



# THE OMNI USER

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## Dog Days Come Early!

The sweltering summer heat is early this year as opposed to this newsletter, which is just a little bit late. It's my fault, nobody else's. I got behind on a number of things and all of a sudden I found myself with the option of either getting 120 cubic feet of mulch moved or getting the newsletter out. Unfortunately for the newsletter, the mulch project was number one on my CFO's list, and I've learned over the years that it's best to keep the CFO happy (otherwise she might start to wonder why it was she married me in the first place <g>).

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*Edited by Joe Pluta - omni-comm@plutabrothers.com*

Anyway, if you remember last month, I noted that it was a good month to kick back. *"So enjoy the summer a bit, take a little pleasant time for yourself, and we'll get back to things serious in August."* And as it turns out, there's plenty serious for this month. In fact, the news is of such a nature it takes a couple of full-length articles that I'll just introduce here on the front page.

First is the little fiasco I ran into trying to get a copy of WDSC 6.0. Those of you who read my column in MCPressOnline may have seen [my recent article](#) in which I gave a rundown of the problem. If you didn't, fear not, I'll recap the salient bits here and give you an update. I learned a lot in the last couple of weeks, and suffice to say that if you are on V5R1 and you want a copy of WDSC 6.0, **you had better read this story.**

The second story is a particularly ugly bit of news based on a recent mass email put out by an "anonymous" source. You may have gotten this email; it purports to be an advertising newsletter from someone called "MidrangeNews.net," but as I'll explain, it's really a pretty nasty marketing stunt that's provoking anger and maybe even legal action.

## Joe Frank: 1943-2005



A little later in the newsletter you'll find a cartoon in honor of the passing of one of my heroes, James Doohan, best known as Scotty, the ever-able engineer of the Starship Enterprise. I loved Scotty's ability to always get the Enterprise to rescue the crew

from whatever harebrained situation Kirk got them into. But Scotty was just a character, and James Doohan was an actor. The iSeries world lost a real-life genius recently, and a man who was always willing to help people get out of their jams.

I don't think I'd come up with something adequate, so instead I'll reprint the words of Jerome Draper as he posted the sad news to Midrange-L last week:

A very great man and long time friend of midrange.com, Joe Frank, passed away last week.

We all owe a debt to Joe for his creative and imaginative work in the IBM midrange arena. He rose through the ranks at IBM from keypunch repair to be an architect of the SSP operating system. As the "father of 5250 emulation" in the late 1970's he brought us remote and local display and printer emulation and file transfer (Emulator Transfer Utility).

Take a moment to browse through the midrange archives (at [www.midrange.com](http://www.midrange.com)) for examples his wit, knowledge, and philosophy.

A breath of fresh air (although alone in an industry that charged for everything extra) Joe wouldn't take a nickel for tech support or upgrades of his products. "Why should you have to pay again for something you already bought", he would say.



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## Tamarack Hosts 2005 Golf Outing

By Bill Parks, Golf Chairman

It's all a blur now, this day of fresh air and fun. Oh and did I mention excitement – well, the lightning added that to the end of the golf day. With the first group just finishing on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, someone up there just didn't like the way we were chopping up the grass down here and let us know it. Some golf newbies ran for cover, but the heartier of our golfers waited out the bad weather, 5 to 10 minutes of it, and finished their round.

The format was changed to a 2 person best ball contest this year, so there were no under-par scores. But still some good golf and for some even great golf. The highlight of the tournament was a hole-in-one by Peggy Stover. How she could concentrate like that with the group she was golfing with is amazing in itself.

When it was all done, we had awarded closest to the pin prizes to (of course) Peggy Stover, Tracey Stone, Sylvester Arnold, Bill Freitag and Matt Cassidy. Longest drive awards went to Ray Frazer and Matt Staddler. Scores for the twosomes ranged from a low of 75 to an astronomical 99 (and there was a lot of luck connected with that score).

A large amount of thanks goes to our hole sponsors: Arbor Solutions, The Brighton Group, Lakeview Technology, RJS Software and T.L. Ashford. Other prize contributors included COMMON, Look Software, New Generation Software, Plan 4 Excellence, ProData Computer Services, SunGuard Futures Systems and Tamarack Golf Club.

