



# The Omni User

2021 Midwest Road Suite 200  
Oak Brook IL 60523  
630.953.6312  
<http://omniuser.org/>

## Once in a Blue Moon

Last month we had a blue moon which, depending on the definition, is either the second full moon in a calendar month, or the third full moon in a quarter that has four full moons. In any event, May was a fun month.

June, however, is going to blow the lid off. Instead of only a June dinner meeting, we have a whole spate of things happening, from our first Proof of Technology meeting with IBM (on SOA) to a great .NET presentation from Richard Schoen at RJS Software.

And of course, the Golf Outing is very near. For more information on all of the upcoming events, please take a look at the President's Letter; Sal has gone out of his way to provide you with a great recap of all of our activities.

Me, I've gone out of the way to cull IBM's Redpapers as I always do, but not a lot of new System i information was released in this last month. So instead I created a little bonus section on SOA, with four new pieces from IBM. While SOA may (or may not!) still be a little bit on the bleeding edge for some of us, I think it's a technology whose time is coming and one that it's certainly not too soon to learn about.

We're continuing to work closely with IBM. IBM is sponsoring an SOA Proof of Technology, and this is the first time that Omni has worked with IBM to [promote this type of event](#) (note, the event is almost full, so you'll need to register immediately to get a seat). Also, the IBM Rational Software Developer's Conference is happening probably as you read this, and your humble editor will actually be presenting there on behalf of the System i community.

Of course, this is just a great excuse to go to Disney World. And if anyone wants Mickey ears, let me know...

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*Edited by Joe Pluta - [omni-comm@plutabrothers.com](mailto:omni-comm@plutabrothers.com)*

# President's Letter

- Sal Stangarone, OMNI Board President

## Keeping Busy and Staying Cool.

The May weather already feels like June. And, oh wait...can it already be June? It's hard to believe we're already into summer. And, as if your summer social calendar wasn't busy enough, we've also got a lot of important educational events this month that may interest you. You might want to pencil a few of these in...

**June 18-22:** There's the IBM System i Technical Conference down in Scottsdale, AZ June 18-22. Who wouldn't want to go to Arizona in the height of summer? Grab your shades and a mojito and head down to Scottsdale for some great new insights from IBM.

**June 17-20:** But, if that's a little too much of a dry heat for you, you can also get some great learning opportunities and work up a sweat at the System i and AS/400 Connection Conference June 17-20 in Naples, FL. They've got their own umbrella drinks.

Or if you just want to stick around here...for balmy Chicago, we have some really great training and educational opportunities coming up that you may want to make some time for:

**June 19: [June Dinner Meeting](#):** Get ready to learn about Portals. We've got an excellent speaker lined up for our dinner meeting this month, June 19. I'm really looking forward to hearing John Quirk's take on harnessing portal technology. As the Vice President of Enterprise Systems at PSC Group, an IT and professional services consulting group, John's presentation "The Power of the Portal" should be quite topical as we all move toward the future of application modernization and Web-enablement.

**June 21:** IBM is sponsoring an SOA Proof of Technology. At the March Omni Dinner Meeting Al Grega, IBM Product Manager for WebSphere on System i (and also System p) delivered a message on "Building Business Flexibility with SOA on System i." Al offered an IBM-sponsored Chicagoland a free all day SOA Proof of Technology hands-on training opportunity. That date has been confirmed for June 21st and will take place in downtown Chicago. Registration via the Omni web [is now available](#) with limited seating due to the hands-on nature of the training. This event is nearly full, so remember to "seize the opportunity."

**July 10th** at the IBM Technology Center (71 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago) Richard Schoen of RJS will provide a half day hands-on .Net Jumpstart training. This training is free to those who attended the Jumpstart sessions (both .Net and WDSC) at the February Omni User Conference. The event is being offered to others at a cost of \$99.

