



# THE OMNI USER

2021 Midwest Road Suite 200

Oak Brook IL 60523

630.953.6312

<http://omniuser.org/>

## Welcome to the new Newsletter!

It's behind schedule, but at least it's here! And the behind schedule part is my fault; it takes a little while to get things in order. But this is the last time you'll see things in this bad of disarray. Future editions will be timely and chock full of great information.

The information part hold true even for this edition, though! While you may be reading this a little later than usual, there's a ton of great information in here, so let's get to it!

## Table of Contents

Welcome to the New Newsletter!	<a href="#">1</a>
President's Letter	<a href="#">2</a>
T.L. Ashford <a href="http://www.tlashford.com/">http://www.tlashford.com/</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
February Meeting Information	<a href="#">4</a>
Arbor Solutions <a href="http://www.arbsol.com/">http://www.arbsol.com/</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
OMNI 2005 Board of Directors	<a href="#">6</a>
California Software <a href="http://www.californiasoftware.com/">http://www.californiasoftware.com/</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
January's Day of Education	<a href="#">7</a>
RJS Software <a href="http://www.rjssoftware.com/">http://www.rjssoftware.com/</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
COMMON Corner: LISUG Long Island	<a href="#">8</a>
Competitive Support Options <a href="http://www.csoinc.com/">http://www.csoinc.com/</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
OMNI Midrange Event List	<a href="#">10</a>
Notes from the Field	<a href="#">11</a>
COMMON Booth	<a href="#">12</a>
I Guess That's Why They Call Them Dues	<a href="#">13</a>

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

The table of contents above lists all of the information in the newsletter. I thought that since you have a brand new board, the first person you'd want to hear from is the new President, so his letter will be our first order of business. Later in the newsletter, you'll get to meet the rest of the board as they were appointed at the last meeting (as soon as you find out who's in charge of the newsletter, I'm sure you'll no longer be surprised as to why it's a bit behind).

First, though, is everything you need to know about the Tuesday dinner meeting (and I apologize once again for not getting this information to you sooner). We had a really great speaker, Trevor Perry of Clear Technologies, speaking about Application Modernization.

To round things out, there's a recap of the spectacularly successful Winter Day of Education, our COMMON Corner, and even a couple of surprise guests. So please, forgive the lateness of the issue and read on!

## President's letter

By Dale R. O'Leary, OMNI President

Hello,

As many of you may know, I have been involved with OMNI for several years now, most recently as Webmaster. I have enjoyed being active in the organization, and recently decided to see if I can contribute in a different way as the board's president. This time of year is exciting for OMNI as we welcome a newly-elected board of directors, all of whom bring with them a lot of new ideas.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank last year's OMNI board members for their help in making 2004 a great year for OMNI. I would also like to welcome the new board and I am looking forward to working with them.

Our most recent Day of Education conference was a great success. Thanks to the many Day of Education volunteers and speakers, this year's attendees were treated to a wide range of educational topics surrounding the iSeries platform and supporting solutions. If you were not there you missed a great conference.

Trevor Perry of Clear Technologies will be the key presenter at February's monthly meeting. Trevor's presentation is entitled "Enterprise Application Modernization and Beyond". Details of this presentation can be found in the OMNI newsletter as well as on the OMNI website.

For our March meeting we are taking advantage of the fact that Common is in Chicago. The March meeting will be held at Common. OMNI members that participate in the Dinner Meeting will also be allowed to visit the Expo. Please note that the March Dinner Meeting will take place on Monday March 14<sup>th</sup> instead of Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>.

It's also that time of year to renew your membership for 2005. This year we are going to do something a little different. For those of you that have a registered email address we are going to send your invoice via email. You will be able to print off the Invoice and pay it or you can renew your membership on-line using a credit card via the OMNI website.

Hope to see you at an upcoming meeting,

Dale

# iSeries: Supply Chain Label Printing Solution

**T.L. ASHFORD**

*"The Labeling Answer"®  
for over 20 Years*

**Barcode 400**

The iSeries solution to bar code labeling.

[www.tlashford.com](http://www.tlashford.com)

For information call: 800-541-4893 or 859-291-7555



©2003 T.L. Ashford. All trademarks reserved to their respective companies.

