



THE OMNI USER

2021 Midwest Road Suite 200

Oak Brook IL 60523

630.953.6312

<http://omniuser.org/>

School's In (almost)!

This month's newsletter is a tiny bit late; I try to get them to you on the first Tuesday, but since the first Tuesday was the first day of the month, that just didn't happen. So I shot for the second Tuesday and got awfully darned close. The reason for this, though, is a good one: we have **tons** of information for you this month. There was no dinner meeting in July but we've got a great recap of the July golf outing; much fun was had by all!

Table of Contents

Let's Put the Pedal to the Metal!	<u>1</u>
President's Letter	<u>2</u>
T.L. Ashford http://www.tlashford.com/	<u>3</u>
Golf Outing Recap	<u>4</u>
The OMNI Board of Directors	<u>7</u>
RJS Software http://www.rjssoftware.com/	<u>7</u>
August Meeting Information	<u>8</u>
September Meeting Information	<u>9</u>
LUGs O'Plenty / OMNI Midrange Event List	<u>10</u>
IBM Redbooks and Redpapers	<u>11</u>
COMMON Corner: With EDI, Beer Nutes Ensures Good Times and Great Nuts	<u>12</u>

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

So what's on the way? An incredible lineup of education just in time for the new school year. This newsletter was late largely due to us firming up the schedule. In any case, your board has drawn deep within itself to provide you real-world experience from people who actually use the technologies. In August your humble newsletter editor will be presenting a session on RPG and Java interoperability. This is a prelude to our President giving a session on PHP for the System i in October, followed in November by David Andruchuk, fresh back from his XML internship at IBM and putting all that knowledge on the table for you. And if that wasn't enough, in September we have a special treat: in keeping with our "real world" philosophy, three board members will be providing you with some live demonstrations of real stuff (there's more information on this inside!).

And that's just the dinner meetings! October 10th will be our Day of Education. I hoped to have a list of speakers, but we didn't get the "official" nods yet; suffice to say there will be some big names and we'll be getting them to you shortly, maybe in a "special edition" mailing from Jerome. Then, December 5th your loyal editor will be doing his thing presenting a day-long WDSC extravaganza, in which I will walk you through everything you need to know to finally move from SEU to WDSC for once and for all!

All of this just for 2006. And soon, very soon, we'll start bringing you information on the Annual Conference, which will be held on February 27th... and **maybe** on the 26th as well! Stay tuned, gentle reader...

President's Letter

- Mike Pavlak, OMNI Board President

It's the most wonderful time of the year...(Andy Williams singing in the background)

This Holiday song has been stuck in my head for a few days now, thanks to the latest version of the Staples commercial. The concept is that it is the most wonderful time of the year, for parents. With 5 kids about to head out to various levels of education in the public school system in New Lenox township, my wife does have a little more pep in her step. We just picked up school supplies, as well. They are all set: bags packed, pencils sharpened, and binders filled by the chimney with care. But what about you?

In what is shaping up to be one of the biggest education years ever, OMNI is pulling out all the stops to deliver the content that you have requested. RPG, WDSC, PHP, XML, and that's just before the end of this year! There is a box located somewhere within this wonderful document that summarizes our schedule for the next several months. Between Omni, COMMON and IBM, there are many of choices for education. So what about you?

Oh, you say you don't have time. Maybe too much going on at work? Let me throw you a couple of planning ideas so that if you cannot join us this year, maybe you can make it for the annual technical conference at the Drury Lane in late February. There is the obvious: Get some money on the plan for education. This works and you can miss with a basic approach like that. But you say your CFO is a miser. Hey, they don't get to be financial officers by being spendthrifts. And we have the answer! The most affordable System i education in Chicagoland is right here at OMNI! Give him some ammunition. Talk about the value proposition. Start by asking for a trip to COMMON in Miami in the fall, or in Anaheim in the Spring. If they shoot you down because of cost, hit 'em with the OMNI Day of Education, our day with Joe Pluta or our ever popular Conference. All of which are extremely affordable and well below the expense line of most CIOs and CFOs!

Maybe you have been putting off your Business Continuity plan. Well, the theme of COMMON this fall is Disaster Recovery. Well over 50 sessions dedicated to the business of staying in business! I often times will plan the cost of a project to include the educational dollars. Before the CFO knows it, the project is in, staff is properly trained and everyone is happy.

