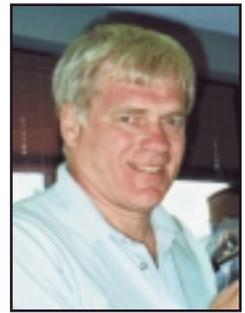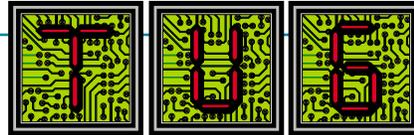# – TUG MoM Review –

The Sept. 2001 Meeting of Members

By Léo Lefebvre

Léo Lefebvre

The show must go on!

The events of September 11 did not affect the presentation of the first TUG Meeting of Members for the 2001/2002 season. It went on as scheduled on September 19, 2001 – and with the announced speakers, even though they both traveled by plane to come to the meeting.

Charles Machalani, who had the shortest distance to travel (from Farabi headquarters in Montreal) made a one-day trip to present the 5:00PM session. Multi-Platform connectivity was his topic

Charles Machalani

and multi-platform connectivity is his company's main business.

Charles presented a case study that involves Americana Ships (a shipping company in the USA that is owned by CP Ships) and the business advantages behind their Web-to-host solution implementation.

Thousands of Agents around the world are using Web-to-host to print large manifests and invoices with embedded overlays, securely over the Internet.

Americana Ships have been using it to provide agents with secure remote access over the Internet to their AS/400 applications. Recently they began using XML and the Web-to-host solution to web-enable their AS/400 Vessel Scheduling System, which now provides real-time information about the vessel schedules.

Charles presented a technical overview of the software used to deploy such a solution and the business reasons behind it. He also discussed some of the things they went through in the last year and half to find the best solutions that met their needs. Those solutions had to accommodate multi-facet type of installations due to the different types of customers/users located all over the world. Americana Ships did not want to impose specific types of computers and printers to their army of Agents and customers.

Beside the fact that no handouts were available for the session, the session was quite informative and enlightening.

At the end of the session, Gord Stitt (of Millennium Computer Maintenance, in Toronto) showed the members how easy it is to use the solution presented by Charles. Gord, using his PC, connected to his office via a regular Internet connection. He was then able to enter an order and print an invoice right in front of us, proving Charles' presentation.

Gord Stitt mans the keyboard

After refreshments, and a bit of TUG business, it was time for our next speaker.

Kent Milligan, a DB2 UDB for iSeries Technology Specialist in PartnerWorld for Developers iSeries likes to plan ahead. When the arrangements for his session were made, he planned to arrive in Toronto the day before.
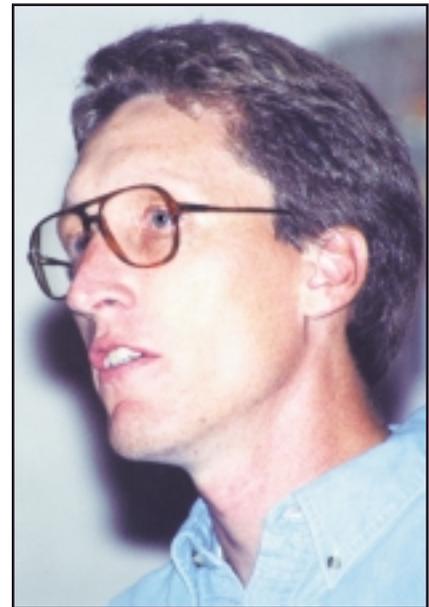
(If you have traveled between Rochester and Toronto by plane, you will understand). The handout for his presentation arrived at the TUG office

four weeks before the meeting. A few days after the troubles in New York City and Washington he contacted TUG to see if we had a "Plan B" in case planes would not flying and he could not make it the following week.

Fortunately for us and Kent, "Plan A" was executed with perfection. Many planes were flying. He arrived in Toronto as scheduled and the presentation took place as planned.

And what a presentation it was! Kent had a topic that may not be easy to keep an audience's interest for long. But he came through brilliantly and kept his audience for more than 90 minutes with his presentation, and answering questions from the members.

Kent's session reviewed all of the latest and greatest DB2 UDB for iSeries enhancements introduced with the Version 5 Release 1 of OS/400.

Kent Milligan

The enhancements he focused on are: improvements in SQL Standards and DB2 compatibility, availability and recovery enhancements, and new tools (especially with Operation Navigator).

September 19, 2001

Kent Milligan

With the SQL standards improvements we can now highlight SQL triggers, fetch first "n" rows, and right outer join. In DB2 compatibility, we now have Java UDFs, DB2 XML and text extenders, two-phased commit over IP, and ODBC version 3.5. In the realm of availability & recovery enhancements IBM came up with "Journal Minimal Data". The trigger functions have been improved as well with column-level triggers, more than one trigger per database event, and a system-wide trigger catalog.

Many other enhancements have been made to DB2 UDB and Kent tried to cover most of them.

Again that was an excellent presentation and Kent is a speaker we will certainly keep on our list. As Ron Anderson said when he thanked Kent for his presentation, "You know the audience enjoyed the presentation when you see so many questions coming from them." I would add that the length of the session and the percentage of attendance staying until the very end is another indication of an excellent session.

Kent's plan worked well and everyone enjoyed their experience. Now we only have to wish that we never go through similar problems to those that caused the Sept 11 tragedies.

See you all in November and ask your friends to join you as well. TUG

Léo Lefebvre is the TUG Past-President and Vice President responsible for speakers. He is also President of MBL3 Software Services, Contact Léo at tel: 416-060-5960, fax: 416-495-0100, e-mail: leo@tug.ca.

Gerry Hoffe (retiring TUG Director) gets a gift