I'd also like to thank our last speaker, Bob Bittner who spoke at our May Dinner meeting on Qshell and OpenSSH: Winning the Shell Game with a focus on ISV Strategy and Enablement. You can download his presentation on our Web site.

And don't forget!

**July 25<sup>th</sup>:** The golf outing is fast approaching so if you haven't had the opportunity to dust off your clubs and get to the driving range yet...you might want to warm up. It looks like some heavy competition this year for some pretty great prizes. We also need course workers, so contact Bill Parks, if you're interested in helping out...or have any home-from-college kids looking to spend a beautiful day in the great outdoors. He can be reached at 708-267-1516 or via email at [wparks@att.net](mailto:wparks@att.net).

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## June Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, June 19th, 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

### **Power of the Portal**

The world of business technology is regaining its focus. After five years of "wandering the IT forest", a new direction seems to be emerging. The emphasis has shifted from seller driven software to buyer driven solutions. We are no longer as interested in what the technology sector wants to sell as we are interested in how vendors can help us solve our business problems.

Businesses are refocusing on increasing productivity at the worker level and continuing to reduce costs at the same time. This type of process improvement has emerged as a top priority for IT organizations. They want to deliver critical information to employees while they are carrying out the company's business. The new direction is clearly to bring individual roles to the glass one function at a time. For some companies, this change will trigger a significant change in the business process and in the IT department. Portals can help bring each employees (Roles) most significant business processes (Functions) to their desktop, laptop, PDA, cellphone or most useful device (Glass).

### **John Quirk, Vice President for PSC Group, LLC**

John is responsible for managing Enterprise Systems practice, which includes Portals, Content Management, Business Intelligence and SOA. John has extensive experience with providing strategy, management, integration and implementation of knowledge management and collaboration services.

Mr. Quirk is credited with the creation of his own unique methodology for the Strategy and Design phases of Enterprise Portal Projects. This methodology was built upon three years of experience in evaluating and implementing Enterprise portal systems. In addition, John has developed a Knowledge Services Approach for the design and development on Knowledge Management Applications. The use of a Knowledge Service approach allows for the consistent re-use of business rules and code to provide a maximization of client ROI.

## Dinner Menu Options

### Dinner (choice):

Havana Pork  
Chef's Choice Fish  
Pasta Prima Vera

### Starter:

Soup of the Day

### Dessert:

Chocolate Cake

## June Dinner Meeting Registration

Please make your reservations by Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 June 15th, 2007. After 9:00 am Friday, 06/15/2007, 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.

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## May Meeting Recap

The May 15th Dinner Meeting on QShell and OpenSSH was well attended. Attendees at the heard Bob Bittner's dual message on how Qshell provides an interactive and scripting command environment, and how OpenSSH provides a mechanism for encrypted, secure connections to the System i5. Bob's full presentation slides are now available as a .pdf download from the [Omni site](#).

Winners of the two \$25 Amex Gift Cards were Bruce Stapley and Steve Dickerson of Trippe Manufacturing Company.

## June LUG of the Month

Say hello to our neighbors in the East, from the Philadelphia region:

# Delaware Valley Computer Users Group

They seem to be doing just fine, thank you—Mark Shearer will be speaking there this month!

## Upcoming Midrange Events

June 18-22	IBM System i Spring Technical Conference <a href="#">Details/Registration here</a>	Scottsdale, Arizona
June 17-20	System i and AS/400 Connection Conference Featuring V5R4 <a href="#">Details/Registration here</a>	Naples, FL
June 19 5:00 pm	OMNI June Dinner Meeting Power of Portals John Quirk, VP for PSC Group, LLC Chicago, IL <a href="#">Details/Registration here</a>	Embassy Suites Hotel 707 E. Butterfield Rd Lombard, IL
June 21	IBM SOA Proof of Technology Workshop Nitin Raut WebSphere i5 Technical Program Manager IBM Rochester <a href="#">Details/Registration here</a>	IBM Technology Center 71 S Wacker Dr Chicago, IL
July 10	Hands-on .Net half day JumpStart Richard Schoen, RJS <a href="#">Details/Registration soon!</a>	IBM Technology Center 71 S Wacker Dr Chicago, IL
July 25 8:30 am Tee Time	OMNI 9th Annual Golf Outing 4 person best ball format <a href="#">Details/Registration soon!</a>	Tamarack Golf Club 24032 Royal Worlington Drive Naperville, IL



