



# THE OMNI USER

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<http://omniuser.org/>

4<sup>th</sup> Annual

## OMNI Winter Day of Education

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

registration 7:45, 1<sup>st</sup> session 8:45

The OMNI User is proud to host its Winter Day of Education at IBM's beautiful Oak Brook facility. Invest Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> in learning about these topics and more...

RPG IV

WebSphere

RPG /Free

DB2 UDB

WDS & Eclipse

IFS & RPG IV

iSeries Navigator

SQL Performance

Programmer Toolsets

Our speakers include some of the best from Rochester and beyond...

Jon Paris

Luis Gonzalez-Suarez

Joe Pluta

Susan Gantner

David Money

Tim Mossing

The session grid, abstracts and speaker bios are inside this newsletter. Check them out and be sure to register online for your absolute best one-day iSeries education value at...

<http://www.omniuser.org/>

It's really that simple. Register and pay by Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> to get the Early Bird discount price of \$95, or pay the full price of \$125. Either way, it's a great deal!

And, the OMNI Winter Day of Education includes break refreshments and lunch sponsored by COMMON, New Generation Software, MKS, SoftLanding Systems and Lakeview Technology.

### Directions to IBM's Oak Brook Terrace training facility

The Winter Day of Education will be held at IBM's training facilities located on the first floor at Two Lincoln Center in Oak Brook Terrace. It's a truly comfortable and enjoyable setting for OMNI Education.

Two Lincoln Center is the "ComEd" building on the North side of Butterfield, between Summit and Meyers, just east of Trans Am Drive and just west of the Butterfield/Cermak (22<sup>nd</sup>) light. View it on [Mapquest](#)

From the west, take I-88's Highland avenue exit, turn north on Highland, east on Butterfield to just past Meyers Road, then left on Trans Am Drive and right into the parking facility.

From the east, exit I-88 at Cermak, turn west on Cermak, go west through IL-83 and Midwest Road intersections, then just after the Butterfield Road intersection, turn right on Trans Am Drive and right into the parking facility.

From the parking facility, walk down the hallway to the lobby. IBM's training facility will be on your right.

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## October meeting notes...

Great big OMNI rounds of applause and thanks go out to Mark Flora of CIBER, Inc., who presented “What’s new in DB2” at our October meeting.

His presentation was well received by a large and enthusiastic OMNI crowd.

Thanks!

## President's letter

by Paul Nelson, OMNI President

Greetings! I'd like to thank Mark Flora of Ciber, Inc. for his excellent presentation entitled “What’s new in DB2” at our October dinner meeting.

Coming up soon, we'll be doing something a little different from the past. We'll be holding the winter version of our popular “Spring Day of Education.” Once again, we'll have several important topics being discussed by some of the most prominent names in the industry. We'll have Tim Mossing talking about iSeries Navigator, Jon Paris and Susan Gantner on RPG, Luis Gonzalez-Suarez on DB2, Joe Pluta on Java and David Money on Websphere. Mark down Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> on your calendars, and remember to register by January 14<sup>th</sup> to take advantage of the early bird discount.

We'll be holding elections for OMNI's board of directors at the Winter Day of Education in January. Please think about volunteering to serve in this important capacity. You'll have fun, network and learn some new skills that can really help your career. If you're interested, please contact me.

In case you're wondering what happened to the Tech Conference, we'll be planning for one this coming fall with the new board to be elected January 25<sup>th</sup>. We're planning to make it bigger and better than it's been in the past. We know that this is a tall order, but we think we can do it. Watch for announcements about this event in future newsletters.

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 “Winter Day of Education,” the monthly dinner meetings, and at the OMNI Conference.



