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Roundtable on Technical Leadership

"On SHAPE, my online discussion forum, I started a thread with the following questions:

1. What's your favorite clever programmer trick?
2. Why is it clever?
3. What can be done to encourage it?
4. What must be done to keep it from turning into a Stupid Programmer Trick?

The replies I received form a primer for the would-be technical leader and represent five chapters of technical leader Gospel.

"On a second thread, Shapers had a great deal to say about the behavior of experts and gurus, and that contributed three more chapters. But this Gospel, too, would have been misleading without some lessons from another thread, on an expert's courage to act on expert knowledge—or self-knowledge.

"Taken all together, these three threads give dozens of examples of real technical leadership. I consider them an ideal supplement for my earlier book, *Becoming a Technical Leader*." —Gerald M. Weinberg, coeditor

About the Editors



For more than 40 years, Gerald M. Weinberg has worked on transforming software organizations. The author, coauthor, or editor of numerous books addressing all phases of the software life cycle, he hosts the SHAPE forum on his Website, www.geraldmweinberg.com.

Marie Benesh is principal of Benesh & Associates, an IT management consulting firm. She focuses much of her consulting on the development of IT leadership skills. Her clientele include major universities and Fortune 500 corporations.



James Bullock has built systems, from lab automation and high-volume embedded controls to enterprise data warehousing and ERP deployments, for more than 18 years. He treasures the contact he maintains with folks from previous projects—people who not only built something good, but enjoyed doing it.

NEW

Roundtable on Technical Leadership

A SHAPE Forum Dialogue

edited by Gerald M. Weinberg,
Marie Benesh, and James Bullock

Software Experts and Gurus Show How to Be Yourself and a Leader at the Same Time

Joined by coeditors Marie Benesh and James Bullock, consultant's consultant Gerald M. Weinberg highlights forty experts' secrets for building and sustaining a leadership role in software development.

Participants of the SHAPE forum, many of them software consultants and managers at the world's most successful software companies, logged in to help each other identify the "stupid tricks" that developers are tempted to employ in design, code, and documentation—tricks that seem clever in the short term but have damaging long-term effects.

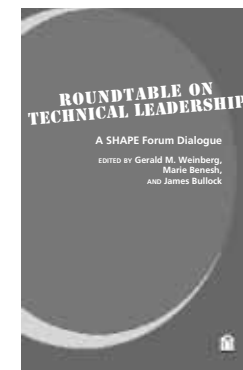
Topics include programming, design, documentation, teaching, learning, educating management, being yourself, and much more.

Presented in an easy-to-read dialogue format, true to the com-

ments' original appearance on the Web, this is the second stand-alone book drawn from Weinberg's SHAPE forum, following *Roundtable on Project Management*.

Contributors include Jim Battersson, James Bullock, Pat Ferdinand, Fritz, Phil Fuhrer, Jesse Gordon, Don Gray, Brian Gulino, Peter Harris, Joseph Howard, Kevin Huigens, Steve Jackson, Jim Jarrett, Bob King, Dave Kleist, Henry Knapp, Brian Knopp, Fredric Laurentine, Pat McGee, Nate McNamara, George Olsen, Mark Passolt, Sue Petersen, Dwayne Phillips, Brian Richter, Sharon Marsh Roberts, Brett Schuchert, Stuart Scott, Dave Smith, Steve Smith, Daniel Starr, Wayne Strider, Pete TerMaat, Phil Trice, Bill Trierweiler, Marianne Tromp, Jerry Weinberg, and Kay Wise.

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<http://www.dorsethouse.com/books/rtl.html>



ISBN: 0-932633-51-X
©2002 176 pages softcover
\$21.95 (incl. \$6.00 for UPS in US)

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