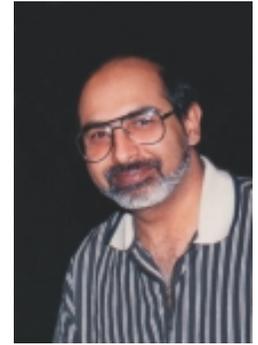


# – TUG MoM Review –

## The March 2001 Meeting of Members

By Alkarim Sachedina



*Al Sachedina*

As I write this, we are now officially in Spring of 2001. Spring is the time of rebirth and new growth. Trees are budding, bulbs planted last fall will soon be breaking ground. As nature intended, everything has its cycle.

Not too many hands went up. The business market place is changing. According to one survey approximately 70% of the online financial transactions conducted over the Internet are Business to Business. A successful implementation of a B2B or B2C web site requires the expertise from various groups within a Company. The IT departments designed and delivered “green-screen” applications with the input from the internal end-users of the application. Since they were the only audience to the application, there wasn’t a need to involve anyone else. Web based application delivery cannot follow these old methods. The audience is now external and can be anywhere on the planet.

Any successful B2B/B2C application deployment will require the input of:

- IT staff responsible for the upkeep of the core business applications such as order processing, accounting, inventory, etc.
- The Sales and Marketing departments.
- Web and graphic designers.

Other topics included the emergence of XML and wireless technologies. There is a great potential for growth in the Internet and the web. As the data transmission rates improve for wireless devices, the future 3G (third generation) devices will become more prevalent in our day-to-day lives, both in business and personal use.

By the end of Eden’s presentation, I realized that we have to understand the new market place. We also need to be a part of the team that will ensure success in B2B/B2C endeavours that our executives initiate. It was a great insight

into the future of e-commerce and expectations of XML, wireless and the role of current IT departments. We will be extending ourselves into the e-commerce world as partners with Users and web designers.

After a break for sandwiches and great desserts, once again compliments of Precision Logic, there were some short announcements. **Dale Perkins**, our IBM liaison for TUG, discussed the upcoming elections for the TUG Board of Directors. The board members are volunteers who are elected for a term of two years.

If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact **Wende Boddy**, our Association Manager. The contact information is on page 3 of this magazine.

Photos by Léo Lefebvre



*Eden Watt*

**Eden Watt**, our 5:00 p.m. speaker, explained how technology has its cycles. The Information Technology departments are constantly being challenged by new trends in the method of not only delivering information, but also exchanging information. E-Commerce evolution is going through another “spring” as we are being challenged to deliver B2B (Business-to-Business) and B2C (Business-to-Consumer) web sites, which are integrated with our traditional core business applications.

Those present at the meeting were asked how many are involved in B2B or B2C type application design / development.



*Dale Perkins*



**Jim Cooper**



**Ken Sadler**

**Jim Cooper**, from Lambton College in Sarnia, had brought information on their co-op program and resumes from students wanting to gain co-op experience in the Toronto area. These students are learning about the IBM iSeries 400 (AS/400) technology.

**Monika Medri** from the IBM Toronto Lab explained about a program at the lab where AS/400 programmers with RPG skills can participate in evaluating latest IBM WebSphere Development Tools for AS/400.



**Monika Medri**

The feedback from the 8-hour session will help the developers deliver tried and tested productivity tools. If you would like to participate in future feedback sessions please contact Susan Hamilton at [susanham@ca.ibm.com](mailto:susanham@ca.ibm.com) or (416) 448-2682.

April 24 & 25 are important dates for our Technical Education Conference, as **Beverly Russell** reminded us. Keynote speaker this year is Mr. **Malcolm Haines**. New for this year is a special rate for teachers and full-time students. The Vendor Showcase will be quite the site as there will be close to fifty (50) booths with suppliers of various products and services.

**Ken Sadler** talked about the upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf tournament. The format for this year will be “shot-gun” starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Nobleton Lakes golf course on Friday June 8, 2001.

With 10 door prizes handed out, the 7:00PM session started with **John Earl** discussing iSeries Security in the Networked World. John’s discussion on security was a great compliment to Eden’s push towards the web world. As we open our networks to the world with B2B/B2C applications, we increase the threat of intrusion. We will have to open our



**John Earl**

systems that process core business applications in order to gain seamless integration with the web business applications. How will this affect your security? Traditional “green-screen” applications using a twinax terminal rely



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***Eden Watt with John Earl***

solely on menu driven security. A User can only access the applications they are authorized on the menu.

The AS/400 and iSeries 400 are allowing various methods of accessing the data, such as FTP, ODBC, DDM, Client Access File Transfer, Operations Navigator, Microsoft Window's Network Neighborhood, etc. where the traditional menu system security is entirely bypassed. These connections are the result of networked personal computers (PC's) within our businesses. PC's are an important and integral tool in today's fast paced working environment. According to John, we need to "make the COST of breaking into a system higher

than the VALUE of the items being secured". Here are some key points for security administrators:

- Default passwords for IBM supplied profiles should be changed, documented and stored in a secure place.
- \*PUBLIC authority to production libraries and objects should be reviewed. If \*PUBLIC has \*CHANGE authority anyone can corrupt the contents of a data file.
- Consider using Exit Programs to check various accesses and requests via PC's.
- Ultimately the OS/400 object authority reigns supreme.

As John summarized his presentation, it wasn't hard to believe that over 95% of AS/400 shops are wide open to (internal) network access. With the forward momentum to e-business, data security must be part of the overall plan. Start with reviewing internal security within your LAN/WAN and external security issues will be less challenging. 

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*Alkarim Sachedina is a member of the TUG Board, and is currently the Vice President responsible for TUG's "Mtrack" project. Alkarim spends his days managing the business needs as the Business Analyst, Information Services at Mattel Canada Inc. He can be reached at [sachedia@mattel.com](mailto:sachedia@mattel.com) or (905) 501-5143.*



***Bev Russell***

