THE OMNI USER

Rainy May

I'm looking out of my window and the rain is just continuing to drizzle down. Since today is April 30th, it's technically not May yet, but all indications are we'll have this same weather tomorrow, and probably for a few more days after that. Great for the garden and the lawn, not so hot for anyone else.

Things are kind of on hold everywhere. IBM announced a down quarter, and this has the usual suspects yarping about the end of the iSeries. That and the fact that IBM can't keep the name straight. Personally, I think the "System i" moniker may be the worst one yet, but I guess the marketing folks have to justify their existence. Rather than trying to actually create any brand name recognition, it's evidently better to come up with an entirely new name.

On the positive side, V5R4 seems to be a rock solid release. Compare this to the never-ending drama that is Vista. For a fun look at Microsoft from the inside, go here:

http://minimsft.blogspot.com/2006/03/vista-2007-fire-leadership-now.html

We have a great speaker, Carole Miner, speaking about a great topic, iSeries Access for the Web (or is it now System i Access for the Web?). I've updated the LUGs and the Redpapers, and put in this month's COMMON Corner. There's another bit on the golf outing, and a call for topics for our June meeting.

One last historical note: compiler support for RPG II is going away. As of the next release of i5/OS, the WebSphere Development Studio (this is the Licensed Program Product that includes all the compilers) will no longer support RPG II. Truly the end of an era, folks.

And my tomato plants are very happy, thank you.

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

President's Letter
- Mike Pavlak, OMNI Board President

Here come the May flowers! And development for the Browsers. OK, so I am not the ethereal poet! But browser development is where it's at! Where else can you find such a ubiquitous medium? Browsers are everywhere, home, office, even the garage where I have my car repaired has browsers in the mechanics work areas! Dumb terminals may be dead, but they have easily been resurrected as today's browser whether it be Firefox, Safari, or even the old standby Internet Exploder!

This months dinner meeting topic is EXTREMELY timely. We have been experimenting with iSeries Access for Web at my shop for some time and have it approved as a project for 2006 so I will not miss this meeting. Carol Miner will be around to talk about everything that IAW has to offer. And it is a lot! Not only can you move your users away from the fat client iSeries Navigator, but additional migration solutions like Query and File transfer make the transition worth the effort. You Sarbanes-Oxley shops should really check this out as you discover how easily you can control access to resources with IAW.

A big OMNI Thank you goes out to Sue Grabinski as she did a wonderful job sharing the opportunities of collaboration through IBM Websphere Portal. Anyone interested in getting a copy of the presentation can check out our website for the download. The temporary venue was a nice departure but we are looking forward to getting back to the Embassy Suites for this months meeting.

We have a lot planned for 2006 as we move on. Bill Parks and Cathy Kramer are hard at work cooking up the annual Omni Golf Outing scheduled for July 18th at the beautiful Tamarack Golf Club in Naperville. Please mark your calendars as we get closer to the summer months. And we are about to ramp up a fall day of education at the magnificent IBM facility in Oakbrook Terrace in early October. Stay tuned for more details!

I will have to miss this month meeting as my daughter will be helping out the woodwind section in the elementary school band! But, I will be sending a couple of folks from my staff to check it out. See you next month!

Are You Game for Golf?

So, I just bought one of those new hybrid clubs. A 17degree Callaway Fusion. I'm looking forward to beating you all with that on Tuesday, July 18, at the OMNI golf outing. No, I won't be the best golfer on the course. That doesn't matter… just as long as I'm the best on that day. So…

Grab your clubs, balls and Tees - Omni will be holding its annual golf outing again this year. Tuesday, July 18th we will meet once again at Tamarack Golf Club in Naperville, and begins at 8:30am. Bring a foursome, or register individually. You'll love this day of camaraderie. And you'll have the chance to win a multitude of prizes. Contests include low gross and net, longest drive, several closest to the longest putt and maybe even a best dressed contest!

So warm up your swing, dust off your shoes, and get ready for a great time. Register at omniuser.org. The cost is only $85.00 – same as last year. Last day to register is July 11 – the date we have to commit to a number to the course. If you have questions, call Bill Parks at 708-267-1516 or via email at wparks@att.net

Golf Sponsors Wanted: Get your name out in front of our golfing members and their guests. All prize donations will be acknowledged. Donation value should have a minimum value of $15. Hole sponsors for long drive or closest to the pin are also needed and will include signs on the holes. For details call Cathy Kramer at 630-626-7074 or via email at cathykramer@ameritech.net.