I can't speak for the rest of the golfers, but I am ready to do it again – and I want Peggy on my side!!



# **August Dinner Meeting**

## **Tuesday, August 16, 2005**

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

5:00 Registration and User Discussions

6:00 Dinner and Break

6:45 Business Meeting & Presentation

### **Building Web Services for the iSeries**

What makes .NET different? Web services. What COM did for interprocess comms within a WinDoze box, web services does for interprocess communications from one computer to another, no matter what the operating system might be. Microsoft is making a huge and well publicized investment to make web services readily available to WinDoze programmers. What has IBM done for iSeries programmers? This session will provide insight into the brave new world of building and consuming web services on the iSeries. With all the new technologies such as Java, XML and SOAP, you will learn how the iSeries can be a player in the world of web services. Learn what a web service is and why you would want to use one. Learn how to interface with a web service from an RPG program.

### **Dan Kimmel, RJS Software Systems, Inc.**

Dan Kimmel, one of the chief developers for RJS Software Systems Inc. is an accomplished iSeries developer and is fluent in all the key languages for the iSeries such as RPG, CL, C, C++, Java and yes, even Cobol. He holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from North Central College in Naperville, IL and is a former member of OMNI (way back when it met at Binyon's downtown). Dan has been living in Minnesota for the past 9 years working on image and document management and related workflow systems for customers around the county. He has spoken on programming topics for OMNI and for COMMON. He is currently a member of the COMMON board of directors.

## Dinner Menu Options

Starter: Mixed green salad with Ranch and Caesar dressings.

Meat: Chicken Provencal with garlic mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables

Veggie: Pasta Primavera and garlic bread

Dessert: Key Lime pie

## August Dinner Meeting Registration

Please make your reservations by Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at Noon. Call (630) 953-6312, and leave your company name, names of those attending, and the type of meal desired (meat or vegetarian.)

## Cancellation Policy

Full refund will be issued for cancellations made before 9:00 am Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

After 9:00 am Friday, 08/11/2005, cancellation refund depends on meeting attendance. All cancellations must be made as described below.

## Dinner Meeting Cancellation

It is VERY important to cancel your reservation(s) if you cannot attend, by calling (630) 953-6312 and leaving the name(s) of those unable to attend, or by using the web cancellation feature.



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## WDSC 6.0 - The Real Story

This story starts back in July as I was getting ready to gear up for a learning blitz on the various Rational products, including WDSC 6.0. While WDSC is not technically a Rational product, it is built on top of the old WebSphere Studio Site Developer (WSSD), which has been renamed to Rational Website Developer, so it's still part of that whole family. Just to be complete, WDSC Advanced Edition is based on WebSphere Studio Application Developer, which is now renamed Rational Application Developer, so if your destination is WDSC, you have to go through Rational to get there.

The problem popped up when I decided to try and get WDSC 6.0 for myself. In my infinite wisdom (and because one of my contacts was on vacation), I decided to try and get WDSC as if I were just any old customer/ISV. I don't have a BP, since I don't really buy any hardware and thus I'm more hassle than I'm worth. So I tried doing what any red-blooded American would do: I Googled. Seriously, I went to [www.ibm.com](http://www.ibm.com) and looked for WDSC, and got to a page that gave me a phone number. Which was not in service.

*"Steeeeeeee-rike one!"*

Next, I tried 1-800-IBM-SERV, and after painstakingly taking all of my information, they politely told me that I was calling the wrong number.

*"He's in the hole 0-and-2."*

I finally got the IBM Customer Support Organization (although I'm not sure what their official name is) and I did manage to place my order. However, I was called back the next day and told that V5R1 customers were ineligible to get WDSC 6.0 because V5R1 was "out of service".

