



THE OMNI USER

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Happy Independence Day

After last month's somewhat less than cheery opening story, I thought I'd return to a more festive note this month. July is a great month; not only does America celebrate its birthday, but so does our neighbor north of the border. I remember this mostly because Canada Day also happens to be my birthday. Ah, those bygone summers... school was out, and I started celebrating my birthday in late June and went straight on through the Fourth. I always thought it was great that the whole country would shoot off fireworks for my birthday!

I suppose if I tried hard enough, I could tie the subject back into something computer related. That good old red herring of a buzzword "platform independence" pops into mind. But rather than bore and bedevil you with a twisted metaphor or a stretched analogy, let me instead just extend a handshake of heartfelt camaraderie and wish you the most pleasant of holidays.

I know this is getting to you just after the Fourth, but no matter; it's still a great time of year, for backyard barbecues and water parks and even a few leftover fireworks. We don't even have a speaker this month; instead we have the magnificent OMNI Golf Outing. So enjoy the summer a bit, take a little pleasant time for yourself, and we'll get back to things serious in August.

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Edited by Joe Pluta - omni-comm@plutabrothers.com

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LAST NOTICE!

The annual OMNI Golf Outing is coming to a golf course near you in July (July 20th to be exact). A flyer has gone out and you can see a copy of it later in this very newsletter. Registration is actually closing as this newsletter is being finished (July 12th), but there's still time for you to be part of the action!

If you'd like to help organize or get involved in any other way, please contact us. For now, you can feel free to contact your Communications Director, yours truly:

Omni-golf@plutabrothers.com

7th Annual OMNI User Golf Outing



**Wednesday
July 20th, 2005**

**Tee Time 8:30 am
(Shotgun Start)**

**Tamarack Golf Club
24032 Royal Worlington Drive
(Route 59 & 111th Street)
Naperville, IL**

**Cost: \$85 per person
\$340 per foursome**

Includes:

**Greens fee Cart
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Valuable Prizes
Fun Laughter
Camaraderie**

Contests:

**2 Man/Woman Best Ball
2 Long Drive Contests
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**Register no later than July 12 at
WWW.OMNIUSER.ORG**

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August Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, August 16th, 2005

Building Web Services for the iSeries


What makes .NET different? Web services. What COM did for interprocess comms within a WinDoze box, web services does for interprocess communications from one computer to another, no matter what the operating system might be. Microsoft is making a huge and well publicized investment to make web services readily available to WinDoze programmers. What has IBM done for iSeries programmers? This session will provide insight into the brave new world of building and consuming web services on the iSeries. With all the new technologies such as Java, XML and SOAP, you will learn how the iSeries can be a player in the world of web services. Learn what a web service is and why you would want to use one. Learn how to interface with a web service from an RPG program.

Dan Kimmel, RJS Software Systems, Inc.

Dan Kimmel, one of the chief developers for RJS Software Systems Inc. is an accomplished iSeries developer and is fluent in all the key languages for the iSeries such as RPG, CL, C, C++, Java and yes, even Cobol. He holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from North Central College in Naperville, IL and is a former member of OMNI (way back when it met at Binyon's downtown). Dan has been living in Minnesota for the past 9 years working on image and document management and related workflow systems for customers around the county. He has spoken on programming topics for OMNI and for COMMON. He is currently a member of the COMMON board of directors.

Coming Midrange Events

July 20 8:30 am	OMNI Seventh Annual User Golf Outing <i>all are welcome</i> Online registration available here!	Tamarack Golf Club 24032 Royal Worlington Drive Naperville, IL
August 16 5:00 pm	OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting Building Web Services for the iSeries Dan Kimmel, RJS Software Systems, Inc.	Embassy Suites 707 E. Butterfield Road Lombard, IL
September 14 8:30 am	WDSC Workshop hosted by Genisys Group and IBM featuring Joe Pluta Online registration available here!	IBM - 10 North Martingale Rd Room:South White Pine - 2nd Floor Schaumburg, IL
September 18 - 22	COMMON Fall Conference 2005 Online registration available here!	Orlando, FL
October 17 - 21	IBM i5/iSeries Technical Conference Online registration available here!	Miami Beach, FL
November 7 - 9	iSeries DevCon Online registration available here!	Rio Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, NV



- iSeries Hardware
- Application Development
- RPG Programming
- e-Business Solutions
- Security Analysis
- Lotus Domino/Notes



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June Dinner Meeting

OMNI's June Dinner Meeting showcased the one and only Thibault Dambrine, who is quickly becoming known as the wizard of iSeries SQL.

