The Omni User

Woof! Woof! The Dog Days Are Here!

We took July off here in the Omni newsroom, but we're back for August. We had a lot of fun in June and July. We had our annual Golf Outing, which went wonderfully as always, thanks to the great support of you the members and our crack staff of volunteers. We also brought you educational choices ranging from Portal technologies to .NET integration.

And while unfortunately this newsletter is a bit late, even for August, I do want you to note that Tuesday we have a one of a kind event (or at least the first of its kind), a free pizza and ice cream social in which IBM's Jackie Jansen will bring us just a boatload of information on IBM's new DB2 Web Query for the System i, as well as a separate session on DB2 UDB for System i: Performance Tuning. We also have a HATS Proof of Technology coming up in the very near future. You may have received notes about these from Jerome already; you don't want to miss these events!

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

I'd like to introduce a couple of new advertisers: BVS Tools and Coglin Mill. Please give them your support as you do all our advertisers.

I also want to highlight this month's COMMON Corner. As you know, I include the most recent COMMON Corner in every issue of the newsletter. This being a "two-month" newsletter, I am including two COMMON Corners. The first is very cool; it covers the recent IBM announcements regarding PHP and MySQL. However, I'm just tickled to point out that the second COMMON Corner is highlighting the Excellence in Innovation Award that went to our own neighbor to the north, Jim Buck of Gateway Technical College. If you've never had a chance to attend Gateway's annual conference, this would be a good time to get acquainted with them and with Jim.

Finally, I've got two months worth of Redpapers for you, and even a little non-technical surprise. I decided to have a little bit of fun in August and to add some local color, so don't be surprised to see Thomas the Tank Engine...

http://www.coglinmill.com

2

August Pizza Party
Tuesday, August 21st, 2007

IBM Conference Facility
2 Lincoln Centre
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

3:30 Registration and User Discussions
4:00 DB2 Web Query for System i Product Preview
5:45 Pizza Party
6:00 Ice Cream Bar dessert and Business Meeting
6:15 DB2 UDB for System i: Tuning for Performance

IBM announces DB2 Web Query for System i Product Preview

Come and see the new product IBM is previewing that will replace Query/400. 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. This session will include live demonstrations of creating reports, graphs and dashboards with this new product. Come and see what all the excitement and buzz is about.

DB2 UDB for System i: Tuning for Performance

How can you make your database run faster? Over the last few years DB2 UDB for System i has added many enhancements that can increase your performance. In addition there are many system settings and system values that affect query performance. Are you getting the most out of your system and the most out of your database?

Jackie Jansen, Senior Consulting IT Specialist, IBM

Jackie is a Senior Consulting IT Specialist with 30 years at IBM. Jackie currently works in the Advanced Technical Support Solutions Center. Jackie is the author of a variety of published columns including the recent "Business Intelligence with Jackie" and "Jackie's Forum." Jackie is a frequent speaker at System i technical conferences and user group meetings. Contact her at jjansen@ca.ibm.com.

Dinner Menu Options

Dinner (choice):
Pizza
More Pizza
Pizza w/o meat

Starter:
Even more pizza

Dessert:
Yummy Ice Cream Bars!

August Dinner Meeting Registration

Please make your reservations by Thursday, August 16th, 2007 at Noon. Call (630) 953-6312, and leave your company name and the names of those attending. Remember, **members are free!**

Cancellation Policy

Full refund will be issued for cancellations made before 9:00 am August 17th, 2007. After 9:00 am Friday, 08/17/2007, 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.
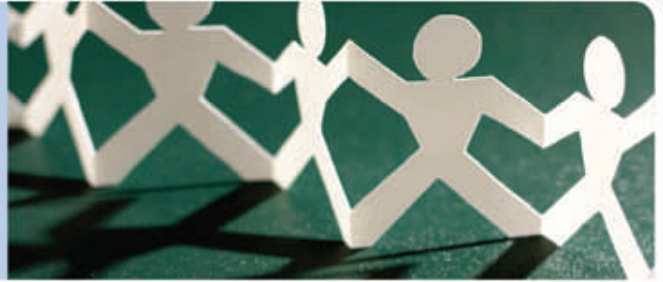
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Upcoming Midrange Events

