



# The Omni User

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January "Pizza H. Party"!

## PHP on i

"the stack", Web security, Programming & Applications  
presented by

The Omni PHP on IBM Power Systems SIG

Matt Gross, Jerome Hughes, Pat Lavan

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

IBM Oakbrook Terrace

To begin 2010 Omni presents a free "Pizza H. Party" (PHP, right?) at IBM Oakbrook Terrace. Our PHP on IBM Power Systems Special Interest Group started meeting at IBM Oakbrook Terrace last fall and has since moved into virtual space on Skype while sharing screens with Mikogo. They've been exploring some the use of PHP and associated technologies on IBM i and will discuss their experiences and provide live demonstrations of PHP programming and applications at the "Pizza H. Party" with two sessions before and after a delicious pizza dinner and dessert. Remember, the 2010 Omni Board of Directors will be elected at this meeting!

3:30 Registration and User Discussions  
4:00 The iAMP stack & Web Security  
5:45 Pizza Party!  
6:00 Dessert & Business Meeting  
6:15 PHP Programming & Applications

### PHP on i – managing iAMP "the stack" & web Security

Before dinner, we'll discuss installation and demonstrate management of the iAMP stack needed to support PHP web programming on the IBM i, with a special focus given to the addressing the security implications of deploying web database applications. We'll take a break for pizza, salad, refreshments and dessert, along with Omni networking.

### PHP on i - Programming & Applications

After dinner, the focus shifts to PHP programming, with Omni SIG members demonstrating, explaining and enhancing their own code running on i, and answering your questions about their experiences learning the PHP web scripting language. We'll also demonstrate the SIG's installation of Drupal, a popular free open source PHP content management framework which can be used to build flexible web sites and applications.

To register, please visit the OMNI website at <http://omniuser.org>

**The Omni PHP on IBM Power System SIG** are experienced Omni RPGers who share a common interest in creating and deploying web applications on our platform. We began meeting at IBM Oakbrook Terrace in November 2009, and with generous assistance from Joe Thompson and Mike Pavlak, we've gained tremendous experience installing and managing the Zend Core

iAMP stack, learning PHP programming, and installing and deploying the free open source web content management framework Drupal on i. We're ready, willing and able to demonstrate these technologies to you. Active SIG members include...

**Tim Feldmeier, Matt Gross, Jerome Hughes, Paul Krapf, Pat Lavan and Lorraine Morgan**

For this meeting, we'll use our popular "Pizza Party" format, with sessions before and after Pizza at IBM Oakbrook Terrace. The Pizza Party is free for current 2010 Omni members or \$20 for pre-registered non-members (\$25 for non-registered if we can accommodate.)

To register, please visit the OMNI website at <http://omniuser.org>

**February Dinner Meeting** Oakley Masten, Collections Etc. – Mac on i support

**March Dinner Meeting** Pacelli Pujals, Meridian IT – Power Systems Virtualization

## Omni Wants You!

Please give back to Omni by serving on the 2010 Omni board. We're a fun bunch of IBM i professionals who cooperate to make great Omni events happen, and we'd love for you to join us! It's a great opportunity for networking and trying out new and different skill sets. Please contact any current board member for details.



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## The Omni User Survey

Please help Omni better understand topics and speakers we should present at future meetings. Complete the survey at... <http://omniuser.org/survey/index.php?sid=46668>

Thanks in advance for your help determining Omni's future! And thanks also to Omni's Vince Salomon & Yvonne Enselman for creating this great survey tool!

## Recent Meeting Recaps and Slides

We've held some Omni events since our last newsletter! Here's a summary of these events...

Omni's **November dinner meeting** guest speaker was **Nahid Jilovec** on **How to survive in IT in an economic downturn**. Many thanks to Nahid for her interesting and frank talk drawing on her experience as a technical editor for System iNews and IT executive for McDonald's Corp. Keep up with Nahid on twitter @nahidjilovec and search for her many articles and books at <http://www.google.com/search?q=nahid+jilovec>

Omni's **October meeting** was a **Day of Education** featuring **Scott Klement** on **RPG & ILE**, **Mike Pavlak** on **PHP**, leaders of the **Fox Valley Computing Professionals** on **Open Source Tools**, and **Pacelli Pujals** on **IBM p on Power Systems**. This DOE was presented and enjoyed by many attendees. Thanks to all who presented, attended and worked to make this event a success! Find presentations from this Day of Education at <http://omniuser.org/downloads.html> in the OMNI Dinner Meeting Presentations category. There you'll find...

