



THE OMNI USER

2021 Midwest Road Suite 200

Oak Brook IL 60523

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<http://omniuser.org>

3rd Annual OMNI Spring Day of Education

Thursday, April 22, 2004

registration 7:45, sessions start at 8:45

Instead of one presentation on the third Tuesday evening of the month, April brings **twelve great iSeries education sessions** at IBM's beautiful Oak Brook training facility.

OMNI's **stellar speakers** at the Spring Day of Education include IBMers **George Farr, Kevin Larsen, Dave Butcher, and Mark Anderson**, along with renowned presenters **Bob Cozzi and Larry Bolhuis**.

OMNI's 3rd Spring Day of Education is brimming with **need to know information** on **hot iSeries and related topics** such as **DB2 UDB, RPG Toolkit subprocedures, RPG IV enhancements, Linux, wireless networks** and various **WebSphere technologies**.

This is **information you'll put to use at work** from the following day forward. At only \$95, the OMNI Spring Day is **affordable**, too. Check out the grid below, read through the session abstracts and speaker bios on page 3, and **get to the website to register** so you can **join us for the day** that is **your best value in iSeries education!**

7:45 Registration	Continental Breakfast		
8:45 Session I	iSeries Development Roadmap George Farr	WebSphere for iSeries overview Kevin Larsen	Linux on iSeries Dave Butcher
10:00 Morning Break	Vendor discussion tables		
10:15 Session II	WDSC – The Tool George Farr	WebSphere Portal Express – building an out of the box solution Kevin Larsen	Linux in Business Dave Butcher
11:30 Lunch	Sponsored by Vendor Presentations tba		
1:15 Session III	Using Subprocedures with the RPG Toolkit Bob Cozzi	DB2 UDB for iSeries V5R3 Enhancements Mark Andersen	Setting up a Wireless Network Dave Butcher
2:30 Afternoon break	Vendor discussion tables		
2:45 Session IV	A Review of the Latest RPG IV Enhancements Bob Cozzi	DB2 UDB V5R3 iSeries Navigator Enhancements Mark Andersen	Wi-Fi or VPN topic tba Larry Bolhuis

Please **pre-register online** at <http://www.omniuser.org> by **Wednesday, April 21, 2004!**

Space is limited, so register asap to ensure you get to attend. Pre-registration cost is **\$95**, which may be paid by credit card online or by check if postmarked by 4/16/2004. Pay by check registrations not postmarked by 4/16/2004 and day of registrations are **\$125**, if space is available.

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edited by Jerome Hughes, jromeh@comcast.net	

March meeting notes...

A great big OMNI round of applause and thanks goes out to longtime OMNI board member **Bill Parks** of Alliance Business Systems, whose interesting and informative presentation "Real Life iSeries RF Experiences – Why and How" was featured at our March monthly dinner meeting. Bill's presentation provided thorough coverage of steps taken to overcome the many issues involved in implementing a RF network in a manufacturing and distribution environment. Bill's presentation was well received by a large group of OMNI attendees, who had a great time learning about RF networks. Thanks, Bill!

President's letter

by Paul Nelson, OMNI President

Greetings!

It's almost here! Our "Spring Day of Education" on April 22nd is promising to be one of those "don't miss" events. We've booked several great speakers, including **George Farr**, **Kevin Larsen**, **Dave Boucher** and **Mark Anderson** from IBM, along with iSeries wizards **Bob Cozzi** and **Larry Bolhuis**. They'll be talking about **DB2**, **RPG IV**, **Linux**, **Wi-Fi**, and **Websphere**.

The following week, **Bob Cozzi** brings [RPG World](#) to the Deerfield Hyatt Hotel on April 28-30 for 3 days of highly focused education, featuring iSeries legends **Bob Cozzi**, **Jon Paris**, **Paul Tuohy**, and **Susan Gantner**. RPG World is the place where you can go to get the kind of AS/400 and iSeries developer information you can take home and start using immediately. And, if you attend OMNI's Spring Day of Education, Bob and his colleagues are offering a discount of \$100 off the early bird or regular RPG World registration! When you register for the Spring Day of Education, we'll email you the \$100 promo code for RPG World. If you can't make the Spring Day, OMNI members still get \$50 off RPG World registration with promo code OMNI!