Among the subjects Thibault addressed were a couple of the very hottest topics of SQL: Data Definition Language (DDL) and stored procedures, and he did an excellent job on these and a variety of other concepts.

Thibault has a wealth of information, and we thank him very much for sharing it with us. Look forward to Thibault appearing again at our Day of Education or our Winter Technical Conference, depending on his availability.


EXTRA TIME ON YOUR HANDS? HAVING TROUBLE KEEPING BUSY? WANT AN EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY?

Well, okay, forget about the exciting part. But if you have some time and want to do something for your local user group, we could use your help. One of our initiatives this year is to make sure we get our database completely up to date, and to strengthen the communications channel with all our subscribers. To do that, we're going to need to send out some snail mail, maybe make some calls, that sort of thing. If you're interested in helping in that sort of activity, please contact our membership director, Sal Stangarone. You can email him at sals@mrc-productivity.com; we're sure he'd love to hear from you.

Also, please drop us a line and let us know about other user groups that are related, even in a small way, to the iSeries. Application vendors, technologies, you name it, if there's a group, we want to hear about it. Drop a line to your faithful communication director, omni-comm@plutabrothers.com.

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IBM Redbooks

A monthly compendium of recent IBM Redbooks of interest to iSeries developers.

Deploying IBM Workplace Collaboration Services on the IBM eServer iSeries Server

Published: July, 7, 2005

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246640.html>

WebSphere and .Net Interoperability Using Web Services

Revised: June 10, 2005 ISBN: 0738492302 366 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246395.html>

Rational Application Developer V6 Portlet Application Development and Portal Tools

Revised: June, 9, 2005

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246681.html>

Rational Application Developer V6 Programming Guide

Published: June 2, 2005 ISBN: 0738491209 1454 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246449.html>

IBM Express Runtime V2.1

Published: May 20, 2005 ISBN: 073849108X 452 pages

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246674.html>

PCI Placement Rules for the IBM eServer i5 and iSeries Servers with i5/OS V5R3

Published: May, 17, 2005

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



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

Ask the Audience

One more time with the Ask the Audience stuff on this page, mostly because I don't feel like writing a raging banner this month. These questions are important, though, and I'll push them a little more in the future.

But for now, we'll ask them right here in the newsletter and you can respond via email to me (send your responses to omni-comm@plutabrothers.com). And soon we hope to have questions like these on the website as well! Here are two different questions:

