

The Omni User

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OMNI Day Of Education Almost Here



Are educational costs getting you down? Is the economy wreaking havoc with your development plans? Did the company just have a giant yard sale in front of the corporate headquarters? Did the controller recommend hitchhiking on your next business trip? Did they hire Dr. Kevorkian as a "transition consultant?"

Is that what's troubling you, Bunky?

Well, fear not, as the 7th annual Omni User Day of Education will be held Tuesday, October 28th, in the beautiful Oakbrook Terrace offices of IBM. This is without doubt the best "bang for your educational buck" you can get in the System i world. The lineup this year includes IBM and community favorites both familiar and new.

Bob Cozzi will be on hand to present a full track of four sessions on RPG topics, including the latest with V6R1 and how to deliver AJAX content with RPG. Linda Hirsh will be here to show us the latest and greatest features of iSeries Navigator and iSeries access for the Web. Omni's Own Mike Pavlak will be around to discuss PHP and how you can take advantage or the new world of Open Source technology available on the IBM i. To get the most out of the latest version of IBM development client, Bob Cancilla will be talking about many aspects of RDI and EGL. Brand new to Omni is Tyler Even who will be on hand to present a full track of topics regarding the database. Evan will lead two sessions on, as well ones for DB2 Triggers, and The Science and Art of Indexes for DB2.

With a lineup like this you won't want to miss the action. Please check out our website for registration and all of the latest details at www.omniuser.org .

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Day Of Education Speakers

BOB CANCELLA



Bob is the Software Evangelist for IBM I and IBM Rational Tools and Compilers has all the answers about the excitement behind the changes to application development. Bob joins IBM after over 35 years experience in System i and z management including VP and CTO at two major insurance companies. He is a technical editor and frequent contributor to the IBM Systems Magazine, i5 Business Edition. He is also the founder of electronic user group IGNITe/400 (www.ignite400.org) and author of several books on System i eBusiness.

TYLER EVAN

Tyler is a Software Engineer with IBM Rochester and also the specialist for DB2 Web Query for i.

Day Of Education Speakers Continued...

BOB COZZI



Bob Cozzi runs Cozzi Productions, Inc., a System i (Power system) training company just west of Chicago. Specializing in video-based training, Cozzi started producing "Tuesday Tips" for Penton Media (System iNetwork) in November 2007. In addition, Bob hosts "RPG World Live" a one hour live streaming video show on Fridays at 11:00 AM central time. Hosted on RPGWorld.com and ustream.tv the show covers various IT topics from the previous week and also features a live question and answer period (via the built-in Chat room) and regular segments on SQL and RPG IV.

His website, www.RPGWorld.com is where you can find more information and join in his free RPG Discussion Forum, hosted on the System i.

MIKE PAVLAK



Mike Pavlak (Mr. PHP) recently joined the staff at Zend Technologies as a Customer Sales Engineer. His new role is to support customer sales activities, public speaking and communications about Zend's solutions for the IBM i. Mike has been a valued OMNI board member, past president, speaker, and is serving this year as the Seminar Vice President.

LINDA HIRSH

Linda Hirsch has been with IBM for 23 years, holding a variety of programming and technical marketing roles in the IBM Rochester Laboratory. Linda's current focus is client integration technologies and support for System i Access products. She is a regular speaker at the IBM System i Technical Conference, at many local user groups, and other national System i technical conferences.



