THE OMNI USER

I HATE RABBITS

Not that anyone cares, but I have a little garden that I am growing with my son, and the rabbits are decimating it. Two weeks ago I had 30 bean plants; now I have 16 (not the dictionary definition of decimation, I know, but it's still annoying). So if anyone has a good way to handle rabbits, feel free to let me know!

Okay, on to the fun stuff. It seems that Microsoft is moving ever more towards an ASP model. There was a recent article in Fortune Magazine that detailed a 1.4 **million** square foot facility Microsoft is building out near the beautiful Cascade Mountains (can you say hydroelectric power and fiber optic Internet onramp?). This facility will be used to house a gigantic server farm to support a wide range of online services. Some of them will be consumer products like "net drives" (look for Google to announce a similar GDrive service). But you can bet a lot of them are going to be positioned directly against the Salesforce.com servers and anybody else getting into the Software as a Service ("SaaS") game.

What else? Well, the golf outing is creeping up on us. It will be here before you know it, and we've got some new information to keep you in the loop. Also, one of the best and brightest IBM folks in the WDSC realm will be here to speak at our next dinner meeting: Violaine Batthish, the queen of the WDSC mailing list, will be here to speak about SEU/PDM to WDSC transition.

Finally, look for some really exciting things on our website. The details are still a little too sketchy for me to give out, but rest assured that over the next 60 days your OMNI web site is going to turn into one of the technological hot spots in the iSeries (er, System i… oh, whatever you call it) community.

It's going to be a fun summer!

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

President's Letter

- Mike Pavlak, OMNI Board President

Memorial Day is behind us and now we are headed square into the vacation season. Even with gas prices reaching unprecedented new heights, more folks took to the roads on Memorial Day than ever before. Most of those folks were in desperate need of directions. One of my staffers in a drive to Florida got lost even though he had a map and three backseat drivers!

Ever gotten lost on the developer road map? I sure have. IBM solutions, Vendor solutions, SOA, S.O.S! For years, all roads led to Java. Today, the road map is more diverse than the "Taste of Chicago". And, rumor has it, it is about to be revised again! Glad we have this months speaker to help us wade through the confusion. Violaine Batthish has been supporting the development and promotion of WDSC for some time and will be here to separate fact from fiction. Her countless hours of support and encouragement on Midrange-L for WDSC are well known!

Let's give it up for Carol Miner and her wonderful presentation on iSeries Access for Web! Anyone interested in getting a copy of the presentation can check out our website for the download. It hear it felt great back at the Embassy Suites and that Jim Vance and Joe Thompson jumped in to run the meeting. Great going guys!

If you haven't signed up yet, the OMNI web site is taking reservations for the annual golf outing. 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 reserve out your time now as the summer months will be but a memory in very short order.

