THE OMNI USER

Let's Put the Pedal to the Metal!

I've been on the road for the last six weeks or so nearly nonstop. Between user group meetings, conferences and consulting, I've been in and out of O'Hare more than an American Taxi cab driver.

And I haven't been the only busy board member, either. Because of this, we haven't really gotten started on the new features of the website, but we're going to do so. You should start seeing some very cool changes in the next couple of months.

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

In June we had an extraordinary presentation from Violaine Batthish on migrating from PDM and SEU to RSE and LPEX. It was one of our highest rated presentations ever; everybody walked away with new knowledge they could use!

The July Golf Outing is coming very soon to a golf course near you! (It's at the Tamarack Golf Club in Naperville, to be exact, and there's plenty more information inside.) There is no dinner meeting in July; instead, we want you to take a little time off and come and confabulate with your peers, enjoy the sunshine and knock the heck out of some poor defenseless golf balls. You can hear more about the golf outing and Violaine's presentation, our upcoming Day of Education and the 19th Annual Omni User Technical Conference, by reading our President's Letter.

As a reminder, though, we're already busy planning the technical conference. It will be February 26th at the Drury Lane Theater, and as always **WE NEED YOUR INPUT ON TOPICS!** We may eventually get something up on the website where you can send us your input, but the earlier you make your needs known the more likely we will be able to fulfill them. So please, at you earliest convenience send an email with your ideas to: omni-comm@plutabrothers.com.

President's Letter

- Mike Pavlak, OMNI Board President

Early July brings several things: the heart of summer, fireworks, and the celebration of the independence of the United States of America. What better way to commemorate our independence than with an election. The COMMON user group is getting ready to hold an election of three new board members from a field of five candidates. This year's election is more important than ever as COMMON is slowly emerging from the doldrums of the post Y2K and 9/11 era. COMMON is undergoing changes in order to survive and be relevant and so too must the COMMON board of directors. For that reason, I implore all COMMON members to vote in the election this summer and let COMMON know what you think. Information on each candidate can be found on the COMMON website at http://common.org/about/candidates.html .

Longtime OMNI friend and supporter Jim Oberholtzer is running for one of those board positions. He has years of volunteer experience and a sincere passion for the System i platform. Also running are Randy Dufault and Jeff Carey, who have a rich history with COMMON as well as a vision for the future. I have had the chance to speak with some of these folks about the future and feel quite comfortable that their views will benefit the COMMON constituency in the next few years. Please exercise one of the rights we celebrate with the 4th and vote for the best candidates in this year's COMMON election.

The year is half over. This is a great time to take a break and look at your business plan for 2006! Are you on track? Maybe a little ahead of schedule? Regardless, it is still a great time for a break. And that is what OMNI is doing for the month of July. While there will not be a dinner meeting, there will be the golf outing! We will be trading in our usual third Tuesday dinner for a 8:30AM T-Time and lunch. Please tune in to http://www.omniuser.org for more details about the event.

If you are ahead of the plan, or just looking to build morale, the golf outing is an excellent way to reward a staffer for a job well done. It is also a great opportunity to get the less-than-technical folks out with the technical folks for an opportunity to interact outside of the work environment. In other words, to have fun! There will be door prizes, sponsored holes and a great lunch at the end of the round. So come out to Tamarack on the 18th for a fabulous round of golf with some really great people.

Violaine Batthish did a wonderful job getting us all on track to move from PDM/SEU to WDSCi's RSE and LPEX. Her presentation was not only timely, but well attended. You can find the handout for the presentation on the download page on the OMNI website. I would like to thank Violaine for coming down from Toronto for a spectacular discussion. And also thank everyone who came for a good meal and some great technical direction on the road to developer wonderland.

Our next dinner meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 15th. Our annual Day-of-Education is scheduled for October 10th and we have quite a few great speakers lined up to present on topics like Websphere, RPG and more! Also, for budget planning for 2007, don't forget the annual Omni User Technical Conference which will be held at the beautiful Drury Lane Oakbook on February 27, 2007.