Course Workers Wanted: OK, maybe you don't golf but you would like to share our golf day with us. If not you, maybe you have other workers in your office who would like to help us make our golf outing a success. We need registrars, picture takers, hole watchers, etc. If you care to lend a hand contact Bill or Cathy at the numbers above.

http://www.rjssoftware.com

May Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, May 16th, 2006

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

V5R4 Client Integration
Get to the Web Fast with iSeries Access for Web!

If you are looking for a extremely simply and highly functional way for to work with iSeries resources, then iSeries Access for Web is the best option! Users simply start up their favorite browser and work with iSeries resources through easy-to-use GUIs. This session will describe how users can run host applications, work with the database, printers, the file system. Network administration becomes a breeze as there is nothing that needs to be installed or configured on end user desktops. By the end of this session, you will see how users can:

1. Run host applications (5250 emulation), upload and download database information, and use the iSeries as a file and print server
2. Convert their spooled printer output to PDF and either print it or email it
3. Work with printers, jobs, run commands, send messages -- all through easy-to-use GUIs designed around the browser interface
4. How an administrator can set up different views ('window') of the iSeries for different groups of users.

You will also learn about the new features added to V5R4 of iSeries Access for Web.

Carole Miner

Carole Miner is a Senior Software Engineer for iSeries Client Integration, IBM Rochester Laboratory. Carole has a strong grounding in programming, planning and leadership including the original PC Support, FSIOP (now called Integrated xSeries Server). Carole's current focus is client integration technologies and support for iSeries Access products. She is an internationally known technical speaker, author and iSeries authority.

Dinner Menu Options

- Soup du jour
- Havana Pork or Steamed Vegetable Plate
- incl. fresh seasonal vegetables, roasted red skin potatoes
- Rolls & butter, Coffee (or decaf) or Iced Tea
- 2-Layer Chocolate Cake

May Dinner Meeting Registration

Please make your reservations by Thursday, May 11th, 2006 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 May 12th. After 9:00 am Friday, 05/12/2006, 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.
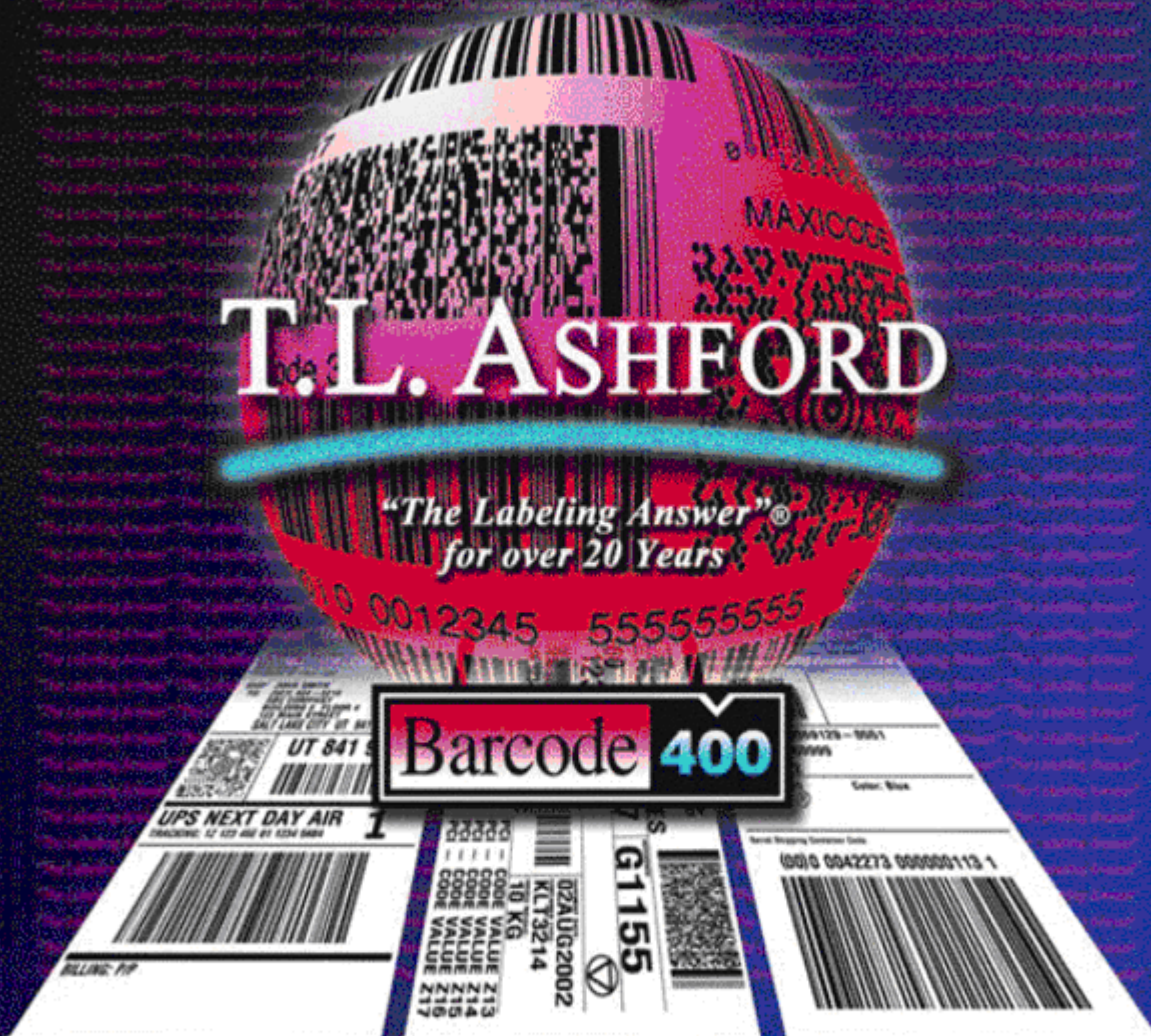
USER FRIENDLY by J.D. "Illiad" Frazer

