The Omni User

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630.953.6312
http://omniuser.org/

Is it Cold Enough For Ya?

Last month I was basking in the balminess of an incredibly warm March, and now instead we're in the clutches of a frigid April. I need to mow my lawn and rototill the garden, and it's below freezing!

Anyway, enough about my travails. Let's focus instead on the great events both just passed and coming up. Jim Vance has given us a great recap on the Technical Conference (if you missed it, you missed quite the happening, let me tell you!). Last month I talked about WMCPA; this past month it was NEUGC that had their conference and as always it was a great time. Three days of information overload, but fun was had by all.

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

We had a really informative presentation on SOA from Al Grega, who always brings a great insight to these complex topics. This month we're looking forward to learning everything we need to know about the new cooperative packaging that is WDHT, the combination of WebFacing and HATS that will allow you to quickly web enable your applications. Then in May Bob Bittner will come to tell us all about QShell and OpenSSH.

We have a new advertiser: please welcome Radian Education to the Omni newsletter. Please take a look at their extensive educational offerings. We also have the first person to take advantage of our new, low-priced "business card" ads — see "TUTORING WANTED" in the Table of Contents.

I even managed to sneak in a little surprise — thanks as always to David Andruchuk for finding something to make us to chuckle.

Also, I had hoped to have the new LUGs page up, but we're in the midst of some internal discussion about the web site and we hope to get back to you real soon with news on that front.

Thanks for reading!

The RFID Labeling Solution

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- Asset tracking
- Medical labels
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- Supply chain management
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April Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, April 17th, 2007

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

WebFacing Deployment Tool with Host Access Transformation Services Technology (WDHT)

For decades, programmers have developed applications in RPG and COBOL and have deployed those applications on System/3s, System/3Xs, AS/ 400s, iSeries, and now, System i. The vast majority of those applications are interactive and contain 1 or more 5250 screens. As the web has matured, a huge demand has arisen to transform those applications and the associated screens for delivery via the web. And as personal computers replaced old "dumb" terminals as the monitor of choice, emulators gave us a way to display those screens on intelligent terminals. Users, however, expect graphical user interfaces (GUIs), not the old text screens commonly found in RPG and/ or COBOL programs.

WDHT V7 is a "transformation" product that intercepts a 5250 datastream on its way out of an executing program, transforms it into a graphical interface, and displays that interface on a browser or on a personal computer attached to a System i. More importantly, WDHT allows screens to be combined or skipped and also allows multiple programs to be combined. It improves the user experience by shortening the education cycle required to learn how to use an application, by improving the navigation through a program or programs, and by using graphical and text representations of information rather than only alphanumeric characters. And all of this is done without doing anything to the RPG or COBOL code! WDHT is an acronym for WebFacing Deployment Tool with Host Access Transformation Services Technology. I will do a presentation as an overview to WDHT V7 which was announced in February 2007.

Rusty Edmister, IBM Research Facility, Raleigh, NC

Rusty has worked for IBM for nearly 39 years. In that time, he has been a Reconditioning Accountant, a Systems Engineer including 5 years as a RPG II programmer, a Data Processing and RPG II instructor, a Systems Engineering Manager, a Software Forecaster, and a Sales Support Rep. He has a Bachelors Degree in Business and a MBA from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Bachelors Degree in English from the U of Alabama-Birmingham. He works out of IBM's Software Development Lab in Research Triangle Park, NC, and is a member of the Americas WebSphere Sales Support team. He does Sales Support for IBMers and IBM Business Partners who sell a group of WebSphere products including HATS and WDHT.

