

TEC 2006 WRAP-UP

Education for an On Demand World



By Glenn Gundermann

"I'm the i in i5"



For the seventh consecutive year I had the honour again this year to be Chairman of TUG's Technical Education Conference (TEC). This was our 13th annual conference and for many people — both attendees and volunteers — it was one of the best!



TEC 2006 Speaker Al Grega

TEC Committee

The countless hours everyone put in is nothing short of incredible! With all the tasks that had to be done, you'd think they were trained by Yoda himself, who said; "There is do or do not. There is no try." Well they did it. The committee members are: Alkarim Sachedina, Bob Lesiw, Ed Jowett, Eveline Gaede, Glenn Gundermann, Jay Burford, Ken Sadler, Kumar Rajendra, Léo Lefebvre, Richard Dolewski, Stephen Bingham, Stephen Quan, Vaughn Dragland, and Wende Boddy,

Stephen Bingham said it best when he said, "Although our theme was *I'm the i in i5*, we proved that there is definitely no I in TEAM."

Speaker Sessions

We had 41 speakers presenting 77 sessions — more than ever before! We even had some speakers who only did a single session, just so we could include "the best of the best" for every time slot. Even though we have some of the same speakers who appear at COMMON and other great conferences — much of the material is new. In fact, many of these speakers will tell you that they were updating their presentations in the last few days leading up to TEC, with all the latest information. There were a couple of sessions that were presented at TEC that had never been presented anywhere else.



TEC 2006 Speaker Thibault Dambrine



Executive Breakfast speaker Dr. Frank Soltis

New this year was our professional development track. We had 11 great PD sessions over the two days, covering everything a non-technical (or a technical person for that matter) needs to know in order to improve their team performance — negotiation skills, and risk management — just to name a few.

Also new this year was the option of attending either the full two-day conference, or either of the single days of sessions. We received great feedback on this new option, as it shows that TUG is always finding new ways of providing benefits for all of our members (with small or large budgets.)

We would like to thank our session coffee-break sponsors **Challenger Motor Freight**, **sofCast Inc.**, and **Systems Developers Group**, as well as our literature-table sponsor **T.L. Ashford**, for their support. We would also like to thank **COMMON – A Users Group** for the badge holders, and the **Sheraton Parkway Toronto North** hotel for another year of great customer service.

Executive Breakfast

Dr. Frank Soltis gave us the historical perspective of the major developments leading up to our modern System i5, and explained how the name change every five years was tied-in with IBM's technical advances in each of their five-year plans. He also presented some insights into the performance of IBM's POWER chip technology and how it ultimately affects business performance and business success.

We'd also like to thank the sponsors for the Executive Breakfast — **ASTECH Solutions Inc.** and **i3 Tech Group Inc.** Congratulations to the winners of the

draw prizes: The two iPods provided by ASTECH were won by **Stephen Lam** from Adidas and **Kevin Pennells** from World Vision. **Jack Black** from Farm Mutual RE won the Photo Printer provided by i3, and **Beverly Russell** from E.D. Smith won the 1GB Memory stick, also provided by i3.

