



The Omni User

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6th Omni Day of Education!

The 6th Omni Day of Education will take place Tuesday, November 13th at IBM's beautiful Oakbrook Terrace training facility.

The 2007 Day of Education features favorite Omni speakers including world-renowned RPG author Bob Cozzi, security guru John Earl, Omni's own Mike Pavlak on PHP and CLP, along with some great speakers from IBM including WebSphere and Java expert David Money, DB2 for i5/OS expert Tom McKinnley, Linda Hirsch on System i Access for Web, and Allyn Walsh on new IBM announcements and HMC.

The Omni Day of Education was created based on the success of the yearly Omni Technical Conferences. An Omni Day of Education presents a full-day education event at low attendee cost, delivering pertinent System i topics presented by knowledgeable speakers from IBM and beyond. It's a smaller lower cost Omni Technical Conference, with a few less of the same sort of great System i speakers and session topics.

Check out the details and register to join us for your best value in System i education!

Many Omni thanks go to our four event sponsorship partners...



All four companies will have representatives on hand to discuss their products and services with our attendees and speakers during the Continental breakfast and between session breaks. During the lunch break, we'll enjoy our choice of yummy deli sandwich box lunch while attending our choice of vendor product presentation.

Win an iPod Touch or an iPod Nano! 2 lucky attendees will bring these home to enjoy, along with all the new information they'll be able to use at work the very next day! Check out the details and register to join us at... <http://www.omniuser.org>

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Communications Director position open, please volunteer!

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Session Abstracts

Top Ten Things Ya need to know about RPG – Bob Cozzi

RPG IV is a powerful and fast language. But it does have its share of idiosyncrasies. This session highlights and explains the top 10 things you need to know about RPG IV in order to write error-free code. Everything from default data-types (of which there are at least 2) to specialized but rarely used keywords that make things easier to code, to a few tips and techniques that you can take back to work and use immediately, this session is one of the most popular that Cozzi presents at RPG World and user group events around the country.

RPG World History – Bob Cozzi aka What's new in RPG IV thru V5R4 and V6R1

RPG IV was shipped along with OS/400 V3R1. Since then, it has had no fewer than 10 upgrades released. This session attempts to consolidate those enhancements and bring you up to speed with the latest features in RPG IV.

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6th Omni Day of Education Session Abstracts

Introduction to PHP – Mike Pavlak

This session will focus on the installation of Zend Core and development of PHP scripts in the enterprise. Attendees will get a first hand view of how simply a PHP script can be developed and deployed with minimal effort. Concepts such as variable usage, DB2 file access and more will be covered.

Control Language Programming – Latest Hits – Mike Pavlak

Control Language has been around for over 25 years in various forms. This session will review the latest CL compiler enhancements with lots of examples. Attendees will come away with a new appreciation for the possibilities available to CL programmers and tools necessary to develop programs with the new style. OS versions from V5R3, V5R4 and some hints about the future may be available.



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Session Abstracts

Introduction to DB2 Web Query for System i – Tom McKinnley

DB2 Web Query is a robust, extensible, and productive reporting solution. It will provide reporting and graphing assistants as well as a WYSIWYG "painter". DB2 Web Query will allow you to improve the look and functionality of your existing Query/400 reports. Would you like your Query output sent to a PDF file, what about to MS Excel? Would you like to see your existing reports formatted as graphs and charts? All this and more is possible with the new product. You can create new reports with slicing and dicing capabilities, you can enable your end users on the go to view and analyze their reports in disconnected mode. DB2 Web Query is an end user reporting tool, that can be used effectively for operational or data warehouse reporting purposes.

SQL Stored Procedures – Tom McKinnley

Stored Procedures are a valuable tool for improving performance in distributed and networked environments. In addition, they can also be used to improve the flexibility and design of your applications. SQL Stored Procedures offer a procedure language that is comparable with stored procedure languages of other DB Servers such as Oracle & SQL Server. By the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. How to create and invoke an SQL Stored Procedure.
2. Understand error handling techniques in SQL Procedures.
3. How to move an SQL stored procedure into production.

Get to the Web Fast with System i Access for Web – Linda Hirsch

System i Access (formerly "Client Access") has expanded its family offering with the System i Access for Web solution. If you want a solution that requires no PC administration and enables users to work with System i resources fast and easily through a Web browser, then iSeries Access for Web is what you're looking for! Learn how this product can simplify your PC network administration while at the same time provide your end users with the capability they have come to expect with System i Access products. In this session, see how...

- 5250 emulation, database, and IFS access can be used from a browser.
- an administrator can set up front pages for different groups of users.
- users can work with printers, print jobs, etc. on the server.

Top Ten OS/400 Security Risks – John Earl

Too many of the 'accepted practices' on the OS/400 expose our data to unnecessary risk. This popular session details the top ten system configuration and work management risks that OS/400 systems are exposed to and explains how to reign in the exposures. The session outlines specific "Bad" security practices, and provides real-world examples of how to fix them.