Dinner Menu Options

Dinner (choice):
Chicken Provencal
Chef's Choice Fish
Steamed Vegetable Plate

Starter:
Mixed Field Greens

Dessert:
2-Layer Chocolate Cake

March Dinner Meeting Registration

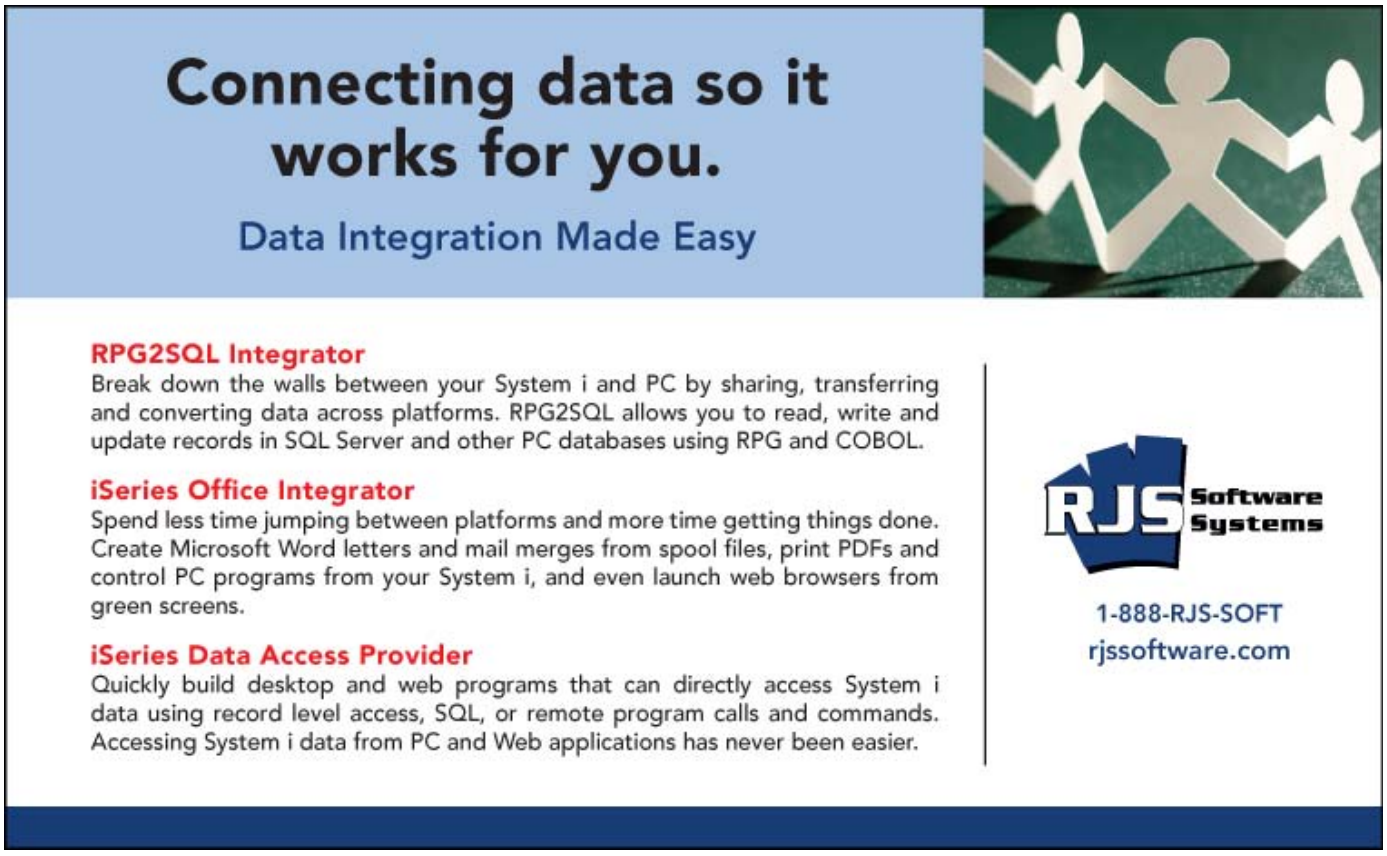
Please make your reservations by Thursday, April 12th, 2007 at Noon. Call (630) 953-6312, and leave your company name, names of those attending, and the type of meal desired (meat, fish or vegetarian.)