<http://www.tlashford.com/>

# **February Dinner Meeting**

## **Tuesday, February 15, 2005**

**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

### **Enterprise Application Modernization and Beyond**

The presentation on Enterprise Application Modernization and Beyond will include the following:

- Template for modernization strategy
- What is modernization, start at the basics, GUI enabler, refacing
- Different strategies of modernizing, different ways modernization is done
- Hot features and functionality, what is extra value besides going green screen to GUI
- Trends in User interfaces
- SOA and Composite application, iSeries development future trend
- Review of Modernization Sessions at Spring Common in Chicago
- Demo of application modernization

### **Trevor Perry, Clear Technologies**

Trevor has been a consultant in the midrange industry for twenty years. He is currently a pre-sales system architect for Clear Technologies. He is a popular and award-winning speaker at industry conferences and user groups on many technical, motivational and keynote subjects. He has won gold, silver and bronze medals for his sessions at COMMON. Trevor's unique sense of humor and presentation style are two of the many reasons audiences return to his sessions. His Australian heritage, diverse consulting background, acting and improvisational experiences provide Trevor with a rare viewpoint that is entertaining and always informative. To indulge himself outside of the workplace, Trevor is a part-time professional speaker, writer, actor, director, and poet and is on a lifelong search for the ultimate coffee bean.

*Editor's Note: Yes, I know this is now historical information, but I thought Trevor should still get his props for making the effort. It's not his fault I was late. And I promise I'll try to get the next one out on time...*

## Dinner Menu Options

Starter: Tossed Salad

Meat: Chicken Hunter, With Mushrooms & Red Wine Sauce and Roasted Red Skin Potatoes

Veggie: Pasta Primavera, Mixer of vegetables sautéed in a wine sauce and served atop a large portion of pasta.

Dessert: New York Cheesecake

## February Dinner Meeting Registration

Please make your reservations by Thursday, February 10, 2005 at Noon. Call (630) 953-6312, and leave your company name, names of those attending, and the type of meal desired (meat or vegetarian.)

## Cancellation Policy


Full refund will be issued for cancellations made before 9:00 am Friday, February 11th.

After 9:00 am Friday, 02/11/04, 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.




**Arbor Solutions** applied experience, effective solutions



---

700 Commerce Dr. 5th Floor  
Oak Brook, IL 60523  
630.288.4831  
wlorimer@arbsol.com



When Experience Matters—  
Count on Arbor Solutions

Your source for iSeries Services,  
Hardware and Software

- iSeries (AS/400) Hardware
- Application Development
- RPG Programming
- e-Business Solutions
- Disaster Planning and Recovery
- Performance Analysis
- Security Analysis/Design
- Lotus Domino/Notes

[www.arbsol.com](http://www.arbsol.com)

<http://www.arbsol.com/>

## OMNI 2005 Board Election Results

Elections for the OMNI User 2005 Board of Directors were held Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> during OMNI's monthly dinner meeting. At the Wednesday, February 4th board meeting, the new board held elections to determine who would serve in each board position. Here's your new OMNI User 2005 Board of Directors:

President	Dale O'Leary	<a href="mailto:doleary@zysolutions.com">doleary@zysolutions.com</a>
Vice-President	Ed Booth	<a href="mailto:ebooth@suncast.com">ebooth@suncast.com</a>
Secretary	Yvonne Enselman	<a href="mailto:yenselman@comcast.net">yenselman@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Bill Parks	<a href="mailto:wparks@worldnet.att.net">wparks@worldnet.att.net</a>
Seminar Vice-President	Rodger Greif	<a href="mailto:rgreif@ciber.com">rgreif@ciber.com</a>
Membership & DB Director	Sal Stangarone	<a href="mailto:sals@mrc-productivity.com">sals@mrc-productivity.com</a>
Communications Director	Joe Pluta	<a href="mailto:joepluta@plutabrothers.com">joepluta@plutabrothers.com</a>
Advertising Director	Matt Gross	<a href="mailto:prgg1@sbcglobal.net">prgg1@sbcglobal.net</a>
Conference Director	Mike Pavlak	<a href="mailto:mike@pavlak.com">mike@pavlak.com</a>
Webmaster	Dave Andruchuk	<a href="mailto:dandruchuk@sungardfutures.com">dandruchuk@sungardfutures.com</a>
Past President	Paul Nelson	<a href="mailto:pnelson@arbsol.com">pnelson@arbsol.com</a>
IBM Liaison	Joe Thompson	<a href="mailto:jwthomp@us.ibm.com">jwthomp@us.ibm.com</a>
Advisory Member	Jerome Hughes	<a href="mailto:jromeh@comcast.net">jromeh@comcast.net</a>

All positions are covered this year, but please think about whether you might want to participate in next year's board. And for this year, we still need plenty of help for everything from manning the booth at COMMON to liaising with other user groups and vendor product groups to help get the word out.