http://www.tlashford.com/

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June Meeting

As always, we're looking for suggestions from you in the community as to who you'd like to hear from, or what you'd like to hear about, at our monthly dinner meeting. Remember, June is the last one for a couple of months since our Golf outing typically takes precedence (we **do** have our priorities here at OMNI!).

If there's a specific topic or speaker that you'd particularly like to hear, please feel free to drop me (Joe Pluta) a note: Omni-comm@plutabrothers.com.

LUGs O'Plenty

This new section is devoted to upcoming LUG seminars, conferences and what have you. This includes things like golf outings and sponsored events. To get your LUG event on this list, contact me (Joe Pluta): Omni-comm@plutabrothers.com.

May 10	STATUS Day with Joe Pluta A seminar on WDSC	http://www.statususer.org/
June 9	Michigan iSeries Technical Education Conference	http://www.gomitec.com/

Upcoming Midrange Events

May 8 - 12	IBM iSeries (spring) Technical Conference Online Registration	Fontainebleau Hilton Lake Buena Vista, FL
May 15 - 17	RPG World Spring 2006 Conference "The RPG Programmers Education Event" Online Registration	Orleans Hotel Las Vegas, NV
June 18 - 21	2006 iSeries & AS/400 Connection Conference "V5R4 is Here" Online Registration	Naples Grand Resort Naples, FL

Common Corner
Reprinted from the April 2006 issue of COMMON.CONNECT

Business Recovery Begins at Home
By Richard Dolewski

I recently spent some time away with my family. I was having a conversation with a fellow tourist, comparing our jobs and all the troubles we left behind. My son overheard the conversation, and heard me say I was a disaster recovery planner. "Dad," he said, "we don't have disasters back home so your job must be boring!"

I started to explain that disaster recovery planning is all about being prepared for the unexpected and practicing so you always remain prepared. "What would happen if the lights went out at home?," I asked. My son replied "I'd get a flashlight." "OK," I said, "what if the power is out for hours and your parents are unreachable, and worse, the batteries are almost out." He looked at me and said, "I guess we have a disaster."

Should a family have a disaster recovery plan? Of course. Obviously, the plan wouldn't support a technological response but rather securing the human response. Historically, disaster recovery plans focused on technology (hot site) and data (back-up and off-site storage) with no attention to the people component. The assumption has always been made that any required staff would be available. In the business world, the biggest mistake a company can make is to focus on computer systems and ignore people. There is no business recovery without employees. Employees faced with conflicting obligations between the home and the workplace are less likely to cooperate during an emergency. Promoting family preparedness as part of the DRP is essential.