The April meeting of OMNI First Tuesdays was a great success. There's already a mailing list for discussion and plans for a blog to share info between meetings! The second meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of May because of COMMON. No previous Java experience necessary to attend. We'll discuss Java from an iSeries perspective and look at how some iSeries shops have utilized Java to help modernize the image of the iSeries. Pizza will be provided by mrc. Location for this month to be determined based on number of attendees. If you'd like to attend, please email Sal Stangarone at sals@mrc-productivity.com

Remember, OMNI is your user group. We want everyone to have a voice in what we do and where we're going. All you have to do is let us know.

Thanks, and we'll see you at the meetings.

Spring Day of Education Session Abstracts

iSeries Developer Roadmap – George Farr

As you may know, if you have PDM then you also have unlimited licenses of WebSphere Development Studio Client, the Windows-based IDE for RPG/COBOL, Java, Web, WebServices and XML development. One IDE for all your programming needs. Come to this session and understand what this IDE is, and how it can help you. You will also see the new iSeries Application Developers roadmap which IBM recently announced, to help you chart a modernization. This session will cover the standard and the advanced WDS product.

WebSphere for iSeries overview – Kevin Larsen

IBM's WebSphere software platform has grown and this session will give you an overview of the entire product family available on iSeries. We'll position each of the products available on iSeries, and the advantages of deploying WebSphere applications to the iSeries.

Linux on iSeries – Dave Boutcher

This session will cover why and how you would use Linux on your iSeries system. It will talk about how to combine these two great technologies.

WDS: the RPG and COBOL Tools – George Farr

Did you know that there are new tools for developing RPG, COBOL, CL and DDS code? These tools are a follow-on to the PDM, SEU, SDA, RLU and System Debugger tools, and developed by the same team in Toronto that brought you PDM and friends. These are the Remote System Explorer (RSE) tools, and they will definitely improve your productivity and your day. Imagine guaranteed clean compiles, cursor-sensitive F1 access to reference manuals, and the ability to list the fields in an F-spec file. Do not just imagine, but actually come to this session and see what all PDM users already have unlimited licenses for. Existing RSE users can also learn what's new in latest 5.1 release from October, 2003.

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Spring Day of Education Session Abstracts (continued...)

WebSphere Portal Express on iSeries – building an out-of-the box solution – Kevin Larsen

Learn about the capabilities and advantages of portal, and how WebSphere Portal Express on iSeries can help you build a productive portal 'out-of-the-box'. We'll explore the features of WebSphere Portal-Express and its unique integration included on iSeries.

Linux in Business – Dave Boutcher

There is lots of excitement and hype about Linux, but you may not be clear how you would use this in your business. This presentation offers practical experiences and advice for how you can use Linux in a business, and pitfalls to avoid if you are considering it.

Using Subprocedures with the RPG ToolKit – Bob Cozzi

This session illustrates how to use Bob Cozzi's RPGLIB service program. RPGLIB is part of the popular RPG ToolKit for OS/400. The RPG ToolKit includes nearly 100 add-on subprocedures that make RPG IV programmer's jobs easier. Complicated tasks such as dynamically-sized arrays and data structures, date arithmetic, working with system APIs, doing high-level math functions, converting data to comma separated values, as well as CGI programming are greatly simplified when the ToolKit is used. This session provides example code that can be taken back and used in your shop right away.

DB2 Universal Database for iSeries V5R3 Enhancements – Mark Anderson

Come see the latest database enhancements to DB2 UDB for iSeries. Enhancements include the latest SQL features, significant performance improvements, iSeries Navigator additions, and availability/recovery/growth enhancements.

Setting up a Wireless Network – Dave Boutcher

Wireless technology is hot, but there are lots of considerations for setting up wireless in your home or business. This presentation offers information and considerations for implementing a functional and secure wireless network.