With fall rapidly approaching, don't forget about your commitment to yourself and your staff. Whether it is a week-long conference, or a day here and there, Omni, COMMON and IBM are here to help. If you would like to see some more educational opportunities, drop me a line at the email address at the end of this letter. We are looking for ideas for 2007, as well as board members. Have you been coming to dinner meetings and wondering how you can become a part of the fun? Just grab a board member or shoot us an email and we would be happy to talk about what goes into the planning and activities around OMNI!

Our next dinner meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 22nd. Our annual Day-of-Education is scheduled for October 10th and just added is the Joe Pluta all day presentation of "RPG to Websphere" scheduled for December 5th. Come on, there have to be a couple of bucks rolling around in your budget for a kick-butt presentation that eliminates all fears of moving away from PDM. Also, for 2007 budget planning, don't forget the annual Omni User Technical Conference which will be held at the beautiful Drury Lane Oakbook on February 27, 2007.

The RFID Labeling Solution



Barcode 400+ RFID

RFID Application Examples

- EPC carton labels
- EPC pallet labels
- Asset tracking
- Medical labels
- Pharmaceutical dosage labels
- Supply chain management
- Logistics

RFID Printers Supported

- Most popular RFID printers are supported. Visit www.tlashford.com for an up to date list.

Supported RFID Tags

- Class 1 tags
- Class 0 tags
- Class 1 Gen 2

IBM Server *Proven*

Labeling Software

Now you can easily comply with the new "Smart Label" requirements using **Barcode400+RFID**. Label design is a snap using the compliance templates made available by T.L. Ashford. Print and encode "Smart Labels" with data directly from your iSeries system. Barcode400 was developed specifically for the System i5, iSeries and the AS400.

T.L. Ashford has a proven track record of meeting the ever changing standards for the System i5 environment.

Barcode400 is supported by a technical support team committed to customer satisfaction.



T.L. ASHFORD

Since 1983

800.541.4893

www.tlashford.com

©2006 T.L. Ashford. All trademarks reserved to their respective companies.

Eighth Annual OMNI User Golf Outing

By Bill Parks

Blue skies and a break in the heat – well, I'd rather be lucky than good. The same applies to my golf (if you've ever seen my golf, you know why). The Eighth Annual OMNI golf outing came off without a hitch. The course was in great shape – the ponds and creeks screaming “Here ballie, ballie, ballie”, and the SAND! Whew, it seemed like Egypt at times.

But you could have fooled our winners. The team of Gustavson, Majewski and Grein (sounds like a law firm) came in at a -5 (and we, team DSI, thought we were doing well at -4, good for a tie for second). But to show you that you don't have to be a pro to golf in our event (and still have some fun), our last place team scored a +17 – Hot Diggity Dawg!

OK, here I gotta acknowledge our golf outing staff who made this event seem to run better than what you would see on “The Apprentice”. Cathy Kramer (Brighton Group) made smooth work of the vendor participation. We got participation for all of our contest holes – 5 par 3s and 1 long drive hole, and extra sponsorships for several non-contest holes. Also, several vendors provided gifts for our winners. Registration, picture taking and, as I understand it, guinea pigs for testing of some of the available beverages was capably handled by Lucille Dust (LCM Consulting) and Sandy Dwyer (Information Builders). They really looked like they were having a ball and didn't even tip over the cart.

The prize table was full of goodies ranging from \$100 gift cards, to White Sox tickets, to golf balls, to polo shirts, to free rounds of golf, to.... well there was just a ton of stuff! I know there was a high quality Odyssey putter there – Ms. Kramer swooped that thing up like it was made of gold – or maybe just had a few good putts in it.

The great participation we had this year along with the sponsorships enabled us to have a great time. We had 9 groups golfing this year – a participation increase over last year of better than 50%. We had old friends and made new friends. We had some good golf and some shots we'd like to take back. But most of all we had a wonderful day together.

If any of our golfers have stories to tell about their day, email them to me at wparks@att.net and I will write a second article with your specifics, and your tales.

2006 Sponsors



Prize Sponsors

The Brighton Group
Data Mirror
Debug 911
Information Builders
MKS
RJS Software
Tripp Lite
Vienna Beef

Eighth Annual OMNI User Golf Outing (continued)

Please pay attention to the sponsors noted on the preceding page. Without their participation, we'd just be golfing. Oh and check out the pictures and rankings on the next page as well as those on the OMNI website while you are there next time. Maybe there are some untold stories!

