The Omni User

Heading Into 2007 With a Full Head of Steam!

We're not kidding here. The Day of Education in October simply knocked everyone's socks off, and we're moving ahead with both year-end plans and then, right around the corner is the 19th Annual Omni User Technical Conference (I have trouble every year getting the wording right, but that doesn't lessen the terrific value this conference provides at all!).

And by the way, we didn't *just* have the Day of Education: in addition, Omni's president Mike Pavlak blew us away with his presentation on PHP for the System i, a topic that I know is important to a lot of people out there, especially as the demand for quick and functional web applications grows.

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

And while you might see a special edition in December, this is typically the last newsletter for the year. Since that's the case, we need to cover the whole rest of the year! First, we're very proud that our own David Andruchuk is going to present the latest on XML and DB/2 UDB right on the heels of having co-authored the recently released IBM Redbook on that very topic. And then in early December yours truly will be presenting a day-long Omni-sponsored (meaning cheap to you!) seminar on Migrating from PDM and SEU to WDSC… And Beyond! It's a great introduction to this important tool.

Also, please note: **we need volunteers!** You may not realize it, but System i LUGs around the country are having problems; some are even closing their doors. It takes time and commitment to keep bringing you all these events and even things like this newsletter take work (although you may not believe it). Omni has had a great board for some time now, but we can't keep doing this forever—if you're interested in being part of the board or even just helping out with our activities, please come to a meeting or contact one of the current board members (they're all listed right here in the newsletter!).

And no matter what, please continue to give us input on what you want to see!

President's Letter

- Mike Pavlak, OMNI Board President

Community!

Do you like your community? Perhaps it would help if I defined the word "community." Dictionary.com says community is "a social, religious, occupational, or other group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists (usually prec. by *the*): the business community; the community of scholars." OK, now that we have that settled, do you like your community?

As the definition indicates there are many types of communities. Some are discrete and many overlap. Do you live in Chicago or Bridgeport? Granted, Chicago is a superset of Bridgeport. Are you from New England or the tri-state area or Tribeca? The point is that we all live, at least a part of our lives, in a community. Do you like your community?

Omni is a community of IT professionals that share one primary passion: System i (iSeries, AS/400, System/3x, etc.) Omni has been dedicated to bringing education and opportunity to the community for many years and is proud to continue the tradition. Anyone reading this message is a member of the Omni community. Whether you pay dues, come to meetings, or just read up on what we are up to, you are a member of the community. And, Omni itself is comprised of a few different communities: The board of directors, the membership, the conference committee, and many more. There are other user groups like Omni across the country and around the world. Omni has just started to extend a hand to the local user groups (LUGs) around the area. And there is a warm reception when we are sharing ideas and resources to better all of the LUGs. Do you like your community?

COMMON is in the process of participating in something exciting. Working with several firms in the industry, they have launched an online community called iSociety for all System i mavens. You do not need to be a member of COMMON to be a member of iSociety, yes it is free! I encourage all Omni community members to check out www.isociety.org for more info on System i communities, System i tuned search engines and more!

Do you like your community? Then **GET INVOLVED**!

If not, then do something about it and **GET INVOLVED**!

Omni is looking for volunteers for our 2007 season. I would like to thank all of the folks who made 2006 one of the greatest years ever! We all have a great time working together to provide solutions via the Omni User Group and many hands make light work! We have divided up many of the tasks involved in running the user group so all that we would be looking for is a couple of hours a month. Please feel free to chat up a board member at the next meeting, or email one of us for more details. We would love to have you join our community as a volunteer and help make Omni even better in 2007 than it was in 2006! The election for board members will be held on Tuesday January 16th at our dinner meeting featuring our very special guest speaker, Bob Cozzi! I like my community, how about you?

http://www.tlashford.com/

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November Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, November 21st, 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

XML on the System i

XML (Extensible Markup Language) represents a fundamental change in computing. In short, XML means portable data. It allows applications to move away from proprietary file and data formats to a world of open data interchange. XML has become ubiquitous not only because of its range of applications, but also because of its ease of use. XML's text-based nature makes creating tools easy, and since it is an open, license-free, cross-platform standard, anyone can create, develop, and use tools for XML.

Although XML solves many problems by providing a standard format for data interchange, some challenges remain. In the real world, applications need reliable services to store, retrieve, and manipulate data. This session will discuss how to get started with XML using the recently published IBM Redbook The Ins and Outs of XML and DB2 UDB for i5/OS, on which the presenter shares authoring credit.