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## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual OMNI Day of Education Session Grid

Tuesday, January 25, 2004

7:45	Registration and Continental Breakfast			
Room	1D	1E	1H	1A
8:45	Susan Gantner Using Pointers, User Spaces and APIs with RPG	Luis Gonzalez-Suarez DB2 UDB: What's New & Cool in V5R3	David Money WebSphere: What is it? What can I do with it?	Joe Pluta Everything You Want to Know About Eclipse & WDS
10:00	Morning Break with refreshments and Vendor discussion tables			
10:15	Jon Paris /Free Your RPG	Susan Gantner XML for RPG Programmers: an Introduction	David Money WebSphere in One Hour	Joe Pluta WebSphere & RPG Together: The Best of Both Worlds
11:30	Lunch sponsored by Vendor Presentations from New Generation Software, MKS, SoftLanding and Lakeview Technology			
1:15	Jon Paris Exploiting RPG's V5 Power Features	Luis Gonzalez-Suarez SQL Performance Basics for DB2 UDB for iSeries	David Money Configuring WebSphere Application Server	Tim Mossing V5R3 iSeries Navigator: An Overview
2:30	Afternoon break with refreshments and Vendor discussion tables			
2:45	Jon Paris Processing IFS files with RPG IV	Susan Gantner Decisions, Decisions: Choosing the Right Programmer Toolset	David Money WebSphere and .NET, which is for you?	Tim Mossing V5R3 iSeries Navigator: How to be a Superhero

UNIX LINUX Microsoft Windows

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## Winter Day of Education Session Abstracts

### Pointers & User Spaces in RPG - Susan Gantner

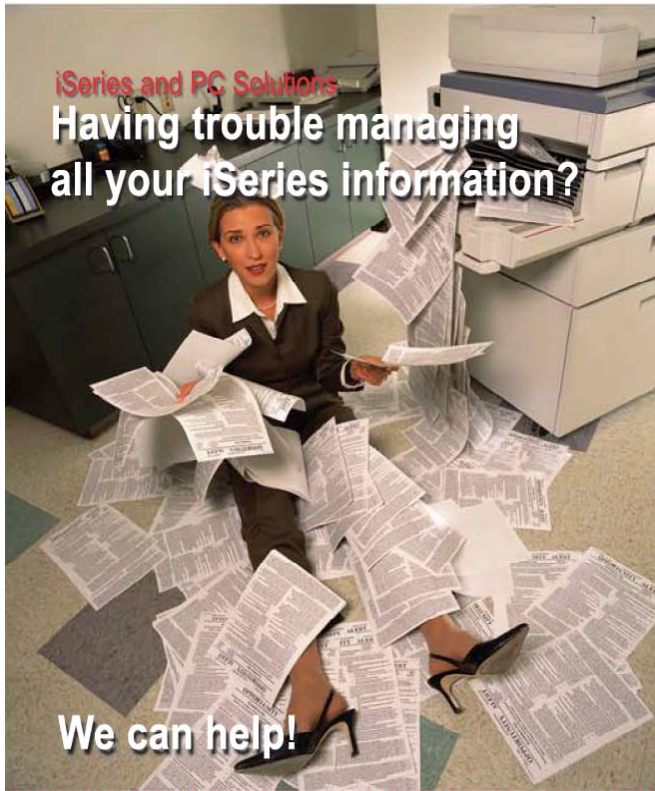
Overcome your fear of using pointers in RPG code. This session teaches you simple and safe approaches to working with pointers that open up a wide range of additional capabilities in your RPG programs. Susan walks you through practical examples to show you how to take advantage of User Spaces and the related APIs. Learn how they are created and accessed, and how using them with pointers makes your life easier. Don't miss your chance to gain the essential skills you need to utilize OS/400's "list type" APIs.

### DB2 UDB: What's New & Cool in V5R3 – Luis Gonzalez-Suarez

This session reviews of all the latest and greatest DB2 UDB for iSeries enhancements. RPG SQL Precompiler enhancements, Column Encryption functions, Sequence objects for automatic key generation, support for Online and Concurrent Reorganize operations, and a new Index Performance Analyzer are just a few of the exciting new DB2 UDB capabilities being discussed. You will learn how these new database features can be used to improve your applications and to reduce your application development time.

### WebSphere: What is it? What can I do with it? – David Money

This session will focus on a discussion of the WebSphere product offerings including the development tools. It will also identify the strengths, weaknesses, and common pitfalls of each. This session will also help you identify the opportunities for the different WebSphere solutions in your business.



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## Session Abstracts continued...

