The Omni User

Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Enterprise Backup & Recovery Techniques for the 21st Century

Presented by Richard Dolewski

Backup & Recovery program design is undergoing a dramatic transformation. Safeguarding your data and enhancing backup solutions are of primary concern. Now organizations can choose from a host of technologies to incrementally improve or completely transform their backup, secure data, and enhance availability requirements for all hardware platforms. Data protection techniques have made great strides in addressing today's business challenges as it relates to both the i5 and other open system platforms. This session will provide guidance into some of the factors you should consider when evaluating backup and security technology solutions.

Richard Dolewski is a certified systems integration specialist and disaster recovery planner. He has extensive experience in Server Enterprise Availability, Disaster Recovery Planning, BCP, High Availability and Backup & Recovery program design. Richard has supported 18 computer room disasters, and conducted over 200 disaster recovery tests. He is an award winning speaker at technical conferences including IBM Common, IBM Europe, IT Executive Events, Quest, NEMA, and Local user groups. Richard has held positions as subject matter expert at IBM Common, Advisory Committee for IBM Business Resiliency and President of local users groups. Mr. Dolewski has been a frequent technical contributor to publications such as COMMON, System iNEWS magazine, and technical news letters and his book, "System I Disaster Recovery Planning" was published in March 2008.

Location:

Embassy Suites Hotel Lombard, IL
707 E. Butterfield Road
Lombard, IL

5:00 Registration and User Discussions (a.k.a "Happy Hour")
6:00 Dinner and Break
6:45 Business Meeting, Presentation, Q & A

Dinner choices will be the following:
Mixed Field Greens Salad
Bistro Pork Chop w/ BBQ Glaze or
Poached Salmon or
Penne Primavera
New York Cheesecake
Register now at omniuser.org

An IBM user group's final message: *pwrdwnsys *immed*

A Cleveland-based user group says it's been pushed offline by the Internet
Excerpted from the Computerworld article by Patrick Thibodeau

October 23, 2008 [(Computerworld)](#) The note that Andy Gladys sent out to the [Application Systems Users Group of Greater Cleveland](#) this week could not have been more straightforward or painful.

After nearly three decades, the [IBM](#) systems user group that Gladys formed and was president of, has closed. Monthly meeting attendance had fallen to such a point that its board decided not to continue. It was an emotional decision for Gladys. The user group was important in his life. It was a source of friendships and professional help.

In the note to members (see below), signed by Gladys and other board members, they wrote that the user group "is a victim of its own success. Our philosophy of education and information exchange has been carried on to the World Wide Web."

In short, blogs, chat rooms and Web sites replaced the once-a-month meetings.

In 1981, Gladys was an IT manager for North Coast Services, a Cleveland trucking company. He organized a group of fellow users and four or five people would meet at his firm to share pizza and experiences. Over time, the user group grew. It moved its meetings to local hotels and at times drew as many as 120 people.

But about five years ago, attendance began declining, making it harder to get speakers to travel to Cleveland. To accommodate out-of-town speakers, the user group set up remote WebEx presentations, which were displayed on a screen in a hotel meeting room.

"People don't need the face-to-face contact anymore," said Gladys, adding that he believes users groups in general have been suffering from the same problem. "User groups have been progressively going down in attendance." Gladys is retired but also works as a consultant. He's proud of the user group's work, saying it helped make a difference in the lives of some members, particularly in helping them network and find employment.

Pwrdwnsys *immed, continued

Date: Tue, 21 Oct 2008 13:01:01 -0400
Subject: ASUG is about to close (after 27 years)
From: Andy Gladys;

Friends,

26 years go IBM introduced the IBM System 38. With such advanced features and functionality, it was a herald for the great things to come. Applications and functions that are common place today.

Myself and several others came together to understand this new system and see what it was capable of doing. In those early months a meetings consisted of pizza and beer. But with each month more and more people started coming to meetings. The venues got larger and larger until meetings with 120 people were common.

With all of this the user group stayed true to it*s objective to provide a free information exchange to mid-range professionals. Then, IBM saw the value of this group and tapped into it's resources and as a model for other user groups and a source for innovative ideas. Lotus Notes is an example of an application that has some roots right here with the Application System Users Group.