FLASH!
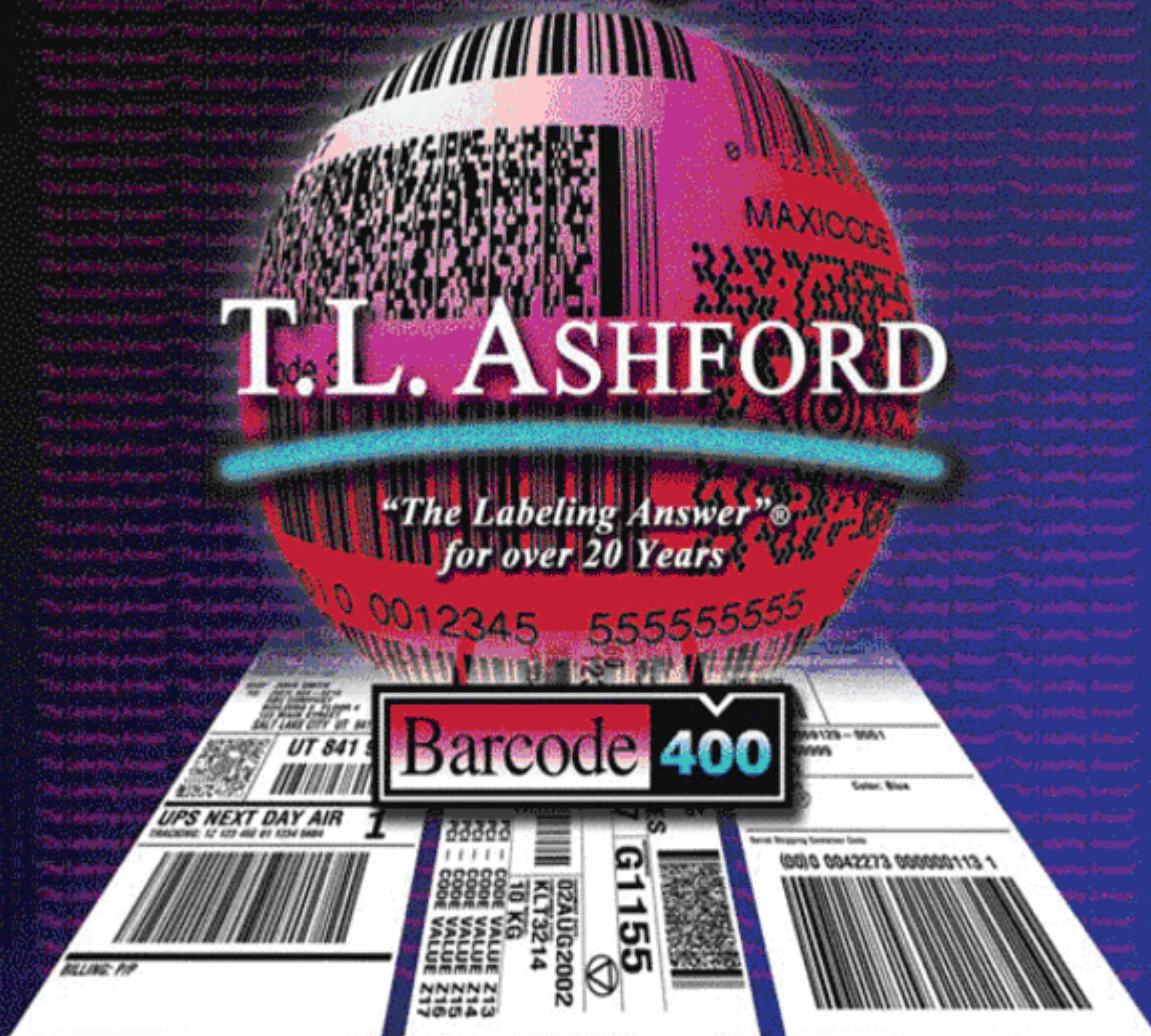## Omni User Group finds Vice President!

Long time COMMON volunteer veteran Paul Nelson has recently been appointed to the Omni User Board of Directors. Many of you will recognize Paul as a long time contributor to OMNI and a past president from 2004. Paul has recently retired as a COMMON volunteer with 25 years of active duty under his belt. With so much energy left and no where to expend it, the OMNI User Recruitment Committee pulled out all the stops to reign him in. Please welcome Paul to the BOD by greeting him at the next dinner meeting with a great big "HOWDY"!

http://www.tlashford.com/

The Eighth Annual
OMNI User
Golf Outing

The Date:	July 18, 2006
The Time:	7:45 Registration 8:30 First Tee Time – Shotgun start if enough golfers register
The Place:	Tamarack Golf Club Rt. 59 and Royal Worlington Dr. Naperville, IL 60540 (630)904-4000
The Cost:	$85.00 per golfer (Includes Greens fees, Cart, Dinner)
The Format:	Scramble format. Each foursome plays as a team.
The Prizes:	Winning foursome (low net score), Longest drive, Several Closest to the Pin, Raffles & some surprises.

You work hard and deserve a break. Come out and spend the day with your friends and associates. Worried about your score? Don't, the scramble format will guarantee fun for all. And the contest holes are arranged as to give the average golfer a good chance at winning. **Don't miss this event!** Get a foursome together or sign-up yourself, but **act now,** we have a limited number of openings.

Signup and pay at the OMNI website: www.omniuser.org. All registrations, and any cancellations, must be made no later than July 11th. Questions about the event may be directed to either of our co-chairs: Cathy Kramer at 847-731-7643 or by email; cathykramer@ameritech.net, or Bill Parks at 708-267-1516 or by email; wparks@att.net.

See the OMNI website for additional pictures of last year's event.

June Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, June 20th, 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

PDM/SEU to RSE/LPEX transition

An introduction to the Remote Systems Explorer and the Remote Systems LPEX Editor for the PDM and SEU user. In this session you will learn to use the information you already know from PDM and SEU, to feel comfortable quickly with RSE and LPEX. Setting up filters, managing iSeries objects, using the Table view, compiling and defining user actions will be some of the RSE functions covered. Prefix commands, prompting, syntax checking, verifying, compare and search are some of the LPEX topics covered.