Tuesday August 21 4:00 Free for members	Omni 'Free' Summer Pizza & Ice Cream Party 'Dinner Meeting' with two education presentations from Jackie Jansen of IBM IBM announces DB2 Web Query for System i DB2 UDB for System i: Tuning for Performance Details/Registration here	IBM Conference Center 2 Lincoln Centre Oakbrook Terrace, IL
Wednesday September 12	HATS Proof of Technology Hands-On Lab Session speaker tba Details/Registration soon	IBM's Hyatt Center Office Wacker Drive, Chicago Loop
Tuesday September 18 5:00	Omni September Dinner Meeting topic and speaker tba Details/Registration soon	Embassy Suites Lombard, IL
Tuesday-Thursday October 2-4	RPG & DB2 Summit Early Registration Savings until July 31 Details/Registration here	Holiday Inn Select Minneapolis, MN
Tuesday October 16 5:00	Omni Fall Day of Education topics and speaker tba Details/Registration soon	IBM Conference Center 2 Lincoln Centre Oakbrook Terrace, IL
October 29-31	iSeries DevCon Details/Registration here	Rio Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, NV
November 8 8:30 am	All Day seminar on Disaster Preparedness with Richard Dolewski Details/Registration here	The Gateway/400 Group St Louis, MO

IBM Redbooks/Redpapers

A monthly compendium of recent IBM Redbooks and Redpapers of interest to **System i** developers.

Bringing Zip and Unzip to i5/OS PASE and QShell Environments
Revised: August 9, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0283.html?Open

IBM System i and p System Planning and Deployment: Simplifying Logical Partitioning
Revised: August 8, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247487.html

i5/OS Program Conversion: Getting ready for i5/OS V6R1
Revised: August 7, 2007
More details are available at
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4293.html?Open

DB2 for i5/OS: SQL Server Mode Primer
Published: August 3, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0658.html?Open

Availability Management A Guide to planning and implementing Cross-Site Mirroring on System i5
Revised: August, 3, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246661.html?Open

IBM System i Overview: Models 515, 525, 570, 595 and More
Revised: August, 3, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp5052.html?Open

Hardware Management Console V7 Handbook
Published: July 31, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247491.html?Open

Application and Program Performance Analysis Using PEX Statistics on IBM i5/OS
Published: July 25, 2007 ISBN: 0738489093 270 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247457.html?Open

Getting started with DB2 Web Query for System i
Published: July, 23, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247214.html?Open

IBM i5/OS IP Networks: Dynamic
Published: June 13, 2007 ISBN: 0738486493 750 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246718.html

IBM System Storage Copy Services and System i5 A Guide to Planning and Implementation
Revised: June, 13, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247103.html

Automatic Partition Resource Manager for System i and iSeries
Revised: June 7, 2007 ISBN: 0738489298 86 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247174.html

Installing and Configuring WebSphere Portal Express V6 on i5/OS
Published: May 23, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4303.html

IBM eServer iSeries Migration A guide to upgrades and migrations to System i5
Published: May, 4, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247200.html

Where to Find Today and Yesterday's System i Technical Marketing Deliverables
Published: April, 25, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0637.html

IBM System i IP Telephony Configuring the System i Infrastructure
Published: April 19, 2007 ISBN: 0738486426 298 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247382.html

PCI and PCI-X Placement Rules for IBM System i models: i5/OS V5R3 and V5R4 (Fourth edition)
Revised: April 11, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4011.html

AIX 5L on IBM System i Platform Implementation Guide
Published: March 30, 2007 ISBN: 0738486140 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246455.html

WebSphere Portal Version 6 Enterprise Scale Deployment Best Practices
Published: March 30, 2007 ISBN: 0738486027 482 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247387.html

OnDemand SQL Performance Analysis Simplified on DB2 for i5/OS in V5R4
Published: March 12, 2007 ISBN: 0738486264 488 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247326.html

The IBM Virtualization Engine TS7510:
Getting Started with i5/OS and Backup Recovery and Media Services
Published: March 9, 2007 ISBN: 0738489654 336 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247510.html

Daylight Savings Time (DST) Information on IBM System i servers
Published: March, 7, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0655.html

Journaling ? Journal Receiver Diet tip 2: Consider using skinny headers
Published: March, 5, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0654.html

IBM eServer iSeries and AS/400e System Builder:
IBM OS/400 Version 4 Release 3 thru i5/OS Version 5 Release 2
Published: March, 1, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp0542.html

IBM System i5 V5R4 Technical Overview Redbook
Revised: March 1, 2007 ISBN: 073848962X 594 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247271.html

i5/OS Diagnostic Tools for System Administrators: An A to Z Reference for Problem Determination
Published: February, 26, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg248253.html

Journaling - Configuring for your Fair Share of Write Cache
Published: February, 23, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0653.html

Implementing Domino 7 for i5/OS
Revised: February, 19, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247311.html

An Overview of Installing SAP Applications on System i Models
Revised: February, 16, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4189.html

