

Interview with Dr. Petia Wohed Lecturer at Stockholm University

Curriculum Vitae

1971 Born in Bulgaria

1987 Moved to Sweden

1993 BSc in Computer and Systems Sciences, Stockholm University

2000 Ph.D. in Computer and Systems Sciences, Stockholm University

Present Teaching at Stockholm University and The Royal Institute of Technology in courses on Information systems development, Database Theory, Logic, and Mathematics. Currently working in the area of analysis patterns for information systems analysis.

Q: First, would you tell us how you came to know Lyee methodology?

Dr. Wohed: Mr. Negoro and Prof. Hamid visited us in Sweden in February and I attended their presentation on Lyee there.

Q: What was your first impression about Lyee?

Dr. Wohed: My first impression was that Lyee is something very different. It is a new idea for software methodology and a different way of working.

Q: Did you find it interesting?

Dr. Wohed: Yes, but I also have to admit that since it is very different it takes time to understand. This is why I came here: to understand it better.

Q: Are you planning to participate in Lyee project?

Dr. Wohed: I hope so, but we can not make a decision before we learn more about Lyee. So the first step is to learn Lyee so we can identify interesting research directions.

Q: Tell us about your opinion after you heard more detailed information about Lyee.

Dr. Wohed:

I am not sure that I have full understanding of Lyee. For instance, a difference from the traditional IS techniques is that Lyee distances itself from the traditional database theory. For ten years, I have done research and teaching in the field of database analysis and database theory and the last three days experience on Lyee are not enough to convince me on dismissing what I have learned during these ten years.

Q: Which part of Lyee approaches do you like?

Dr. Wohed: Firstly, I like the claimed impact it has on the development time, although this remains to be proven. Secondly, I am curious on the Pallet structure (Signification Vector). Of course, my understanding on Lyee improved considerably after this three days course but I still feel the need to study it some more.

Q: Do you agree with the claim that development time can be reduced?

Dr. Wohed: You have already applied this method in real projects and you have shown that the costs are reduced largely,. So I have nothing to question about it. In fact, you are never able to measure the time it would have taken by applying different methods. Once you choose one method, you do not develop a system with an alternative method as well. Even if you do it, it is difficult to take into account and measure factors like the collected experience of the development team when the systems are developed consecutively by the same development team, or the difference in the knowledge between the development teams, when different methods are applied in parallel by different teams. Conclusions of this kind are based on estimations.

Q: What do you think of the mechanism of Scenario Function?

Dr. Wohed: I am impressed by the fact that you can develop different programs by combing a number of patterns. But I am still not sure on how well I understand these patterns, or as you call them Pallets.

Q: What do you think of the mechanism of iteration – W04, W02, and W03?

Dr. Wohed: I do not have problem with iteration. I cannot give any more comment at this point. It is not strange that it iterates. The beautiful thing is how you put the components together. I need to have a better understanding on how a PRD is build before I can comment further.

Q: You said that you have no problem with iteration. What do you think of the characteristic that programmers do not have to consider processing order because of this iteration process?

Dr. Wohed: That is an interesting part and I would like to know why and how it works in further details.

Q: I assume that you have seen the demonstration that execution order is changed but still

get the same result. So you understand it works but you are wondering why and how. Is it correct?

Dr. Wohed: Yes. I saw it, but do not know how it works.

Q: One of Lyee approaches is that it creates a program per data item and can make changes to only the part where change is needed. In other words, we do not have to make adjustment to the entire program due to the partial modification of a program because programs are independent on each other. What do you think of this characteristic?

Dr. Wohed: It is also one of the interesting characteristics, which I liked - the easiness in changing and improving programs.

Q: Do you think that maintenance efficiency improves with Lyee compared to traditional methods?

Dr. Wohed: I cannot answer this before you show it . You have to prove it. What I saw was your demonstration on making changes in a program, but I have not compared with any other methods.

Q: What kinds of programming methods have you used before? What method is standard in Europe?

Dr. Wohed: As for programming, it is OOA but we have been doing analysis where you need to identify requirements, interview users, try to align with business goals, etc. Those are called process modeling, concept modeling, and goal modeling. You usually start with goal modeling. Quite usually, enterprise modeling is used to see how it works, how we meet changes if we need to change, analyze business requirements, etc.

Q: When you compare those methods with Lyee, which is easier to develop a system?