A Review of the Latest RPG IV Enhancements – Bob Cozzi

This session brings you up to date on the latest RPG IV has to offer. Each enhancement is detailed and presented in a clear manner so that you can start using it immediately. The review includes OS/400 Version 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 enhancements. Each enhancement is identified with the release on which it is introduced.

iSeries Navigator V5R3 DB2 UDB Enhancements – Mark Anderson

Come see a demonstration of the latest database enhancements to iSeries Navigator.

Spring Day of Education Speaker Biographies

George Farr joined the IBM Toronto Laboratory in May 1985. He assumed many responsibilities including developer, team leader and member of the iSeries strategy team. Currently he is the Technical Manager for all of the RPG compilers as well as being the technical manager for the WebSphere Studio Client that focuses on RPG and COBOL Tooling. He is a frequent award-winning speaker conferences and iSeries user groups worldwide. He has published numerous articles on the subject of AS/400 languages and environments. He authored many books including 'ILE- A First Look', 'RPG IV By example' and most recently he co-authored, with Phil Coulthard the books: 'Java for RPG programmers', and 'Java for COBOL Programmers On OS/390 and OS/400'.

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Spring Day of Education Speaker Biographies

(continued...)

Kevin Larsen is an Advisory Software Engineer at IBM in Rochester, MN. Employed there since 1992, he spent several years as a programmer in the AS/400 software development laboratory, working on the OS/400 operating system and AS/400 applications. For the past 5 years, he has educated IBM eServer iSeries customers on e-business products and technologies, architecture design, and implementation. He holds a B.A. in Mathematics with a minor in Computer Science from Winona State University (1991), an M.S. in Software Engineering from the University of Minnesota (1999), and is a Sun Certified Programmer for the Java 2 Platform.

Bob Cozzi has been programming in RPG since 1978. Since then, he has written countless articles and several books, including [The Modern RPG Language](#)--the most widely used RPG reference manual in the world. In 1981, he began publishing and editing the first of what was to be several System/3X publications, including *Q38 Technical Journal* and *Midrange* magazine. Since 1988, Bob has been making a living as a consultant and an educator, and he has worked very closely with IBM on enhancements to the RPG language.

For many years, Bob has been a very popular speaker at user groups, most notably the COMMON Conferences, where he also served as president from 1999 through 2000. In 2002, Bob left COMMON to start the [RPG World](#) conference with Jon Paris and Susan Gantner. Bob is the author of his own Web site, [RPGIV.com](#), and of the [RPG ToolKit](#), a popular add-on library of subprocedures for RPG IV programmers. Today, Bob edits a twice a month e-newsletter for RPG developers called Midrange Developer.

Bob has many diverse interests outside the high-tech industry. An enthusiastic member of the Planetary Society, he was one of a team that led a geologic expedition in 1995 into the Chicxulub crater in Belize with the goal of explaining the cause of the demise of the dinosaurs. He also has a passion for exploring the hidden ruins of Central America. His interests also turn to politics. In 1998, he ran for the U.S. House of Representative in congress. These days, he can often be found consulting in the Chicagoland area, developing computing products, helping to plan the first manned mission to Mars, supporting the Pioneer Rocketplane Company's IT needs (for which he is part owner) and teaching his first grandchild, Jaden to walk and explore.

Mark Anderson is a Distinguished Engineer and chief architect for DB2 Universal Database for iSeries. In this role, he has primary technical responsibility for the architecture, design, and implementation of DB2 UDB for iSeries. Mark was primarily responsible for the first SQL implementation on iSeries (for which he received a Corporate Award).

Mark is a member of the IBM Data Management Architecture Board which is responsible for setting future database directions across the DB2 Family. Mark is also a member of the IBM SQL Language Council which is responsible for defining new SQL support for IBM and contributing to the ISO and ANSI SQL standards.

Mark is frequently engaged to design database solutions to solve partner and customer requirements and problems. He regularly presents database futures to customers at the Executive Briefing Center and in eBriefings and is the primary database interface to the iSeries Large Users Group (LUG).

Mark is a 1974 graduate of Luther College.

