

TEC '007

EDUCATION: SHAKEN NOT STIRRED



By Glenn Gundermann, TEC Chair



The year is 2007, or '007 as we put it. That's right, our theme at this year's conference was a play on the James Bond 007 theme and added, Education: Shaken, not stirred.

Many attendee phone calls started with "I want to register for the Education shaken not stirred Conference". (Coincidentally, right after our marketing started, we noticed Sony and Blue Mountain both followed suit with the same idea.)

The conference ran three days, from April 17 to April 19, '007.

We had a lot of fun putting on this year's event, our 14th Annual TEC, just like we do every year. This special theme, thought up by our own **Vaughn Dragland**, seemed to raise the excitement up a notch. Our TEC Committee wore white tuxedo shirts with red bow ties on Day 1 to start the conference. Our speaker gifts were martini shakers with TEC '007 on them, and our special draw prizes at the Vendor Showcase included a game called "Seen It 007 Edition" (donated by Mattel Canada Inc.) and the DVD box set of the James Bond 007 movies.

All this fun does not take away from the professionalism we use to put together a first-rate technical education conference with over 40 speakers and almost 100 hours of presentation material.



The event was over before you knew it! Just like spending days to prepare for a feast and see it eaten in a matter of hours, we saw our 1,000+ hours of preparation consumed too quickly.



Vaughn Dragland

Léo Lefebvre, TUG President with John Pratt, Business Unit Executive for System i in Canada – at the TUG marketing booth



Executive Breakfast speaker Richard Dolewski

Day 1

Seven busy session rooms contained both technical and project management sessions from 8:15 AM to 4:10 PM.

The Vendor Showcase contained over 30 booths (see sidebar) with companies from as close as Toronto and as far as France. The highlight for many was the TUG booth with two registered massage therapists providing free massages, sponsored by Eclipse Technologies Inc. Thank you ladies and thank you Eclipse! TEC Showcase opened at 11:00 AM and was the perfect environment for our attendees to grab some lunch and talk to the vendors. Then an hors d'oeuvre table and cash bar opened at 3:30 PM for the last two hours.

A special session open to everyone (registered or not) was the 5:30 PM evening session titled "It's All In Your Mind" by **Jon Paris** and **Susan Gantner** from Partner400. It was a brilliant and humourous session showcasing the powers of the mind. Susan demonstrated a mathematical square, which was very impressive. We learned a way to remember all of the Canadian provinces & territories. We also heard a great story about an ex-Viking named Zeewhy.

(We like to call him Zedwhy here in Canada, eh!). It was a lesson in how remembering sentences as your mnemonics for the letters, you can learn the alphabet backwards. (See Table 1.)



Susan Gantner



The first step to getting ahead is getting started ...



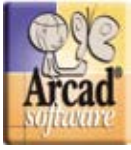
Jon Paris

Our Executive Breakfast featured two speakers; **John Pratt** from IBM and **Richard Dolewski** from Mid-Range. Both gave an interesting presentation while our executive guests enjoyed a hot breakfast.

Zeewhy (the) ex-warrior (asks)...	z, y, x, w (sound & first letters)
"Vut's our coupon (for)?"	v, u, t, s, r, q-p, o, n (sound)
[Answer] "Milk jug(s)...	m, l, k, j, i, h, g (spelling & sound)
(to) feed (the) cute baby alligators."	f, e, d, c, b, a (spelling & first letters)

Table 1. (Susan Gantner's formula/story for memorizing the alphabet backwards)

TEC'07 Showcase Booth Vendors



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Olenka Van Schendel, Wende Boddy, and Lindsay Sutherland



The fabulous massage chairs (by Rhoda Caplan and associate)



Tuesday 5:30 PM session: "It's All in Your Mind"



Jim Vanderburgt, Alkarim Sachedina, and Wally Jaroslowski

Vaughn Dragland



Keynote speaker Paul Tuohy

Day 2

Again, we had seven busy session rooms containing both technical and project management sessions from 8:15 AM to 5:15 PM.



To break up the day, we had an excellent Lunch and Keynote Address by **Paul Tuohy**, speaking on “And You Want Me to Learn What?” Paul kept us amused with his pearls of wisdom, Irish humour, and some really great magic tricks.