# The 9th Annual OMNI User Golf Outing

<b>The Date:</b>	July 25, 2007 - Wednesday
<b>The Time:</b>	7:45 Registration 8:30 First Tee Time
<b>The Place:</b>	Tamarack Golf Club Rt. 59 and Royal Worlington Dr. Naperville, IL 60540 (630)904-4000
<b>The Cost:</b>	\$85.00 per golfer (Includes Greens Fees, Cart, Dinner and Prizes)
<b>The Format:</b>	Scramble - Each foursome plays as a team.
<b>The Prizes:</b>	Winning foursome (low net score), Most honest foursome, Longest drive, Several Closest to the Pin, and Raffles.

Take a break in the lovely, serene rolling hills, lakes and forests of Naperville along with many other OMNI ites and guests. Shoot the breeze and have a ball, play serious or take the fall, you'll have it all at this wonderful course and who better to spend the day with on the golf course than those who can feel your pain or appreciate your fame. 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](http://www.omniuser.org). All registrations, and any cancellations, must be made no later than July 16<sup>th</sup>. Questions about the event may be directed to either of our co-chairs: Bill Parks at 708-267-1516, email; [wparks@att.net](mailto:wparks@att.net) or Cathy Kremer at 847-731-7643 email; [cathykramer@ameritech.net](mailto:cathykramer@ameritech.net).

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

## Are You A Player?

Woods, Michelson, Furyk, DiMarco, Sorenson – these are all players. Does your name belong among these? I mean do have game? A game? Any old game? You may want to unleash that beast with many of your OMNI friends as we, once again, warm up for our annual golf outing.

Another wonderful outing is planned as we hit the links once again at Tamarack Golf Club in Naperville. If you have never played this track, this may be the event and opportunity you have been waiting for. Real sand, real water, really beautiful trees, tees, fairways and greens. And just like last year, the price is still just \$85.00 per golfer. Many of the games remain the same – Long drive, closest to the pin, low team score – oh yes, did I mention this is a 4 person best ball format(?).... Plus prizes – small and large.

So what's different? Well, the date is different – a Wednesday – the last Wednesday of July. So open your calendar and mark the date – July 25<sup>th</sup>. First tee time is at 8:30 with a “Chicago Style” lunch immediately following the finish of the last group. So bring a four-some, or register individually.

So warm up your swing, dust off your shoes, and get ready for a great time. Register at [www.omniuser.org](http://www.omniuser.org) beginning in June. Last day to register is July 17, but don't wait for the last minute. Plan for this day right now. If you have questions, call Bill Parks at 708-267-1516 or via email at [wparks@att.net](mailto:wparks@att.net)

## Golf Sponsors Wanted

Get your name out in front of our golfing members and their guests. Hole sponsors for long drive or closest to the pin are needed and will include signs on the holes. Other gifts valued at \$15 or more are encouraged. All prize donations will be acknowledged at the event as well as in our newsletter. For details or to donate a prize call Cathy Kramer at 630-626-7074 or via email at [cathykramer@ameritech.net](mailto:cathykramer@ameritech.net).