June Meeting

Violaine Batthish gave an outstanding presentation on migrating from PDM and SEU to RSE and LPEX. In addition to her role as a member of the WDSC development team, Violaine is perhaps best known in the iSeries community as a highly valued and respected contributor to the WDSCI-L mailing list at http://www.midrange.com.

I'm glad Violaine was able to come down and talk with us, WDSC is a topic that's going to be increasingly important as the months and years come by; it's our window into the new development world and even old green screen dinosaurs like me are learning new skills with this superb new toolkit!

RAFFLE WINNERS!

The winners of this month raffle of two Barnes & Noble gift cards are David Gibbs of MKS Software and Ken Kasper of Tripp Lite. Congratulations guys!

http://www.rjssoftware.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.

Golf Outing Update

It's the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer again, and just as July follows June the OMNI golf outing (our eighth) follows our June dinner meeting. If you have or haven't played Tammarack Golf Club in Naperville yet, you should come and check this out. Plenty of water, enough sand… you'll find it hard to believe that you are not in a professional tournament (well, except when you see my score). And if you are worried about your score, don't! This is a team event, a four person best ball tournament. It's a blast, whether you're golfing with a group you pulled together or making new friends in a group OMNI matches up. You will definitely enjoy this event.

We have contest holes for those making the green on par three holes and for those who can reach or hit past the long drive marker placed approximately 220 yards from the tee. These contest holes are set to give the 20 handicapper a chance to win. And your reward for winning one of these holes can be a $100 Amex gift certificate. We'll also have other raffled prize drawings, and all of these prizes will be awarded after the golfer's lunch, which will include freshly cooked hamburgers, bratwurst, chicken, salads, and all of the trimmings.

If you ask me what the one best thing about the outing is… "Is it the course, the conversation, the pressure for your team to score well, or just seeing old friends?" I'd have to say it's all of those things… Oh, and also that I get to wear my knickers on a workday. So c'mon and sign up now. The course is really serious about getting their count ten days before the event. So, if you think you have plenty of time to sign up, then I guarantee you that, as busy as you are, you may forget to register before the deadline, and that will leave you disappointed at work. So please go to http://www.omniuser.org/golfouting2006.html and get signed up today.

Vendors, we could use some additional golf outing sponsors, and you'll be in good company along with the other great vendors who are already on board. Sponsoring the golf outing is very inexpensive and you get some great exposure to OMNI IT decision makers. Please visit http://www.omniuser.org/golfouting2006sponsorpage.html to get all of the particulars.