AIX 5L on IBM System i Platform: Implementation Guide
Revised: February, 21, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg246455.html

Implementing POWER Linux on IBM System i Platform
Published: February 14, 2007 ISBN: 0738489689 378 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246388.html

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Revised: July 25, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247422.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Workload Management Problem Determination
Published: July, 10, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4308.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Web Services Problem Determination
Revised: May 23, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4306.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Installation Problem Determination
Revised: May 21, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4305.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Classloader Problem Determination
Published: May 18, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4307.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Web Container Problem Determination
Revised: May, 2, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4309.html

Switching between JVMs in WebSphere Application Server 6.1 for i5/OS
Published: April, 11, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/tips0666.html

Experience J2EE! Using WebSphere Application Server V6.1
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http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247297.html

IBM WebSphere Application Server V6.1 Security Handbook
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http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246316.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: System Management and Configuration
Published: November 2, 2006 ISBN: 0738496529 984 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247304.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Planning and Design
Published: October 24, 2006 ISBN: 073849450X 324 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247305.html

WebSphere Application Server V6.1: Technical Overview
Published: October 9, 2006
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpapers/abstracts/redp4191.html

Web Services Handbook for WebSphere Application Server 6.1
Published: October 2, 2006 ISBN: 0738494909 810 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247257.html

Getting Started with SOA

Building Composite, Role-Based Dashboards using WebSphere Dashboard Framework
Revised: August 7, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp4313.html

Patterns: SOA Design Using WebSphere Message Broker and WebSphere ESB
Published: July 8, 2007 ISBN: 0738489085 404 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247369.html

Building SOA-based Solutions for IBM System i Platform
Published: June 13, 2007 ISBN: 0738486485 300 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247284.html

WebSphere Service Registry and Repository Handbook
Revised: May 3, 2007 ISBN: 0738489972 934 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247386.html

Production Topologies for WebSphere Process Server and WebSphere ESB V6
Published: April 20, 2007 ISBN: 0738489255 486 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247413.html

Building SOA-based Solutions for IBM System i5 Platform
Revised: April 17, 2007
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247284.html

Building SOA Solutions Using the Rational SDP
Published: April 4, 2007 ISBN: 0738486213 636 pages
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247356.html

On a Non-Technical Note

If you have preschool children, you know who Thomas the Tank Engine is. And in fact, a lot of kids a little bit older than preschool still love Thomas.

And if you don't know Thomas, you might also not know that just minutes away from the Chicago suburbs sits one of America's great treasures, the Illinois Railway Museum. If you've ever ridden a Pullman train, or just read about them, this is a fantastic place to see dozens of full-sized train cars, lovingly restored and cared for. Or maybe you grew up in Chicago or Milwaukee and you remember the street cars. You can see an entire set of street cars, from snow sweepers to delivery trains.

And now, if you do have preschoolers, this is a great time to introduce them to the museum. Thomas the Tank Engine will actually be there this weekend, and the little ones can ride on a train pulled by the Very Useful Engine and get pictures taken with the train itself; I took my little guy this past weekend and even despite the rain he had a wonderful time!

http://www.irm.org
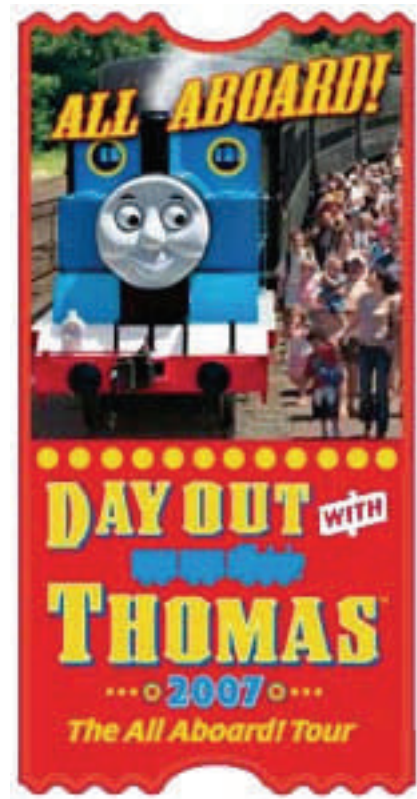
June 2007 COMMON Corner

Reprinted from the June 2007 issue of COMMON.CONNECT

Open Source Solutions with PHP and MySQL
By Craig Johnson, IBM System i Product Management – PHP and MySQL

Wow, what a year! At the Spring 2006 COMMON Conference, IBM and Zend announced that Zend would bring PHP to i5/OS. Since that time, over 5,000 people have registered at zend.com to download Zend's PHP runtime and development products for i5/OS.   System i customers are taking advantage of PHP to develop and deploy web applications. Customers are telling us that with PHP they are able to quickly respond to business requirements, sometimes putting new web applications into production within weeks. Customers are finding it easy to integrate PHP applications with i5/OS applications and data. We have also seen customers leverage the large PHP community through some of the over 10,000 components and applications, the over 4.5 million trained developers, and by being very active on the Zend forums. With its easy-to-use development approach, PHP is a natural fit for i5/OS customers and developers offering improved productivity and rapid deployment.