Violaine Batthish

Violaine Batthish is a staff software engineer at IBM. She graduated from the University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Science with distinction in 1996, specializing on Software Engineering.

In the early days, she worked as a tester on PDM, then as a developer on other components of WDS before working on the client tools. She started on the client side as a developer on CODE/400 and wrote the book "Understanding CODE/400 on the AS/400".

Currently, she is involved in the testing, designing and developing for RSE and LPEX in WDSC and is the Project Lead on CODE/400. Customer satisfaction and support is a primary interest for Violaine and she posts frequently on the WDSC mailing list.

Dinner Menu Options

Dinner:
Lemon Herb Chicken w/ Rice Pilaf
Pasta Primavera
Fish of the day

Appetizer:
Caesar Salad

Dessert:
Carrot Cake

June Dinner Meeting Registration

Please make your reservations by Thursday, June 15th, 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 June 16th. After 9:00 am Friday, 06/16/2006, 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.

http://www.rjssoftware.com

July Meeting

Ha ha! Fooled you! There is no meeting in July! That's because we do the golf outing, so please make plans to join us and have a great day of fun and festivity, as well as a great way to network with your peers in a relaxed setting.

We will have a meeting in August, and as always if there's a specific topic you'd like addressed or a 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.

June 6	Michigan iSeries Technical Education Conference	http://www.gomitec.com/
June 20	AMCU/AIM Java for RPG Programmers	http://www.amcuaim.org/

Upcoming Midrange Events

June 18 - 21	2006 iSeries & AS/400 Connection Conference "V5R4 is Here" Online Registration	Naples Grand Resort Naples FL
June 20 5:00 pm	OMNI June Dinner Meeting IBM Toronto's Violaine Batthish "PDM/SEU to RSE/LPEX transition" Details/Registration soon!	Embassy Suites Hotel 707 E. Butterfield Rd Lombard, IL
June 27 5:00 pm	OMNI Monthly Board Meeting Board Members only	IBM 2 Lincoln Center Oakbrook Terrace, IL
July 18	Eighth Annual OMNI Golf Outing Details/Registration soon!	Hosted at: Tamarack Golf Club

http://www.lansa.com/

Common Corner

Reprinted from the June 2006 issue of COMMON.CONNECT

EDI Integration Puts Mrs. T on the Dinner Table

By Stephen Rosen

With 54 years of making 11 varieties of its famed specialty, creamy whipped potatoes folded into a pasta shell, Mrs. T's Pierogies has the manufacturing process down to a T. And now, with its electronic order processing system, EDI software and collaboration with in-house software, the same is true of its business.

Keeping the company's business side efficient is a basic ingredient in meeting market demands. The company's iSeries system runs business applications from financials to human resources. The information technology staff is headed by Information Systems Manager Tim Coyle, and is just four years old. Effective automation is the key to success in meeting the complex EDI requirements of large trading partners. With a small staff of just two people, automated order taking is essential.

The motivation for EDI is often one of systems efficiency, and sometimes it's a matter of survival, such as complying with customer mandates. For Mrs. T's Pierogies, there was an additional benefit: staff productivity. With standardized formats, everything can be automated, and processes that used to take an hour a day, such as manual checks even on automated orders, are now completed in just five minutes per day. "Our system automatically notifies us of exceptions and errors, so they spend minimal time with human intervention. It has made us more productive, we just let the processes run," says Coyle.

An operation of Ateeco, Inc., Mrs. T's produces 11.4 million pierogies each week, selling them through wholesalers, distributors, brokers, and grocery stores across the country and beyond. The company's customers range from small markets to largest supermarket chains in the country, and can be found in essentially every state in the U.S.