### Everything You Want to Know about Eclipse & WDS – Joe Pluta

Eclipse and WDS are the latest buzzwords in application development these days, but sometimes it's not exactly clear how these topics relate to one another. This session explains all of the details of the Eclipse IDE, including how it went from IBM to Open Source. You'll be introduced to the many features of Eclipse, including a short demonstration of the Eclipse workbench. Next, you'll learn how Eclipse can be extended, and how IBM used this capability to develop the WebSphere Studio line of products. You'll also be introduced to the various products in the WebSphere Studio line, up to and including WebSphere Studio Development Client for iSeries, or WDS. This session will explain which features each product has, and end with a brief demonstration of WDS.

### /Free Your RPG – Jon Paris

With the V5R1 release of RPG IV IBM has "liberated" the language. In this session we will explore the essentials of /free-form coding including:

- The basic syntax rules of /Free RPG (or "How I learned to love the semi-colon")
- The new Built-in-Functions designed to replace unsupported operation codes including the new BIFs to manipulate dates and times
- Coding alternatives for the defunct MOVE
- New operations you can ONLY use in /Free

### XML for RPG Programmers: An Introduction – Susan Gantner

XML, or Extensible Markup Language, provides a powerful way to describe the data passed between applications. XML is quickly becoming a standard data interchange language for business to business applications.

Come to this session to learn what XML is, what the related technologies such as DTDs, Schemas and XSL are, how XML can be processed from your RPG applications and how it will likely affect your applications in the future.

# **Winter Day of Education Session Abstracts** continued...

## **WebSphere in One Hour – David Money**

Have you been working with iSeries and keep asking yourself what is this WebSphere thing? Come get your hands dirty, and try it out. Never written a line of Java in your life, here is your chance. Take the examples provided in this course and implement them in your office. This is how you learned RPG, from examples that you played with and made do what you wanted them to do.

The primary purpose of this session is to allow a traditional AS/400 programmer to start with nothing but the installation CDs and create a functional Java-based WebSphere application.

By the end of this session, you'll be able to:

1. Create a servlet that can access, display, and change iSeries data using a web browser.
2. Take that source code, compile it, deploy it and call it from a web browser.
3. Use WebSphere.

## **WebSphere & RPG Together: The Best of Both Worlds – Joe Pluta**

Whenever they hear the word "WebSphere", most people think of web-enabled applications, and more importantly, most people think "Java". The idea is that unless you resort to CGI programming, you can't use RPG on the web. And while it's true that you need some Java to develop with WebSphere, the amount is almost entirely up to you. In this session, you will learn about the various architectures available for creating web-enabled applications, either by web-enabling existing applications or writing new ones from scratch. The emphasis will be on using your RPG skills in conjunction with just a minimal amount of Java to create powerful applications. Without having to resort to CGI programming or code generators you can write applications that take advantage of the browser's easy interface and RPG's unbeatable ability to create business logic, while at the same time providing you with an introduction to Java programming that you can build on as time allows.

## **Exploiting RPG's V5 Power Features – Jon Paris**

With free-format RPG stealing all the headlines, it was easy to overlook some of the other powerful features introduced in the V5 releases of RPG IV. This session will show you how to make the most of them to power-up your RPG programs.

Major topics to be covered include:

- How to use the new MONITOR function to simplify error handling
- Ending the decimal data error blues by combining MONITOR with new I/O features
- Many Data Structure enhancements, including Qualified and Nested DSs, DS Arrays and new BIFs that help you to structure your data to match the real world
- How to code RPG "methods" for use from Java and how call Java methods from RPG

## **SQL Performance Basics for DB2 UDB for iSeries – Luis Gonzalez-Suarez**

If you are thinking about using or have used SQL on the iSeries, then you need to understand how the iSeries database engine handles SQL requests. This session covers performance concepts that apply to any SQL interface (embedded SQL in applications, JDBC, ODBC, etc.)

## **Configuring WebSphere Application Server – David Money**

Learn several tips and tricks for installing and configuring WebSphere 5.0 on iSeries. This session is focused on the primary tasks for a typical web application. Learn how to configure a web application server, build and configure a web application, assign URLs to web resources, create and assign roles and users, create a database connection pool, and configure session management. Pre-requisites: None

## **V5R3 iSeries Navigator: An Overview – Tim Mossing**

You've heard that iSeries Navigator includes powerful wizards, maps and graphics, monitors, wireless management, graphical WRKACTJOB, user administration across systems, and much, much more. But how does it relate to YOUR job? Come to this session and find out. We'll take an in depth look at this

## Winter Day of Education Session Abstracts continued...

### V5R3 iSeries Navigator: An Overview – Tim Mossing continued...

powerful and productive user interface to help you understand how it can work for you in your daily operations and administration. We'll explore iSeries Navigator, learn power techniques, and take a tour through the best of what iSeries Navigator has to offer, up to and including our most recent V5R3 release.

