

The Heilmeier Catechism

Gio Wiederhold (see also here) introduced me to the "Heilmeier Catechism". As director of ARPA George Heilmeier had a set of questions he expected every proposal for a new research program to answer. He referred to them as the Heilmeier Catechism. It's useful to answer these questions for any individual research project - for yourself and for communicating to others what you hope to accomplish. These questions are:

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What is the problem, why is it hard?

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How is it solved today?

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What is the new technical idea; why can we succeed now?

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What is the impact if successful?

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How will the program be organized?

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How will intermediate results be generated?

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How will you measure progress?

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What will it cost?