Zend has delivered Zend Core, Zend Studio, and Zend Platform for i5/OS. While starting with i5/OS V5R4 support, in response to customer feedback, Zend has recently delivered V5R3 support as well.   System i customers can order Zend Core for i5/OS and Zend Studio Professional for i5/OS from IBM with three years of standard support, or download them from Zend's Web site for no additional charge. Zend Core for i5/OS is a fully tested and enhanced version of the open source PHP runtime environment. Zend Core for i5/OS features a toolkit that will allow PHP applications to use DB2 for i5/OS to make program calls and procedures calls, and to access message queues, data areas, and data queues. Zend Studio Professional for i5/OS provides an integrated development environment for PHP. Zend Professional runs on a Windows, Linux, or MAC client. Zend Platform provides enhanced performance, scalability, and monitoring for PHP application deployments.

To extend the open source capabilities of i5/OS, on April 25, 2007 at the MySQL Conference and Expo, IBM and MySQL Inc. announced that MySQL will deliver the MySQL Community Server and MySQL Enterprise Server database for i5/OS on the System i platform. In addition, IBM and MySQL are planning to deliver a DB2 storage engine for MySQL on i5/OS. With the DB2 Storage Engine, System i customers will be able to run MySQL applications while continuing to manage the DB2 for i5/OS database.   In addition, the DB2 Storage Engine will enable sharing of data between MySQL and DB2 applications. DB2 for i5/OS provides a scalable, easy to use database for transaction processing, business intelligence, and collaborative applications. The DB2 Storage Engine will plug into the MySQL Server and can be managed as any other storage engine within the server. The new DB2 Storage Engine will provide storage management, transaction support, and data management capabilities for MySQL.

July 2007 COMMON Corner

Third Annual Innovation Award Winner: Gateway Technical College

Gateway Technical College in Southeastern-most corner of Wisconsin, brought together the local System i user group with current students to increase job opportunities for graduating students and to educate businesses of the latest System i tools and technology. Jim Buck, an IT System i programming instructor, identified an untapped opportunity for Gateway Technical College, which has had an IBM Midrange Programmer/Analyst program for 15 years. The program developed evening and one-day seminars; created an advisory board with recruited local professionals to help design the System i curriculum; and created networking opportunities for students. Gateway Technical College has earned the award for Education Excellence.

Education Excellence in Depth

Gateway Technical College has had an IBM midrange platform-oriented Information Technology-Programmer Analyst (P/A) program for over fifteen years. The popularity of the platform is very strong among businesses within 60 miles of Gateway Technical College's district in Southeastern Wisconsin, which includes the Chicago and Milwaukee areas, driving the need for classes and continued training.

Coming from industry five years ago to serve as Gateway's new P/A instructor, Jim Buck identified an opportunity to refresh the curriculum and equipment as well as develop relationships with businesses using IBM's midrange platform. Gateway purchased a new IBM model 800 and Jim worked with other Gateway instructors to update the curriculum to include the following languages: RPG IV ILE, JAVA, VB.net, and WDSc (IBM's advanced development platform). The college also offers a WebSphere Advanced Technology Certificate which includes classes in Advanced Java, WebSphere Administration, Web Integration Tools and, starting this fall, Enterprise Generation Language.

Relationships were established with regional businesses through the Wisconsin Midrange Computer Programmers Association (WMCPA) and Jim is beginning his fourth term as president of this organization. He currently holds IBM certifications in WebSphere Technical Solutions and iSeries System Command Operations. His actions in updating curriculum and equipment, and in establishing close connections with the System i user community, have been all been targeted towards increasing students' job opportunities and assisting area businesses in locating highly skilled workers.

Going forward Buck wants to increase Gateway's training for IT professionals working in the field and wishing to advance their skills. Gateway also plans on teaching System i Concepts at the high school level. The challenge Jim foresees will be selling the platform to high school students making their first career choice. He is looking for creative ways to explain to students who play computer games what the System i is all about and what it could mean to their future in terms of salary and job satisfaction.

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