

computer science COLLABORATIVE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

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In team software development activities, effective communication is paramount. Without much effort, software engineers need to see each other, ask each other questions and make decisions on things such as integration issues, lest these questions/issues are not discussed adequately. Programmers also benefit from “accidentally” overhearing other conversations to which they can have vital contributions.

In the Laboratory for Collaborative System Development, tables are arranged into pods. One pair of software engineers sits at each of these six tables. The pair can certainly communicate. However, with this layout, pairs can very easily communicate and “overhear” what is going on with the pairs to either side or across from them. They can also interact with the other pairs fairly easily.