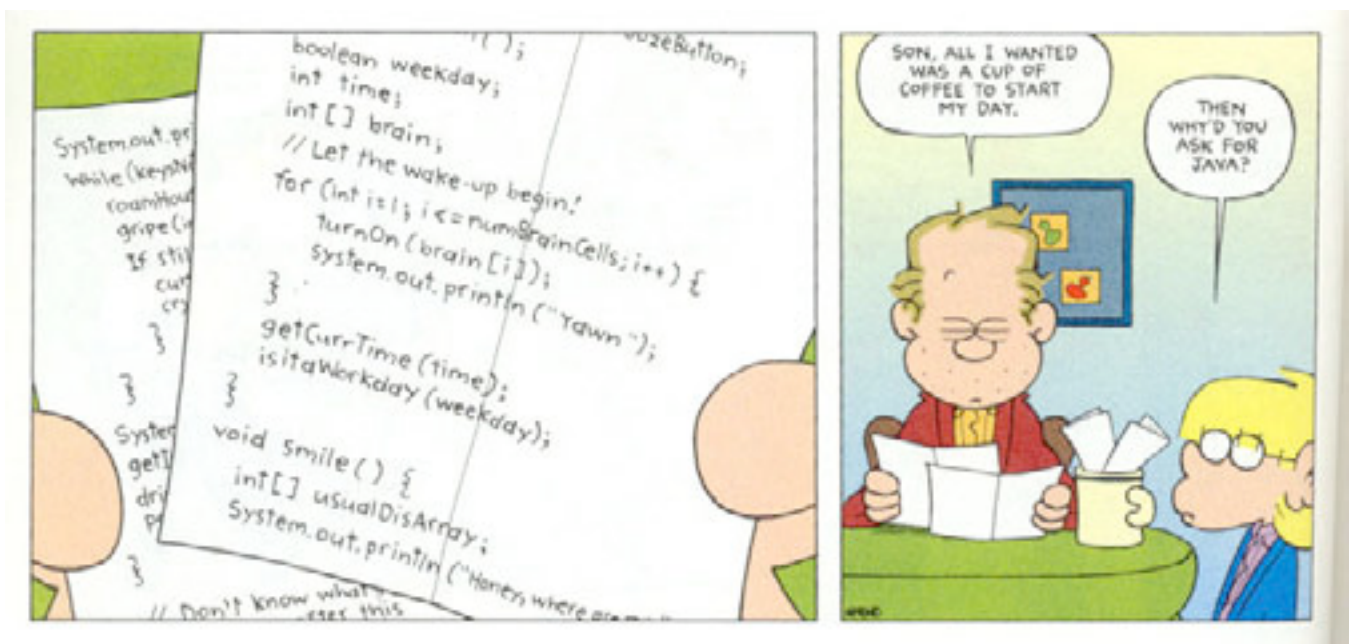
First, if you had your choice, what would be the ideal time of week and length for our Fall conference? Assume that the longer it is, the more excellent tracks we have. Would you like:

One day, midweek One day, Friday One day, Saturday
Two days, Thursday/Friday Two days, Friday/Saturday Two day, Saturday/Sunday

Second, please let us know which of the following you would like to see in the newsletter and/or on the website. Putting them in order of preference would be nice (and just because I list it doesn't mean it will get done immediately!):

- A list of IBM Redbooks published this month on the iSeries
- A list of IBM sales/marketing programs and contact numbers
- A list of other user groups
- A list of great web sites (including perhaps Site of the Month)

What else can you think of?



Fox Trot -- by Bill Amend

June 2005 COMMON Corner

Reprinted from the June 2005 issue of COMMON.CONNECT

The “Real Scoop” on Virtualization

By Mark Bauman

Ah... finally, summertime has arrived. It's time to get outside and enjoy the warmth and sunshine, barbecues, baseball, and the music of the ice cream truck as it slowly moves through the neighborhood. Well, maybe I'm remembering a ways back with that reference, but no matter, because getting a scoop of actual ice cream directly from that on-wheels ice cream container was *so good!*

The ice cream trucks were, or depending on where you live, are, really neat. They come to where the demand is, having an enticing indicator that they are around and available (the bells and chimes and music) and of course, have a great product – all in one package. So if you let me stretch your imagination a bit here... maybe those ice cream trucks were one of the first implementations of a “virtualization” product. Why? Because those trucks consolidated multiple products within one view (the truck), they automatically and magically came around the neighborhood at exactly the right time each day, they were easy to access, the cost of the product was low considering the convenience, and they were even easy to manage with just one person. Now, if you encapsulate these ice cream truck aspects, and twist them to fit into the information technologies infrastructures that we work with, you can come up with a good scoop of real virtualization.

What Is Virtualization?

The definition of IT virtualization is to provide a logical rather than physical view of data, computing power, storage capacity, and other computing resources, while automating the management of these virtual resources based on business goals. Virtualization allows the usage and presentation of computing resources such as servers, storage devices, distributed applications, routers, hubs, switches, etc. in ways that applications and users can obtain the most value from them. In a virtualized environment, the computing resources are not limited by which type of server, storage, or network devices is used, or where they are physically located.