Dave Boucher is a Senior Technical Staff Member in the IBM Linux Technology Center. He has worked on iSeries for most of his 17 years with IBM.



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6th Annual OMNI Golf Outing

by Bill Lorimer, OMNI Vice President

As the days grow longer and the mercury begins its halting but stubborn climb, many of our thoughts turn to planning opportunities to clench a club used for hitting a small dimpled ball into, over and around a variety of natural and man-made obstacles. The goal, of course, is to propel the ball into a hole four and a quarter inches in diameter and hundreds of yards away, over and over again.

Yes, golf season is upon us and it's never too early to begin planning your schedules (read excuses) so you can join us on Tuesday, July 20th.

This years outing will be held at Tamarack Golf Club. Conveniently located on Route 59 in Naperville, Tamarack offers a wonderfully maintained course providing fun and challenge to golfers of all skill levels. 18 holes, lunch, great raffle prizes and a day with your fellow OMNI members. Start planning your foursome(s) now!

Advertise in THE OMNI USER newsletter!

Want to reach a large very focused group of iSeries professionals who may be very interested in your products or services?

For more information on advertising in this newsletter, please contact OMNI Advertising Director Matt Gross at (847) 466-2944 or prgg1@aol.com

COMMON Corner Education from COMMON

An Interview with Al Zollar: *The GM of IBM eServer iSeries answers questions on the iSeries*

Q: Al, how would you characterize 2003, your first year as GM for iSeries?

A. I think 2003 will be remembered as the year we revitalized the iSeries and positioned ourselves for growth. Through the first three quarters, revenues, shipments, and market share were all up and we were once again attracting significant numbers of new clients to the platform.

Q. What are the reasons behind these results?

A. I think there are two key factors. The first is the concept of on demand business, which was introduced by Sam Palmisano in the fall of 2002.

In one sense, on demand is about changing the relationship between technology and business – moving beyond point solutions to complete integration, enabling new, more flexible business models. But that has meant finding new ways to manage and reduce complexity... to eliminate computing “islands” that reduce efficiency and responsiveness and drive up costs.

Of course, this plays to many of the strengths of the iSeries. In essence, the iSeries always has been designed for the on demand era, delivering the tools that let customers take control of their infrastructure. By building on our traditional strengths, and incorporating the best technology from across Systems Group, we’ve brought the benefits of the on demand operating environment into the midrange.

Q. Could you give a couple of examples?

A. One excellent example is our simple-to-use virtualization capability, which enables multiple application environments to run concurrently in the same system, allowing mid-sized companies to reduce complexity and cost.

Another example is our breakthrough On/Off Capacity on Demand technology, which permits companies to temporarily turn on additional processors to meet spikes in demand. We’re seeing uptake of On/Off Capacity worldwide, especially in retail and financial services customers.

Q. You said there were two elements to the revitalization; what’s the second?

A. The other major factor is our strategic decision to transform our product line early in 2003 in order to simplify the buying process for clients and to increase the business value we deliver.

In particular, we wanted to take the focus off interactive capacity and get clients to focus on deploying the new workloads that will help them make the transition to e-business on demand. That’s why we have such a rich selection of software included with the Enterprise Edition, a selection that we continue to extend.

Clients have responded very positively to this new strategy. More than 80 percent of the systems we shipped, including upgrades, were Enterprise Editions. This is our springboard for driving new workloads, especially WebSphere, Linux, and integrating Windows servers.

Q. And those areas were all successful in 2003?

A. Yes, very successful for us. In first quarter 2003, we pre-loaded WebSphere Express on 79 percent of our i810 shipments and we had over 3,000 shipments of WebSphere Application Server at the high end. Today, approximately one-third of all iSeries ship with one or more Integrated xSeries Servers installed. And we’re also seeing strong growth of our Linux revenue, largely for infrastructure applications.