Cancellation Policy

Full refund will be issued for cancellations made before 9:00 am April 13th, 2007. After 9:00 am Friday, 04/13/2007, 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.



19th Annual Omni Technical Conference—Recap

Omni presented a great and successful 19th Annual Technical Conference on February 26th & 27th at the Drury Lane Oak Brook. A big round of Omni applause and thank you goes out to all of the vendors, speakers, attendees, and conference volunteers who came together and made the event the success it was!

Planning for the conference began back in August 2006 when the conference committee was formed. I had the privilege of serving as the 2006 Omni Conference Director, to present this event in 2007, and know first hand the hard work and dedication of your Board of Directors. Without the assistance of Mike Pavlak, Paul Nelson, Jim Miller, Bill Parks, Jerome Hughes, Sal Stangarone, Joe Pluta, Matt Gross, David Andruchuk and Joe Thompson, this conference would not have been possible. Special thanks also go to Ray Dutil and Ken Kasper.

Omni experienced a record number of vendor booths this year. Those who filled out Bingo Cards for the Vendor Raffles can attest to this!

Many of you attended the inaugural pre-conference Jump-Start lab sessions. During the main conference day an entire track was also dedicated to hands-on lab sessions on a variety of subjects.

Randall Munson, our lunchtime keynote speaker, informed us all about "The Magic of the System i ...What IBM Will Never Tell You!"

Bob Cozzi shared his vision of i5 TV and recorded video during the conference to share our message with the larger i5 World Community.

Tom Duncan has stepped forward to be the 2007 Omni Conference Director. All of your Omni board members will support Tom in this regard. I invite YOU to also assist Tom. There are many possibilities and opportunities to assist in the planning and/or execution of the conference. The experience is greatly rewarding, often fun, and you can pick your level of involvement.

- Jim Vance
2006 Omni Conference Director

RADIAN Education

AS/400 • iSeries • i5 • System i

Boot Camps for Spring 2007

The Radian Group's Boot Camp sessions bring a variety of related topics into a one-week accelerated learning program. Participants are able to concentrate their learning on relevant and hot issues that they can take back to their workplace for immediate application. iSeries Learners can take the boot camps individually to focus on specific issues, or take a combination of all 3 to bring a wealth of interactive and core learning information back to your iSeries shop.

Camp 1: *5-days* **Operations - Systems Administration Security Management**	Camp 2: *5-days* **iSeries Programming Studies**	Camp 3: *3-days* **Web-Enabling Applications on the iSeries** *(WebFacing and HATS)*
Date: May 7 - 11, 2007 **Location:** Naperville, IL	**Date:** May 21 - 25, 2007 **Location:** Naperville, IL	**Date:** June 5 - 7, 2007 **Location:** Naperville, IL
Camp 1 is oriented to those iSeries shops that need to train new operational personnel in all areas of system operation, administration and security as quickly and thoroughly as possible in a short time frame. In addition, existing operations personnel will benefit from the technical update on the latest features of navigator, WebSphere Development Studio Client and a different view of system control.	***Camp 2*** is oriented to those iSeries programmers that need to upgrade their skill set. Coursework includes a technical update on the latest features in CI, RPG IV, SQL and COBOL. In addition, a review of older, but advanced, programming techniques will be reviewed. Learn the things every programmer should know, but never had the time to learn.	***Camp 3*** will get your iSeries shop started on the road to converting and upgrading those 'tired applications' for your modernized office and mobile users. The tools WebFacing and Host Access Transformation Server give you the possibility to make existing iSeries (AS/400) programs suitable for usage through a web browser without program changes and without big investments in new programs and expensive infrastructures.
Cost: $2,095.00 **Delivery:** 5 days - interactive with labs	**Cost:** $2,095.00 **Delivery:** 5 days - interactive with labs	**Cost:** $1,195.00 **Delivery:** 3 days - interactive with labs

Group Pricing Available - 5% additional discount applies to 3 or more participants from the same company
On-Site Training Available - we will customize content to the needs of your iSeries shop, contact us today!