Feel free to drop comments and ideas on us; you can send them directly to me, Joe Pluta, your new Communications Director (see, *now* you know why this newsletter was late getting out, don't you?). Email me, or any of us, at the address listed above.

UNIX LINUX Windows

**CATERPILLAR**

When Caterpillar's international dealers asked for an alternative platform for their IBM midrange applications, they turned to California Software. The iSeries-based applications were migrated to Windows in days without rewriting a single line of code.

Our INFINITE family of products replicates the iSeries environment under Windows, Linux and Unix. This allows end-users and ISV's alike to easily and quickly migrate their native iSeries-based applications without rewriting or translating the RPG or COBOL source.

In fact over 100,000 licenses of our INFINITE products have been sold worldwide. Companies such as **Kodak, DHL, BMW** and **Citicorp** have migrated their midrange applications to other operating systems.

*Why? ...Because it works*

**infinite iSeries**

California Software®  
www.californiasoftware.com

<http://www.californiasoftware.com/>

## Winter Day of Education

On Tuesday, January 25th, OMNI's Winter Day of Education was a rousing success. Over 100 attendees, speakers and vendors presented and attended 20 technical and vendor sessions, networked in the hallways of IBM's beautiful Oakbrook Terrace training facility, and listened raptly while great speakers like Jon Paris, Susan Gantner, Luis Gonzalez-Suarez, David Money, Joe Pluta, and Tim Mossing talked about RPG /free, ILE, Websphere, Eclipse, WDS, RPG in V5, DB2 UDB, Websphere and RPG together, RPG and the IFS, SQL Performance, iSeries Navigator, Programmer Toolsets, ILE Modules, and more.

Representatives from COMMON, New Generation Software, MKS, SoftLanding Systems and Lakeview Technology talked with attendees during breaks and sponsored the brektime refreshments and tasty box lunches which were enjoyed during the vendors' presentations.

At one point, forty or so attendees watched while David Money had a difficult VPN connectivity issue, then sweated through switching laptops in the middle of his WebSphere in One Hour presentation and was still able to complete his demo, connecting to a local iSeries whose address and credentials were provided on the fly, creating a database and a web application to access it. Exciting times, indeed.

OMNI thanks Joe Thompson and IBM, our supporting vendors COMMON, New Generation Software, MKS, SoftLanding Systems and Lakeview Technology, and the board members and volunteers who worked hard so it could be such a great educational day. We promise to deliver more great affordable education to you, your staff and associates, so please register for our monthly meetings and watch for news on the next OMNI conference being developed by your OMNI board and conference committee for the Fall.

iSeries and PC Solutions  
**Having trouble managing  
 all your iSeries information?**

**We can help!**

Whether you're looking to move to a digital workplace, integrate iSeries and PC information, or do more with existing data, we have a solution for you.

**Document & Image Management**  
 Web-based • Secure • Easy-to-use

**Report & Data Delivery**  
 Convert • Split • Email • Download • Publish

**Productivity & Development Tools**  
 Develop web-based programs • Transfer and share files across platforms  
 Access SQL databases from RPG and Cobol

**INFORMATION NOW** Get the information you need, when, where and how you need it.

**RJS Software Systems**

1-888-RJSSOFT • rjsssoftware.com  
 iSeries and PC Solutions

Document & Image Management • Report & Data Delivery • Productivity & Development Tools

<http://www.rjsssoftware.com/>

## COMMON Corner

Reprinted from the February 2005 issue of COMMON.CONNECT

### Strong Commitment Pays Dividends to All Members

By Charles Guarino, LISUG Board Member

“Originally formed in 1984 by a number of System/38 users and with IBM’s help, LISUG has become one of the largest and most technical user groups in the country”. So says the home page of the Long Island System Users Group, whose current board of directors includes IBM Business Partners, business owners, educators, and no fewer than four COMMON speakers. The board’s commitment and dedication are just two words that can describe LISUG’s longevity, and how it manages to survive and thrive serving the needs of the Long Island / New York City IT community.

**User Group:** LISUG, or Long Island System Users Group

**Founded:** 1984. As part of its 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary last year, all renewing members received a laptop bag with the LISUG insignia. Originally focusing on IBM’s System/38, LISUG has been re-chartered to advance the knowledge of all computer users on all platforms.