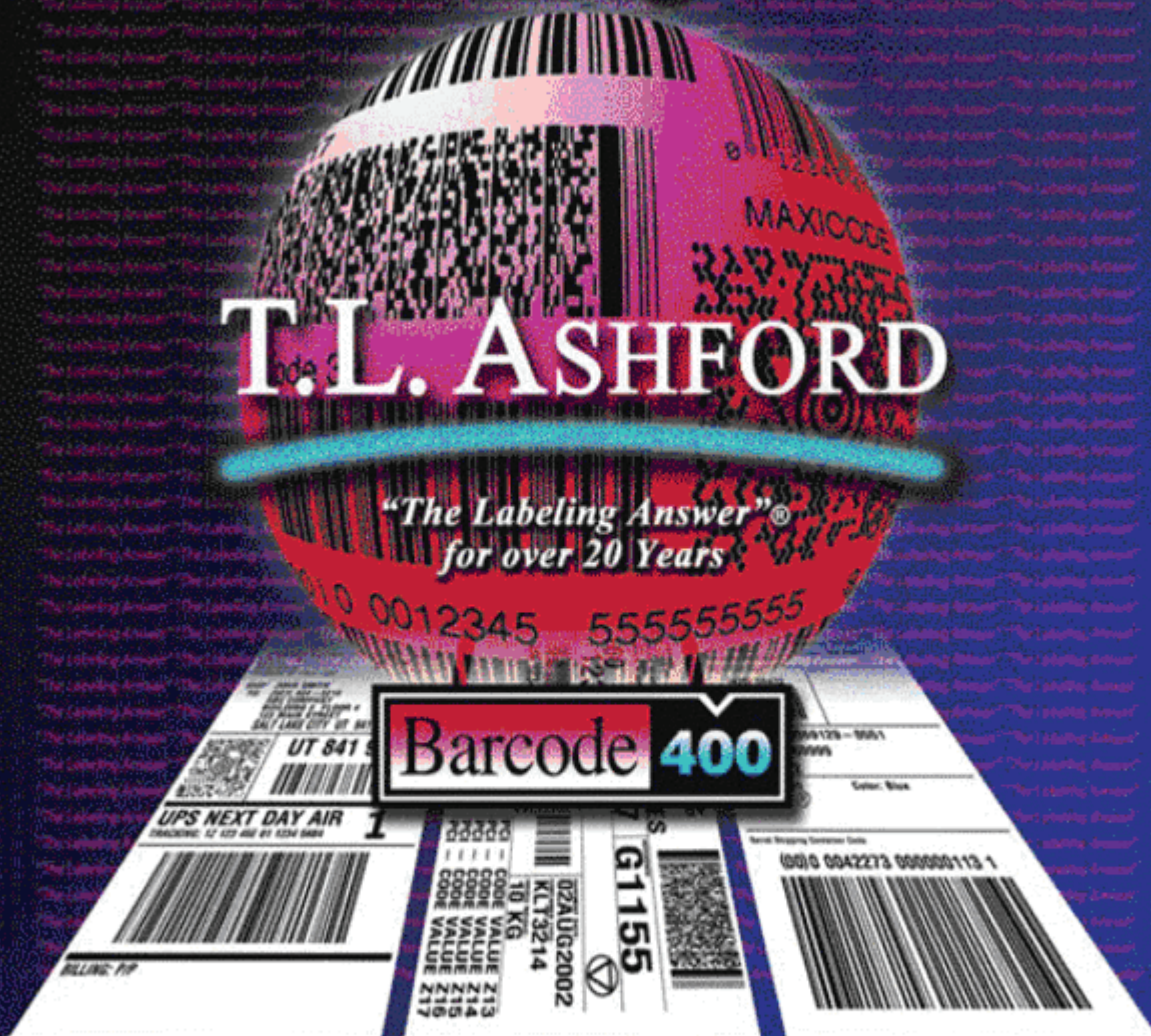Oh, and one last thing… speaking of exposure… better be sure to bring your sunscreen!

Fore!

Bill Parks, OMNI 2006 Treasurer and Golf outing co-chairperson

http://www.tlashford.com/

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August Meeting

One of the ongoing issues of working with the Web and with Open Source code has been getting RPG and Java to talk with one another. At August's meeting, Joe Pluta will present a session detailing the various methods of interaction between the two. The session will cover topics ranging from Java prototypes in RPG to using JNI in Java to call RPG programs.

As always if there's a specific topic you'd like addressed, please feel free to drop me (Joe Pluta) a note: Omni-comm@plutabrothers.com.

LUGs O'Plenty

It's summertime, which may be why there are no events on this list. But if you have something coming up and you want to get your LUG event on this list, contact me (Joe Pluta): Omni-comm@plutabrothers.com.