The Winners



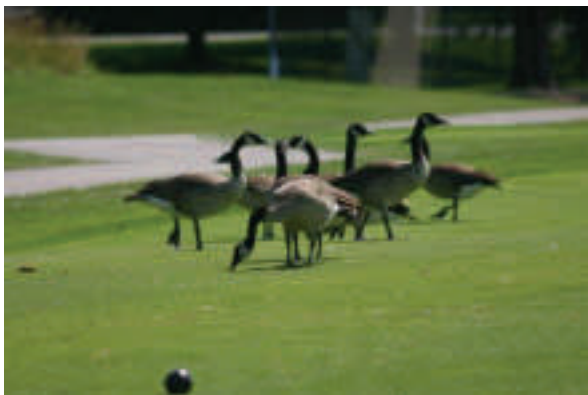
The Scores

(names have been changed to protect the innocent)

Team	Score
Team Gustavson Majewski and Grein	-5
Team DSI	-4
Team MKS	-4
Team Butler	-1
Team Tripp Lite	-1
Team Fun Guard	+4
Team OMNI Old Guard	+6
Team Brighter Dog	+9
Team My Dawgs are Tired!	+17

Eighth Annual OMNI User Golf Outing (continued)

Some more Pictures! (More on [our website!](#))



OMNI 2006 Board

President	Mike Pavlak	mike@pavlak.com
Vice President	Paul Nelson	pnelson@arbsol.com
Secretary	Jim Miller	jmill0307@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Bill Parks	wparks@worldnet.att.net
Seminar Vice-President	Jerome Hughes	jromeh@comcast.net
Membership & DB Director	Sal Stangarone	sals@mrc-productivity.com
Communications Director	Joe Pluta	joepluta@plutabrothers.com
Advertising Director	Matt Gross	prgg1@sbcglobal.net
Conference Director	Jim Vance	JVance@Hendrickson-intl.com
Webmaster	Dave Andruchuk	dandruchuk@sungardfutures.com
Past President	Dale O'Leary	doleary@zysolutions.com
IBM Liaison	Joe Thompson	jwthomp@us.ibm.com

Real Problems. Real Solutions.

Every Piece of Your IT Puzzle in One Place



1-888-RJS-SOFT



rjssoftware.com

<http://www.rjssoftware.com>

August Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, August 22nd, 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

RPG and Java - Happy Together!

In this presentation, Joe will show you the wide spectrum of techniques that can be used to make RPG and Java talk with one another. If you plan to use JavaServer Pages as your UI of the future, this presentation will show you all the ways that you can communicate with your back-end business logic (and most of the techniques presented here will work just as well for you COBOL folks, too!). The presentation will also show you how your RPG applications can take advantage of the wide spectrum of Open Source Java packages that are available.

Even if you're exploring other UI possibilities such as PHP, you should first take a look at how tightly integrated Java and RPG are in the System i; this integration should be a consideration in deciding your architecture.

Joe Pluta

You've probably seen my picture floating around (although the one at the Post Office is wa-a-a-y out of date). I've been in the midrange business for about 30 years now, and while I've done everything from pre-sales to operations, my real forte is integration of new technologies with RPG, the backbone of enterprise application development.

I believe in the right tool for the job, and using whichever tools make sense. To that end, I've spent the last six or seven years getting RPG and Java to work together, and this presentation compares and contrasts the various techniques that I've learned along the way, from the IBM Toolbox to JNI to stored procedures.

Dinner Menu Options

Dinner (choice):

London Broil
Fish of the day
Steamed Vegetable Plate

Appetizer:

Mixed Field Greens

Dessert:

New York Cheesecake

August Dinner Meeting Registration

Please make your reservations by Thursday, August 17th, 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 August 18th. After 9:00 am Friday, 08/18/2006, 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.

September Meeting

This is going to be one exciting meeting! Instead of a single speaker talking about a single topic, in this presentation you'll get not one, not two, but *three* of your board members presenting some hot new technologies. I'll give you even more information next newsletter, but here's some teaser info:

Bill Parks will be presenting the Stitch-in-Time journaling tool from Unbeaten Path. He promises to make it short and lively.

Jerome Hughes will be giving a quick rundown on the latest language devoted to web application development, Ruby on Rails. RoR is one of the new generation of scripting languages, and one of the few with a solid focus on database.

And last but not least Jim Vance will brief you on Idokorro Mobile SSH, one of the products in the Idokorro Mobile suite. Mobile SSH lets you access your System i from anywhere with your Blackberry, Treo or Windows Mobile PC.

Where else can you get this much information and good eats, too?