Take all three boot camps for: $4,295.00	**Take Camp 1 and 2 for:** $3,695.00	**Take Camp 1 or 2, plus 3 for:** $2,595.00

OMNI Members
10% Discount!

Register Yourself Today!

http://www.TheRadianGroup.com/iSeries_events.htm

Contact Laurie Faith : LFGibson@TheRadianGroup.com

Tel: 630-305-7100 x233

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THE RADIAN GROUP

March Meeting Recap

Attendees at the March 20th Dinner Meeting heard Al Grega's message on "Building Business Flexibility with SOA on System i."

We learned how System i can not only play, but excel at providing the flexible services needed by today's businesses. Al is the IBM Product Manager for WebSphere on System i (and also System p), so he was very able to show us how SOA can be implemented using WebSphere on System i.

One approach to implementing SOA on System i uses WDHT/HATS software to web enable low volume green screen applications without changing the RPG code or screen displays (which is pretty timely, considering the fact that the April meeting is all about WDHT!). Al Grega's full presentation slides (about 9MB) are now available as a .pdf download from the Omni site at:

http://omniuser.org

Following up on what Al called taking the first step towards implementing SOA on the System i, Rusty Edmister from the IBM Research Triangle Park facility in Raleigh, NC will present on WDHT/HATS at the April 17th Dinner Meeting. WDHT is an acronym for the WebFacing Deployment Tool with Host Access Transformation Services Technology. Rusty will present an overview of WDHT V7 which was announced in February 2007.

Winner of the $300 System i Network e-Course was Lorraine Connolly of the Founders Group.

Winners of the two $25 Amex Gift Cards were William Rapp of Interlink and Sandy McQuade of CFC International.

TUTORING WANTED
on LANSA Visual ERP

OMNI member needs inexpensive tutoring on this software and Lansa tools.

Tutoring could be in-person or over the web.

I need to do this evenings or weekends.

Contact: GoingLansaERP@aol.com

May Meeting

Another good topic coming! Bob Bittner from IBM is going to speak to us about QShell and OpenSSH. If you don't know about QShell, it's the built-in Unix-like environment that allows you to do lots of cool Unix-y things (but is different from PASE, which is actually AIX running under the i5/OS covers). OpenSSH is a wonderful Open Source tool that helps keep your passwords secure when using standard communications utilities such as FTP and TELNET. This will be a great presentation!

April LUG of the Month

I decided to wander a little toward our cousins in the northeast, and introduce you to the fine folks in Cleveland. Cleveland rocks!

http://www.asugcle.com

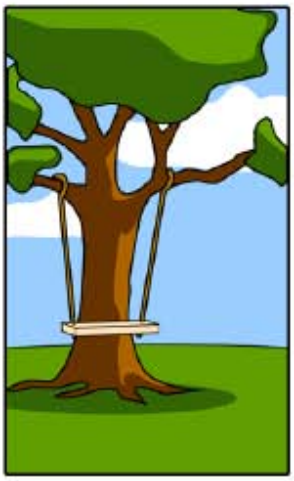
Upcoming Midrange Events

April 17 5:00 pm	OMNI April Dinner Meeting WebFacing Deployment Tool with Host Access Transformation Services Technology Rusty Edmister IBM Research Facility Raleigh, NC Details/Registration here	Embassy Suites Hotel 707 E. Butterfield Rd Lombard, IL
April 17-19	TEC '007 3 Day Technical Education Conference Omni Members use promo code LUG-007 for member pricing Details/Registration here	Sheraton Parkway Hotel Toronto, Canada
April 19 8:00 - 11:00 am	System i Academic Intiative iSummit "Building Tomorrow's Information Technology Leaders Today" Special Guest Speaker Mark Shearer, Gen Mgr System i Details here	Gateway Technical College Kenosha, WI
April 29 - May 3	COMMON 2007 Annual Conference & Expo Details here	Anaheim Convention Center Anaheim, California
May 15 5:00 pm	OMNI May Dinner Meeting QShell and OpenSSH for System i Bob Bittner IBM ISV Strategy and Enablement Rochester, MN Details/Registration soon!	