### Processing IFS files with RPG IV – Jon Paris

RPG IV's ability to prototype C APIs opens the door to processing IFS files directly in your RPG programs. From preparing XML files, to Excel spreadsheets, this ability allows you to go far beyond the capabilities of CPYxxxIMPF and CPYxxxSTMF. In this session we will introduce you to the basics of opening, reading, and writing IFS files. We will also show you how to process directories, check for file accessibility and more.

### Decisions, Decisions: Choosing the Right Programmer Toolset – Susan Gantner

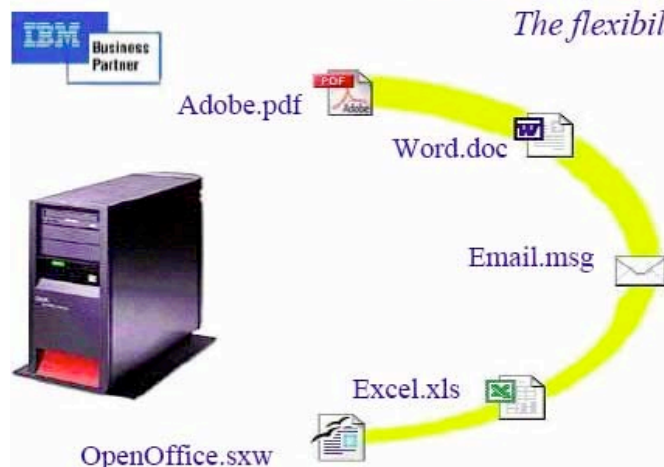
Are you among the many OS/400 developers who are still using the same toolset you used 10+ years ago: SEU, PDM, SDA, RLU, etc? If so, this session is custom-made for you. If you have been wondering about any of the following questions, come to this session for guidance from someone who's been there.

- Should I consider using a Windows-based toolset to replace SEU, SDA, etc.?
- Why should I change? After all, I know SEU and SDA really well after all this time.
- How would such a change affect my productivity - both long and short-term?
- Which toolset should I use: The older CODE toolset or the new Eclipse-based WDSC and RSE?
- What old habits should I be looking to break when I move to one of the new toolsets?

See what you've been missing all these years. You may find out just how much more productive and fun your programming job can be! You have nothing to lose but your application backlog!

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## Winter Day of Education Session Abstracts continued...

### WebSphere and .NET, which is for you? – David Money

Many midrange customers are faced with the encroachment of Microsoft applications into their iSeries world. This presents many companies with difficult decisions for future development: What applications will be developed in .NET, in Java, in RPG or COBOL? Why would you choose WebSphere? Why would you choose .NET? How do the two work together? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each? All of these questions and your specific questions will be answered in this session.

### V5R3 iSeries Navigator: How to be a Superhero – Tim Mossing

Want to be a SUPER HERO? Well, then you need special powers. In the world of iSeries, there is one place you go for the coolest, sleekest, most amazing special powers: iSeries Navigator. Find out how to fill your utility belt with the most powerful features of iSeries Navigator. From "hidden" power techniques to graphing, from interactive artwork to truly intelligent interaction, iSeries Navigator will enable you to swoop in and save the day, making you the super hero of your shop! This session includes updates for the latest V5R3 release.

## Winter Day of Education Speaker Biographies

**Susan Gantner** Beginning her career as a programmer for corporations in Atlanta, Georgia, Susan joined IBM in 1985 as a System/38 specialist. She moved to the IBM Rochester laboratory and later to the IBM Toronto laboratory, providing technical support and education for application developers. Susan co-authored IBM's best selling Redbook for RPG programmers, entitled: **Who Knew You Could Do That with RPG IV - A Sorcerer's Guide to System Access and More**. Susan left IBM in 1999 to devote more time to teaching and consulting. Together with Jon Paris, she now runs Partner400, an iSeries and AS/400 education and consulting company focused on Application Modernization.

