

– TUG MoM Review –

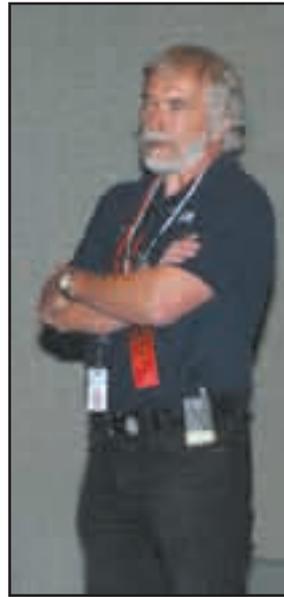
The September 2004 Meeting of Members

By Stephen Bingham

Here we are at the start of another year for the Toronto User Group. Our twentieth year! The venue for the first meeting of the year was the IBM Toronto Software Lab. Early arrivals were treated to a tour of the IBM facilities. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit the lab, it is a place where long hours and hard work converge with an atmosphere of relaxation and harmony.

There are several theme areas in the lab, including a cottage setting. Perfect for those who are working to meet target dates and can't get away for the weekend. Just leave the cubicle behind and head down to the lounge, where the rustic atmosphere of cottage life can overtake the senses, while the wireless network and the IBM ThinkPad provide everything you need to get the job done. It's the best of both worlds, without the commute.

The first of our three speakers of the night was **Claus Weiss**, who polled the audience on who was using Remote System Explorer. Only a few hands went up. When he asked why people were not using it, the responses were: "selling it to management," "the learning curve," "installation problems," and "perceived security concerns." Claus pointed out that the learning curve for most programmers to move away from PDM into RSE and be back up to normal productivity would be approximately two weeks.



Claus Weiss

Our second speaker of the evening was **Peter Beggs** on IBM Business Integration. To start things off Peter ran one of IBM's classic commercials. The IT guys were showing the boss the new web site design and were all hyped up on the cool graphics. The boss then asked them if they could link all the business processes together to improve the customer experience and of course save the company money. They responded that they did not know how to do that. The boss was asking for Business Integration – the ability for applications to talk to each other so that all business processes can be linked together.



Stephen Bingham



Photos by Léo Lefebvre

TUG's new booth made its debut next to the moose at the IBM Toronto Lab.



Peter Beggs

In the IBM process, there are six capabilities to consider:

1. **Model:** How is the work done today? What are the costs, time and resources associated with the model? If we make a change to the process, what will happen? To illustrate, Peter walked us through a simulation of a business model using the WebSphere Business Integration Modeler.
2. **Transform:** An example of this is making your green screen applications available as HTML through a web browser.
3. **Integrate:** The business process model is created as a set of tasks. These tasks may be automated or performed manually. It is up to the IT department to put the tools in place to make the model execute.
4. **Interact:** The business process model may have several interactions. These will range from application

to application, to human intervention. Other examples will be waiting on a fax or e-mail verification.

5. **Manage:** The business and IT need to be able to look into the process and determine what and how to best optimize it.
6. **Accelerate:** Whenever possible use off-the-shelf products, or products that are easily customizable. There is no need to re-invent the wheel.



All of these capabilities are brought together via the Enterprise Service Bus. The ESB provides the capability to move information from one point to another.

The 5th Wave

By Rich Tennant



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After the break, our President **Léo Lefebvre** addressed the group. He talked about our presence at COMMON which will be held prior to you reading this article. As one of the local user groups, we will be joined by COiN and the Western New York Midrange User Group in presenting **Skip Marchesani**.

As you may know, three board members have chosen to retire from the board. **Ed Jowett**, who has served 15 years, and held the positions of Secretary and Treasurer, will continue to be an active member of TEC committee. **Beverly Russell** who was most recently the treasurer of TUG, but has also served as President and Vice-President, is also a director of the COMMON users group. **Neil Andrus**, a co-founder and former President of TUG was unable to be with us for the evening. In addition we also have had a change in our IBM Liaison. **Dale Perkins** who has been our conduit into IBM for the past three years has been re-assigned. Our new IBM Liaison is **Stephen Quan**. A special "Thank you"

was given to these four individuals for all their time, effort and dedication over the years.

Glenn Gundermann took the stage to talk about TEC 2005. Mark your calendars for April 19th and 20th. Once again this year we are planning to have lab sessions the IBM Software Lab, as well as introduce testing for IBM certification.

After the break, **Mark Buchner** of ASTECH Solutions Inc. (our final speaker of the evening) took the stage to talk to us about the Enterprise Application Modernization process. The EAM process has 5 major components. Mark equated modernizing your applications to a home renovation project.

The first thing you want to do is an **Assessment** of your home. Determine how much money you have, and how the renovation will affect the net value of your home. In the IT world, we are more likely to be upgrading applications or the network as opposed to laying down carpet or putting on a fresh coat of paint. Before you begin you need a complete and honest appraisal of your assets. These assets can include your current network infrastructure, system architecture, IT staff and their skill sets.

The next component is **Requirements**. What are you looking for at the end of this renovation? Increased security? Usability? System performance or



Photos by Léo Lefebvre

Mark Buchner

a new improved Business Process? This brings us to the third component: **Solutions**. In the example Mark used, we need to determine who will be accessing our system: employee's, partners or customers via the Internet?

There are several solutions available to help complete this task, but we need to refer back to our assets and determine what we have available to us. These include: iSeries Access for Web, HATS, Web Facing, and Java.

When choosing the tool, you need to consider the skills required, licensing fees and any requirements for 5250

cycles. The fourth and fifth components are **Infrastructure** and **Tools**. The infrastructure component includes your hardware, possibly a new i5, using micro-partitioning or a virtual LAN. Will you be using LINUX in your environment? Remote System Explorer is an example of a tool that may be required to complete this renovation and maintain it in the years to come.

Do you have any suggestions for future topics for the meeting of members or TEC. Drop us a line at leo@tug.ca. We want to hear from you. See you at the Woodbine Racetrack in November! 