Q. What about attracting new applications to iSeries?

A. As I mentioned at the iSeries Nation Town Meeting at Fall COMMON in Orlando, enabling and jointly marketing with ISVs in the mid-market is another important element of attracting new workloads to iSeries. This has been perhaps the most misunderstood aspect of our strategy over the past couple of years. With our focus on the midrange and SMB, it’s natural that we would focus on a solutions portfolio that fits the SMB market – that’s always been our strength. And now we’re investing more strongly than ever with regionally based enablement and marketing teams worldwide, people who know how to deal with key ISVs in local markets.

Common Corner: An Interview with Al Zollar (continued)

Q. What about looking ahead to 2004?

A. Over the next two years, we're investing half-a-billion dollars for shared eServer development, which will allow iSeries to deliver new hardware, new software, and new on demand capabilities. With common POWER5, virtualization engine and hypervisor, we will again deliver disruptive technology, without disruption to our customers' business.

Q. Why is that so significant?

A. What's significant is that the common development and shared technology across the eServer product lines are permitting us to deliver a new level of customer value.

Our competitors have not been able to move their once-successful proprietary products into the new world defined by Unix and WinTel, and increasingly by Linux and Open Standards. As a result, midsized companies have been forced into disruptive, expensive migrations, HP3000 being the latest. By making the long term investment in common development, we've done what the others could not, securing our clients' investments in AS/400 and OS/400 while providing the new capabilities required for future growth.

So, for iSeries clients, the move to new technology will again be a simple hardware upgrade that protects application investments, and support for AIX extends new flexibility to our on demand operating environment strategy.

Q. Anything else you'd like to add?

A. One last comment. I'm often asked about the future of the iSeries. Quite frankly, the clients I meet understand it very well. We're the solution for companies that prioritize business computing solutions over raw technology. These clients are more focused on the benefits of reduced labor costs, resulting from up-front integration and simplicity, than they are on having every possible server feature. These customers and prospects buy us because of our simplicity, reliability and broad application portfolio... and with the confidence that we have a strong future in IBM's portfolio, they're trusting us with new applications and new workloads.

Reprinted from the first issue of COMMON.CONNECT Magazine.

Join COMMON! Attend our IT Education Conference and Expo...

...in the Spring: San Antonio, May 2-6, 2004. Special focus is on Linux, and there will be the latest information on V5R3. <http://www.common.org/conference.html>

...in the Fall: Toronto, October 17-21, 2004. Special focus is on Enterprise Application Modernization. <http://www.common.org/toronto.html>

GOVERNMENT portal changes servers

An interesting article from the New Zealand Herald - Auckland, New Zealand
...State Services Commission's E-Government Unit is moving the Government's internet portal (www.govt.nz) off a cluster of 26 Compaq servers onto two IBM iSeries...

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/businessstorydisplay.cfm?storyID=3552262>

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Then Anaheim**


Now RPG World comes to
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Looking for a conference where sessions are focused solely on the RPG skills you need for your daily work? Not Java, not WebSphere, not Domino, not Client Access -- just the latest and greatest in RPG education.

Sound good? If so, then RPG World is the place for you.

RPG World was developed with one aim in mind -- to give RPG developers the information they need to develop today's applications and to give them a sense of where the RPG community is heading. The first two events were a huge success, with the attendees giving them outstanding satisfaction ratings. So we're doing it again - this time in Chicagoland.

Join hosts Bob Cozzi, Jon Paris and Susan Gantner for RPG World III. Now is a great time to fine tune your RPG development skills with the best in RPG IV educational events.

Check out **www.RPGWorld.com** for more information and to register online.

Join us **April 28 - 30**
at the Hyatt in Deerfield, Illinois

***Special:* OMNI members** receive a \$50 discount.

Use Promotion code: **OMNI**

OMNI Midrange Event List

April

OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting

There will be no dinner meeting in April due to the Spring Day of Education 4/22

April 15

iSeries Nation Citizens' Chat - iSeries DB2 UDB update with Doug Mack, IBM Olympia and Mike Cain, IBM Rochester

- Performance Improvements with DB2 SQL Query Engine (SQE) Enhancements
- SQL Tuning Tips from the Teraplex Center
- Application Enablement with DB2 Support for .NET Framework
- Data on demand with DB2 Information Integrator
- Pervasive computing with DB2 Everyplace
- Question & Answer session
- Register at <http://www.ibm.com/isource/cgi-bin/goto?on=c6828register>