By spending time on matters that are more critical to business, the use of a comprehensive EDI and integration solution has made individuals, and hence the company, as efficient as possible. It has become such a part of the fabric that "Nobody even wants to remember the times before we deployed this B2B integration application," quips Coyle.
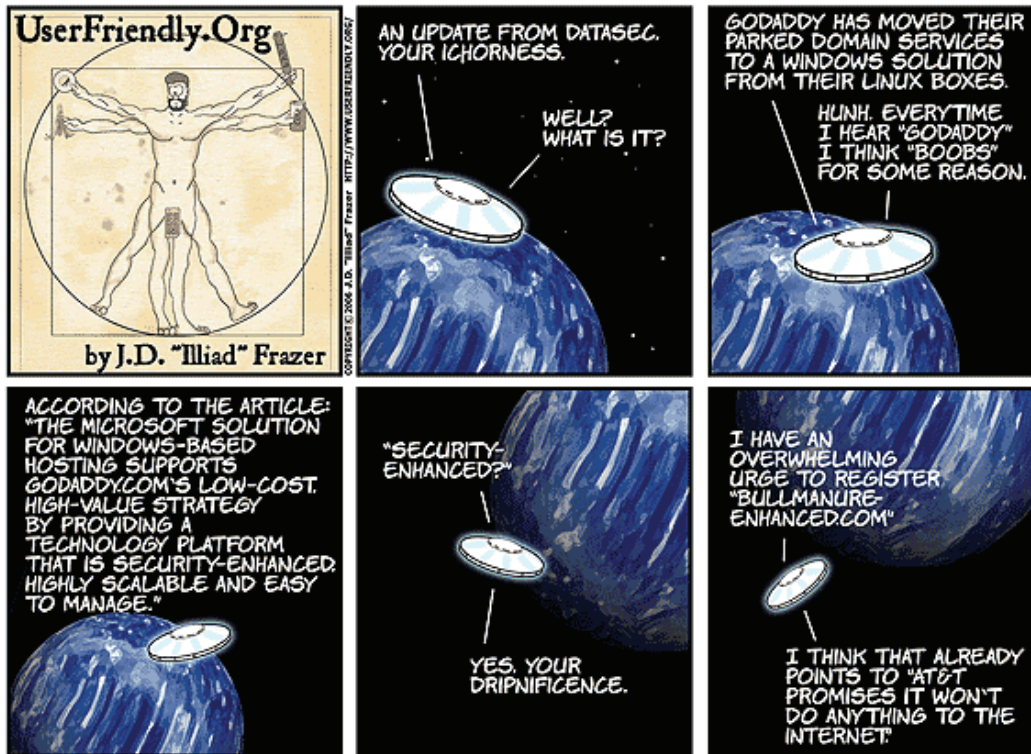
"Anytime we can increase efficiency, that relates to reduced costs. Beyond that, our EDI integration has helped us eliminate transaction errors and delays in fulfilling and shipping orders," adds Coyle. "Both of these are important for our high vendor ratings on the scorecards maintained by most major retailers." Besides the order entry time savings, electronic cash posting to accounts receivable saves another half-hour a day. The order information comes in from customers in EDI formats, and are then transformed, validated and then integrated into cash application programs.

"Automation is a productivity issue, deploying that hour and a half we save each day benefits the company in other ways," says Coyle. For Mrs. T's Pierogies, it's a matter of productivity: an hour saved is an hour earned.

With the strategic use of EDI, even modest size companies such as Ateeco, can succeed in sophisticated supply chain collaboration with customers as well as other suppliers and logistics partners. The Mrs. T brand of pierogies has become nationally recognized in part because they have strategically deployed B2B integration solutions, to help drive their growth.

About the Author

Stephen Rosen is Vice President, Marketing, at EXTOL International, a provider of B2B integration software. He has helped guide the company's development from an EDI software vendor focused exclusively on the iSeries market to leader in business integration software for the mid-sized enterprise. Prior to joining EXTOL in 2000, Mr. Rosen had responsibility for deployment of the SAP and healthcare industry initiatives at Mercator Software. In his tenure with Mercator and its predecessor, TSI International, he had responsibilities for a variety of supply chain programs including an ocean freight carrier initiative, and a cooperative supply and replenishment program for healthcare providers and their supplier partners.

OMNI 2006 Board

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IBM Redbooks/Redpapers

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

SQL Performance Diagnosis on IBM DB2 Universal Database for iSeries
Published: May 26, 2006   ISBN: 0738497487   282 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246654.html

WebSphere Application Server V6 Migration Guide
Published: May, 23, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246369.html1

IBM WebSphere RFID Handbook: A Solution Guide
Published: May 18, 2006   ISBN: 0738497398   302 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247147.html

Logical Partitions on System i5: A Guide to Planning and Configuring LPAR with HMC on System i
Published: May 17, 2006   ISBN: 0738496251   530 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg248000.html

IBM System i Tools Innovation Program: Resource Guide for Modernization/Integration Tools for System i Applications
Published: May, 10, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4134.html

WebSphere Product Family Overview and Architecture
Revised: May 5, 2006   ISBN: 0738492043   564 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246963.html

WebSphere Application Server V6 for OS/400: Getting Started
Revised: May, 4, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246670.html

Linux Connectivity with IBM i5/OS
Published: April, 26, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246551.html

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

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