what if looks like they need engineering not research?
- larger space of possibilities
 - you write a different kind of research paper
 - design study
 - evaluation of existing techniques/tools through field study
 - you're an initial/occasional consultant
 - point them to existing tools/techniques
 - you build them a tool that's purely engineering
 - maybe you do discover research issues once you dig in
 - takes you minimal time, use rest of money for real research
 - big timesink but hope for future goodwill/payoff
 - you decline the dance

Picking Dance Partners

- look broadly, gradually winnow
 - don't commit too soon!
- eye contact with many
 - initial meeting
- exchange words with some
 - further discussions
- continue bantering with a few
 - get feet wet with start on real work
- try a first dance
 - do a project
- multiple dances
 - do another project

When to Choose

- ideal: maintain mix at any given time
 - limited number of active projects
 - some preliminary work
 - may lead to dance if(f) banter phase pans out
 - steady stream of low-cost initial meetings
 - keep an eye on the whole room even when dance card is full for this particular evening
- premature commitment can be the wrong thing
 - avoid full dance card with wrong partners
 - joining grant at last minute with people you've never even met
 - don't assume "can't say no", consider more deeply

Four Process Questions

- ask them early in dance/negotiation!
- what is the role of my (potential) collaborators?
 - real end users or fellow tool builders?
- is there a real need for my new approach/tool?
 - or are existing tools good enough?
- am I addressing a real task?
 - how central is it to how many people for how long?
- does real data exist and can I get it?
 - now vs "real soon now" - what are probabilities?

More Variations on This Theme

- 15 min version (Dagstuhl infovis, 2007)
When To Walk Away: Questions To Ask In Infovis Projects
- hour-long version (VIEW, Leiden 2007)
Research Cycles, Collaboration, and Visualization
- 10 minute version (Dagstuhl scivis, 2009)
Visualization Process and Collaboration

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~tmm/talks.html#dagstuhl09>

- paper: postmortem of how/why collab went wrong
Reflections on QuestVis: A Visualization System for an Environmental Sustainability

<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/tr/2009/TR-2009-24.pdf>