*"He swings and misses... strike three and he's outta there!"*

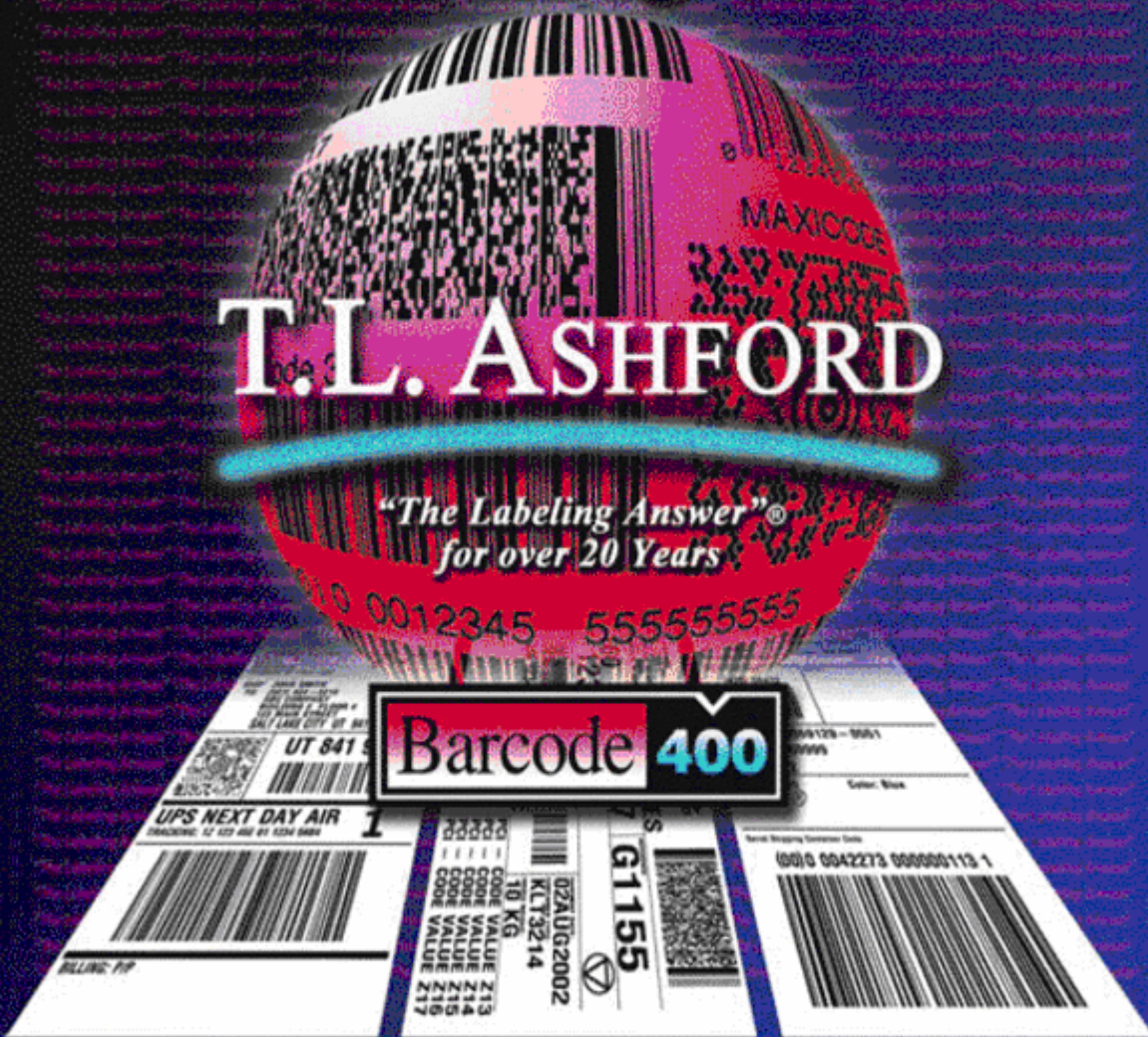
Well, since I knew darned well that V5R1 was still in service (I had just paid up my SWMA so I could get all my upgrades), I was not going to take this lying down. Dropping any pretense of being a "regular customer" I started shooting off emails and as it turns out, the CSO folks were relying on the software configurator, which in turn was broken.

The upshot of it all is that WDSC 6.0 *is* still available to V5R1 customers **but only until September 30<sup>th</sup>, when V5R1 officially goes out of service**. So if you are currently on V5R1 and aren't planning to upgrade right away, you had better get your order in for WDSC 6.0 in the next 45 days, or else that boat will have sailed without you.