**Luis Gonzalez-Suarez** is a Staff Software Engineer that joined IBM Rochester in 1999 after graduating from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez with a degree in Computer Engineering. Working for the iSeries Database area since then, Luis has gained significant experience while developing a set of tools and applications used across the lab to test new functionality and multiple performance scenarios. He is currently part of the DB2 for iSeries Performance Investigation team in charge of assuring the quality of future product releases.

**David Money** is the e-business Practice Leader at Andrews Consulting Group. Prior to joining Andrews, he was a member of the IBM AS/400 division's Partners in Development program and thereafter, Vice President of e-business for an AS/400 consulting firm. He has spent the majority of his career designing and developing e-business solutions and has worked with clients in a variety of industries to transform their businesses to e-business. He is an IBM Certified Solutions Expert and Solutions Designer, frequently published author, and a medal winning COMMON speaker. He has taught and developed several courses on AS/400 Internet enablement, and speaks frequently at industry events and user group meetings. Dave assists clients in assessing their e-business and Web based potential, and forming implementation plans to make the journey to e-business as smooth and profitable as possible. His specialties are enterprise application integration, Internet enablement of AS/400 applications, and IBM WebSphere integration with AS/400 applications.

**Joe Pluta** Joe Pluta is the founder and chief architect of Pluta Brothers Design, Inc. <http://www.plutabrothers.com/> He has been working in the field since the late 1970s and has made a career of extending the IBM midrange, starting back in the days of the IBM System/3. Joe has used WebSphere extensively, especially as the base for PSC/400, the only product that can move your legacy systems to the Web using simple green-screen commands. Joe is also the author of E-Deployment: The Fastest Path to the Web, Eclipse: Step by Step, and WDS: Step by Step. Reach him at [joepluta@plutabrothers.com](mailto:joepluta@plutabrothers.com).



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# Winter Day of Education Speaker Biographies

continued...

**Jon Paris** Jon's 3X career started when he fell in love with the System/38 while working as a consultant. This love affair ultimately led him to join IBM in the Toronto laboratory, working on the S/3X and AS/400 compilers. He played a major role in the definition of the new RPG IV language and in promoting its use with programmers. Jon co-authored IBM's hottest Redbook for RPG programmers, entitled: **Who Knew You Could Do That with RPG IV - A Sorcerer's Guide to System Access and More**. Jon left IBM in 1998 to focus on education for enhancing OS/400 Application Development skills. Together with Susan Gantner he runs Partner400, an iSeries and AS/400 education and consulting company focused on Application Modernization.

**Tim Mossing** is an IBM Staff Software Engineer focusing in Systems Management solutions. He has worked on iSeries Navigator infrastructure as well as iSeries Navigator functions including Users and Groups, Application Administration, and System Values. Tim is currently working on the Virtualization Engine console which is a key component of IBM's new Virtualization Engine Suite for Servers offering. Along with development and design work, Tim interacts with customers on a regular basis promoting iSeries solutions.

## Winter Day of Ed Vendor Lunch Presentations

**New Generation Software** <http://www.ngsi.com/>

The Bottoms Up Approach to Business Intelligence with Information Retrieval and Reporting

As an alternative to a costly, complex, and time-consuming project, NGS will present the bottoms up approach to business intelligence, where focus is on data retrieval and reporting that meets the needs and skills set for all your iSeries, Windows, and Web managers and users. You'll see a short demo of the *NGS-IQ* desktop analysis modules. NGS will share customer success stories, describing the challenges they faced, their selection process, and the benefits they've realized from implementing the *NGS-IQ* solution.

Mary Lynn Treadwell - as Marketing Communications Manager for New Generation Software for nine years – and more recently NGS' Customer Relations Manager, Mary Lynn Treadwell is a frequent speaker at national and regional user group conferences (including COMMON Conferences and prior OMNI events), and presenter and demonstrator at company seminars and training classes.

**MKS** <http://www.mks.com/>

Managing iSeries and Multi-Platform Development More Effectively with MKS's Innovative Process & Workflow Support for IBM WebSphere Development Studio Client – Dawn Blohm

If you are using IBM WebSphere Development Studio Client for iSeries (WDS*c*) as your development IDE, MKS offers a powerful software change management solution and plug-in that increases developer productivity while providing management a greater level of process control.