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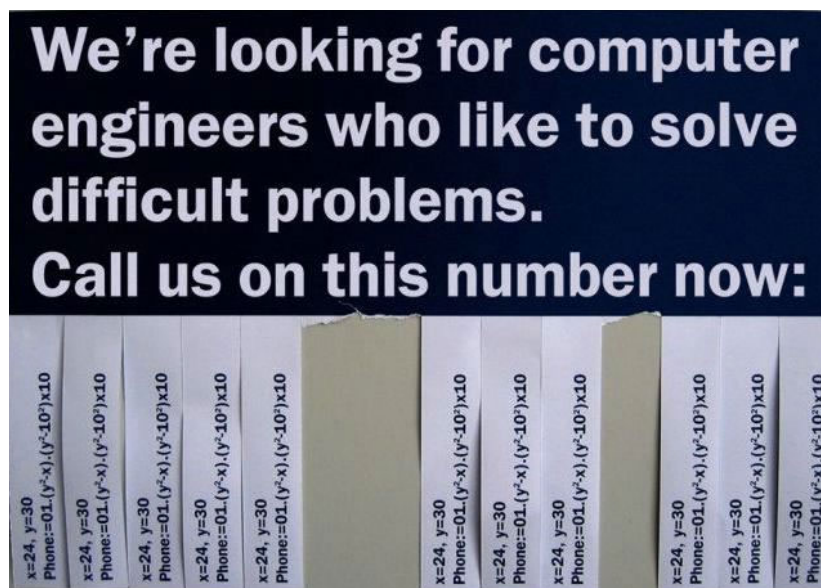
Last issue we introduced you to the OMNI groups on two major networking sites, LinkedIn and Facebook. Just this week I was invited to connect to a colleague on a site that I had not previously heard of, BrightFuse, a new networking place launched by CareerBuilder, which proclaims:

“CareerBuilder.com launched BrightFuse in February 2008 to give professionals a tool with which they could network and interact easily with other professionals.

We want BrightFuse to help you along the way. Networking is tricky and sometimes intimidating, but it is also critical to success. Some helpful tips, resources, user prompts and feedback will only make it easier to do.

We want our users to have an interactive experience with our tool. It is extremely easy to use, and the site will continue to grow with that as the main focus. We're constantly racking our brains for new and easy ways to facilitate interaction within the BrightFuse community so that it is easy to build relationships.”

I don't yet know much about BrightFuse's pros and cons, or what might recommend it over any of the others. I'll be exploring its capabilities over the next month or two and if you'd like to see what it's all about check out www.brightfuse.com or my (incomplete) page at www.brightfuse.com/jim-wazonick



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SNDBRKMSG

Back in April I started a feature to post user stories of wacky interview situations. Like many of my ideas, it turned out to be a series of one, because, well, Yahoo's bandwidth wasn't exactly challenged by the volume of your submissions. This month, though, I have to share a post entitled "The Last Interview" from The Daily WTF (www.thedailywtf.com), a blog entitled "Curious Perversions in Information Technology"

I went into an interview for a local "high tech" company based on a recruiter saying it was rapidly growing and opening into new markets. Sounded good in principle. Waiting for the interview to start, I had a chance to read through their recruiting packet and noted it was hard as hell to find a reference to their product line, and their "benefits" weren't all that different from what you might get working for Safeway. The first interview was with HR and the questions ranged from "on this list of 30 things, pick the three you're best at" to "define 'competition.'" I quickly figured out that she was more interested in getting back to her coffee than assessing me as a worthy candidate, so I upped my chances to be hired by answering all questions in the shortest time with the "best" answers. She *loved* me.

The next interview was with a potential peer. He was a "shooter," emphasizing important points like an hour for lunch with a cock of the thumb on his gun hand. He told me he was there to explain the intricacies of the job and make me more comfortable, but him sitting so far forward on the edge of the chair made me anything *but* comfortable. He was clearly scared I might rock the boat, so I again upped my chances for being hired by presenting myself as one who was more than willing to listen to the status quo in the first few weeks and do what I could to integrate into what was clearly becoming a rather boring cubicle existence. I also decided I was *never* going to take the job.