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## **September Dinner Meeting Tuesday, September 20, 2005**

Ha! Fooled ya! We don't have a speaker yet for next month! But we're working on it. What would you like to hear about? My personal choice would be to get someone here from an ERP vendor who has implemented a browser-based B2B and B2C order entry process.

I think more and more we're going to have to allow our customers to manage their own ordering; that's part of the whole supply chain management modernization process. And some companies may even want to open up their order process to the greater world of the Internet. Either way, that's a different animal than an internal order entry program, and I wonder what sort of tricks the ERP vendors have up their sleeves?

If you have a different idea for a speaker topic, please feel free to drop me an email and let me know. You know where I am: [omni-comm@plutabrothers.com](mailto:omni-comm@plutabrothers.com).

### **Coming Midrange Events**

August 16 5:00 pm	OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting Building Web Services for the iSeries Dan Kimmel, RJS Software Systems Inc. <a href="#">Online registration available here!</a>	Embassy Suites Hotel 707 E. Butterfield Rd Lombard, IL
August 23 6:30 pm	OMNI Board of Directors Meeting all are welcomed	Hosted by IBM Two Lincoln Center Oakbrook Terrace, IL
September 14 8:30 am	WDSC Workshop Hosted by Genisys Group and IBM Featuring Joe Pluta <a href="#">Online registration available here!</a>	IBM - 10 North Martingale Rd Room:South White Pine - 2nd Floor Schaumburg, IL
September 18 - 22	COMMON Fall Conference 2005 <a href="#">Online registration available here!</a>	Orlando, FL
October 17 - 21	IBM i5/iSeries Technical Conference <a href="#">Online registration available here!</a>	Miami Beach, FL
November 7 - 9	iSeries DevCon <a href="#">Online registration available here!</a>	Rio Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, NV

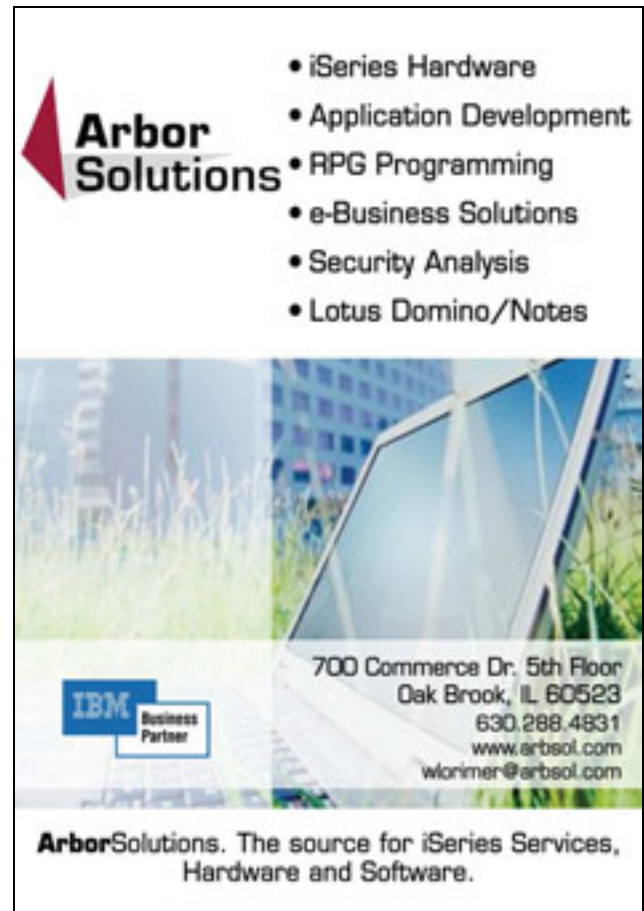


## Ask the Audience

Okay, I'm going to give you all one last chance before I get really nasty. Here's the deal... I want to try and get some information from you all. In order to do this, all you have to do is drop me an email with the following questions answered. Answer as many as you want or as few, enter as often as you like; I'm just trying to get a baseline going here.