In this presentation you'll see how MKS's integration with IBM WDS*c* extends beyond version control (Implementer) to include the powerful process and workflow support offered by MKS Integrity Manager. With a new WorkTray, MKS becomes the only vendor to provide a unified interface with process support for WDS*c*. We'll demonstrate how the MKS Worktray eliminates the need to leave WDS*c* for everyday development activities, such as reviewing issues/tasks that have been assigned to you, checking out code related to a specific issue or task, examining supporting documentation for a project, viewing change package details for an issue, and updating the status of a task/issue.

For organizations with multi-platform development projects, managers will benefit from greater visibility and process enforcement capabilities. IBM WDS*c* becomes a single development interface for both Java and RPG developers, and through the integration with MKS Integrity Manager project managers have a single point of control and automated audit trail for all software change.

# Winter Day of Ed Vendor Lunch Presentations

continued...

**SoftLanding Systems** <http://www.softlanding.com/>

SoftLanding specializes in proven change management, application testing, issue tracking, and deployment solutions that streamline the software development process for iSeries-centric applications. Visit [www.softlanding.com](http://www.softlanding.com) to check out the leading change management plug-ins for WDSC and find out how to get a free Spooled File Plug-in.

**Lakeview Technology** <http://www.lakeviewtech.com/>

A Roadmap for Availability & Business Continuity Planning

Not enough availability can be devastating. But too much can be costly and a waste of resources and capital investment. But how do you know what is right for your organization? Chris Bartley, Lakeview Technology Solution Manager, will help you understand how to best assess your organization's availability needs and develop your roadmap to optimum availability. You'll discover how to go about conducting an Availability-focused Business Impact Analysis (BIA), see how to translate the results of your BIA into a simple, measurable Service Level Agreement, and hear some helpful tips about organizing your availability or business continuity planning and implementation team. You'll learn about the newest step-by-step planning methodology called "Disruption, Resumption, and Recovery." You'll also see the latest tools available to help you first determine—and then accomplish—your availability objectives.

Chris Bartley, Solution Manager with Lakeview Technology, has an impressive 12+ years of experience in designing, deploying and supporting managed availability solutions as well as developing and teaching numerous courses on Managed Availability and implementation of high availability solutions into one's enterprise. Chris has been with Lakeview for over 10 years in numerous roles of increasing responsibility and is currently a Solution Manager serving as a technical advisor to both the sales force and customers. Chris is focused on continually developing and refining managed availability concepts to meet the growing needs of today's marketplace.

November 2004 COMMON Corner

## Breaking New Ground

CPU User Group Shares Innovative Ideas Reprinted from October 2004 COMMON.CONNECT

The midrange user group serving Kansas and Missouri is a small group with some big ideas. Its leadership is willing to try some unusual and sometimes daring innovations in order to boost membership and improve benefits. If this group can get the resources it needs, there will be no stopping it!

**User Group:** Computer Professionals Unlimited Association of Kansas City, or CPU User Group.

**Founded:** The group started in the early 1970s and incorporated in 2001.

**Location:** "I'd say our geographic range is primarily a 60-mile radius around Kansas City," says CPU User Group President **Eric Lehti**. "But we have members who come to our one-day events from as far away as the western edge of Kansas and Arkansas."

**Membership:** The number of active members in CPU User Group varies widely. Annual membership renewals begin in July each year and membership rolls expand throughout the year. In March 2002, the group was nearly insolvent, with just enough money available to mail out renewal notices. A vigorous campaign encouraged more than 200 members to enroll or renew by year's end, and provided financial reserves for the future. CPU User Group has a mailing list of more than 700 members and prospects.

**Funding:** The vast majority of money comes from membership dues. "Our one-day events have been slightly profitable," says Lehti. "We used to include extensive advertising in our print newsletter, which brought in money. We are beginning to offer paid ads in our HTML emails, but those companies have to contact us. If we had enough resources to go after them, I'd like to be able to contact the entire list of IBM business partners about advertising and sponsorships."

## November 2004 COMMON Corner *continued...*

Paper-based newsletters have been eliminated, saving CPU User Group thousands of dollars. Now they send a free e-newsletter to anyone who opts in to receive it.