April 19 6:30 pm

OMNI Board of Directors Meeting

all are welcome, contact a board member to confirm time/place

Midwest Road Building, 2021 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, IL

April 22 8:00 am

3rd Annual OMNI Spring Day of Education

IBM Corporation, Two Lincoln Centre, Oakbrook Terrace, IL

[Online registration available here!](#)

April 28-30

RPG World - Spring 2004 [register online](#)

Deerfield Hyatt

May 2-6

Common Spring 2004 Conference, San Antonio, TX [register online](#)

May 4

First iSeries Nation webcast: Live from COMMON! Something Big from iSeries.

Al Zollar, General Manager, iSeries, IBM Somers

Frank Soltis, Chief Scientist, iSeries, IBM Rochester

Tim Alpers, Product Development Team Leader, iSeries

Have you heard the rumors? IBM iSeries has some big news to announce. Hear it first on a live webcast from COMMON. Don't miss out, and come with your questions. This Chat finishes with an extended Question & Answer session. Register at <http://www.ibm.com/isource/cgi-bin/goto?on=c6828webcast>

May 11 6:30 pm

OMNI First Tuesdays SIG meeting – Java Roundtable discussion

The April meeting of OMNI First Tuesdays was a great success. There's already a mailing list for discussion and plans for a blog to share info between meetings! The second meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of May because of COMMON. No previous Java experience necessary to attend. We'll discuss Java from an iSeries perspective and look at how some iSeries shops have utilized Java to help modernize the image of the iSeries. Pizza will be provided by mrc. Location tbd based on number of attendees. If you'd like to attend, please email Sal Stangarone at sals@mrc-productivity.com

OMNI Midrange Event List (continued...)

May 13

iSeries Nation Citizens' Chat: Enhancements in V5R3, and other iSeries news

Al Zollar, General Manager, iSeries, IBM Somers

Frank Soltis, Chief Scientist, iSeries, IBM Rochester

Tim Alpers, Product Development Team Leader, IBM Rochester

Find out what's new in OS/400 Version 5 Release 3, and other exciting enhancements that are of great interest to iSeries customers everywhere. This Chat finishes with an extended Question & Answer session. Register at <http://www.ibm.com/isource/cgi-bin/goto?on=c6828register>

May 20 5:00 pm

OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting

V5R3 Announcements (tentative)

Embassy Suites, 707 E. Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL

May 24 6:30 pm

OMNI Board of Directors Meeting

all are welcome, contact a board member to confirm time/place

Midwest Road Building, 2021 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, IL

June 17 5:00 pm

OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting

V5R3 CL Enhancements (tentative)

Embassy Suites, 707 E. Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL

June 21 6:30 pm

OMNI Board of Directors Meeting

all are welcome, contact a board member to confirm time/place

Midwest Road Building, 2021 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, IL

OMNI has an available board position!

The position of Seminar Vice-President is currently open. The other board members are covering the duties of this position until it is filled. Please consider helping out by volunteering to assist us with this position. The duties involved are:

- Schedule speakers for regular meetings with the approval of the Board
- Send out confirmation letters to upcoming speakers
- Arrange needed equipment for speakers
- Obtain speaker gifts with the approval of the board
- Introduce speakers at each meeting, thank the speaker and give gift at the end of the regular meeting
- Give briefing of upcoming speakers at each regular meeting
- Distribute, collect, and summarize monthly evaluation forms
- Send out thank you letters to speakers after meetings
- Report to the Board

Other board members are covering the duties of this position. Speakers have been chosen for the May, and June meetings. This leaves the scheduling of speakers limited to the remaining August, September, and October monthly meetings, so this board position is a good one for a first time board member to get their feet wet with the OMNI board while not requiring a large commitment of time. If you have questions about this position, please contact any of the board members listed on the last page of the newsletter.

The OMNI User 2004 Board of Directors

Contact Information

position	name	phone	email address
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