Omni WebMaster David Andruchuk

David Andruchuk is a senior System Architect for SunGard Futures Systems in Chicago, Illinois. Starting his IT career on an IBM S/32, he has progressed through the Midrange platform offerings during his 25 year career, working as a consultant before joining SunGard. David is a board member of the local Omni User group in Chicago and a member of the IBM System i ISV Advisory Council in Rochester, where he was the only non-IBM XML expert on the team that collaborated to produce the IBM Redbook The Ins and Outs of XML and DB2 UDB for i5/OS.

Dinner Menu Options

Dinner (choice):
Havana Pork
Fish of the Day
Pasta Primavera

Starter:
Mixed Greens

Dessert:
Carrot Cake

November Dinner Meeting Registration

Please make your reservations by Thursday, November 16th, 2006 at Noon.
Call (630) 953-6312, and leave your company name, names of those attending,
and the type of meal desired (meat, fish or vegetarian.)

Cancellation Policy

Full refund will be issued for cancellations made before 9:00 am November
17th. After 9:00 am Friday, 11/17/2006, cancellation refund depends on meet-
ing 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

[A Day with Joe Pluta](#)

Migrating from PDM and SEU to WDSC… and Beyond!

Tuesday December 5, 2006

IBM Conference Facility
2 Lincoln Centre
Oakbrook Terrace IL

8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast
12:00 Lunch

9:00 to 9:45 - **In order to use the tools, you need to know about them.**
You'll learn about Eclipse, the tool that is taking the Java development world by storm, and how WDSC is descended from it. You'll also get an understanding of how the Rational tooling from IBM plays a part in the whole process.

9:45 to 11:00 - **Migrating from SEU and PDM to WDSC**
In this extended introduction to the WDSC tooling for RPG developers you will learn how to perform all of the day-to-day tasks you do today with SEU and PDM, as well as the many unique features of WDSC that will make you more productive from day one.

BREAK

11:15 to 12:00 - **Web Application Architectures**
Here you'll be introduced to the entire spectrum of web development, starting with the basics of HTTP and moving all the way to the advanced architectures of Java ServerPages and even Ajax. This is no buzzword heavy blue-sky presentation, either. Joe's extensive background in client/ server design is brought to the table to provide you with real world techniques that integrate existing business logic with the latest interface technologies.

LUNCH

1:00 to 2:00 - **RPG and Java Interoperability**
The biggest truth today is that no single technology provides the total solution, and this is especially true in web application design. Joe explains the ways that Java and RPG can be integrated to provide stunning new applications.

BREAK

2:15 to 4:00 - **Debugging Web Applications**
The day ends up with a live demonstration in which Joe deploys and debugs a real, working web application before your eyes using only WDSC on the workstation and RPG on the host. No gimmicks, no canned demos, this is the real thing right before your eyes.

OMNI Communications Director Joe Pluta of Pluta Brothers Design, Inc.

Joe Pluta has worked on and around the IBM midrange for nearly 30 years and focuses on moving legacy systems and their programmers into the next generation of web-enabled applications. Joe has written over a hundred articles on all aspects of IBM midrange technology, and his books on Eclipse and WDSC are required reading in colleges and businesses around the country. He is an expert on WDSC, Java, web development and EGL and how to make them interact with RPG business logic. He mentors and teaches courses around the country.

The Day of Education was a Huge Hit!

Boy, what a day!

The 5th Annual Omni Fall Day of Education was a smashing success. Many of the System i faithful came to the stunning IBM facility in Oakbrook for a day chock full of RPG, Java, CL, EGL, iSeries Navigator and more. Attendees were treated to some great sessions by George Farr, Guy Vig, Marcie Brandt, David Money, Mark Anderson and Omni's own Joe Pluta. Everyone walked away with goodie bags filled with System i Network magazines, can cozies and some even garnered a variety of doorprizes supplied by Omni and our wonderful sponsors!

Special thanks go to our friends at RJS, Lakeview and Lansa for sponsoring our wonderful lunch and providing some interesting opportunities to learn more about their products. A wonderful time was had by all.

A highlight for me was the opportunity to chat with long time IBM'ers Mark Anderson and Guy Vig. These are a couple of guys who were there when the AS/400 was born and the stories they have about the history of the platform can be spellbinding. Networking and communications is what Omni is all about, and I sure enjoyed meeting everyone who attended.

The day could not have been possible without the work of the volunteers of the Omni Board of Directors. From the food to the speakers to all of the notifications, our board has been busy setting up the best System i education opportunities in Chicagoland. And they ain't done yet!