Upcoming Midrange Events

August 22 5:00 pm	OMNI August Dinner Meeting Joe Pluta "Playing well together: RPG <-> Java interoperability" Details\Registration here!	Embassy Suites Hotel 707 E. Butterfield Rd Lombard, IL
August 29 5:00 pm	OMNI Monthly Board Meeting Board Members only	IBM 2 Lincoln Center Oakbrook Terrace, IL
September 17-21	COMMON Fall 2006 Conference Details\Registration Here!	Miami Beach Convention Center Miami Beach, FL
October 10	OMNI Day of Education 2006 Details\Registration soon!	IBM 2 Lincoln Center Oakbrook Terrace, IL
November 6 - 8	iSeries DevCon 2006 Conference Details\Registration Here!	Rio Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, NV
December 5	A Day with Joe Pluta Migrating from SEU/PDM to WDSC and beyond Details\Registration soon!	IBM 2 Lincoln Center Oakbrook Terrace, IL

The Joy of Tech™

by Nitrozac & Snaggy



joyoftech.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.

IBM Redbooks/Redpapers

A monthly compendium of recent IBM Redbooks and Redpapers of interest to [System i](#) developers.

i5/OS V5R4 Virtual Tape: A Guide to Planning and Implementation

Published: August 4, 2006 ISBN: 0738497207 498 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247164.html>

System i Application Modernization: Building a New Interface to Your Legacy Applications

Revised: July 30, 2006

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246671.html>

Availability Management—A Guide to Plannign and Implementing Cross-Site Mirroring on System i5

Published: July 28, 2006 ISBN: 0738495980 210 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246661.html>

Understanding LDAP—Design and Implementation

Revised: July 19, 2006 ISBN: 073849786X 768 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg244986.html>

IBM WebSphere and Microsoft .NET Interoperability

Revised: July 19, 2006 ISBN: 0738495573 418 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246799.html>

Securing Communications with OpenSSH on IBM i5/OS

Revised: July 19, 2006

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4163.html>

IBM System i5, eServer i5, and iSeries System Builder IBM i5/OS Version 5 Release 4

Revised: July 10, 2006

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg242155.html>

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>

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>

Common Corner

Reprinted from the August 2006 issue of COMMON.CONNECT

With EDI, Beer Nuts Ensures Good Times and Great Nuts

By Stephen Rosen

With the outdoors sports and recreation season upon us, companies like Beer Nuts (www.beernuts.com) are using EDI integration to keep their consumable products fresh, stocked on the shelves, and the supply chain satisfied.

Established in 1937, Beer Nuts still produces all their products at a single 100,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Bloomington, Illinois, where the company was founded. The company's trademark brings smiles and instant recognition in all 50 states and several countries around the world.

Chief Financial Officer Jeff Combs recalls that selling snack food 12 bags at a time, all through a nationwide distributor network, created a multitude of small transactions, which have only increased with the products' popularity. Having built its business on freshness, Beer Nuts tends to fulfill small, frequent orders. In turn, the company needs to expedite order turnaround through production, shipment, and arrival. Today, all that is done on an i5 520 running ERP, warehouse, and shipping applications supported by a business-to-business integration software application that links business applications and processes.

With limited technology and support resources, Beer Nuts relies on an integration solution to leverage the skills of their existing IT team to automate processes and eliminate manual intervention as much as possible. Today, electronic ordering comprises nearly half of their total business, and most of that electronic business comes from large retailers and big box stores who use standard – “but always seem to have some specific variation from the standard,” Combs quips.

Some of these variations are found on the 856, which is EDI parlance for Advance Shipping Notice, for example. This is an electronic packing slip that tells a buyer how a supplier has packed their items for shipment. Some trading partners have their own approach for the Serial Shipping Container Code, included on the 856. Both the 856 and SSCC are part of the X12 EDI standard.

“Our solution has powerful automated interfaces for mapping and supports all of our major customers with customer-specific maps,” says Combs. “This enables Beer Nuts to handle more than 70,000 orders each year with a relatively small customer service staff and an even smaller IT staff.”

Combs adds, “With limited resources, everything needs to be right, smooth and trouble-free.” With that in mind, and technology off his mind, Combs and Beer Nuts are free to pay attention to product quality and customer service, while the technology hums along.

“Even with a small trading community, electronic processing of orders becomes an essential ingredient to satisfactory fulfillment,” explains Combs. “Our order turnaround is just a few days, partly because we have integrated our EDI functionality with our back office package (S2K). This leveraged technology allows us to focus on the main thing: Delivering the freshest possible Beer Nuts-brand snacks to a multitude of locations across the country.”

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.