**Scott Klement** presentations

- **Getting started with APIs from RPG**
- **Integrating RPG with the Web**
- **RPG User Defined Functions & Table Functions**
- **Consuming Web Services from RPG with HTTPAPI**

**Mike Pavlak** presentations

- **File Processing using PHP on System i**
- **Function Junction (PHP functions)**
- **PHP on IBM i : Getting Started**
- **PHP Arrays for RPG Programmers**

**Pacelli Pujals** presentations

- **IBM Power Systems p AIX/UNIX/Linux Virtualization Basics**
- **Dynamic Infrastructure: IBM Power Systems**
- **Virtualization Benefits**

Omni's **September meeting** was a **Pizza Party** featuring **Mike Pavlak** and (remotely) **Alan Sieden** of Zend (the PHP company.) Before dinner, Mike presented **PHP101** at IBM and afterward, Alan presented on the **Zend framework** from somewhere else, interacting via conference call and Webex with the group assembled at IBM. Thanks to Mike and Alan for these interesting presentations! Find slides from the presentations at <http://omniuser.org/downloads.html> in the OMNI Dinner Meeting Presentations category. There you'll find...

- **PHP 101 handout**
- **Zend framework handout**

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# MVC demystified

by Vince Salomon, Omni Webmaster

I've been exploring web application frameworks lately. According to wikipedia...

“A web application framework is a software framework that is designed to support the development of dynamic websites, Web applications and Web services. The framework aims to alleviate the overhead associated with common activities performed in Web development. For example, many frameworks provide libraries for database access, templating frameworks and session management, and often promote code reuse.”

What this means in practice is that whenever we create a web application, there are certain things that need to be set up or repeated with every application. Often because these settings don't change from one application to another they can be set automatically. This is one of the things that a framework is doing for us. This is true of just about any type of application, web based or not. Examples might be folder structure, library integration, naming conventions, and best practices.

Best practices have become a main feature of many modern frameworks. While there can be some debate as to which practices are to be considered “best” one that stands out consistently is Model View Controller (MVC). You will often see the acronym MVC when you read about creating web applications. After trying different approaches to designing web application patterns, developers discovered that it is best to keep your data and business rules separate from how that data is presented. And it is also good to have a program that decides how to proceed based on user input and this should also be a separate layer. Before this realization, it was not uncommon to see business rules and control design in the same script.

There is an easy way for System i developers to understand the MVC architecture. This is because we have been using this system for years. We just didn't have an acronym for it. The easiest part is to understand the view. The view in System i land comes in the form of externally described display files. Your **display file** concerns itself with presenting data to the user. The **display file** also retrieves data from the user. It's a **view**. Of course, a display file doesn't work by itself. You need an **RPG program** to display it and handle responses. That's a **controller**. Your **business logic** might be contained in separate **modules** or even a **service program**, so it can be used by many programs, reducing code duplication. If you have programmed it this way, you have created a **model**. If you have taken the further step of including **business logic** in the database as **triggers** or **referential integrity**, you are even closer to what forward-thinking web developers are doing.

Web application frameworks organize these layers differently than we do. We typically have QDDSSRC to hold the display source, and QRPGLSRC to hold the controller and model. Then, of course, we compile them into objects. Often, these objects will be in the same library. Many web applications are written in scripts, not programs. What's the difference? A script is not compiled, a program is. If you have ever programmed in REXX on the System i, you have done scripting natively. A typical web framework will have a folder for **views**, a folder for **models**, and a folder for **controllers**. Instead of DDS, views for web development are usually created in html with bits of code inserted. This type of approach is typically called a server page (think .asp, .jsp, etc.) If we were to do this on the System i, we would be inserting RPG code into display files to retrieve and display values.

Take a little time to think about the Model View Controller design pattern. Understanding the concept will help you to analyze web applications and the structure of many common Web application frameworks.

## OMNI Social Networking

Connect with your Omni associates on the following Social Networking sites:

LinkedIn Group "The Omni User" <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=122121>

Facebook Group "The Omni User" (search for it on Facebook)

Twitter @omniuser <http://twitter.com/omniuser>

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