Business Intelligence...

... all we need is a good query tool - right?

Actually no, that's not right. But it is a common mistake to make. A good query or OLAP tool is certainly an important part of a successful BI initiative - however it is just the tip of the iceberg. But unlike icebergs, it's the *absence* of anything below the waterline that will sink your BI initiative.

Talk to any organization that has implemented a successful BI initiative. Without exception they will all tell you that you need to first build a well architected data warehouse or data mart infrastructure. Read a book. Listen to the industry gurus. They all say the same thing.

Building a data warehouse can be challenging though. To do it right and avoid the many pitfalls you need a good ETL tool.

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Session Abstracts

What an Administrator Needs to Know about System i Access for Web: Restricting Access and Other Security Considerations – Linda Hirsch

Once you have System i Access for Web installed, what do you need to know before deploying System i Access for Web in your business? This session will show you elements that administrators need to understand. Attendees will learn about:

1. Setting policies for controlling user access to various System i Access for Web functions.
2. Customizing the home page and template files.
3. Bypass sign-on versus using macros to bypass a second sign-on screen.
4. The difference between using HTTP basic authentication versus the WebSphere Application Server security model.

Introduction to the Query Optimizer & Database Engine for DB2 for i5/OS – Tom McKinnley

As technology continues to invade all aspects of a company's environment, the data stored within those systems is becoming an integral asset that will help determine a company's success. The value of the information stored within the data is lost without a comprehensive database management system to manage and process that data. The System i has just such a management system, namely DB2 for i5/OS. This DBMS will allow you to process your data and turn it into valuable information. This session will familiarize you with the architecture of DB2 for i5/OS and will introduce you to the Database Engine and Query Optimizer.

Application Modernization: DB2 for i5/OS Style – Tom McKinnley

As developers modernize their System i solutions, it's easy to focus on application development languages and tools. However, there are many DB2 for i5/OS features, such as DB2 web services, that can play a key role in modernizing the architecture of your solution. Database modernization can range from utilizing existing System i programs as stored procedures to embedding business logic into your database with the usage of triggers and databases. Migrating from native, record-level access to SQL-based data access is another way to modernize from a DB2 perspective. In this session, you will learn about the DB2 features available to help with the modernization of your solution as well as a comparison of SQL and Native interfaces. By the end of this session, attendees will understand:

1. the differences between SQL & DDS objects.
2. moving business logic into DB2 instead of writing application code.
3. performance differences between SQL & native I/ O programming interfaces.

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Session Abstracts

IBM Announcements – Allyn Walsh

System i unleashes POWER6 with a host of additional features and offerings. Learn about the POWER6 Model 570 hardware, product structure, and introducing several new technologies such as; 12X for high speed I/O tower attachment, new smart IOA's, Hot disk Spare and more. Additional announcements include enhancements for POWER5 models 515/520/525/550/570/595.

Hardening Your i5/OS Environment – John Earl

The default settings on i5/OS are almost good enough for a lot of companies. But if you need to harden your OS beyond the factory defaults, this session will provide you with a series of steps you can undertake to ratchet up your environment and reduce the risk of exposure. This session will cover configuration areas such as: System Values, Network Settings, Library and Directory Settings, User Profiles, and more. By the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Recognize OS/400 settings that could be hardened.
2. Understand the risks and benefits of these changes.
3. Create a plan to harden their environment.

HMC – Allyn Walsh

The Hardware Management Console (HMC) is no longer a new topic for System i, but do you really understand the full range of features it brings to the platform. This session will explain when and why an HMC may be required, configuration examples for attaching to the systems it will manage and some of the powerful remote management capabilities it can provide. An overview on System Management considerations for the HMC such as maintenance and upgrades. And finish with a quick overview of Logical Partitioning on POWER5 and POWER6 systems, and the advancements in virtualization, such as uncapped processor sharing, that POWER5/6 brings to the System i.

Java Toolbox for the iSeries – David Money

The Java Toolbox provides access to System i program resources from within Java. David Money will lead you through it and answer your questions.

WebSphere Portal 6 for System i – David Money

How can you best put WebSphere Portal to work in your shop? David Money will discuss the ins and outs of WebSphere Portal and what sorts of services it can help you to provide for your users.



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Speaker Biographies

Bob Cozzi

Bob needs no introduction, but just in case you've been living on Mars for the last couple of decades: An RPG programmer since 1978, Bob Cozzi is the author of several books on the AS/400, including *The Modern RPG Language with Structured Programming*--the most widely-used RPG book in the world--and his recent "RPG TNT: 101 Dynamite Tips 'n Techniques for RPG IV." Today Bob runs "Cozzi Productions, Inc." which produces the popular RPG World Conferences and System i TV, a resource for iSeries industry podcasts.