Every once in a while I'll create a short survey and post it here. I'll try to focus on different areas of iSeries use, so everybody can get involved.

I'll repeat the surveys every six months or so to see how the world changes. So, buckle in and get ready... here come the questions!



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### OMNI AUDIENCE QUIZ NUMBER ONE

How many iSeries and/or AS/400 boxes in your shop?

What version(s) of OS/400 do you use?

What iSeries (AS/400) languages do you use?

What dialect of RPG do you use *most* in your shop (II, III, IV, free)?

Do you develop browser applications?

If so, what architecture do you use (CGIDEV2, JSP/Servlet)?

Do you use WDSC? If so, for what (RPG/COBOL, Java, JSP)?

Send your answers to me: [omni-comm@plutabrothers.com](mailto:omni-comm@plutabrothers.com).

# IBM Redbooks/Redpapers

A monthly compendium of recent IBM Redbooks and Redpapers of interest to iSeries developers.

## Planning for IBM eServer i5 Data Protection with Auxiliary Write Cache Solutions

Published: August, 11, 2005

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4003.html>

## Patterns: Implementing Self-Service in an SOA Environment

Published: August 8, 2005 ISBN: 0738493767

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246680.html>

## Deploying IBM Workplace Collaboration Services on the IBM eServer iSeries Server

Published: July, 7, 2005

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246640.html>

## WebSphere and .Net Interoperability Using Web Services

Revised: June 10, 2005 ISBN: 0738492302 366 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246395.html>

## Rational Application Developer V6 Portlet Application Development and Portal Tools

Revised: June, 9, 2005

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246681.html>

## Rational Application Developer V6 Programming Guide

Published: June 2, 2005 ISBN: 0738491209 1454 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246449.html>

## IBM Express Runtime V2.1

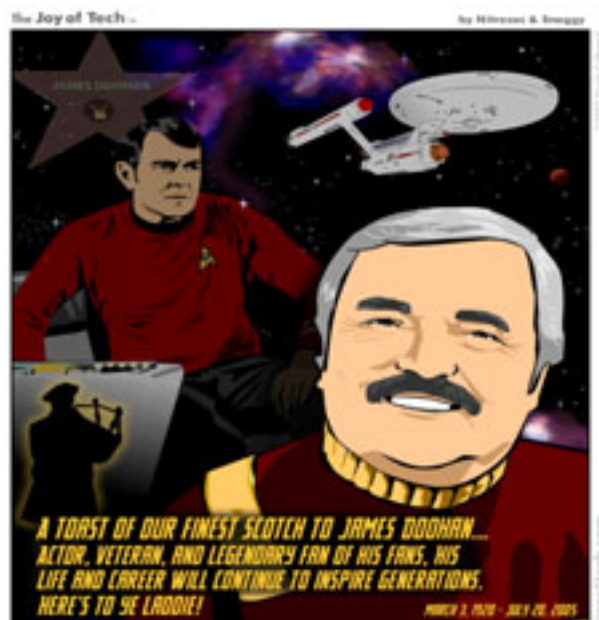
Published: May 20, 2005 ISBN: 073849108X 452 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246674.html>

## PCI Placement Rules for the IBM eServer i5 and iSeries Servers with i5/OS V5R3

Published: May, 17, 2005

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4011.html>



In memoriam

## **August 2005 COMMON Corner**

Reprinted from the August 2005 issue of COMMON.CONNECT

### **Introduction to 802.11 WLAN**

By Keith Mixon

Wireless networks, once considered a fad, are springing up for general public use in hotspots in airports, hotels and retail stores across the country. WLAN technology can be found everywhere from the average home to hospitals and throughout corporate America.

This article is the first in a series that will focus on the IEEE standard 802.11 for WLAN and bridging. It will also briefly touch on the 802.16 WiMAX technology.

802.11 wireless networks are a combination of 2.4Ghz and 5.8Ghz radio equipment and Ethernet (IEEE 802.3) LAN technology, combined to extend the Ethernet network to areas where copper cable and fiber optics cannot be used, such as in warehouse or manufacturing space where you don't want to lay new fiber optic cable.