If you couldn't make it to the Day of Education you still have one more full-day chance to gather more skills in 2006. Omni's very own Communications Director, internationally renowned WebSphere expert Joe Pluta will be on hand December 5th at the same IBM facility in Oakbrook to show you the fastest and best way to get from your old faithful PDM and SEU to the new and vastly more productive world of Websphere Development Studio. Please take some time to check out the Omni web site for more details and get registered as the class has a limited number of seats and is filling up fast.

And don't forget to get registered for our Tuesday, November 17th Dinner Meeting with Omni Webmaster and IBM XML Redbook author David Andruchuck presenting "XML on System i." David was recently a member of the IBM System i ISV Advisory Council in Rochester, where he was the only non-IBM XML expert on the team that collaborated to produce the IBM Redbook "The Ins and Outs of XML and DB2 UDB for i5/OS." You don't want to miss this meeting, so be sure to get registered to hear David's real world observations on processing small and large XML data sets using techniques including RPG in "XML on System i."

December Meeting

Fooled you! There is no December meeting, but for the January meeting we are planning to have Bob Cozzi, the most renowned RPG speaker on the planet, in to present some RPG topic. And although we haven't yet finalized the exact topic, we will soon so stay tuned. **NOTE: The January meeting also includes the 2007 Board elections!**

November and December LUGs of the Month

Since there will be our usual December hiatus, I'll take the opportunity to bring not one, but **two** LUGs to your attention. Please take a moment to visit the Kentuckiana Small Systems Association and the TriState Midrange User Group.

KSSA
Providing Solutions for Midrange Environments

http://www.kssa.net

http://www.tsmug.org

Upcoming Midrange Events

November 21 5:00 pm	OMNI November Dinner Meeting XML on System i David Andruchuk Details/Registration here!	Embassy Suites Hotel 707 E. Butterfield Rd Lombard, IL
November 28 6:00 pm	OMNI Monthly Board Meeting Board Members only	IBM 2 Lincoln Center Oakbrook Terrace, IL
December 5	A Day with Joe Pluta Migrating from SEU/PDM to WDSC...and beyond Details/Registration here!	IBM 2 Lincoln Center Oakbrook Terrace, IL

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	prrgg1@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

Wednesday, April 5 10:24 AM EDT

Microsoft Purchases Evil From Satan

By Brian Briggs

Redmond, WA - Microsoft purchased evil from Satan for $2.7 billion after many months of tough negotiations.

IBM Redbooks/Redpapers

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

Stored Procedures, Triggers, and User-Defined Functions on DB2 Universal Database for iSeries
Published: October 24, 2006 ISBN: 0738496561 588 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246503.html

The Ins and Outs of XML and DB2 for i5/OS
Published: October 24, 2006 ISBN: 0738496901 228 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247258.html

IBM System i5 V5R4 Technical Overview Redbook
Revised: October, 17, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247271.html

IBM System i Security Guide for IBM i5/OS Version 5 Release 4
Published: October 11, 2006 ISBN: 0738496863 438 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246668.html

Journal Caching: Understanding the Risk of Data Loss
Revised: October 2, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0627.html

Journaling: How to View and More Easily Audit Minimized Journal Entries on the IBM System i Platform
Revised: September, 27, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0626.html

Index Advisor Surfaces Maintained Temporary Indexes Activity on DB2 for i5/OS
Revised: September, 26, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0624.html

IBM System i5, eServer i5, and iSeries Systems Builder IBM i5/OS Version 5 Release 4—January 2006
Published: September 22, 2006   ISBN: 073849576X   462 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg242155.html

Preparing for and Tuning the SQL Query Engine on DB2 for i5/OS
Published: September 27, 2006   ISBN: 0738494992   206 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246598.html

IBM System i Application Modernization: Building a New Interface to Legacy Applications
September 22, 2006   ISBN: 0738494844   308 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246671.html

HMC High Availability for i5 and p5 Servers
Published: August, 31, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4075.html

LPAR Simplification Tools Handbook
Published: August 24, 2006   ISBN: 0738494763
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247231.html

WebSphere Application Server V6 Migration Guide
Published: August 17, 2006   ISBN: 0738495956   376 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246369.html

Implementing Integrated Windows Server through iSCSI to i5 Servers
Published: August, 16, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247230.html

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

Special Edition: WebSphere 6.1 Drafts

This page is devoted to WebSphere 6.1 documentation.