## Course Workers Wanted

OK, maybe you don't golf but you would like to share our golf day with us. If not you, maybe you have other workers in your office who would like to help us make our golf outing a success. We need registrars, picture takers, hole watchers, etc. If you care to lend a hand contact Bill Parks at 708-267-1516 or via email at [wparks@att.net](mailto:wparks@att.net)



## IBM Redbooks/Redpapers

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

### **Installing and Configuring WebSphere Portal Express V6 on i5/OS**

Published: May 23, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4303.html>

### **WebSphere Business Integration V6.0.2 Performance Tuning**

Published: May, 4, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4304.html>

### **IBM eServer iSeries Migration A guide to upgrades and migrations to System i5**

Published: May, 4, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247200.html>

### **WebSphere Service Registry and Repository Handbook**

Revised: May 3, 2007 ISBN: 0738489972 934 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247386.html>

### **Business Process Management: Modeling through Monitoring Using WebSphere V6.0.2 Products**

Revised: May, 1, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247148.html>

### **Patterns: SOA Design using WebSphere Message Broker and WebSphere ESB**

Published: April 26, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247369.html>

### **Where to Find Today and Yesterday's System i Technical Marketing Deliverables**

Published: April, 25, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0637.html>

### **IBM System i Overview: Models 515, 525, 595, and More**

Revised: April, 23, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp5052.html>

### **Production Topologies for WebSphere Process Server and WebSphere ESB V6**

Published: April 20, 2007 ISBN: 0738489255 486 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247413.html>

### **IBM System i IP Telephony Configuring the System i Infrastructure**

Published: April 19, 2007 ISBN: 0738486426 298 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247382.html>

### **Building SOA-based Solutions for IBM System i5 Platform**

Revised: April 17, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247284.html>

### **PCI and PCI-X Placement Rules for IBM System i models: i5/OS V5R3 and V5R4 (Fourth edition)**

Revised: April 11, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4011.html>

### **Building SOA Solutions Using the Rational SDP**

Published: April 4, 2007 ISBN: 0738486213 636 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247356.html>

### **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>

**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>

**Journaling ? Journal Receiver Diet tip 2: Consider using skinny headers**

Published: March, 5, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0654.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>

**Use REORGCHK to update table statistics**

Revised: February, 8, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0339.html>

# Special Edition: WebSphere 6.1 Drafts

## **WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Web Services Problem Determination**

Revised: May 23, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4306.html>

## **WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Installation Problem Determination**

Revised: May 21, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4305.html>

## **WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Classloader Problem Determination**

Published: May 18, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4307.html>

## **WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Web Container Problem Determination**

Revised: May, 2, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4309.html>

## **Switching between JVMs in WebSphere Application Server 6.1 for i5/OS**

Published: April, 11, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0666.html>

## **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>

# Getting Started with SOA

## **Building Composite, Role-Based Dashboards using WebSphere Dashboard Framework**

Revised: May, 21, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4313.html>

## **Patterns: SOA Design using WebSphere Message Broker and WebSphere ESB**

Revised: May, 15, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247369.html>

## **WebSphere Service Registry and Repository Handbook**

Revised: May 3, 2007 ISBN: 0738489972 934 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247386.html>

## **Building Composite Applications**

Revised: April, 30, 2007

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247367.html>

## May 2007 COMMON Corner

Reprinted from the June 2007 issue of COMMON.CONNECT

### A FOCUSed Conference!

*By Mark Bauman, Manager System i Core Technologies, IBM*

COMMON will kickoff another exciting event on October 14, 2007, in Columbus, Ohio – the first annual COMMON Focus workshop conference! This inaugural educational event will consist of 15 in-depth, one-day workshops – five workshops per day for three days of intense, focused education. This innovative educational conference format will allow attendees to focus their educational needs on a specific topic each day. Both lab and lecture style workshops will be offered—nine lecture style workshops (three per day), and six lab style workshops (two per day). Each workshop will generally be scheduled from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm each day. And sadly, yes, that means you will have to plan to be up early, with coffee in hand, ready to learn each day.

The format will be much more intimate than what you may be used to from a “regular” COMMON conference, with special networking events for attendees and instructors. COMMON Focus 2007 will kickoff on the evening of Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, with a networking reception, where you will meet other conference attendees and workshop instructors—you can discuss the upcoming workshops and understand their basic content. All of the networking receptions will provide invaluable opportunities to make new contacts with peers, share aspects of each other’s IT environments, and just have some fun! An additional reception for all attendees is planned for Monday evening. By the way, a continental breakfast and a lunch will be provided each day, so you will also be able to interact during that time with other attendees.