WLAN technology reduces the total cost of ownership of an Ethernet network infrastructure because it reduces the cost of network equipment and deployment with reduced administration compared to traditional Ethernet networks. WLANs also give an immediate return on investment as they streamline workflow, production, manufacturing process, and tooling time to supporting applications, emerging technologies, and device management.

Although WLANs have mainly been used to access corporate applications and the Internet, the combined use and integration of all types of wireless networks will create true user mobility, or the ability of a user to reach information both general and personal from any location on Earth.

## **WLAN History**

The U.S. Navy discovered spread spectrum radio communications in the early 1950s. This radio frequency (RF) technology is defined by its wide bandwidth and low peak power; it is hard to detect and very secure if implemented correctly. Because of these features, the military uses spread spectrum technology extensively.

In the 1980s, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) implemented regulations to allow for public use of spread spectrum air space (900Mhz, 2.4Ghz and 5.8Ghz). The two most popular types of spread spectrum modulation used in the public sector today are FHSS (Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum) and DSSS (Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum). Most of the FHSS networks operate at 900Mhz and the DSSS networks operate at 2.4 GHz ISM and 5.8Ghz UNII band.

The WLAN networks in use today use the DSSS radio modulation technology combined with 802.3 LAN device technologies to create a device called a Wireless Access Point or WAP. This WAP communicates to an authorized RF client adaptor to create a mobile network connection allowing the end user to access applications, network resources and information without being physically wired to the network.

## WLAN Standards

The **FCC** is responsible for the allocation and enforcement of the radio spectrum in the U.S., and sets rules and regulation for the use of 802.11 radio frequency use. The FCC has ruled that the 900Mhz, 2.4Ghz and 5.8Ghz radio spectrum is free for the implementation of industrial, medical, scientific, and public use devices. These RF signals can be transmitted and received without regard to physical property lines; this airspace is free for everyone's use.

The **IEEE** (*Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers*) is responsible for the development of the standards that define the use of DSSS RF technologies integrated with IEEE 802.3 LAN devices and infrastructures including security mechanisms and processes. User groups, business, individuals, military, government, and academics develop these standards. Manufactures adhere to these standards to ensure that networks and security mechanisms will interoperate with each other's products.

The **Wi-Fi Alliance** (*formerly WECA*) is the global Wi-Fi organization that created the Wi-Fi brand. A nonprofit organization, the Alliance was formed in 1999 to certify interoperability of IEEE 802.11 products and to promote them as the global, wireless LAN standard across all market segments. The Wi-Fi Alliance has instituted a test suite that defines how member products are tested to certify that they are interoperable with other Wi-Fi CERTIFIED products. These tests are conducted at an independent laboratory. Thanks to the Wi-Fi Alliance, you don't have to read the fine print or study technical manuals; just look for the Wi-Fi CERTIFIED logo and color-coded Standard Indicator Icons to match interoperable products.

## WLAN Basics

It has been said that the secret to understanding wireless networks is one part science and two parts art. In our case, the science is the ability to understand LAN design and the use of TCP/IP and Advanced Network Security. The art of wireless networking is in understanding and visualizing RF characteristics to a given environment, applied to a specific application or combination of applications and being able to manipulate the RF to your advantage and to the hackers' disadvantage.

802.11 WLANs are primarily used in these configurations:

- **AdHoc** Peer to Peer (RF and infrared) AdHoc networks are intended to connect computers and personal devices at a very close range.
- **WLAN** (802.11 A/B/G – 2.4Ghz ISM and 5.8Ghz UNII band) WLANs are used in indoor and in **green** space environments between buildings on a campus. WLANs consist of a LAN connected to Wireless Access Points by Ethernet cables to Ethernet LAN hubs or switches, and then the wireless client devices connect to the Wireless Access Points by the use of RF signals. These WLANs are designed around security and user bandwidth requirements.
- **Bridging** (Point to point, point to multipoint networks) Bridges can transmit data/voice and video at speeds up to 430 Mbps full duplex at distances of up to 50 miles line of sight. Bridges are typically used to connect LAN segments that are geographically diverse.
- **Metropolitan** wireless networks and WISPs (Wireless Internet Service Provider) use 802.16 **WiMAX** to cover large areas. WiMAX is a new IEEE standard that will be ratified in the third quarter of 2005. WiMAX addresses issues with implementing large city and countywide wireless networks over the top of WLANs and bridges already in existence.