Beyond the need for virtualization of hardware resources is the need for virtualization of data and applications. Customers need access to data resources as a single entity and need to have applications respond quickly to the dynamic needs of the enterprise. Therefore, virtualization is about enabling access to and creating a consolidated, logical view of IT resources across the entire IT infrastructure. It provides an abstract view of physical and “soft” resources so they can be accessed as a pool of logical resources. (See figure 1.) This enables improved utilization and consolidation of your information, applications, IT resources, and assets by treating resources as a single pool for more efficiently accessing and managing those resources across an organization. Virtualization technology allows you to simplify and consolidate servers and storage devices, reduce system management complexity (especially across a heterogeneous system environment), optimize the utilization of server capacity and access all data resources regardless of physical location and share multiple workloads across a single or multiple processors.

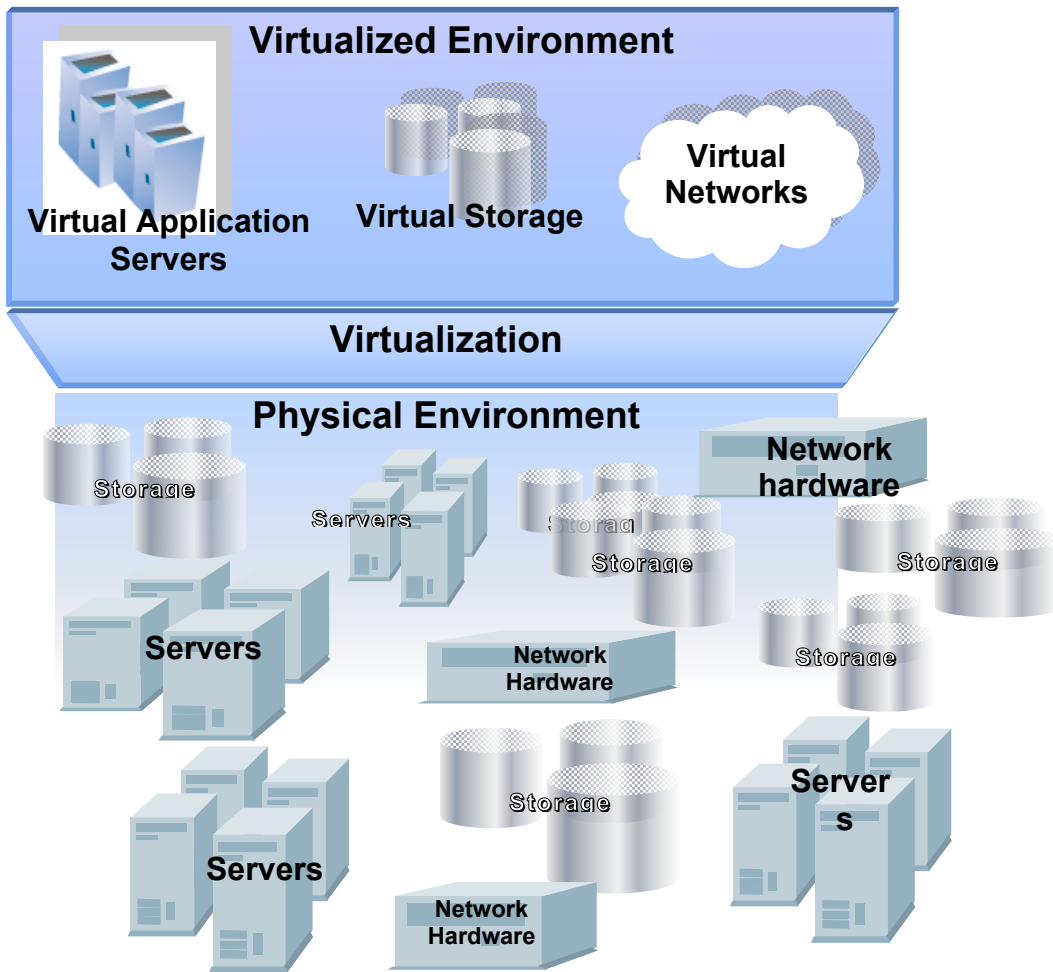


Figure 1

Where Does Virtualization Fit in Today's World?

