

Introduction to: The Myths of Object-Orientation

Inviting a banquet speaker is a responsibility of the ECOOP Program Chair. The charter of the speaker is to address an audience at the juncture between information overload from a long day of conferencing and hunger from a walk around town. Thus a successful banquet speech is at the same time entertaining, thought provoking and brief. I have known James Noble for more than ten years and he certainly fits the bill for a banquet speaker. James has worked on most things OO, from the ownership types that he helped invent, to design patterns, dynamic languages and, of course, his musings on post-modernism in software construction. He is known for his wit and his ability to come up with ideas that, at first, sound crazy, then appear insane, and are, in final analysis, quite brilliant. I could not hope for a better speaker than James and was elated when he accepted my invitation.

So why am I writing this introduction to last year's ECOOP banquet speech? Well, it turns out that due to circumstances out of this PC chair's control, circumstances that involve an electric bouzouki and folk dancing, very few people got to hear James' speech in its entirety. James surmounted a defective sound system, did his best to pacify inebriated tourists, but had to give up when his microphone was summarily cut off in favor of the above mentioned bouzouki.

The following paper is a reconstruction, almost one year later, of what James had intended to say. I would like to thank James for revisiting a painful memory and writing down his notes on paper.

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Jan Vitek
West Lafayette, IN