## Wireless Access Point

Wireless Access Points, commonly known as AP's or WAP's, have been designed to be used at the access layer of the LAN. The WAP connects to the LAN by means of an Ethernet cable connected to either a LAN Ethernet hub or LAN Ethernet switch. The WAP is powered by either an A/C wall power and a power adaptor supplied by the manufacture, or by the use of a PoE (Power over Ethernet) adaptor. The primary function of a WAP is to associate the wireless RF client to the LAN. Wireless Access Points come in two types: Shared Medium and Switched Medium. The shared WAP (Fat AP) is nothing more than an eight-port Ethernet hub with a radio integrated into it. The switched WAP is a combination of a thin AP and an AP switch controller. The AP controller in the switched WLAN looks at all WAPs as if they were one. These systems are very fast, secure and dependable.

Each of these technologies has its place in WLAN network design:

**Shared** WLAN technologies are usually used in smaller network implementations with low user/application bandwidth requirements and simple WLAN security scenarios.

**Switched** WLAN technologies are used in enterprise WLAN implementations. These WLANs scale to user and application bandwidth requirements in an enterprise environment. These switched WLANs are used in areas where you have a diverse user base with diverse applications and security requirements, WLAN clients, and supporting technologies like voice-over WLAN (VoWLAN) and streaming video over WLAN where authentication and Quality of Service (QoS) is essential. WAPs operate on radio channels. In the U.S., WAPs use channels 1 through 11 to communicate to wireless device clients. Channels 12 through 14 are reserved and are not available for use in North America.

## Wireless Client (*Client RF Device*)

Wireless client devices come in a wide variety of forms and with different bandwidth and security requirements. Laptop computers with wireless chipsets or adaptors, desktop computers, security cameras, PDAs, Biometrics, WiFi Phones, hand scanners, RFID readers and scanners, manufacturing and production machinery, servers and mainframe computers, print servers, security systems, etc; are all examples of wireless client devices. The list of client devices that can be associated to an enterprise WLAN environment can be mind-boggling. These clients all have different application, bandwidth and security requirements. The challenge to the WLAN designer is to match the number of access points to the number of clients in a given area, while ensuring that all devices have adequate bandwidth to function correctly. Client devices like WiFi phones and laptops or PDAs with streaming video will require that the LAN and WLAN support QoS (Quality of Service) for these connections. It is also very important to ensure that the WLAN and WiMAX networks are designed to induce wireless client device roaming. Roaming is the ability of the wireless client device to move between WAPs and not loose connection or accessibility to applications. In the case of a WiFi phone, if the WLAN is roaming correctly the wireless client on a shared WLAN will roam at 30 milliseconds (ms), and on a switched WLAN the wireless client will roam at 0 ms roam time between WAPs.

## WLAN Usage

WLANs have been typically been developed in the manufacturing, warehousing and distribution vertical markets. In the past few years, WLANs have become commonplace in government facilities, corporate offices, hotels, convention centers, hospitals and healthcare facilities, universities, transportation facilities, public schools, and in our homes.

WISPs have worked hard to create subscription bases to support their business models, and you now see cell phone providers getting into the game by providing Internet connectivity over their networks.