Day 3 – IBM Lab Sessions

The third day of the conference was held at the IBM Toronto Lab, where close to 70 attendees filled the rooms to go through the hands-on labs that IBM put together.

This is the 4th year that IBM has graciously partnered with us for such an event. The demand has grown so much; we went from 25 PCs to 70 PCs!

IBM offered a choice of seven labs, with everyone taking home a binder with the material for all seven: RSE ILE RPG, iSeries Projects, Application Diagram Viewer, WebFacing, Linked WebFacing/HATS, Web Tools, and Web Services. ➔

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TEC'007 committee (L-R) Back Row: Jay Burford, Stephen Bingham, Ed Jowett, Bob Lesiw, Stephen Quan, Kumar Rajendra, and Vaughn Dragland. Front Row: Harry Hastilow, Wende Boddy, Glenn Gundermann, Alkarim Sachedina, and Léo Lefebvre. (Missing: Ken Sadler)



Léo Lefebvre

IBM's **David Muir**, manager of System i Application Development Tools and Compilers ensured everything was organized and ran smoothly. Experts **Don Yantzi, Jiayun Zhu, Xuan Chen, Nazmin Haji, Eric Peters, Inge Weiss, Howard Lau**, plus others were all there to provide their technical expertise. Thank you IBM Toronto Lab!

Attendees

We had attendees from the local area of course, plus people from all over Canada as well as the USA.

We love the feedback we get back. Some of the comments received:

“Too many sessions booked at the same time—would like to do more”, “Wonderful! Thanks”, and “Excellent Conference.”

TEC'007 Keynote Luncheon (inset: Keynote speaker Paul Tuohy)

Marly Campbell from The John Forsyth Shirt Co., TUG member and regular TEC attendee, may have said it best when asked about TEC: "You don't have time not to go!" My thoughts exactly Marly.

Vaughn Dragland

Speakers

As usual, we had some great speakers covering all of the hot topics. Some speakers came from Toronto, the USA, and one notable Paul Tuohy all the way from from Ireland.

IBM helps us with speakers in the form of the developers themselves. To give you an idea of how everything is so specialized, two speakers came only to co-present one session. We can't thank you enough IBM!

Volunteers

An event like this cannot be accomplished without the help of volunteers.

Thank you to the session monitors: **Aziz Saleh, Carol Stewart, David Wei, Ken Davis, Mansoor Najarian, Shirley Hing,** and **Wayne Laughlin.** ➔



TEC'007 speaker Claus Weiss

Vaughn Dragland



TEC'007 speaker Inge Weiss



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Our own TEC Committee put in over 1,000 hours in the months preceding the conference: **Alkarim Sachedina, Bob Lesiw, Ed Jowett, Glenn Gundermann, Harry Hastilow, Jay Burford, Ken Sadler, Kumar Rajendra, Léo Lefebvre, Stephen Bingham, Stephen Quan, Vaughn Dragland, and Wende Boddy.**

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone:

- Our attendees, who are the reason we organize this event
- Our speakers, who made this event possible
- Our vendors, who continue to develop new products and services

Our volunteers and TEC Committee

We hope everyone enjoyed TEC '007 and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



Glenn Gundermann is an independent consultant, specializing in programming in RPG IV. When not programming, Glenn instructs at IBM and customer sites in North America, with a repertoire that includes RPG IV Programming, SQL, WDSsc, WebSphere Application Server, Operations, BRMS, WebFacing, HATS, CL Programming, DB2, iSeries Navigator, Query, Performance Analysis & Capacity Planning, Security Concepts & Planning, plus more. Glenn can be contacted at ggundermann@tug.ca or (647) 272-3295.



Cheers, *Glenn*



speakers Susan Gantner & Carol Woodbury



speaker Tom Hadley



speaker Carol Miner



Are you licensed to skill?

Vaughn Dragland

Thanks IBM!

By Stephen Quan



It was once again a pleasure for IBM Canada to partner with the Toronto Users Group's TEC conference. 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 platform, whose success is definitely something we are determined to see continue.

