



DISTINGUISHED LECTURE



TUESDAY
February 10, 2009
3:30 PM
Lawson II42

Eugene H. Spafford

The Value in Questioning What You Think You Know

Creativity is sometimes inspired by immersing oneself in new situations and new ideas. However, creativity can also result in looking at familiar items and questioning their underlying structure and basic assumptions. As a matter of research, careful re-examination can lead to new ideas.

In this talk I will survey some historical elements that have influenced current system design. Then I will present a few examples of how re-examining those technologies might generate some new research ideas. Suitably inspired members of the audience will be encouraged to go forth and question everything they think they know.

Audience members are encouraged to bring some scrap paper and something with which to write -- the talk will begin with a few problems to "loosen up."

Bio: Gene Spafford has been on the faculty at Purdue University since 1987. He is currently a professor of computer science and executive director of CERIAS. Spaf is widely known for work in information security and privacy, software engineering, and computing policy. Some people consider him a polymathic futurist, and others simply think he's an iconoclastic crank. More details for the curious can be found at his website, <http://spaf.cerias.purdue.edu>.

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