THE OMNI USER

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6th annual

OMNI Golf Outing Recap

Tamarack Golf Club in Naperville

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Tee time 8:30

The sixth annual OMNI User golf outing was a great success! On Tuesday, July 20th at Tamarack Golf Club in Naperville, after a bit of rain cleared just before tee time, OMNI golfers teed up, drove long and straight, and tapped it in for a birdie. Well, not everyone or on every hole, but you get the idea.

OMNI's scramble was lots of fun for all, and the contests were very close, with only two feet separating one OMNI golfer from both a new Mustang (on the hole in one contest) and $10,000 (on the putt from 60 feet away). Many won a few great prizes at the awards banquet raffle after the golfing, and a few people won a bunch of great prizes! All in all, a great time was had by everyone, and many thanks go to our sponsors listed below…

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A big OMNI round of applause goes to the first place team of Rex Smith, Mark Rakosnik, Wally Trzop, Ed Lode, who shot a 7 under par 63 for their bragging rights. More applause, please, for the contest hole winners: Longest Drive on hole 5 was won by Scott Traficanti, and on hole 10's Longest Drive contest it was Wally Trzop who triumphed. Closest to the pin on hole 14 was Ed Lode, and the longest putt on the 18th hole was taken by Larry Hepler.

And many thanks also to the volunteers who made it happen, especially Matt Gross, Jerome Hughes, Bill Lorimer, Paul Nelson, Bill Parks and Jim Tischler, and anyone else we're missing. Some photos follow, please enjoy them and make plans to join us at next summer's outing, tentatively July 19th, 2005!

RJS Software

President's letter

By Paul Nelson

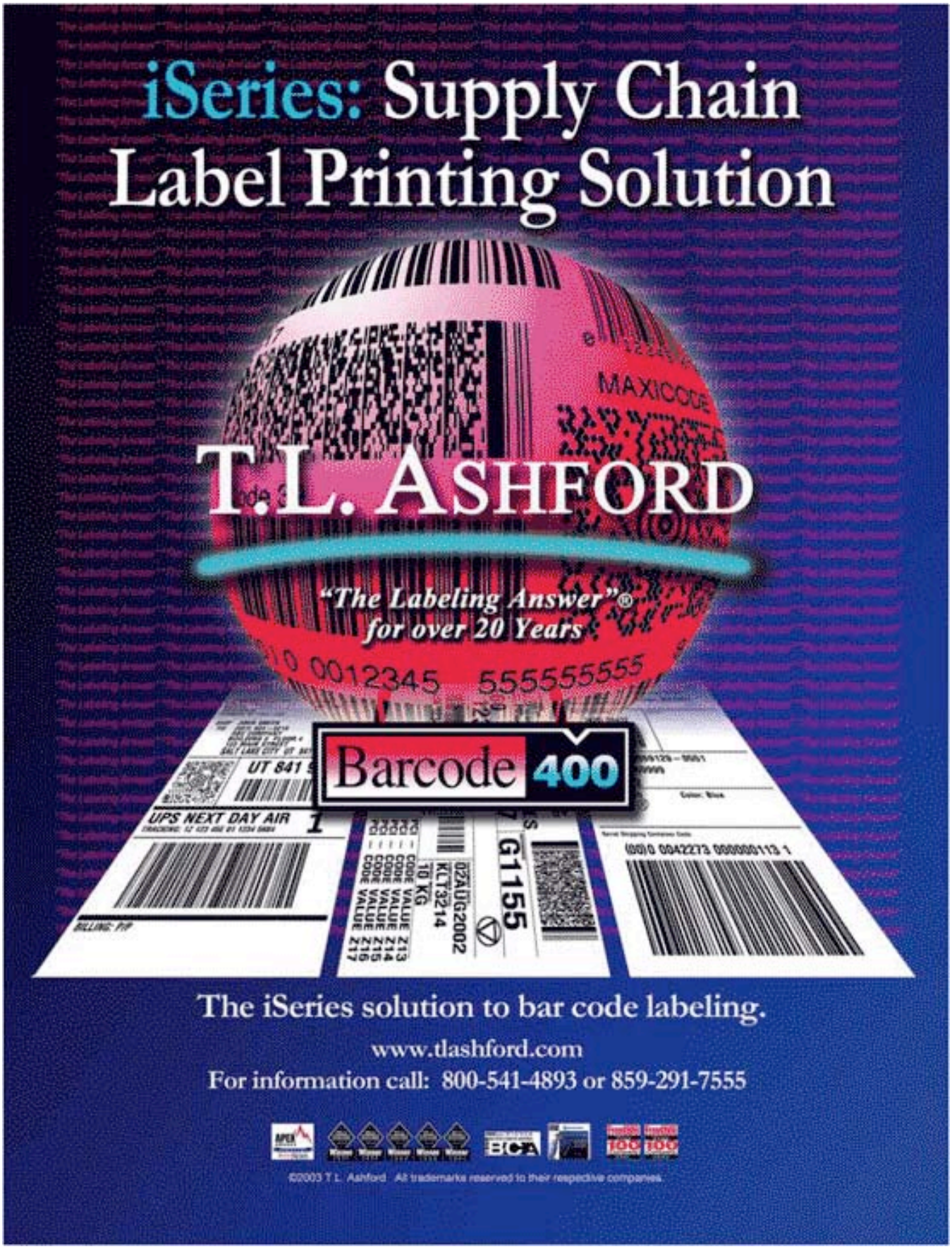
Greetings!