How IT Projects Really Work (version 1.5)

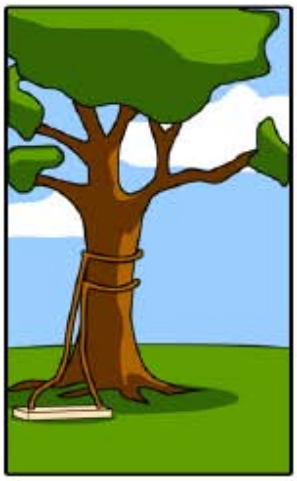
Check for updates at www.scaryideas.com

How the customer explained it

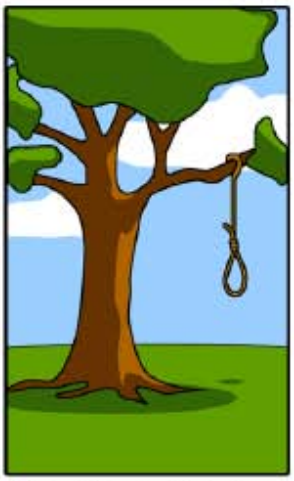


How the project leader understood it

How the analyst designed it

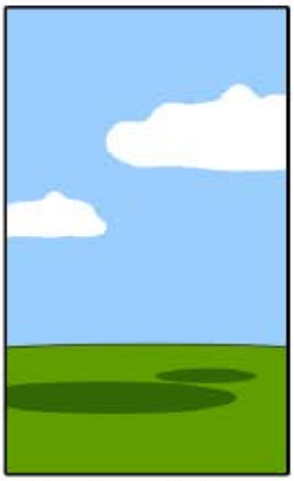


How the programmer wrote it



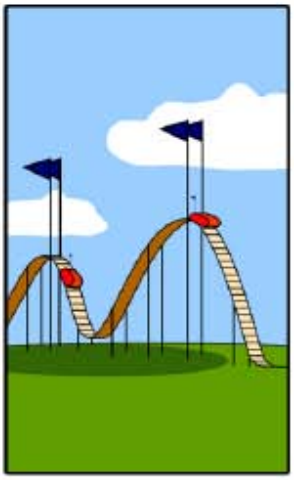
What the beta testers received

How the business consultant described it

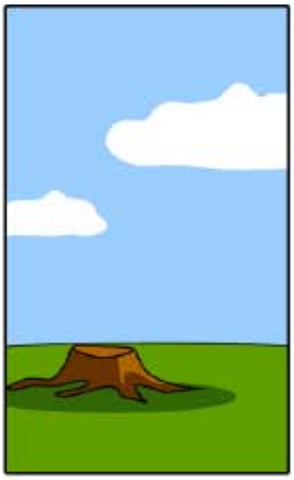


How the project was documented

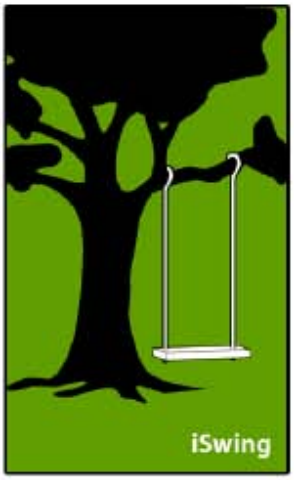
What operations installed



How the customer was billed



How it was supported



What marketing advertised

What the customer really needed

IBM Redbooks/Redpapers

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

AIX 5L on IBM System i Platform Implementation Guide
Published: March 30, 2007 ISBN: 0738486140 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246455.html

