

– TUG MoM Review –

The September 2003 Meeting of Members

“... and we’re off!”

By *Stephen Bingham*

As an industry, we finished off the summer with a bang. A rash of new computer viruses that kept our network folks up all hours of the day and night. Not to mention a power outage to rival the great black out of 1956. Which knocked the lights out down most of the eastern seaboard. One day, we will look back on the summer of 2003 and smile.



To kick-start the new year, we decided to take a long shot and plan the first MoM of the season at a special location. The Woodbine Racetrack. They say there is no such thing as a sure bet. Well, who ever said that had not seen our line up for the evening.

Our new President, **Eveline Gaede** introduced the first event of the night. **Garth Tucker** of Midrange Computers Group with the run down on the Linux perspective.



Eveline Gaede

Unfortunately, his co speaker **Richard Dolewski** was unable to attend due to other business.

Garth walked us through a brief history of Linux and its origins. What we learned is that everyone has access to the source code for the operating system. Anyone can make changes and improvements to the source code. All changes must pass inspection of a peer group of volunteers before they are added to the Linux kernel. If these changes are accepted, they will be distributed in the next release of the product. The best part is, you get credit for your enhancements. This is called, “O P E N SOURCE.”

L i n u x implementations currently

include a web server, e-mail server, a file/print server and a firewall. Bringing Linux to the iSeries will allow you to leverage your current investment. On selected servers, running OS/400 5.1 or higher, Linux can be run in a secondary

partition using only 10% of a processor and 64 MB of memory. In V5R2, the new iSeries Navigator has been enhanced to support Linux partition management.



Stephen Bingham

O n c e you have made the decision to install Linux, the next step will be supporting your new partition. Support for Linux has 2 key components. The first component can be provided by IBM who will provide support in installing Linux on your iSeries, the creation of new partitions and the sharing of resources with your Linux partition. The second component is support for your Linux distribution which is available from third party vendors including Suse, Turbolinux, Red Hat and IGS.

Many mid sized to large cap corporations spanning industries stretching from the retail sector to financial services to manufacturing currently are using Linux in some fashion. ▶



Matinee Speaker: Garth Tucker



Photos by Léo Lefebvre

Linux is growing and with the support of IBM, it will be a topic of discussion in every iSeries shop. The only question will be, do you purchase an additional Intel server for every application or leverage the power of your existing iSeries server.



TEC PM, Glenn Gundermann

If you were not able to join us at the September MoM, you missed out on a wonderful buffet. During the break, **Glenn Gundermann** reminded us that the TEC2004 conference is coming next April 20 & 21. Whether you are coming to TEC instead of COMMON or to help rev up to it, you don't want to miss the 11th Annual TUG TEC. Have your calendars marked.



Evening Speaker: Dale Perkins

After the break, Eveline introduced our second speaker of the night. Our very own IBM Liaison to TUG, **Dale Perkins** with the perfect follow up to Linux and Open Source.

As we all settled back down in our seats, Dale provided a little entertainment by playing some of IBM's more recent commercials. Including a personal favorite of mine the Universal Business Adapter.

Open Office is a desktop office suite that will satisfy most users. Originally developed by Stardivison who were acquired by Sun in 1999. Sun released Star Office 5.2 in June 2000 and the source code was made available to Open Office.


The fully integrated office suite includes database tools, a word processor (WRITER), a spreadsheet (CALC), a multimedia presentation package (IMPRESS), and a drawing tool (DRAW). Open Office is even capable of opening and writing MS Office files or exporting to PDF file format.

Open Office may not have all the bells and whistles of other office suites, but it is based on the 80/20 rule. That is that 80% of the users only use 20% of the tool functions that you give them. Open Office was created based on those 20% of the tool functions that majority of users look for. This sounds great, maybe too great. But wait, it gets better. Open Office can be downloaded free of charge from www.openoffice.org. There are currently over 13,000 registered users and the product has been downloaded an estimated 16 million times. It runs on Windows, Linux, Mac and Solaris based machines. For Windows users, it takes as little as 64MB of memory and only 250MB of disk space.

Open Office is distributed under the same rules as Linux. Everyone has access to the source code and is free to make any changes or enhancements that they like. As with Linux, all changes are reviewed by the user community before being distributed.



TUG Registration Desk: Loretta Dryer, Inass Moussa, and Wende Boddy

Linux is becoming more popular and is gaining a strong foothold as its install base continues to grow. I am looking forward to learning more about this new operating system and how it will complement the iSeries. Open Office has all the power many users are looking for in an Office Suite without the high cost for tools that they will never use. Download it today and judge for yourself. 

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