As the IBM Liaison to TUG, one of the times of the year I most look forward to is April—when TUG TEC occurs. IBM contributes to TUG in many ways, and with the aid of many different parts of the company. These coordinated efforts embody the team spirit and commitment to the customer that IBM has always been noted for. Seeing IBMers regularly going "above and beyond" during this time is truly inspiring.

Special thanks then to the following IBMers, without whom IBM's contribution to this year's conference: "TEC'007" would not have been the success it was: **John Pratt**, Business Unit Executive for System i in Canada, for taking the time out of what can only be an extraordinarily busy schedule to speak at the Executive Breakfast. One of IBM's core values is "Innovation that matters". John gave a dynamic presentation on that topic and in particular, IBM's Global Innovation Outlook 2.0 (GIO). This was a recent IBM endeavour focused on the nature of innovation and how it can be used to solve some of the planet's more pressing issues. GIO 2.0 involved 248 thought-leaders in 178 organizations across 33 countries and 4 continents. Topics addressed were diverse and intriguing, ranging from "The Future of the Enterprise" to "Energy and Environmental Issues." GIO 3.0 is currently in progress; details of this exciting venture can be found at www.ibm.com/gio.

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 resources to be present at the event for contingencies.

Kathy Gregson, Demand Generation Manager for System i Canada, for her generous sponsorship of TEC'007 both through conventional sponsor vehicles and also through mail campaigns, which were instrumental in publicizing our conference to the System i community in Canada and the US. Kathy flew in from Vancouver to personally staff the System i display at TEC Showcase along with **Mohamed Fadhel**, iSeries ISV Segment Manager for Canada. Visitors to the IBM Booth were thus able to converse with two of the top System i minds in the country.

Elaine McFarlane for her truly tireless and creative work in finding and deploying IBM resources to support TEC'007 and related IBM sponsorship initiatives. She also organized and arranged the IBM



Kathy Gregson, John Pratt, and Stephen Quan at TEC'007

Booth at TEC Showcase. Elaine's efforts are absolutely integral to the execution of IBM System i brand's presence at TUG events.

Mark Squires, for providing collateral material for the IBM Booth. **Nazmin Haji** of the IBM Lab, who led the team that staffed the IBM Software booth at TEC Showcase and did such an excellent job of "showcasing" IBM's legacy modernization applications like the WDHT package and its Webfacing and HATS components. The team was composed of **Don Yantzi**, **Kushal Munir** and **Jiayun Zhu**. All of them are experts in their field and contributed immensely to the technical vitality of TEC Showcase.

David Tsujimura of IBM Printing Systems for his outstanding efforts in finding and deploying IBM printers with the required specifications for the TEC'007 registration, without which this operation would not have been able to run.

Samantha Wiles of IBM Printing Systems, who provided IBM collateral materials for TEC'007.

Steven Stonach 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!

Finally, but certainly not least, are our IBM Speakers, who give the TEC sessions so much of their technical vitality through their expertise: **Dmitry Baev**, **Abe Batthish**, **Violaine Batthish**, **Alison Butterill**, **Iris Chick**, **Linda Cole**, **Nazmin Haji**, **Carole Miner**, **David Muir**, **Kushal Munir**, **George Papayiannis**, **Eric Peters**, **George Voutsinas**, **Clauss Weiss**, **Inge Weiss**, **Don Yantzi** and **Jiayun Zhi**.

IBM's presence at TEC is truly a team effort, and is reflective of a company that brings passion and drive to everything it does.

Stephen Quan is TUG's IBM Liaison. He can be reached at squan@ca.ibm.com.

Sponsors Are Important

By Jay Burford



There is a group that deserves a big "Thank You" for their assistance to the success of TUG TEC 2007. They are our sponsors. Why are sponsors important? These companies provide some of the funding and materials for the education sessions, coffee breaks, the Executive Breakfast, the Keynote Lunch and the morning continental breakfasts. This helps to keep the cost of the conference manageable. Why do they supply this support? They know the importance of on-going education for the IT community and they understand the value of the TUG TEC in helping to provide that education.

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Finally, and most gratefully, we must thank IBM (the source of System i technology) for their continued contributions to the success of TUG and in particular TUG TEC.

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"Thank you all for your support for TUG TEC '07."