In addition, attendees will also have access to a smaller tabletop-style exhibition area, featuring a limited number of exhibitors. You will be able to view and get hands-on demonstration on the latest System i-related solutions available to them, and hopefully learn how to enable more efficiencies in your IT environment.

Monday morning, October 15<sup>th</sup> will initiate the first day of the one-day workshops. There are five outstanding workshops scheduled for that day: Richard Dolewski’s “Disaster Recovery Planner – Ready, Set, Plan”; George Farr and Claus Weiss’s all-day lab on WDSC; Carol Woodbury’s “Implementing i5/OS Security”; Erwin Earley’s lab entitled “PHP Essentials”; and Paul Tuohy’s “Modernizing RPG Applications.” The hard part of the first day (in fact, the most difficult part of each day) is going to be choosing ahead of time which workshop you are going to attend!

On Tuesday, there will be an additional five workshops: “System i Access for the Web” with Carole Miner and Doug Beauchene; “All You Need to Know about SQL in Six

Hours” by Skip Marchesani; “Disaster Recovery Workshop: Be Well Prepared” by Larry Youngren, Deb Saugen and Dave Owen; and then two labs: “IBM System i Navigator Workshop” by Nick Fernholz and Arturo Gutierrez, and “Hands on VB.net and ASP.Net for System i Developers” presented by Richard Schoen and Bruce Collins.

And finally, on Wednesday, you will have choice of another five workshops: Larry Bolhuis’s brand new “Systems Management Workshop”; “Beyond the Basics with SQL” by Skip Marchesani; “RPG meets the Web” by Paul Tuohy; a lab by Gottfried Schimunek and Aspen Payton entitled “Optimize Your System i with IBM Performance Management Tools”; and finally, another lab “Using JAVA to build System i Web Applications” with Paul Holm. Please note that in anticipation that attendees will need to catch flights on Wednesday evening, that day is expected to end slightly earlier than the other days.

I think this set of 15 outstanding workshops are an excellent representation of the many subject areas that System i programmers, administrators and managers need to understand and know. There is something for everyone, and plenty of technical depth across multiple areas. In fact, did you notice that there are some general themes across the COMMON FOCUS 2007 days? It has been planned this way so if you wanted a soup to nuts education on one aspect of your IT environment you could attend that series of workshops. For example, take the theme of disaster recovery. You can take Richard Dolewski’s workshop “Disaster Recovery Planner – Ready, Set, Plan” on Monday, followed by Tuesday’s “Disaster Recovery Workshop: Be Well Prepared” by Larry Youngren, Dave Owen and Debbie Saugen. Another example, is SQL education, where you could take Tuesday’s “All You Need to Know about SQL in Six Hours” by Skip Marchesani, followed by Wednesday’s “Beyond the Basics with SQL”, also by Skip. And to prep you for the SQL workshops, I would recommend Paul Tuohy’s “Modernizing RPG Applications” on Monday. So, take a close look at the general themes that cross multiple workshops on different days to see how you can take advantage of the content across the scheduled workshops.

Another “first ever” for COMMON associated with this workshop conference is a “cap” on the maximum number of attendees which will be allowed to attend. This limit allows attendees to get intense education in a smaller setting, allowing for more one-on-one interaction with the presenters. Even though the early bird price of \$1420 (for a COMMON member) ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>, I wouldn’t wait till then if I were you – seats are going sell fast for this workshop conference.

So, if you need a quick, intense, three-day educational conference on System i technologies, plan on being in Columbus in mid-October for this first-ever unique educational COMMON Focus event—it is going to be fantastic! You can learn more about COMMON Focus 2007 at [www.common.org/focus](http://www.common.org/focus).

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