Creating Your Family DR Plan
A disaster can happen quickly and without warning. Your family could be scattered and separated, located at schools, work, home or gridlocked in traffic. How will you find each other? How will you determine if they are safe? Do you know what to do if services such as gas, water, electricity or telephones are unavailable? Emergency relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they simply cannot reach everyone right away. As a family, you can survive a disaster by preparing in advance. Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster. Explain the dangers of disasters such as fire, severe weather, or an extended power outage. Explain the need to share responsibilities and safety as it involves a disaster. Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen and explain what to do in each case.

Be sure to pick two places to meet:

1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire.
2. A central location outside your neighborhood in case you can't return to your home.

Create a Checklist
Arrange for an out-of-state family member or friend to be your emergency contact. All family members should know to call this person during a major emergency and tell them where they are. Teach children how and when to call 911 for emergency help. Show each family member how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity in your home. Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher and show them where it's kept.

Because I married into an Italian family, I can safely say that my household always has a 30-day food supply on hand or, in other words, a mini-Costco in our basement. You should do the same. There are six basics you should stock in your home:

Water - Store two quarts of bottled water per day per person.
Food - Store a supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, or preparation.
First Aid Supplies - Contact your local American Red Cross for a basic first aid manual.
Clothing - One complete change of clothing, rain gear, seasonal gear and shoes
Bedding - Blankets or sleeping bags, mini pop-up tents
Family Documents - Store in a bank safe deposit box versus in your home.

Keep enough of these supplies somewhere in your home to meet your needs for at least five days. Store them in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffle bags or covered plastic moving containers.

Both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at www.fema.gov, and the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org have developed recommended family disaster plans. As with an IT disaster recovery plan (DRP), all facets of the family DRP must be tested. Be sure to periodically quiz your children so they remember what to do and where things are located. If you have young children, conduct a fire and home evacuation drill. Planning for disaster recovery is the responsibility of every corporation and family. The wise planner will build plans that place priority on people. Taking care of the needs of employees makes good sense and you will never be bored!

About the Author
Richard Dolewski is a certified systems integration specialist and disaster recovery planner. As vice president for technical and contingency services provided by Mid-Range, he has extensive experience in disaster recovery planning, backup & recovery program design, and high availability. Richard has implemented a variety of business continuity solutions for customers in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. He has supported 14 computer room disasters, and conducted over 150 disaster recovery tests. Contact Richard at rdolewski@midrange.ca

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IBM Redbooks/Redpapers

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

Journaling - User ASPs Versus the System ASP
Published: April, 12, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0602.html

WebSphere RFID Handbook: A Solution Guide
Revised: April 11, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247147.html

IBM eServer i5, iSeries, and AS/400e System Builder IBM i5/OS Version 5 Release 3 - October 2005
Published: March 29, 2006   ISBN: 0738496111   664 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg242155.html

PCI and PCI-X Placement Rules for IBM System i5, eServer i5, and iSeries servers with i5/OS V5R4 and V5R3
Published: March 29, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4011.html

i5/OS V5R4 Vitual Tape A Guide to Planning and Implementation
Revised: March, 27, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247164.html

WebSphere Portal Best Practices
Revised: March, 27, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4100.html

Express Runtime V2.1.1
Revised: March, 22, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247193.html

Linux on IBM eServer i5 Implementation Guide
Revised: March 3, 2006   ISBN: 073849187X   408 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246388.html

IBM System i5, eServer i5, and iSeries Systems Builder, i5/OS Version 5 Release 4
Published: February, 14, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg242155.html

IBM System i5 Handbook IBM i5/OS Version 5 Release 4 January 2006
Revised: February, 4, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247486.html

IBM Workplace Web Content Management for Portal 5.1 and IBM Workplace Web Content Management 2.5
Revised: January 30, 2006   ISBN: 0738494259   660 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246792.html

IBM eServer i5, iSeries and AS/400e System Builder i5/OS V5R3: (October 2005—Draft)
Revised: January 24, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg242155.html

Patterns: SOA Client - Access Integration Solutions
Revised: January 12, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246775.html

IBM eServer i5 and iSeries System Handbook i5/OS Version 5 Release 3 (October 2005 -- Draft)
Revised: January, 6, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/ga195486.html