The Omni User

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

March Dinner Meeting

Tim Kramer on System i Navigator in V6R1

Tuesday, March 25th, 5:00 at Embassy Suites, Lombard IL

This month's speaker, Tim Kramer, joins us from IBM Rochester with the latest news on System i Navigator for V6R1. In preparation for the annual COMMON conference where there should be myriad announcements, Tim will be showing some of the hottest new features of the iNav product line. Most notable will be IBM System Director Navigator for i5/OS. IBM Director has been a staple in System i shops running IBM Blade Center technology using System i storage as the SAN, and its use will continue to grow as IBM pushes for this to be the convergence platform for console activity. Come see what's going on and how you too can take advantage of the hot new technology sure to improve productivity and manageability!

Tim Kramer is a Senior Software Engineer from the Rochester, Minnesota lab. Tim has worked for IBM for 28 years. He has worked on various parts of System i Navigator for several years. For the past few years, Tim has worked on taking individual functions of System i Navigator and making them available on the web. In V5R3 and V5R4, this involved making functions available via web servlets and accessible via individual URLs. In V6R1, he integrated these web enabled functions into the Integrated Solutions Console, which is now part of the base operating system of the System i, resulting in what is now called the IBM System Director Navigator for i5/OS.

Our dinner meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lombard will begin around 5:00 PM with a networking session and registration with dinner at 6:00 and Tim's presentation at 7:00. This is a can't miss session at a fraction of the cost of a full blown conference. Come by and meet old friends, new friends and folks you just haven't seen in at least a month or two! We will formally introduce the new Board of Directors, and a award a handful of door prizes to some lucky attendees. Details and an online registration form can be found at http://omniuser.org

Want your desk back?
Go paperless.

Document Management Made Easy

WebDocs
Eliminate your paper shuffle by scanning and electronically storing, managing and distributing paper documents, System i and PC files, faxes, emails and more. Think of WebDocs as an electronic filing cabinet that allows you to access and share business information from anywhere at anytime.

Enterprise Workflow
Improve your productivity by automating electronic and paper-based business processes. With Enterprise Workflow, you can electronically route and track key work activities like the processing of invoices, purchase orders, HR documents and reports.

RJS Software Systems

Get the information you need. Now.

1-888-RJS-SOFT
www.rjssoftware.com

www.rjssoftware.com

Meet Your 2008 OMNI Board Of Directors

The 2008 Board was elected at the last dinner meeting, and individual positions were assigned at the Board Meeting in February. Unfortunately, Dave Andruchuk found that other commitments made it necessary for him to relinquish the Vice President's post, leaving OMNI with a vacancy. So, like McCain, Obama, and Clinton, Duncan is in need of a Veep. If you'd like to pitch in and help guide this organization, contact any of the board members.

President	Tom Duncan	tduncan@collectionsetc.com
Vice President	[Your name here]	
Treasurer	Bill Parks	wparks@worldnet.att.net
Secretary	Ray Dutil	dutilr@gmail.com
Seminar VP	Mike Pavlak	Mike_Pavlak@tripplite.com
Web Master	Vince Salomon	kingsalomon@gmail.com
Advertising	Matt Gross	mgross@comcast.net
Communication Director	Jim Wazorick	jwwazorick@yahoo.com
Membership	Steve Dorfman	
Tech Conference Director	Yvonne Enselman	yenselman@comcast.net
Past President	Sal Stangarone	sals@mrc-productivity.com
IBM Liaison	Joe Thompson	jwthomp@us.ibm.com
Advisory Member	Jerome Hughes	jromeh@comcast.net

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
Server Proven
Labeling Software
T.L. ASHFORD
Since 1983
800.541.4893
www.tlashford.com

Sticker Shock or Highway Robbery, You Make The Call

By Bill Parks, Treasurer

Sticker shock is the best way I can describe the latest conversation between OMNI and the Embassy Suites. Management at the Embassy Suites has changed many times over the years as we have held our meetings there, but one thing has remained constant - the price. And since 1994 or possibly before that (those of us that go back that far now have memories that are failing us) our member price for attending our meetings has been $25.00. Embassy has now changed its price to $30 for chicken and vegetarian meals and $33.00 to $35.00 for real meat and fish dinners. Yikes!