John Earl

John Earl is Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, as well as a co-founder, of The PowerTech Group, a Seattle area software company that specializes in iSeries and AS/400 security. He has over 25 years experience with IBM midrange systems and security, has published numerous articles and columns for industry magazines, and served as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for Security for COMMON. A highly regarded speaker on the topic of OS/400 security, Mr. Earl has presented several hundred of iSeries security sessions at industry conferences and user groups all over the world. He is a three time winner of COMMON's Speaker Excellence award, and has also served on the board of directors of COMMON U.S.

Linda Hirsch

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.

Tom McKinnley

Tom McKinnley is an IBM employee working in the DB2 for i5/OS Center of Competency at Rochester MN. His main focus is complex query performance associated with Business Intelligence running on Very Large DataBases. He worked as a developer or performance analyst in the DB area from 1986 until 2006. Some of his Major pieces of work include the Symmetric Multiple processing capabilities of DB2 for iSeries as well as Large Object Data types. In addition he was on the original team that designed and built the SQL Query Engine. Prior to Database he worked on Licensed Internal Code for System/34 and System/36.

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Speaker Biographies

David Money

Prior to returning to IBM as a Software Developer/ Architect in WebSphere Portal and Workplace he was an e-business Practice Leader at Andrews Consulting Group, Dave was a former member of the IBM AS/ 400 division's Partners in Development program and thereafter, Vice President of e-business for an AS/ 400 consulting firm. He has spent the majority of his career designing and developing e-business solutions and has worked with clients in a variety of industries to transform their businesses to e-business. He is an IBM Certified Solutions Expert and Solutions Designer, frequently published author, and an award winning COMMON speaker. He has taught and developed several courses on System i Internet enablement, and speaks frequently at industry events and user group meetings. Dave assists clients in assessing their e-business and Web based potential, and forming implementation plans to make the journey to e-business as smooth and profitable as possible. His specialties are Internet security, firewall technology, Internet enablement of System i applications, and IBM WebSphere integration with System i applications.

Mike Pavlak

Mike Pavlak is the IT Director for Tripp Lite in Chicago. He has over 20 years of experience in IT with the last 15 focused on IBM midrange business solutions. Mike has presented many sessions at Omni events and has been heavily involved with COMMON as a charter member of the COMMON Americas Advisory Council and, most recently, the Zend Common Advisory Council. Mike's experience as a coder, development manager and now IT Director provides insights into how System i technology is deployed in today's data center. Recently Mike has authored several articles on PHP and CL programming for System i Network, as well as providing online training via System i Network's eLearning initiative.

Allyn Walsh

Allyn Walsh is a Senior I/T specialist working in the IBM Advanced Technical Support (ATS) organization. He has over 30 years in the IT industry and the last 16 years at working with the AS/400 at IBM Rochester, MN. Allyn is a regular speaker at the System i Technical conferences and User Groups. He has published a number of articles on HMC and POWER systems management. His focus areas include the POWER5/6 hardware for System i, the HMC and POWER Firmware management, data communications and i5/OS Systems Management. He is also a member of the ATS High Availability consulting team.

Upcoming System i Events

Tuesday November 13 th 8:00 – 4:15	6 th OMNI Day of Education great topics and speakers details and registration	IBM Conference Center 2 Lincoln Center Oakbrook Terrace IL
Tuesday January 15 th 5:00 pm	OMNI Monthly Dinner Meeting Topic and speaker tba 2008 Board Elections	Embassy Suites 707 E. Butterfield Road Lombard, IL
Tuesday February 19 th	20 th Omni Technical Conference Detail coming soon! Contact a board member to volunteer to help!	Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace IL

October Dinner Meeting

OMNI's October Dinner Meeting featured a presentation from Joe Hertvik of IT Jungle on his “7 Things to Do with the System i Before You Die” topic.

Joe explained that when he titled it "Before you Die" he meant before you come to the end of your career.

He then did a nice job of covering a bunch of the sorts of system administration issues that you're always meaning to take care of, but wind up putting off into the future.

A big round of Omni applause goes out to Joe Hertvik. Thanks, Joe!

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

As we come to the end of the year, some Omni board members move on, and positions open up for others to help with delivering the great System I education for which Omni is so well known. Volunteering for the Omni board of directors is a fun and exciting opportunity to help out with the various parts of the process, stretching your skill set while having fun solving problems outside of work and networking in relationships that can help you back at work.

We'll be holding elections for the 2008 Omni board at the January Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, 1/15, at the Embassy Suites. We'd really like to include your name on the list of candidates. Omni will be better off if you volunteer, and we believe you will be also.

If you're interested in having fun while helping out, check the website by-laws page for more details, and contact a current board member to discuss joining the Omni Board!

OMNI 2007 Board

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