Unfortunately, today's IT infrastructure is not an ice cream truck. It is just a tad more complex. Often, in fact, IT is rigid in the way its implementation imposes limitations on a business, and can force a business to compromise its approach to solving market, customer, and business needs. Successful businesses require timely responsiveness to change, whether it is due to new customer needs, changes in the supply chain, unexpected competitive moves, external threats, or changes in the economic climate. Rapid response to change requires an IT infrastructure that can turn information into a competitive advantage; the IT infrastructure should provide maximum benefit at an affordable cost, and must have the flexibility to support changes in business processes.

A business needs to be "on demand," where its operating environment provides a cost-effective and flexible IT environment. Success in an on demand world will depend on the ability to leverage information technology. What differentiates an on demand business is the ability to quickly sense and rapidly react to a dynamic marketplace. Virtualization is a key component of this "on demand" operating environment. Virtualization helps align IT environments more effectively with the needs of the business.

For example, ask these questions about your business and IT infrastructure:

- Can you respond quickly to application needs of your customers?
- Are you able to gather information across the enterprise quickly?
- Can you share departmental workloads easily and seamlessly across servers and storage devices?
- Are you viewing all your data resources as a single entity?
- Are you able to reduce operation and systems management cost while maintaining needed and fluctuating capacity?
- Are you utilizing information and resources across your organization efficiently?

In contrast, by implementing virtualization and pooling resources such as servers, memory, network devices, and storage into a single, virtual environment, your business can:

- manage multiple systems as one;
- run multiple operating systems per server;
- provision capacity rapidly;
- increase availability of data and applications within individual platforms and across heterogeneous networks;
- balance workload across a heterogeneous environment;
- reduce complexity monitoring and management;
- automate deployment, optimization of IT resources in real time; and
- maximize utilization.

What Is the ROI for Virtualization?

CEOs generally want revenue growth with cost containment; they want to be responsive to customer demands and needs; and they want to enable the skills, capabilities, leadership, and effectiveness of people and processes. CIOs fit into these goals by working to align IT and business goals to grow revenue and contain costs, build flexibility, responsiveness, and agility into the organization through IT, and help enable people and teams to be more effective.

So let's take a look at these three goals with virtualization in mind. Virtualization helps meet these goals in three main ways. First, there are cost savings with higher utilization rates: You need less hardware and software to run your business. You also need fewer human resources to manage and operate the virtualized IT environments. Secondly, you achieve higher efficiencies through simplified server, storage, network, application, and other IT resource management. This gives you optimal utilization of the resources, and better response to service requests (better levels of quality of service). Finally, virtualization gives you flexibility with dynamic utilization of the resources as the needs of the business dictate, faster time and response to market changes and requirements and thus a competitive differentiation that you can sell to your customers.

Incorporation Virtualization into your IT Infrastructure

Being able to implement virtualization solutions in an IT infrastructure does not mean the whole IT environment has to convert in one major re-engineering project. There is a stepped virtualization approach that can be used.

The first step in the virtualization process is to simplify your environment by consolidating homogeneous or like systems platforms onto fewer, more manageable, more efficiently structured resources. Many companies have taken the first steps toward simplifying their environments by

consolidating servers and storage into fewer physical boxes, or even reducing the number of distributed data centers. This has reduced costs and simplified the environment, to a point. They now have fewer servers or storage devices and pay for fewer software licenses. However, these environments are still not very flexible due to the diverse server types and their associated operating systems. For example, each server has a different management tool with a unique interface, and this makes the consistent management of them difficult and onerous.

This is where step two comes in – where a business will continue the upward penetration of simplification within their IT infrastructure by consolidating heterogeneous systems. Now you can manage dissimilar physical resources as a single unit.

The third step is automating the management of the resources, including allowing the addition or removal of capacity as needed. This will satisfy the business requirements and needs to drive resource usage, rather than having the resources drive how the business performs.

Automation of tasks such as increasing or moving capacity can lead to task automation of all associated processes or sub-processes, such as automatically increasing processing capacity for end-of-month rollup processing.

