

## The State of Software Engineering Professionalism

There is a tension in the Software Engineering (SE) community between those who would like SE to be a legally controlled profession, like any other branch of engineering, and those who favor a more flexible model for the profession. In this talk we will examine what it means to be a profession, and the recent steps that have been taken in various jurisdictions and by various organizations. In particular we will look at the development of the standard Software Engineering Body of Knowledge (SWEBOK), the standard undergraduate curriculum (SE2004), and various licensing and certification models, many of which I have been involved with. I will discuss ongoing developments such as the next iteration of SWEBOK, a move by the IEEE to create a certification for new graduates, and a move to create a standard masters curriculum. I will present some of my opinions about how I think the profession should develop.

Bio: Timothy C. Lethbridge is a professor of software engineering and computer science at the University of Ottawa. His research areas include software modeling, SE tools and SE education. He was on the committee developing the SE2004 curriculum and is on the boards of the IEEE Computer Society's CSDP and CSDA certifications. He is also author of an undergraduate textbook on software engineering published by McGraw Hill. He holds the ISP and CSDP professional designations. His web site is <http://www.site.uottawa.ca/~tcl>.