OK, ok – so this includes salad, entrée, desert and service and we get the private use of one of their rooms for our meetings. And so you couldn't go to a decent restaurant and pay less… it's the principal of the thing or maybe the surprise of the thing. Actually, if we had taken that $25.00 from 1994 and extrapolated that amount to 2008 at 3% increase per year, we would be at $37+. Anybody feeling any better? Yah, I really think I am.

So what's a user group to do?

Well, your board of directors is looking into several options. Among them are:

- Increasing dinner meeting prices
- Finding a new, less expensive, place to meet
- Changing the format so we have something other than a sit-down meal
- Moving toward the pizza events with a much smaller charge for the meeting
- Changing to an on-line meeting format

Some of the considerations given to any change we make will be the personal relationships we have developed over the years with each other, the time we spend before and after a meal kibitzing about our shops and our challenges, being able to face a speaker (not over a phone line – but live and in person) to ask questions on the topic at hand, and just the relaxed atmosphere while actually learning tricks of our trade. We will also keep in mind that many of our members are reimbursed for these educational events and for some it provides a tax deduction – though this is the least important of considerations. Education and information is now and will always be OMNI's top concern.

For right now and the very near future nothing is going to change. We will use monies derived from our conference and monthly newsletter advertising to cover some of the excess monthly costs of the meeting dinners as well as costs related to bringing in the quality speakers. We want to prepare you for any future changes in the monthly meetings. And, of course, we value your opinions in these matters and would like to hear any suggestions you might have concerning future meetings.

www.bvstools.com

WMCPA 23rd Annual Spring Technical Conference

April 8th - 10th, 2008

Grand Geneva Resort

Lake Geneva, WI

Registrations must be postmarked no later than
March 26, 2008 to avoid $100 late fee
Join WMCPA Tuesday evening for their first
"Meet the Experts Roundtable"
6:00 p.m. - Deli Buffet
7:00 p.m. - Expert Discussion Panel

Details at www.wmcpa.org

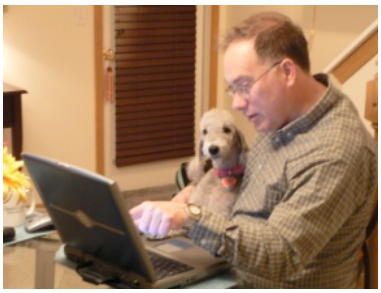
OMNI Newsletter Advertising Rates

Size	Monthly Insertion	Annual Contract
Full page	$250.00	$200.00
Half page	$150.00	$120.00
Quarter Page	$80.00	$65.00
Business Card	$40.00	$30.00
Business Card Member Independent Consultant	$25.00	$25.00

Business Card – Member Independent Consultant is defined as a dues paid member of OMNI who works for him/herself, receives no salary or commission from any other source in the IT industry, and who has no employees. The OMNI Board of Directors reserves the exclusive right to determine which ads will benefit the members of OMNI and are consistent with the objectives of the organization, and to refuse to publicize any advertisements to the contrary.

Heeeeee's Baaaack

By Jim Wazorick, Communications Director



Some people are slow learners, it seems. After my original two-year stint as newsletter editor and communications director a few years ago, I stepped back from the Board while I returned to school for a while. But, I'm back to the scene of the crime for another crack at it. Boy, have things changed in the meantime. When we printed and mailed the newsletter, we were always watching the number of pages to hold down printing and postage costs. It reminded me of the good old days when we had to scrimp on every byte in our record layouts. These days we can include what data we need in our databases, and since we post the newsletter online, it can grow as well.

Last time here, too, I was ably assisted (some would claim propped up) by Diane Blackwood, who did the heavy lifting by taking the articles I collected and wrote and actually did the layout. This time around, I'm on my own, except for my helper, one Coco Chanel, shown above. She's pretty good, except every time I tell her to press PAUSE, she spends too much time looking for a PAWS key.

Having re-introduced myself, I'll also confess that we're a little short on content this month. Once I get myself organized it'll get better. I could certainly use any contributions, suggestions, and tips. Drop me an email at jwwazorick@yahoo.com