WebSphere Portal Version 6 Enterprise Scale Deployment Best Practices
Published: March 30, 2007 ISBN: 0738486027 482 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247387.html

IBM System i IP Telephony Configuring the System i Infrastructure
Revised: March 28, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247382.html

Application and Program Performance Analysis Using PEX Statistics on IBM i5/OS
Published: March, 23, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247457.html

OnDemand SQL Performance Analysis Simplified on DB2 for i5/OS in V5R4
Published: March 12, 2007 ISBN: 0738486264 488 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247326.html

The IBM Virtualization Engine TS7510:
Getting Started with i5/OS and Backup Recovery and Media Services
Published: March 9, 2007 ISBN: 0738489654 336 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247510.html

Daylight Savings Time (DST) Information on IBM System i servers
Published: March, 7, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0655.html

WebSphere Service Registry and Repository Handbook
Published: March 7, 2007 ISBN: 0738489972 934 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247386.html

Patterns: SOA Design using WebSphere Message Broker and WebSphere ESB
Published: March, 6, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247369.html

Journaling ? Journal Receiver Diet tip 2: Consider using skinny headers
Published: March, 5, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0654.html

Building SOA-based Solutions for IBM System i5 Platform
Revised: March, 2, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247284.html

IBM eServer iSeries and AS/400e System Builder:
IBM OS/400 Version 4 Release 3 thru i5/OS Version 5 Release 2
Published: March, 1, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp0542.html

IBM System i5 V5R4 Technical Overview Redbook
Revised: March 1, 2007 ISBN: 073848962X 594 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247271.html

i5/OS Diagnostic Tools for System Administrators: An A to Z Reference for Problem Determination
Published: February, 26, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg248253.html

IBM System i Platform IP Networks: Dynamic!
Published: February, 26, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246718.html

Journaling - Configuring for your Fair Share of Write Cache
Published: February, 23, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0653.html

Implementing Domino 7 for i5/OS
Revised: February, 19, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247311.html

An Overview of Installing SAP Applications on System i Models
Revised: February, 16, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4189.html

AIX 5L on IBM System i Platform: Implementation Guide
Revised: February, 21, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246455.html

Implementing POWER Linux on IBM System i Platform
Published: February 14, 2007 ISBN: 0738489689 378 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246388.html

IBM Technology for Java Virtual Machine in IBM i5/OS
Revised: February 14, 2007 ISBN: 0738486051 218 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247353.html

PCI and PCI-X Placement Rules for IBM System i models: i5/OS V5R3 and V5R4 (Fourth edition)
Revised: February, 12, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4011.html

Use REORGCHK to update table statistics
Revised: February, 8, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0339.html

Special Edition: WebSphere 6.1 Drafts

Experience J2EE! Using WebSphere Application Server V6.1
Published: January 31, 2007 ISBN: 0738494518 460 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247297.html

IBM WebSphere Application Server V6.1 Security Handbook
Published: December 28, 2006 ISBN: 0738496707 574 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246316.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: System Management and Configuration
Published: November 2, 2006 ISBN: 0738496529 984 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247304.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: Technical Overview
Published: October 9, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4191.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

President's Letter

- Sal Stangarone, OMNI Board President

(Sal loves us all very much but he's quite busy these days. We hope to have him back again next month. In the meantime, please enjoy the lovely sounds of the Benny Zook Orchestra performing an all-tuba rendition of Sympathy for the Devil.)

OMNI 2007 Board

President	Sal Stangarone	sals@mrc-productivity.com
Vice President	Paul Nelson	nelson@speakeasy.net
Secretary	Ray Dutil	dutilr@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bill Parks	wparks@worldnet.att.net
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