**Location:** Nassau and Suffolk counties constitute Long Island, nearly 1200 square miles. Membership reaches beyond that, however, given LISUG’s immediate proximity to New York City.

**Membership:** The group’s mailing list contains over 300 names, with approximately 50 active members. While anyone may attend a meeting, current members are eligible for a discounted monthly meeting fee. Membership is renewed annually, starting in May.



**Funding:** The group is funded primarily through membership dues and monthly meeting fees. The first-time member registration fee is \$100, and annual renewal is \$50. The membership fee is pro-rated monthly, starting in June. The dinner fee is \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members. A pre-paid yearly membership is available for \$500, which includes all meetings and the yearly membership fee.

**Meetings:** LISUG meets on the third Wednesday of every month except for July and August. Each May a full-day “course of study” is offered, where attendees receive a track of related topics. The monthly meeting format has remained largely unchanged, with a registration/networking cocktail hour, a dinner hour accompanied with interactive Q and A, and usually one to two hours for the featured speaker. Working in conjunction with two nearby user groups, the consortium attracts some of the industry’s top speakers, including specialists from IBM’s Rochester and Toronto Labs. Recent topics have included i5/OS updates, iSeries Access for Web, and LPAR A-to-Z.

Recently, LISUG introduced a series of double meetings, with “two for the price of one” pricing. Essentially, a second presentation was added at the beginning of the monthly meeting agenda, with entirely different content designed to attract IT managers, and non-technical professionals.

“These have proven to be very successful, and we’re learning more each time we hold these events,” says Al Barsa, President of LISUG. “The double meeting concept provides an opportunity to expand our membership, as well as enhance our offerings to current members.” The first two double-meeting topics were “Sarbanes-Oxley and HIPAA Compliance,” and “RF and RFID Wireless Technology for the iSeries.” Additional double meeting dates are already scheduled, as there appears to be no shortage of worthy topics.

**Volunteers:** A board of directors meeting is held one week after each general meeting, with planning including future meeting topics, banking, and arranging for speakers. All members are welcome to attend a board meeting.

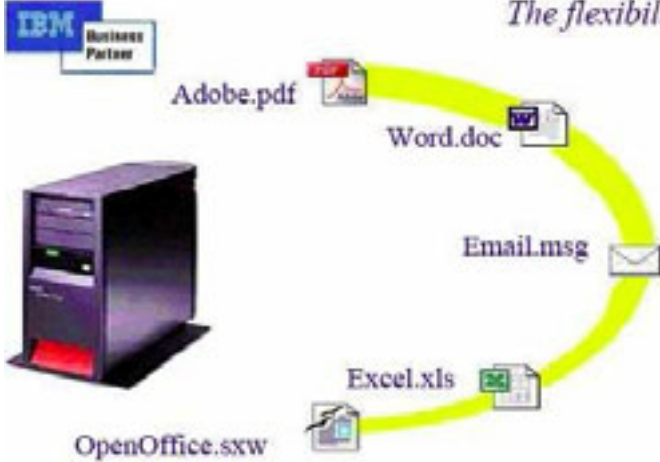
New board members are brought in from the existing membership pool, generally nominated by a board member. Indeed, the composition and camaraderie of the board is what sustains the group, and is clearly attributable to its success. With each member respectfully given equal opportunity to participate, topics remain current and timely.

**Web site:** [www.lisug.org](http://www.lisug.org) includes information on meeting announcements, speaker biographies, session abstracts, technical tips, pricing, meeting location and travel directions.



# Launcher/400

The flexibility of Windows® with the control of the iSeries



Launcher/400 enables you to create Word, PDF, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and HTML documents from the iSeries.

- Pricing starts at just \$1,299 for the Basic Module and \$5,445 for the complete version (P10).
- 30-day installation support free.
- Ongoing Hotline Support and Maintenance available.
- **FREE DEMO** — [www.csoinc.com](http://www.csoinc.com)



PH: 888.599.0231 Email: [cso@csoinc.com](mailto:cso@csoinc.com)