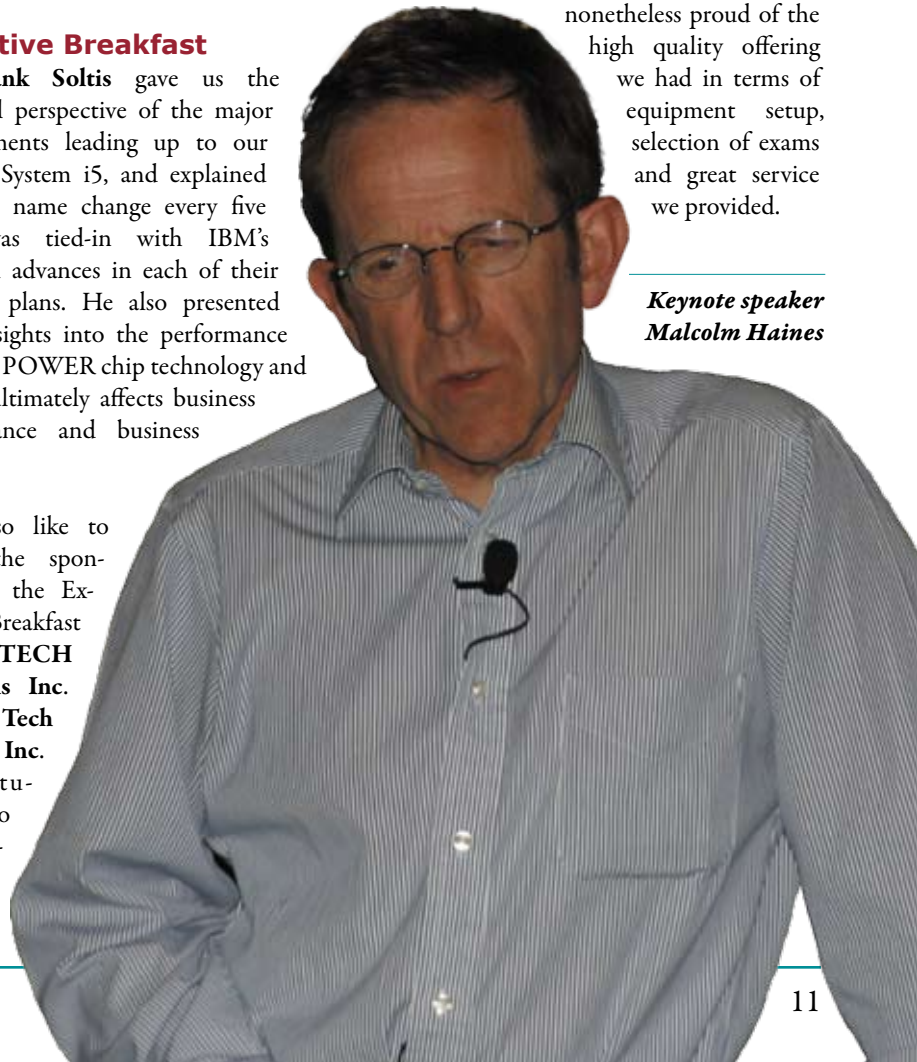
Keynote Lunch

Malcolm Haines provided us with a very mind stimulating keynote session where he discussed technological achievements in the past, current and future. He says the achievements of the 21st century will be 1,000 times as numerous as those of the 20th century and gave us lots of food for thought. Many thanks to **System & Method International Inc.**, who sponsored the luncheon.

IBM Certification

We are thankful to IBM again this year for being able to offer IBM Certification at our conference. We had TUG's **Stephen Bingham** working with **Sue Worthman** from IBM USA who put together a first-rate testing site. We had a lower turnout than we were capable of supporting but nonetheless proud of the high quality offering we had in terms of equipment setup, selection of exams and great service we provided.

Keynote speaker Malcolm Haines



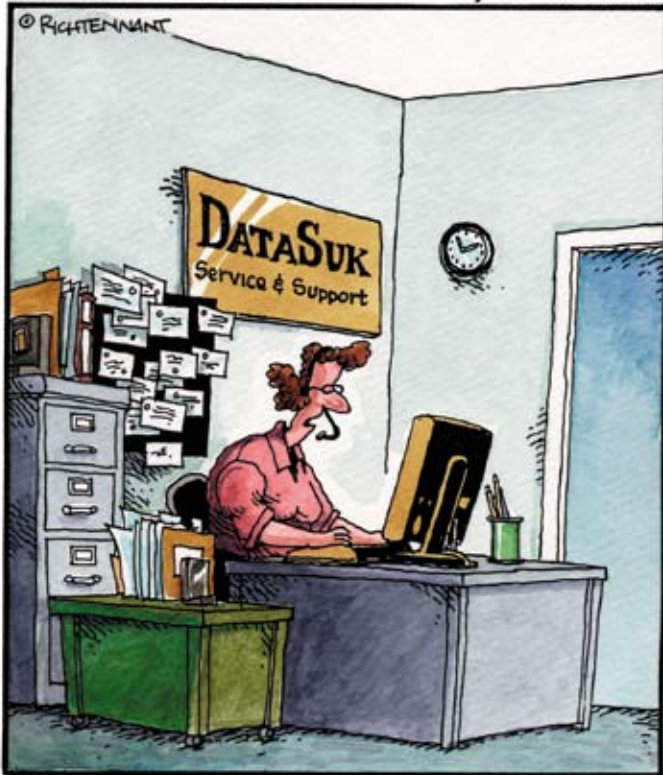


Léo Lefebvre

Having the labs on day 3 was a big hit — every possible seat was filled, in both the morning and afternoon sessions.

The 5th Wave

By Rich Tennant



"Answer the following survey questions about our company's performance with either, 'Excellent', 'Good', 'Fair', or 'I'm Really Incapable of Appreciating Someone Else's Hard Work'."

