

CONSUMMATE

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Let's see, who do you think is the "Consummate Specifications Writer"?

Other than yourself, that is!

Well, OK, do you consider yourself the consummate SW? Are you so good that you approach being infallible, unapproachable, irrefutable, 100 percent (in good CSI language), correct-o-mundo, nigh-on to wizardry, and saintly perfection?

With your name as a possible write-in candidate, who, really, do you consider to be the consummate--that person you either always look to, or would use as your first resource in time of dilemma and trouble?

Pulling some names commonly known to most, and out of thin air, we might get;

Meier; Hoyer; Small; Johnson; Rosen; Hall; Kabza; Regener; Plummer;
any CSI President; Kalin; Spiegel; Van Niel; Damuck; Fleck; McGuire;
Dean; McManus; Spurling; Schmidt; Creighton; Goldsmith; Greenwood;
Solomon; Heineman; Whitacre; Bunzick; Jordan; Volz; Kabza; Pegues

Who? Who? Who?

Well, we all know that humans never achieve perfection, but just strive to get as close as we can. We all have shortcomings, biases, pet peeves, some tunnel vision and blatant ingrained ways of doing things. We all can easily convince ourselves that our way is the best, and in most cases we can find some justification for our position. Many of us will grab traditional methods and principles and become unflagging and tenacious in holding to them--to the consternation of changing times and circumstances.

Indeed, we submit that there is NO consummate specifications writer!

There is not that single person who most closely resembles perfection. We all know some who pompously project impressions of this, but really are not the "genuine thing". Overbearing, "know-it-alls" are so apparent; and they diminish themselves by their very words, attitudes and actions. We need to be aware, if we already are not, of those who are so consumed with themselves and their work that they impose their way on others, or reject or criticize the thoughts, opinions or work of others based on their parochial standards. Having all the answers is not necessarily "professional perfection"--there are far too many varied scenarios, particularly in architect, engineering and construction.

Consummate, of course, is a high complement and certainly is not something to be self-imposed. It, like respect, needs to be earned. And in reality those two attributes are interrelated. As one gains--i.e. "earns" respect--the idea of consummate comes closer and is more naturally applied by others.

As in so many fields, to be the best you have to work at it--no, not just to be the best but to have others see you as the best. No one really works just to achieve this goal or status--it just comes as an acknowledgement of the expertise at hand, and recognition of the worth and value of the person and the work produced. It is "reward" for simply trying to do a better job, time after time, and not the hollow effort to be somebody!

Think of those mentioned above--no pretense; no put-ons; no pomposity; no image seeking; just plain hard work, dedication, learning, and always ready to assist and help others.

Truly, we can emulate those colleagues who found high praise in ways well worth our quest for it--in a humble, unassuming but helpful manner!

It should come as a surprise!