The third interview was with the hiring manager. He was cool. I liked him immediately and we chatted as humans. He asked me what I thought of the hiring brochure and I said, "screen doors, chickens, or high tech, I have *no idea* what you actually do." When asked about benefits I said I might get better at Toys R Us. He wasn't offended — he thought it was funny. I liked him more. He asked for a single adjective to describe the environment, and offered, "conservative." With nothing to lose, I said, "stultifying". He laughed again. Then I launched into my brief soliloquy: "I get the sense that you really want to fix this company, but to do so, you need to be relieved of your day to day responsibilities of managing the group you have. So you're out looking for someone that can run circles around the team members you have and get them to rise to the occasion while you spend time on grander improvements. If the previous interviewer is an example of the standards of this group, I am your guy as I bet a week in I can be many times more productive than they are and get them scared. If this is true, I am interested in this job."

"But," I continued, "if you aren't totally committed to sticking it out and really making changes in this company when you bail I won't last 10 minutes as they will eat me alive as soon as you are gone, and I don't want this job. So my question to you: are you *truly* committed to change and do you believe it's possible in this company or are you just bullshitting me and yourself?" He said that was the end of the interview and he'd call me the next day for a follow up.

And he did call the following day. *At 6:30AM*. The message was short.

"Thanks, man. I've been up all night and driving into work today, the answer to your last question came to me. *I just quit*. Thanks for the interview."

The 2008 OMNI Board Of Directors

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The OMNI Newsletter is edited by Jim Wazorick. Comments, suggestions and contributions are welcomed at jwwazorick@yahoo.com



A post from The iSeries blog that Tom Duncan called to our attention:

New RPG users: an oxymoron?

October 2nd, 2008 by [Mark Fontecchio](#)

Like “jumbo shrimp” and “small fortune,” one would probably think that “new RPG users” is an oxymoron. And if we expand that out more — “new RPG users on the System i” — well, that makes it seem more like one.

But that may not be the case. The folks at [iDevelop reveal](#) that there are actually plenty of people out there coming to the System i new from other platforms — Unix, Windows, Linux. Now, coming to System i usually means you have to get to know RPG, as it’s the main language for many i applications. But iDevelop reports that these newcomers are coming to the language with more of an eagerness to learn, rather than a gritting of the teeth:

Assuming they’re introduced to the modern version fo the language (i.e., /Free format logic, modular design with function calls, etc.) nearly all those we’ve talked to are impressed by the power and simplicity of RPG for business-oriented logic compared to whatever languages they have worked with. At least a couple of RPG’s most publicly vocal fans came to the language after experiencing other languages and environments.

The point of the post was to generate some discussion about how to attract people to the i platform as they’re coming new to it. Commenters added on, saying that anything that can run on the LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP) stack within i is attracting the new users, as well as some other interesting things.

Posted: October 2nd, 2008 under [Programming](#), [System i software](#).

Mailing List



Are you on the OMNI User Mailing List? If you’re reading this, you probably are, but if you aren’t, please go here <http://omniuser.org/MailingList.html> and sign up. You’ll be sure to receive all our latest spam information.

An Alternative Explanation of the Rescue Plan:

Once upon a time in a place overrun with monkeys, a man appeared and announced to the villagers that he would buy monkeys for \$10 each. The villagers, seeing that there were many monkeys around, went out to the forest, and started catching them.

The man bought thousands at \$10 and as supply started to diminish, they became harder to catch, so the villagers stopped their effort. The man then announced that he would now pay \$20 for each one. This renewed the efforts of the villagers and they started catching monkeys again. But soon the supply diminished even further and they were ever harder to catch, so people started going back to their farms and forgot about monkey catching.

The man increased his price to \$25 each and the supply of monkeys became so sparse that it was an effort to even see a monkey, much less catch one. The man now announced that he would buy monkeys for \$50! However, since he had to go to the city on some business, his assistant would now buy on his behalf.

While the man was away the assistant told the villagers: 'Look at all these monkeys in the big cage that the man has bought. I will sell them to you at \$35 each and when the man returns from the city, you can sell them to him for \$50 each.' The villagers rounded up all their savings and bought all the monkeys. They never saw the man or his assistant again and once again there were monkeys everywhere.

Now you have a general understanding of how the government bailout works.

System i Events

Be sure to stay current with upcoming system i events at our web page:

<http://omniuser.org/events.html>