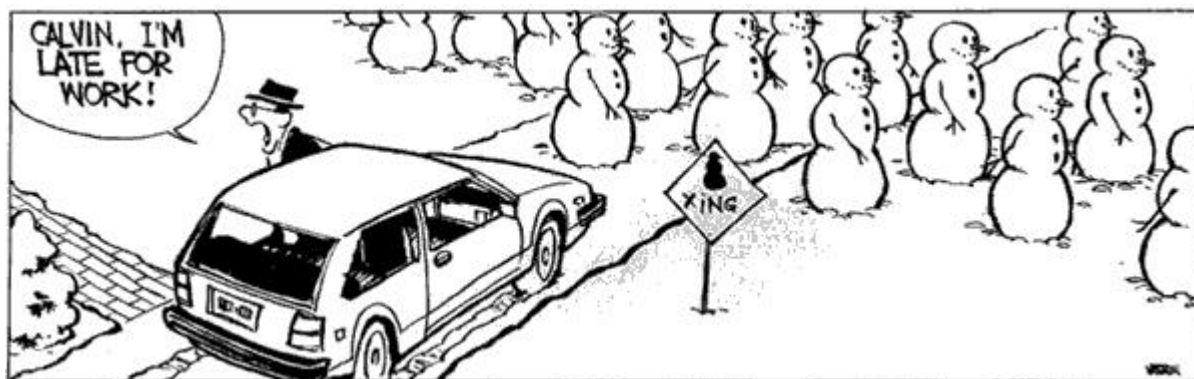
Wireless technology is here to stay. It is reliable, dependable and, if designed and implemented correctly, it is highly secure. Wireless technology is an empowering technology that can increase productivity and reduce the cost of IT networks. The WLANs of today are designed to compliment the security policies and technologies of the LAN environment. Wireless networks will change traditional information technology Ethernet networking for the better. Wireless networks will ensure that connectivity and information are always available to you any time and any place.

### About the Author

Keith Mixon is Chief Executive Officer for Avacorp. He can be reached at [kmixon@avacorp.net](mailto:kmixon@avacorp.net).

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A little counterpoint to the heat wave...

## Notes from the Field

### - The Bad and the Ugly (by Joe Pluta)

Sometimes it's just plain nasty out there. There are people who just don't get it. For example, I remember when Spam King Steve Richter got all hot and bothered because people signed him up for all sorts of junk mail. He felt his privacy had been violated, when in fact it was nothing more than what he did to millions of people every day. Some people's ability to justify immoral activities through situational ethics never ceases to amaze me.

A version of this came about recently in the iSeries community. Many of us have been receiving an email "spam-letter" from something called "MidrangeNews.net". This spam points to a website which in turn purports to be the home of a company called "Midrange News LLC". Well, there is no Midrange News LLC registered anywhere, and the company's "address" in the contact page is a Mail USA mail-drop in Las Vegas.

Anyway, I took a look at the newsletter, and it was a bunch of anti-iSeries, anti-WebSphere, pro-Microsoft garbage. It seemed geared around migrating off the iSeries using California Software products. The e-letter also promoted the Midrange Modernization Tour, and since most of you know my position on that particular organization, I won't go into it here (feel free to email me and ask if you're curious, or if you just need a good heat source).

But what really made me wonder was the ads. The banner ad was for California Software, and that made sense in an anti-iSeries rag, but the other two vendors were iTera and Asymex, both of whom do nothing but iSeries software. What possible reason could they have for advertising in a piece of spam like this? Well, I mentioned it in the Midrange-L mailing list, and I almost immediately got responses from both vendors. As it turns out, *neither one of them authorized the ads*. That's right. Whoever was responsible for the spam simply lifted the ads from the vendors' websites and pasted them into the spam-letter. We figure it was to give credibility to what was otherwise just another fake Rolex email, except geared for iSeries users. The last I heard, both companies were considering legal actions

So I decided to do a little more digging. Through a WHOIS search I was able to find that the registrant for the website was a "David LaMarr". This person seems to not exist, but this is where it gets interesting: David LaMarr's address is listed as 3719 Keri Way in Fallbrook, CA. Just for the fun of it, I Googled that address, and came up with two interesting bits of information. First, the property was purchased in 2002 for \$800,000. Second, the addressee of record contributed \$1000 to John Kerry's presidential bid. The addressee? None other than Bruce Acacio, CEO of California Software!

Anyway, you can draw your own conclusions. One note: even though at least one of the emails came "from" midrangenews.com, email from addresses are as you know easily spoofed and it turns out that there is no relationship between midrangenews.net and midrangenews.com. The latter is a domain owned by Christopher Jones, who in turn owns Stellar Debris, which in turn does some work for my publisher, MCPressOnline. I'm actually pretty happy there is no relationship; I wouldn't have enjoyed blowing *that* particular whistle.

-- Joe