**Meetings:** The group has generally met in the evenings on a monthly basis, sponsoring events that included dinner. “However, in March, we introduced a format where we begin at 4:15p.m. – during the business day – then break for dinner, and then a repeat of the meeting,” says Lehti. “This was very successful.” CPU User Group modeled this format on the Northeastern Wisconsin chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals ([new.aitp.org](http://new.aitp.org)). “We are always looking for ideas that we can model ourselves after,” says Lehti. “For instance, an HR group in Kansas City is very successful with no paid membership – they say that ‘if you receive our emails then we consider you a member.’ That group hosts a popular breakfast meeting that costs \$25 per person, and is regularly attended by more than 400 people.”

In addition to their regular meetings, CPU User Group encourages members to attend local IBM events, or to gather to listen to IBM’s iSeries Nation Chat conference calls.

**Seminars:** Twice in the past year, CPU User Group hosted a one-day seminar on RPG IV. “It takes time to put the events together,” Lehti explains, “but modern communication methods and tools reduce the workload considerably. We hope to continue sponsoring technical seminars each year.”

**Volunteers:** The group has trouble getting members to volunteer, and currently has several board positions open. “I seem to have more energy than most people,” says Lehti, “and I guess I run people ragged.” CPU User Group recently reduced membership fees for board members to only \$1, which seemed to help. “An additional volunteer to serve on our board has just joined.” says Lehti.

**Innovative Ideas:** The board of directors has some unusual ideas, some of which have been introduced recently. For example, in order to ensure full attendance at their RPG IV seminar in June, CPU User Group held a blind auction for the final remaining seats. Notices were emailed to the membership list, encouraging people to bid any price for a seat. (Regular cost for the seminar was \$249.) The result: every seat was filled, and the seminar was a financial success.

Another recent incentive focused on encouraging membership growth. If the goal of 160 members was reached by September 1, one member would be selected by random drawing to attend an all-expense paid trip to a three-day iSeries event hosted by IBM business partner Huber & Associates.

This year, CPU User Group is offering a unique member benefit: education reimbursement. For every dollar a member spends on tuition at a university, college, community college or technology provider, the group will reimburse members either 20¢ or \$1, depending on their membership level. Maximum caps are in place on this benefit, based on available funds – but the more members the group has, the greater the likelihood that full reimbursement can be given.

In the future, CPU would like to partner with user groups in St. Louis, Missouri, and Springfield, Missouri, to produce a printed newspaper. The publication would include meeting information for all groups, and would be a valuable advertising vehicle for vendors – and a revenue-generator for the three groups.

Then there’s Web-based education. “I appreciate the efforts that COMMON has made to aid user groups,” says Lehti, “but I want to encourage IBM and COMMON to help the groups get speakers and provide education online. I think that user groups need to make technical and educational information available to members at their desk at work, because everyone’s free time [for meetings] is limited.” CPU User Group believes that in the future, much of the education that user groups provide to their members will be Web-based.

**Web site:** <http://www.cpukc.org/>

Reprinted from COMMON.CONNECT Magazine.

Join COMMON! Spring 2005 IT Education Conference & Expo, March 13-17 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago  
<http://www.common.org/chicago.html>

# OMNI Midrange Event List

**January 25** 7:30 am

4<sup>th</sup> Annual OMNI Day of Education

**February 1** 6:30 pm

OMNI Board Meeting

Watch for upcoming information!

**February 15** 5:00 pm

OMNI Dinner Meeting

Watch for upcoming information!

**March 13-17**

Spring COMMON at the Hyatt Regency Chicago

**April 6-7**

WMCPA Spring Technical Conference, Delavan, WI

## Join the OMNI board!

With the end of the year comes selection of next year's OMNI board. We really need your help to present the education you depend on receiving at OMNI's various events. Participating in the OMNI board is fun and rewarding, and it lets you develop and exercise skill sets which may prove valuable in your career.

Please consider helping out by volunteering to serve as an OMNI board member in 2005. Talk to any board member about the sort of work we collaborate to accomplish, and to get an idea of what needs to be done, check out the "By-Laws" page on the OMNI web site. We'll be holding elections at the Winter Day of Education, so please let a board member know you'd like to get involved and we'll get your name on the ballot.

## The OMNI User 2004 Board of Directors

### Contact Information

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