Like many good thing, the user group is a victim of it*s own success. Our philosophy of education and information exchange has been carried on to the World Wide Web. User group meeting were replaced with blogs, chat rooms and informational web sites available 24x7 that replaced a month meeting.

Over the years many people have helped sustain and grow the user group, more than I can mention here. Individuals who gave freely of their time and energy to make the group successful. The many presenters that have informed and entertained us. My thanks to all of you.

All good things must end and The Application Systems User Group is no exception. I take comfort in the fact that the user group has met it objectives, and so it ends well.

With all of this having been said, I guess there is only one thing left for the Application Systems User Group .....

pwrdwnsys *immed

God Bless and Good Luck.

Andy Gladys, Jaye Wolfe and Ruth Arbuckle

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The Board Regrets…

Due to low enrollment the board of The Omni User was forced to cancel our annual Day of Education on October 28. As this event would be a great value to those of you who registered, it seems that the economy may have gotten the best of us during these trying times. Omni is not in danger of "powering down" and that's thanks to you who support us, making Omni a great organization. Here in Chicagoland, we're very fortunate to have one of what COMMON president Randy Dufault calls in the article "...very large and strong regional user groups...". Please prepare to attend the our regular monthly dinner meeting where renowned expert Richard Dolewski will present the latest on Business Continuity for the IBM i platform. Also, keep January 20th free as that will be another great dinner meeting night.

Save the date for our annual conference on February 24, 2008! The beautiful Drury Lane Oakbrook will be the place to meet and get the latest information about the IBM Power Systems. World-famous experts, including Larry Bolheius and Bob Cozzi will be on hand for a full day of education and networking.

POTENTIAL

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

System i Events

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

http://omniuser.org/events.html

The WMCPA is hosting their dinner meeting Thursday, November 13, in Milwaukee, and their Fall Conference the following day at Gateway Technical College in Kenosha. Speakers include Scott Klement, Dave Andruchuk, Robert Bestgen, Jackie Jansen and Don Yantzi. Details at www.wmcpa.org

Back To The Future

What is it you see in your rear view mirror? I've been thinking about this as we near the end of 2008. For many of us it's been rather gut-wrenching, and the gyrations of the financial markets recently have left everyone dizzy.

Like a lot of people, I lost my job this year. Unlike a lot of others, I landed a new one, and somewhat surprising to me, it's not an i shop. I'm now working with an IBM Unidata database environment, which is an emulation of the old PICK/Multivalue OS. That was the world I left when I came to the AS/400 in 1988. Back to the future, indeed. So, I wouldn't rule out a return to the Power Systems (or whatever it will be called then) world somewhere down the road – life has a funny way of circling back upon us. But for now, I'm anticipating turning this keyboard over to a new ~~sucker~~ editor in January.

As you've been reading elsewhere in this issue, advances in technology coupled with the economic downturn/recession/crisis (when your neighbor's out of work it's a recession; when you're out of work, it's a depression) have hit user groups like everyone else. Some have ceased to exist, and the survivors are going to have to adapt to a changing environment. A monthly dinner meeting is no longer the singular opportunity to network with fellow midrangers it once was. Today there are opportunities to connect and learn through e-mail, blogs, webcasts, and networking sites such as LinkedIn. Our region is fortunate in that OMNI and the WMCPA remain vibrant organizations, but going forward, we're all going to have to adjust our strategies. Are user groups still necessary and viable? I believe so, but there's going to be some organizational Darwinism at work – evolve or die. There's no reason to expect that the user group model that worked in 1989 will be the one for 2009. If you, too, believe in the value of this organization, you should consider participating in a more formal sense – on the board or conference committee. OMNI exists and succeeds only because of the volunteer efforts of a relatively small group of members.

I've also been wondering about this newsletter. Does it still being value to our membership? Thanks to our loyal advertisers, it's a good revenue stream for OMNI, and since we deliver it electronically the costs of printing and mailing that I worried about the last time I held this position are gone. But given the demand of our jobs and personal lives, it's been difficult coming up with relevant content that you're not already getting sooner through Jerome's e-mail blasts or hundreds of web sources. Perhaps we need to re-think whether this means of communication fits current needs. Just because we've always done it this way doesn't mean we can't do it differently.

Jim Wazorick

endpgm