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Systems Engineering for Availability and Performance Seminar Write-Up

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UKCMG two day seminar on “Systems Engineering for Availability and Performance” – October 30th/31st at the Hilton Hotel, Olympia, London. The slides are available in the members area at www.ukcmg.org.uk.

Some while ago Graham Prentice (then UKCMG Chairman) asked if I would give a “masterclass” for UKCMG. I agreed to do so. Over the past few years I’ve started to enjoy giving seminars and helping people to understand things, although a few years ago I’d have run a mile! I find that it’s a nice counterbalance to the consulting work I do, although to be honest much of consulting is in fact mentoring and teaching to help people solve their own problems in their specific environment.

One of the good things about teaching is that it really does help you to understand things better yourself. It’s all very well knowing your subject, but you have to be able to communicate your ideas – and that takes practice. Seminars like this are an excellent way to both help other people and to improve your own skills at the same time.

I found that this two-day seminar worked pretty well – it was nice to be able to draw together a number of different aspects and build up to a complete picture. We managed to get quite a lot of good discussion going as well, which is always much more fun than having an audience sit back and not participate. One of the things I found very useful was to be able to go through something I’ve recently been designing on behalf of HP – it was good to be able to explain it and cross-check my own thinking in response to good questions from the others in the room.

To others out there who have thought of giving talks, or who have sat in tedious seminars thinking “I could do better than that” – give it a go sometime. You’d be surprised how much fun it can be once you’ve got past the initial sense of terror! It also helps no end if you have a competent and supportive group of people organising the event for you.

My thanks to those who came along and to the UKCMG office for the organisation and logistics. I hope to see you again at future events.