<http://www.csoinc.com/>

## Coming Midrange Events

March 1 6:30 pm	OMNI Board of Directors Meeting <i>all are welcome</i>	Hosted by IBM Two Lincoln Centre Oakbrook Terrace, IL
March 13-17	Common Spring 2005 Conference  <a href="#">Registration here!</a>	Hyatt Regency Chicago 151 East Wacker Drive Chicago, IL
March 14 5:00 pm	OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting TBA	At Common Conference Hyatt Regency Chicago 151 East Wacker Drive Chicago, IL
March 22 6:30 pm	OMNI Board of Directors Meeting <i>all are welcome</i>	Hosted by IBM Two Lincoln Centre Oakbrook Terrace, IL

# What a Long, Strange Road it's Been

-- Notes from the Field (contributed anonymously)

From personal experience, gut instincts will usually tide you over. If you go with them, is this a form of rolling the dice? Maybe yes, maybe no. One school tells you to lead with head, the other, with the heart. Is there a fool-proof scenario, one in which, if followed, will always lead to success?

I've been in "the field" for 20+ years. Long enough to remember the days when "computers" seemed to be the way to go. Back then, the standard route into the real world came via a business, engineering, legal or medical discipline. Computers were something of an enigma. We didn't know too much about them, just enough to know you probably needed to be just this side of a rocket scientist to play with them and get paid for it. Yes, we did drop a man on the moon and you can only go so far with a slide rule (anyone remember a slide rule?), so there were probably computers somewhere in the mix; "big iron". These were the engines that crunched the numbers that told them when to shoot so that we could hit a moving target in space that's a quarter of a million miles away. Big Iron consisted of dozens of engineers running around in lab coats, looking at print outs and chain smoking (ah, those days when you could smoke in the office) while feeding the alligators left over donuts. The machines were built by IBM and rumored to be the size of a WWII Escort Aircraft Carrier.

One thing led to another, and I was off and running. First, being paid like a slave in a consulting company chasing wayward 36's. I eventually would up in a 38 shop. These were the days when something out of Minnesota called 'Silverlake' was getting press, but they were happy and not about to go off a cliff for the darling out of Rochester. By chance, they had picked up a B30 through an acquisition and decided to throw the new kid at it. When they were dragged kicking and screaming into the future and told they had to cuddle up to two new D models, I was no longer the outsider, the "downstater", someone to be shunned at all costs. Retribution can be sweet!

The wave went into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, barely. In 2003, I was asked (along with others) to vacate the premises. Not to worry, I got to tell a fairly expensive piece of hardware what to do. Hey, the phone'll be ringing off the hook!

*Editors's note: Programming just ain't what it used to be. Dragging icons onto a web page and connecting it to a database passes for programming these days. Nice to have a little reminder of the old days. If you've got a story to share, drop it to me at [omni-comm@plutabrothers.com](mailto:omni-comm@plutabrothers.com), and maybe it will show up in a newsletter down the road.*

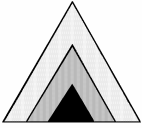
## COMMON Booth

Remember that COMMON is coming to Chicago in a couple of weeks, and it's up to all of us to man the OMNI booth. There should be some more information on the web site shortly, but for the time being, here are the hours:

	<u>Lug Booth Hours</u>	<u>Registration Hours</u>	<u>Expo Hours</u>
Sunday ....	9:30 am to 8:00 pm	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Monday .	9:00 am to 7:00 pm	7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday ..	9:30 am to 3:00 pm	7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## I Guess That's Why They Call Them the Dues

Because they're due again! Yes, it's time we put out the collection plate, folks! On the following page you'll find a dues form. Please print that out, fill it out, and mail it back to us with your dues. If you really need to, you can email our membership director, the ever-popular Sal Stangarone (see the earlier article on the new board for his email address).



**The OMNI User**  
 2021 Midwest Road Suite 200  
 Oakbrook, IL 60521  
 (630) 953-6312

**Membership Application**  
**Invoice #**  
**Date:**

Indicate Address Correction Here: Please Print

To:


**Individual Membership:**

Amount Remitted

Calendar Year 2005..... @40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Corporate Membership:**

Calendar Year 2005..... @200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate members: please list names of individuals to receive monthly newsletter (Please Print):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>

IMPORTANT: OMNI is transitioning to an emailed .pdf newsletter with weblinks. This will shorten delivery days, while allowing direct weblinks to article and vendor sites of interest. To ensure appropriate delivery, please express your newsletter preference below with an X

Email Only \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter Only \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter and Email \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (please print legibly...) \_\_\_\_\_

Please visit OMNI website at [www.omniuser.org](http://www.omniuser.org) for membership information and payment options. Thanks for your support as we work together towards an exciting new year of education.