Experience J2EE! Using WebSphere Application Server V6.1
Revised: October, 27, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247297.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Planning and Design
Published: October 24, 2006 ISBN: 073849450X 324 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247305.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1 Security Handbook
Revised: October 20, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246316.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Technical Overview
Published: October 9, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4191.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: System Management and Configuration
Revised: September, 18, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247304.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Planning and Design
Revised: September, 18, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247305.html

Experience J2EE! Using WebSphere Application Server V6.1
Published: September, 14, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247297.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: System Management and Configuration
September, 14, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247304.html

Web Services Handbook for WebSphere Application Server 6.1
Published: October 2, 2006 ISBN: 0738494909 810 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247257.html

Common Corner

Reprinted from the October 2006 issue of COMMON.CONNECT

Innovations in Integration, Leadership
Integrating i5/OS into IMS Education Works
By Jane Jerrard

Five organizations were recognized this year by IBM and COMMON as setting new standards for System i5 innovation. We are highlighting the award-winning companies in a series of articles in COMMON.CONNECT, so that other System i5 users can learn from their innovation. The winners are:

Application Deployment – Elie Tahari, Ltd.
Business Resiliency – Quixtar, Inc.
Infrastructure Simplification – Trans Word Entertainment
i5/OS Leadership – Bank of America, Toronto, Canada Division
Education – Moraine Valley Community College

In this issue, we look at the winners of two of those awards.

Innovation in Infrastructure Simplification

Trans World Entertainment was honored with the 2006 Innovation Award for Infrastructure Simplification. The company is one of the largest specialty music and video retailers in the U.S., with more than 1,100 locations.

The project that won Trans World the award was one of consolidation. Because of company acquisitions, they ended up with three systems (Sun, Wintel, and various versions of AS/400s) in three cities (Albany, New York, Los Angeles, and Canton, Ohio). Chief Information Officer John Hinkle planned to move all three data centers to a single platform in the headquarters office in Albany.

Hinkle began the analysis and selection process in the fall of 2004, and decided to go with the iSeries for his single system. "The iSeries gave us the flexibility to meet our projected needs and planned growth in the immediate future," says Hinkle.

A new System i5 570 with four i5/OS partitions, an AIX partition, and 10 Windows servers arrived in January 2005, and the consolidation was completed by August. "We had key lessons learned," admits Hinkle. "We needed more training than originally planned, especially in the HMC area. It's one of the keys to success, and can be a real stumbling block if you don't have the right skills."

Hinkle credits a lot of help from IBM and from their solution provider, Strategic Computer Solutions (SCS).

Since consolidating their systems, Trans World has realized significant cost reduction—and nearly quadrupled their processing capabilities.

Innovation in Leadership

By integrating all their business on the i5/OS platform in 2005, Bank of America National Association, Canada Branch, has managed to keep IT expenses even as they grew their business. From 2000 to 2005, the number of transactions the branch processed on the i5 more than doubled; in fact, the organization saw an increase of 115 percent in five years. In the same period, IT maintenance staff (including data center operators and user support) decreased by 22 percent. This small group of highly skilled individuals manages to develop, maintain, and implement at least two new technologies every year, even as they support a multi-billion dollar enterprise.

"Using the right platform has had a tremendous impact on our ability to deliver and support a sustained business growth," says Anna Wachter, vice president systems manager. "We've made a long-time commitment to the i5/OS platform."

The bank currently has a System i5 550 with logical partitioning.

Applications will soon be available for the 2007 System i Innovation Awards. Watch www.common.org for more information.

And just for fun, some Windows error codes:

- WinErr: 001 Windows loaded - System in danger
- WinErr: 002 No Error - Yet
- WinErr: 003 Dynamic linking error - Your mistake is now in every file
- WinErr: 004 Erroneous error - Nothing is wrong
- WinErr: 005 Multitasking attempted - System confused
- WinErr: 006 Malicious error - Java found on drive
- WinErr: 007 System price error - Inadequate money spent on hardware
- WinErr: 008 Broken window - Watch out for glass fragments
- WinErr: 009 Horrible bug encountered - God knows what has happened
- WinErr: 00A Promotional literature overflow - Mailbox full
- WinErr: 00B Inadequate disk space - Free at least 20GB
- WinErr: 00C Memory hog error - More RAM needed. More! More! More!
- WinErr: 00D Window closed - Do not look outside
- WinErr: 00E Window open - Do not look inside
- WinErr: 00F Unexplained error - Please tell us how this happened
- WinErr: 010 Reserved for future mistakes by our developers