Upcoming Midrange Events

July	OMNI July Dinner Meeting NO meeting due to Golf Outing	
July 18	Eighth Annual OMNI Golf Outing Details\Registration Here!	Hosted at: Tamarack Golf Club Naperville, IL
July 25 5:00 pm	OMNI Monthly Board Meeting Board Members only	IBM 2 Lincoln Center Oakbrook Terrace, IL
August 15 5:00 pm	OMNI August Dinner Meeting Topic TBD Details\Registration soon!	Embassy Suites Hotel 707 E. Butterfield Rd Lombard, IL
September 17-21	COMMON Fall 2006 Conference Details\Registration Here!	Miami Beach Convention Center

IBM Redbooks/Redpapers

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

WebSphere Application Server V6 Migration Guide
Revised: June 29, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246369.html

Sizing I5/OS Work on IBM System i5 Partitions
Published: June, 27, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246656.html

iSeries Application Modernization: Building a New Interface to Your Legacy Applications
Published: June, 21, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246671.html

Deploying IBM Workplace Services Express on the IBM eServer iSeries Server
Revised: June 16, 2006   ISBN: 073849741X   396 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246664.html

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

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

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

Coming up on the 11 o'clock News … It's Our Company!
By Richard Dolewski

Many companies have documented disaster recovery plans in place. We've all tested and re-tested our plans to ensure that every step is properly documented. Equally important, our recovery strategies are indeed complete for a successful recovery with minimal loss of data and downtime.

But have you concerned the media attention you may get following a disaster? Are you prepared to face the press and the TV cameras when a disaster strikes? Who from your organization will face the reporters, and what will they say? More importantly, how will they say it? The last thing you want to see is your computer operator on the national news giving his opinions of what just happened. "It's a death trap in there," or "Nobody warned us," or "We never planned for anything like this," or worst of all, "We will never recover from this."

The moral: Don't let an unqualified employee share his or her five seconds of fame in front of the cameras, or you'll be dealing with a public relations disaster as well as your planned disaster recovery.

Make PR Part of Your Plan
Many disasters will seriously disrupt your company's ability to perform its business operations. If a disaster should strike your company, the last thing you want to worry about is the opinion of the public. Unfortunately, if your company or the disaster itself is newsworthy, the media will beat the fire trucks to the scene of the disaster. While you're trying to recover your computer systems, the media will be stationed around the corner waiting with microphone in hand.

This should be part of your company's business continuity plan (BCP). Unfortunately, many companies don't have a BCP; if this is the case with your organization, media relations should be inserted into your IT disaster recovery plan under damage assessment and reporting tasks. Your organization should work to reach your customers and suppliers directly before they hear it on the news. They may have a reason for concern, but silence in these situations is not golden.

Is Your Company Prepared for the Microphone?
There are several steps you can take to prepare *pre-selected* members of your recovery team to work with the media. Keep in mind that we have ourselves to blame for bad press, not the media. We are all thirsty for up-to-the-minute live information. And the media likes to report on the bad news versus the good news. So some very important things to consider:

1. It's important to decide in advance exactly who will speak to the media. Always assign one primary spokesperson and one alternate. When more then one person communicates with the media, it can create some inconsistencies in your story. That is the last thing you want to do.

2. Journalists tend to seek out the worst possible prognosis for your company. However, it doesn't have to be a picture of total gloom and doom. The savvy spokesperson should learn how to quickly turn around the very negative questions and reiterate their own positive comments and what the company has already done to improve the situation.

3. Practice this role just as you would your technical recovery. There are agencies available that will

give you the "lights, camera, action" practice run, and even include a thousand microphones pressed up against you to train you in handling this type of pressure. This should be part of every passive disaster recovery test.

4. Answer all questions as directly and briefly as you can in a positive manner. Example: "Yes, we had a disaster and we are in the process of recovering all our mission critical systems… and yes, we will be serving our customers tomorrow."

5. Never lie… end of story.

It's inevitable that the public will hear your story; this is beyond your control. What you can control is how they hear it and the negative information the media may report. By being careful, credible, and above all, brief, you can turn a bad situation into a positive public relations opportunity. Show the media how organized and responsible your organization can be in the face of a disaster.

So when the news truck arrives, you can simply say to the disaster recovery team, "Excuse me, boys, I have an interview with the press and they'll hear our story. How does my hair look?"

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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