Hands-on Labs @ the IBM Toronto Lab

A few years ago we added hands-on labs to the TEC roster. These were concurrent with the regular sessions, which meant that attendees travelled back and forth between the Sheraton Parkway and the IBM Toronto Laboratory. We had labs again this year, but with a twist — we moved all of the labs to a newly created TEC "Day 3". No longer did anyone have to miss a lecture session in order to attend a workshop. We had a full house as expected for both the morning and afternoon labs and the overwhelming response was very positive. We are already in conversation with IBM for next year and we're hoping we can accommodate even more people at the lab in '007.

Labs: Attendee Feedback

"RSE is a long lab – it's great to have a chance to do it over both morning and afternoon sessions. If IBM gives TEC the option of labs next year and my company allows me to come, I'll be back."

"All instructors were very patient and helpful. Thank You!"

"All instructors in the lab were very helpful. Thanks. Special thanks to Claus, Don, Glenn, and Naz. Sorry if I missed out others."

"I really think that the handouts are excellent and that the WebSphere tools look great."

"Having the lab on a third day is a great idea!"

"Very nicely set up. The lab is a good chance to see and experiment. Top notch."

"Well done! Keep up the good work."

Those IBM people at the Lab really deserve our thanks. We had all the experts there that anyone could ever wish for. Thank you **David Muir, Claus and Inge Weiss, Don Yantzi, Eric D. Peters, Nazmin Haji, Xuan Chen, Jiayun Zhu, and Melanie Steckham.**

Vendor Showcase

Products and services were showcased by numerous vendors at 28 different booths. A big thank you to the vendors who donated door prizes as well! Showcase has a huge impact on our ability to present this great conference, and we really appreciate the participation of the vendors. We hope to see you all again next year. (See the logos of our Showcase vendors at right.)

One of the highlights of the Vendor Showcase was the great prize give-away, which included golf tickets, golf apparel, a golf travel bag, an iPod, a PC Camera, a PC UPS System, a bar kit, two tickets to the play "Lord of the Rings", and cash! These (and other) prizes were provided by the following participating vendors: **Oasys Consulting, Vision Solutions, Brains II, Datamirror, System & Method, MKS, Databorough, Aldon, i3 Tech Group, Microsoft, BCD, Tangerine, IBM, Information Builders, Softlanding, and TUG.**

And here are the lucky winners: **Mike Novel, Jason Billingham, Michelle Elliott, Allan Leake, Luice Yu, Mike Novell, Ann McDonald, Kevin Kabayashi, Carrie Lee, Mike Francis, Juan Stromsvorfer, Justin Devasutham, Azmat Bhatti, Juan Stromvorfer, Tari Razak, Ed Tiley, Raymond Rhyno, Jerry Dymstraz, Xuan Chen, and Marly Campbell.**

Volunteers

It would have been very hard if TEC didn't have the help from our volunteers. One such group is the Session Monitors group: **Aziz Saleh** (TUG board member), **Carol Stewart, Harry Hastilow, Ken Sadler** (TUG board member & TEC committee member), **Kim Ha, Kimberly McNally** (TUG board member), **Ron Campitelli, and Shirley Hing.**

Jay Burford (TEC 2006 committee member) oversaw the session monitors and he had this to say: "Thank you for your