If you weren't there, you missed a great time at the OMNI golf outing on July 22nd. We had over 50 golfers brave the early morning rainstorms to see the sun break out just as we were teeing off. Check out the photos in this newsletter.

Coming up in August will be a special treat. Dale O'Leary will be doing a presentation called Hassle-free ILE. Dale will be giving you not only the best reasons to complete the switch to ILE, but also will be providing practical examples of how to do things the easy way. Please join us at the Embassy Suites in Lombard on Tuesday, August 17th.

Remember, OMNI is your user group. We want everyone to have a voice in what we do and where we're going. All you have to do is let us know.

Thanks, and we'll see you at the meetings.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T.L. Ashford

COMMON Corner *Education from COMMON*

An English Woman Abroad
Overseas Expectations and Impressions of COMMON U.S.
By Joanna Brown

Being a member of the iSeries community based in London, England, each year the COMMON event we usually attend is COMMON Europe. This year, however, with the U.S. dollar weak relative to the Euro, and my colleague, Matthew, being the official COMMON UK representative, I was able to put together a successful business case to join you (should that be y'all?) in San Antonio instead of attending COMMON at Cardiff, Wales.

In the UK, we imagine everything in the U.S. to be bigger than anything we have back home, with Texas alone being bigger than England—and this has certainly been true of COMMON. We are hoping for 250 people to attend the COMMON Europe event, which is spread over three days and we will be offering them a choice of eight sessions for every hour slot.

At the San Antonio conference, I needed a map to navigate the conference centre, you talk in terms of thousands of attendees, and cloning technology would have been handy to have allowed me to attend everything I wanted to. But although our event is smaller, the quality of the sessions is of the same high standard, with many of the speakers who are here coming to see us. It's also a great opportunity to meet others involved with the same technology.

As San Antonio is not well known in England, I came with very few ideas of what to expect other than some ill-thought out assumptions based on television, particularly "Dallas," and films. I thus expected more skyscrapers, more cowboys, more horses, more guns and more millionaires. This beautiful cosmopolitan city with great food, good restaurants and the beautiful river walk was thus a revelation.

As for the conference itself, I expected to attend interesting sessions and learn lots of new things. What I didn't expect was to be wearing a fake tattoo on my arm and to have been made to feel so welcome. In nearly every session I attended, someone struck up a conversation with me. This is not the British way, and I for one believe we lose out as a result of this.

Most of the time, people understood me despite my accent. I understand "Austin Powers" has helped a lot in bringing British slang to the States, or else been really apologetic although, as I'm the visitor, I feel that it is my responsibility to make myself understood. There are a lot more women here than there are at UK, and European events where we probably make up around 20 percent of attendees, which is comforting, and in the UK more of the men wear their hair in ponytails and heartily embrace a geeky image.

However, there have been a couple of disappointments. If more of you could have been wearing cowboy hats and boots that would have been great. After all, Charlie Massoglia comes to visit us and he has set certain standards. Also, the first-time attendee session advertised "prize drawing." In the UK, that would have meant that prizes would be awarded for exceptional displays of artistic merit rather that the award of prizes as names are pulled out of a hat! I have also disappointed many of you by being unable to answer any questions on how Diana, Princess of Wales, really died.

But these minor considerations aside, coming to COMMON US was a fantastic experience and if there is any way I can manage my budget to allow me to come and see you all again in Toronto, or Chicago or another time in the future, I will be doing so.