Dr. Wohed: Perhaps it is a little bit simpler with Lyee, but you still have to get input from the users in form of screen definitions And this process of putting what the users have in their mind on paper is not easy, because they usually changes their mind whey they see the end result. In Sweden, we usually interview users to find out what kind of system they want, what data is necessary, etc. In order to make a better system, we have to do interviews and to understand the different needs and expectations on a system. . Lyee seems to reduce the development time and according to the information I received, a system can be developed very quickly by Lyee. One of the most important questions is then to investigate how well the users are satisfied with their new systems. However, we have not had time to discuss this during the last few days.

Q: According to the method you have known, you interview user and identify requirement before starting development. Do you mean that you still cannot understand how Lyee can make a program from user intention?

Dr. Wohed: In both cases, you need user input from the business. With Lyee, you receive it in form of screen definitions, whereas in traditional systems design the input may vary in character. . And now, something I like very much with Lyee is that it seems very easy to change a program when adding new fields in a screen definition or when adding new screens.. In this way you can really have a fast interaction with the users during the development process.

Q: With the methods you mentioned, you identify requirement first and then, start developing. With Lyee, once the overall image is made to certain extent, we start developing and show it to user for their confirmation, etc., which is called spiral-up development method. What do you think of the difference?

Dr. Wohed: In early days of IS development, the traditional methods followed the so called waterfall model, which means that a number of development steps i.e., analysis, design, coding, deployment, and maintenance, were performed consecutively. The main critique for this approach was the difficulty of getting back and changing things in an already performed step, which also in a way limited the user interaction during the development process. Nowadays, however, the development methods are more like what you refer to as spiral-up development. They are rather characterized as iterative, user interactive methods. And this description also fits Lyee.

Q: What do you think of PRD inter terms of its simplicity, efficiency, and maintainability compared with traditional documents?

Dr. Wohed: I cannot comment on efficiency but I think the maintenance will be easy.

Q: Why do you think it is easy?

Dr. Wohed: You produce source code from this diagram. In order to make changes such as adding new items, you have to only change the PRD diagram and then source code is automatically generated. . Since you produce source code from this diagram, you cannot get confused by old versions and you always have access to the latest program specification.

Q: With traditional methods, a system is maintained but documents are not. In other

words, a system and documents are not always linked appropriately. So do you mean that this kind of thing does not happen with Lyee method?

Dr. Wohed: Usually, a problem with legacy systems is that a system often changes but not its documentation -. As a result, you may have problem with getting the relevant documentation. But with Lyee, since you generate the source code from the PRD diagram, and the PRD diagram may itself be considered as documentation, one always has access to the current documentation . There may be other kind of documentation needed though, which is not covered by PRD diagram.

Q: Some people are often confused about the difference between Lyee and Object-Oriented Approach. What do you think of it?

Dr. Wohed: Lyee builds on an algorithm which automats quite a large part of the development process and reduces, according to what I have understand, the analysis phase of a system. In contrast OOA does not advocate reduction of the analysis phase, but it is rather an approach for how the analysis process shall be provided. –For instance a basic concept within the OOA is ‘object’ and the proper identification of the relevant objects and their relationships is the fundament for the approach. This example may itself be contrasted to Lyee, which is based on the concept of ‘noun’ and the nouns proper selection and definition. .

Q: Some people are also confused about Lyee and CASE tool. What do you think is the difference?

Dr. Wohed: Again, CASE tools does not reduce the analysis phase, they rather support the documentation work during this phase.

Q: What did you think of automatic conversion of legacy system into Lyee structure?

Dr. Wohed: It is great that this can be done by LyeeAll. The problem of legacy systems is important and it is nice that Lyee addresses it..

Q: What kinds of systems do you think Lyee is suitable for?

Dr. Wohed: I cannot say which areas Lyee is suitable for, According to the demo Lyee should be suitable for information management system,

According to the traditional approaches data is normalized and databases are built in order to manage large amount of data. But, I heard that Lyee does not need any databases. . I think, this is one of Lyee’s characteristics, but according to this I am at this moment not sure which kind of systems Lyee should be suitable for.

Q: Please tell us if you any opinion/concern/problem about Lyee.

Dr. Wohed: To be able to answer this question, I should need to learn more about Lyee-
In particular, since I am working in the area of database analysis and design, I should
like to study how the logical records in Lyee, replacing the database needs, works.

Unauthorized reproduction of the contents hereof are strictly prohibited.
All copyrights pertaining to this document are the property of Catena Corporation.