The fourth step is bringing together the consolidated resources across functions within the company, something called intra-enterprise consolidation. With this step, you begin breaking down the silos of technology and you start sharing resources across functions within the enterprise. By doing this, a company can use resources that may sit idle at times to assist another resource which is unable to accomplish its business goals with the resources it previously had available. The ability to share these resources in a seamless fashion enables companies to quickly respond to changing business needs without investing in additional hardware, software, or technology. It begins to eliminate boundaries between resources that have been created by organizational silos or management processes.

Finally, in the fifth step, businesses can begin using advanced virtualization concepts to push the virtualization of resources out into their partner and vendor IT infrastructures. In this step, resources are available when required and peak demands can be serviced without keeping excess capacity forever available, and information flows seamlessly within and across organizational functions and business boundaries.

All of these steps can be implemented today with existing technology support such as provisioning, enterprise-wide workload management, grid computing, virtual I/O support, partitioning, multiple operating system hosting capabilities, simultaneous multi-threading, capacity on demand capabilities, storage consolidation capabilities, and many other technologies. However, in many cases, a business cannot implement the virtualization technologies as rapidly as they would like due to outdated IT infrastructure and IT management processes. So, even before starting step one, businesses often need to take a serious look at their infrastructures and their associated processes (i.e. cultures) and determine what they need to do to take that first step in the virtualization journey.

Virtualization is real in the IT industry today, just as real as the ice cream truck used to be in our neighborhoods. Virtualization is providing a competitive advantage for the businesses that have implemented aspects of it within their IT infrastructure. As the acceptance of virtualization grows and as businesses pick and choose which parts of it make sense for them, the demand for existing applications to incorporate or interface with virtualization elements will increase. So get ready, because I hear bells and chimes. The virtualized ice cream truck is coming and I need a scoop of real “virtualization”!

Fall 2005 Focus on Virtualization

The special educational focus for the COMMON Fall 2005 Conference & Expo is the timely topic of virtualization. This is a quickly emerging technology of interest to management, operations and programming staff. The focus will provide conference attendees and their organizations with workshops, sessions, labs and Expo solutions that will define and teach virtualization. These will include case studies and information that show how virtualization of resources provides a positive return on investment. It will also include how-tos on installing, configuring, and using currently available products and tools in your IT environment, such as the Virtualization Engine (VE), including the VE Console and Enterprise Workload Manager, LPAR, HMC, and other virtualization products. The educational content of the conference will teach you to optimally use the virtualization products and tools across your numerous systems for immediate dynamic deployment and optimization of your entire IT resource. So come and get quality hands-on education in Orlando on this exciting new technology.

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Notes from the Field

- Miscellany (by Joe Pluta)

This month's notes are just bits and pieces of blather from all over the place.

The new version of WDSC (5.1.2.5) is out, and they did a lot of work on the CL editor. There are a ton of usability features that make it look for the first time like someone who actually writes CL tested it. Much improved.

At the same time, it looks like they re-broke the C/Bn capability. Remember how in SEU you can put C (copy) on one line and B3 (before 3) on another line, and it will copy the first line three times before the second line? Well, for the longest time that was broke in that it would copy the original line once before, and then n-1 times (nit hi particular case, two times) *after* the second line. Version 5.1.2.4 fixed that, but it looks like 5.1.2.5 re-broke it. And that, folks, is a trend we do not want to see revisited.

DeveloperWorks doesn't support the iSeries! Yeah, this was pretty ugly. I recently tried to post a WDSC issue to the DeveloperWorks forums and I got some pretty snotty responses in return. Boiled down, the idea was that since WDSC is an iSeries product, I should have a support contract, and don't bother the DeveloperWorks folks. Not nice at all.

One of the coolest features in WDSC is the concept of a Service Entry Point. With it, you can set a breakpoint and if the program hits it, it will transfer control to the debugger no matter what job it is running in. This could be the end of intermittent errors as we know them.

David Gibbs is at it again. Besides his many other hats in the iSeries community, David recently started up a Wiki for the iSeries. Feel free to drop by and add to the Wiki:
http://wiki.midrange.com/index.php/Main_Page.

That's about it for me this month. It's a quiet morning and I'm getting ready to head out to Alabama in a few hours. Enjoy yourself and I'll talk to you next month.

-- Joe