TEC 2006 Showcase Vendors



CMSsoftware



Vaughn Dragland



Showcase golf travel bag prize winner Marly Campbell with TUG Prez Léo Lefebvre

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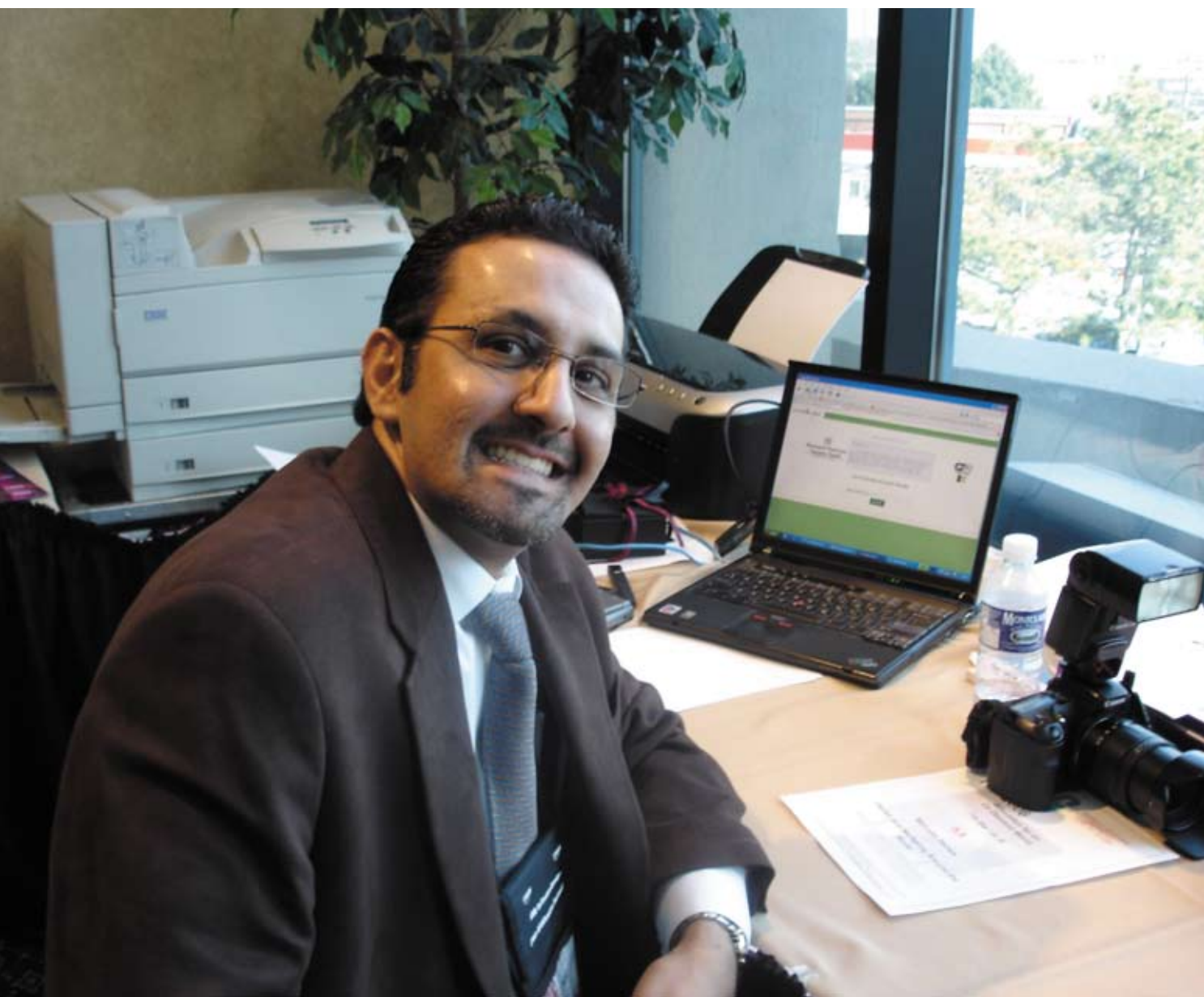
Wende Boddy

Showcase vendor Sharon Comeau



Vaughn Dregland

Showcase prize winner Ray Rhyno with IBMer Gwen Spencer



Wende Boddy

TUG Board member and volunteer Aziz Saleh

dedication and your enthusiasm as Session Volunteers. A great Conference like this week's TUG TEC doesn't 'just happen'. It takes a lot of work and attention to detail. You all provided the terrific support required for both the attendees and the speakers.

You were the point of contact, and it was your efforts that made both groups feel comfortable, helped resolve any problems, and thus contributed to an overall professionally run conference. The attendance records that you provided will also assist in the planning of next year's TEC. Thank you again and I hope that you will be willing to volunteer in the future."

IBM

It's a win-win situation when you put IBM and TUG together. We had a lot of expert IBM speakers, from both the Toronto and Rochester, Minnesota labs. We were fortunate to have both **Malcolm Haines** and **Dr. Frank Soltis**. IBM provided the Lenovo laptops and IBM printers at registration, and so much more — even the TEC 2005 shirts that were worn by the committee members. THANK YOU for everything! (See Stephen Quan's IBM sidebar on page 15.)

Feedback

We are constantly looking for feedback. If there is anything you would like to tell us, whether to add or change anything about TEC or anything else, please let us know.