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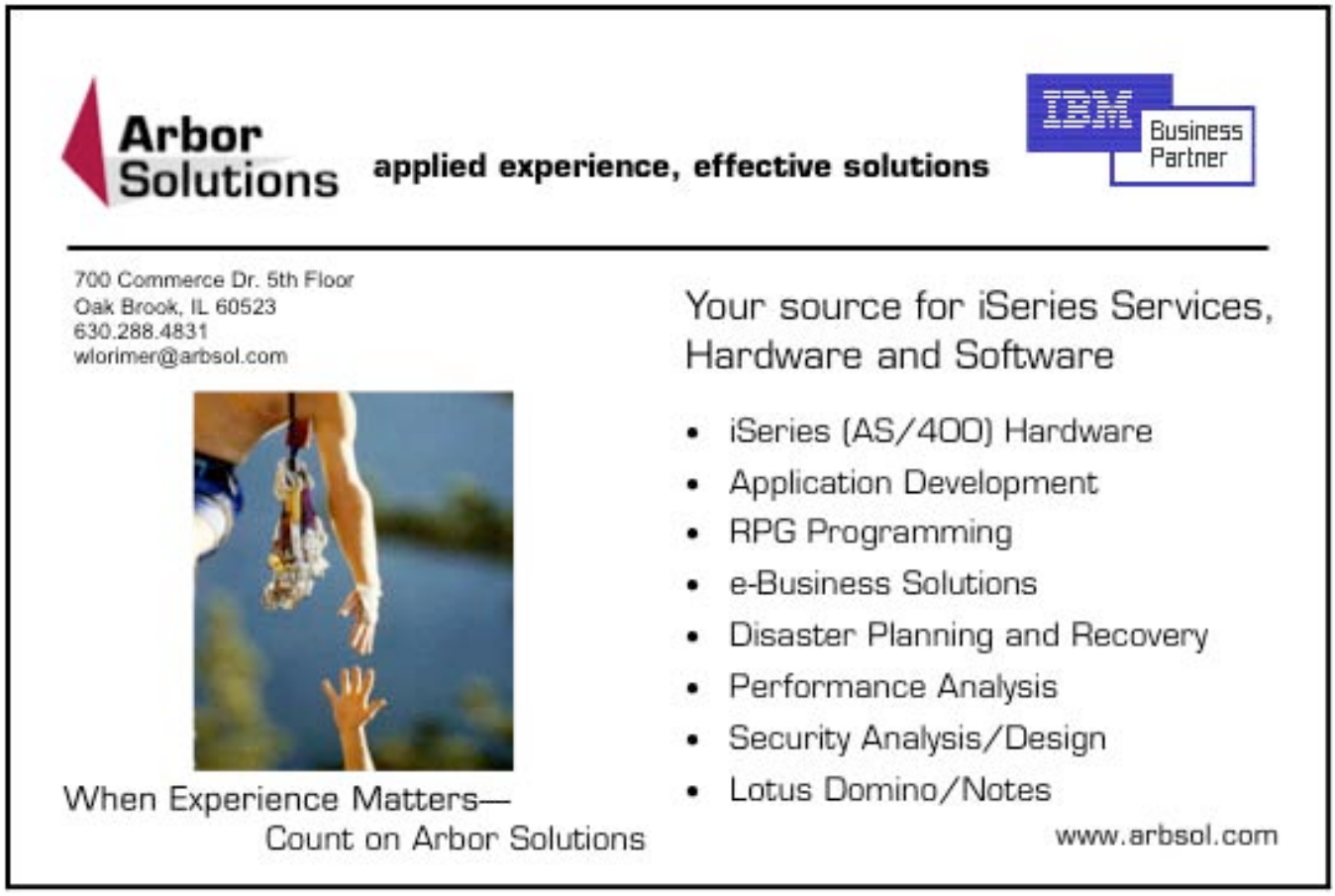
…in the Fall: Toronto, October 17-21, 2004. Special focus is on Enterprise Application Modernization. http://www.common.org/toronto.html



Arbor Solutions

OMNI Midrange Event List

August 17 5:00 pm
OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting
Hassle Free ILE with Dale O'Leary of Sitebuilder
Embassy Suites, 707 E. Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL

August 24 6:30 pm
OMNI Board Meeting
All are welcome, please contact a board member for details

September 21 5:00 pm
OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting
Topic and speaker tba
Embassy Suites, 707 E. Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL

September 28 6:30 pm
OMNI Board Meeting

October 17-21
COMMON Conference in Toronto

October 19 5:00 pm
OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting

November 16 5:00 pm
OMNI Conference 2004

OMNI has an available board position!

The position of Seminar Vice-President is currently open. The other board members are covering the duties of this position until it is filled. Please consider helping out by volunteering to assist us with this position. The duties involved are:

- Schedule speakers for regular meetings with the approval of the Board
- Send out confirmation letters to upcoming speakers
- Arrange needed equipment for speakers
- Obtain speaker gifts with the approval of the board
- Introduce speakers at each meeting, thank the speaker and give gift at the end of the regular meeting
- Give briefing of upcoming speakers at each regular meeting
- Distribute, collect, and summarize monthly evaluation forms
- Send out thank you letters to speakers after meetings
- Report to the Board

Other board members are covering the duties of this position. The speaker has been chosen for the August meeting. This leaves the scheduling of speakers limited to the remaining September and October monthly meetings, so this board position is a good one for a first time board member to get their feet wet with the OMNI board while not requiring a large commitment of time. If you have questions about this position, please contact any of the board members listed below.

The OMNI User 2004 Board of Directors Contact Information

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Seminar Vice-President	open		
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