Larry D'Souza from World Vision had this to say: "I just wanted to thank you for the great TUG TEC we had this year. This was definitely the best of the 3 I've attended thus far. Congratulations to you and your team for organizing such an excellent event! I look forward to even better TECs in the future – no pressure, eh? :-)"

TUG President **Léo Lefebvre** sent this reply: "Thanks Larry for your kind words. It is satisfying to see that people appreciate the efforts we put into the venture and that they are looking forward to a follow-up. I will let the team know about your message. Thanks again. See you next year for another TEC and sooner for other TUG events."

A Note From IBM

By Stephen Quan



is very honoured to have been able to render support to TUG TEC 2006.

The first of our core IBM Values is "Dedication to every client's success", and in the Toronto Users Group we see a true friend of the System i server whose continuing success is something we are determined to foster.

As can be seen by the list below, to partner with TUG to help make TEC 2006 a success was a team effort, bringing together people from many parts of the company.

Special thanks to the following IBMers, without whom IBM's contribution to the conference could not have been the success it was.

Thanks to Phil Searles, IBM Canada eServer Techline manager, and Tom Kinder, IBM Canada Business Unit Executive for Techline, for affirming IBM Techline's commitment to TUG and thus allowing for IBM resource to be present at the event for contingencies.

Thanks to Kathy Gregson of System i Canada for her generous sponsorship of TEC 2006 both through conventional sponsor vehicles and also through mail campaigns, which were instrumental in publicizing our conference.

Thanks to Gwen Spencer for arranging and organizing the IBM Booth at Showcase and taking the time from her very busy schedule to personally staff the System i display at TEC.

Thanks to Elaine McFarlane for her truly tireless and creative work in finding and deploying IBM resources to support TEC 2006 and related IBM sponsorship initiatives.

Thanks to Nazmin Haji of the IBM Lab, who led the team that staffed the IBM booth at Showcase and did such an excellent job of "showcasing" IBM's legacy modernization applications like the new WDHT package and its Webfacing and HATS components at the booth. Thanks to the whole team, which was composed of Don Yantzi, Kushal Munir, Jiayun Zhu, Eric Peters, and Satish Gungabeesoon. All of them are experts in their field and contributed immensely to the technical vitality of the Showcase.

Thanks to David Tsujimura of IBM Printing Systems for his awesome efforts in finding and deploying IBM printers with the required duplex units for registration, without which this registration process would not have been able to run.

Thanks to Cassandra McRae and Stella Handoyo of IBM Printing Systems, who provided IBM collateral materials for the TEC 2006.

And last, but certainly not least, thanks to Steven Stronach of Lenovo for generously loaning two very modern laptops for the registration process. We could not have done the registration process without your help Steven!



Stephen Quan is the IBM Liaison for TUG.

Summary

It's not always the case that if you build it, they will come. With what we have to offer, I don't know why we don't have 3,000 attendees! With the majority of Lab attendees taking the lab on RSE, you'd never know that the product came out in 2002.

Here's a reminder: If you were at the conference and forgot to fill out a conference evaluation form, you can still do so by sending a fax to the TUG office (905-607-2547).

There is a lot to learn out there and I hope the excitement of TEC will carry on inside each of you, to encourage you to continue learning at all times and to return to TEC next year. I hope everyone that attended had fun, and I would encourage those who did not attend to do so next year.



Glenn Gundermann is the Chairperson of the TEC 2006 committee, and Vice President of the TUG Board. Glenn is an independent consultant, programmer/analyst, specializing in ILE RPG, WDS and anything to do with the iSeries. He can be reached at ggundermann@tug.ca.

The #1 Reason I Volunteered for the TEC Committee is ...

When asked the above question, members of the TEC Committee gave the following answers:

- The great shirts.
- I like when we get to revote on the issues decided 3 meetings ago.
- The massive salary.
- I don't know why but I won't be that stupid again.
- The comic relief.
- I love the 5-hour meetings.
- You can never have enough shirts with the 'TUG' logo on them.
- So the rest of the committee can't talk about you behind your back if you show up for every meeting.
- To network with a group of misfits.
- They made me do it.
- The Swiss Chalet meals at the meetings.
- So I can walk around with a blue ribbon on my name badge.



Vaughn Dragland





TEC 2006 committee members L-R, back row: Stephen Bingham, Alkarim Sachedina, Bob Lesiw, Glenn Gundermann, Kumar Rajendra, & Vaughn Dragland. middle row: Ken Sadler, Léo Lefebvre, Wende Boddy, & Jay Burford. inset: Stephen Quan, Richard Dolewski, Eveline Gaede, & Ed Jowett.