



By BoB Lesiw

Well here we are again, NOVEMBER... Summer all but forgotten, the leaves of Fall mostly now something just to rake up, and Winter starting to flex its icy muscles.... BUT we are warm and cozy at the TUG MoM (Meeting of Members) at the Mississauga Living Arts Centre and anticipating two great speakers and their presentations.

The 5:00pm speaker, **Alison Butterill**, helped us answer the question "Why PHP?"

We then had soup and sandwiches, well most of us did. We were a little short because not all of us pre-registered. Please make sure you pre-register next time so we know how many to anticipate.

The 7:00pm speaker was **Trevor Perry** on the topic of "How to be an IT survivor".

With this popular and dynamic duo, we had a full house with standing room only!

### 5:00pm: Alison Butterill – Why PHP?

Alison started by stating how PHP is an exciting, new, easy to use, open source, platform independent, industry standard, tag/scripting language for developing/deploying web-based applications. It was initially developed back in the mid 90's, where a company called ZEND played a key roll in its development. In 2006 IBM introduced a ZEND implementation of PHP that will run on i5/OS.

She went on to say how it is quickly becoming the most widely used language for developing front ending Web applications and how kids in schools and non-traditional programmers are using it, and how it was specifically designed for presenting data to the Web and to easily interface with external devices such as a heart monitor or pressure valve.

As well as IBM publishing a White Paper and developing a Red Book for PHP on i5/OS, there is a ton of information about PHP on the Internet with BLOGS, Wikis, and thousands of pre-written applications that you can download.



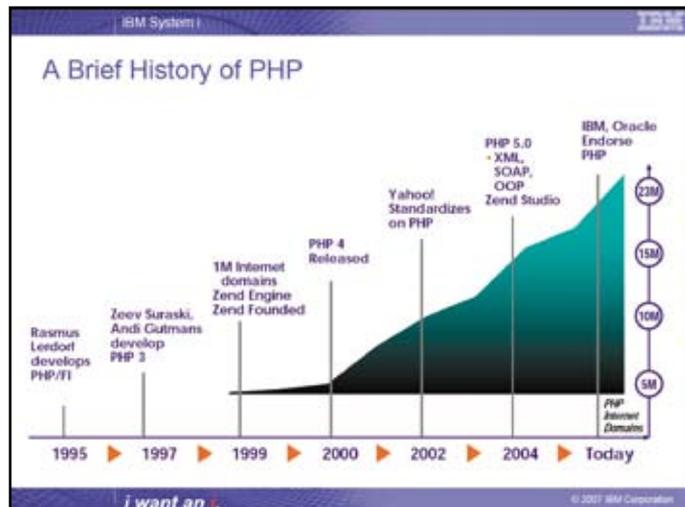
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Léo Lefebvre

5:00 speaker Alison Butterill



These are some examples:

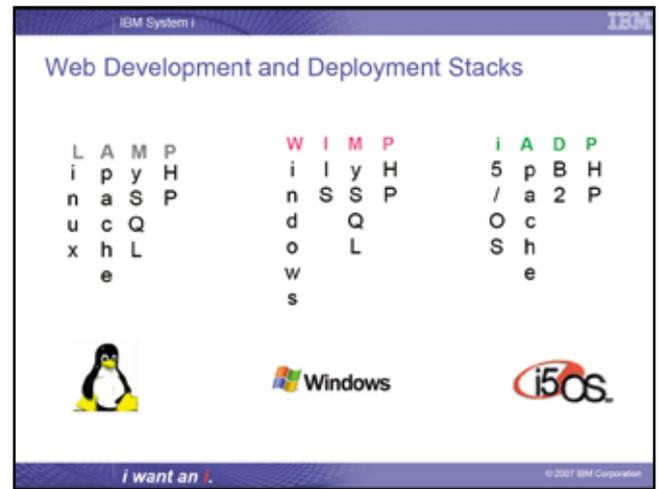
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- [www.phpfreaks.com](http://www.phpfreaks.com)
- [www.i5php.net](http://www.i5php.net)

The following url is an excellent slide show explaining the Zend HPH implementation on i5/OS: <http://www.slideshare.net/ijansch/integrating-php-with-system-i-using-web-services>

Alison explained how the Zend implementation in i5/OS is divided into modules:

- **Zend Core for i5/OS:** (FREE) a fully tested and enhanced version of the open source PHP runtime environment
  - ▶ Contains a toolkit that provides native access to System i objects, and contains everything you need to get started
  - ▶ Simple download
- **Zend Studio for i5/OS:** (FREE) provides an integrated IDE for building and debugging PHP applications
  - ▶ Advanced PHP editor and debugging tool
  - ▶ Database integration
  - ▶ Runs on WIN, Linux, MAC
- **Zend Support:** FREE web-based support, chargeable “premium” support
- **Zend Platform for i5/OS:** (Chargeable) Robust PHP production environment providing performance, scalability and monitoring

- **Zend Guard:** (Chargeable) Provides code protection and license management tools for solution providers
- **Training and Services:** (Chargeable)



She explained how internally on the i5/OS, PHP runs within a Zend shell, that runs within a PACE Unix Shell, but this is totally transparent and it looks and feels like native code, and that in the future IBM will further integrate PHP by allowing it to plug directly into such core tools as Eclipse and WDSC.

Alison then spent time detailing reasons to use PHP on i5/OS. Consolidation was a big one, moving diverse PHP applications from multiple platforms onto one consolidated application running on the stable platform we all know and love. Modernization was the other big one, where PHP can be the front end (the presentation layer if you will) to back-end legacy applications.

Alison’s presentation was very well received by the audience and we had several interesting questions. One of note was “Why use PHP if we have Java?” Alison explained that it is a case of using the best tool for the job in question. They are very different. Java is routine focused, transaction oriented, and has a significant learning curve; while PHP is a great tool for quickly developing a user front end, and much easier to learn.

The bottom line here from Alison is that PHP is popular and is here to stay so we should “TRY IT!”...

Alison’s slides are available on the [www.tug.ca](http://www.tug.ca) website.

## The 5th Wave By Rich Tennant



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Trevor Perry receiving a speaker gift from Wende Boddy

### 7:00pm: Trevor Perry — How to be an IT Survivor

Trevor as usual was passionate, energetic... and thought provoking. This was definitely one of those “you had to be there” sessions. Trevor kept asking questions and continually challenged the audience to think.... He began by asking us what criteria we would use to identify an IT Survivor, and then “WHY” we bother to work at all. He discussed retirement and what it means to people.... The bottom line here was:

- Identify your Passion.
- Identify it NOW!!!
- Go follow it.

Trevor then talked about how we all get bent out of shape because IBM keeps changing the name of the AS/400, and reminded us that it has only changed twice over the past 19 years. It went from AS/400 in 1988 to i Series in 2000 to System i in 2006. What was so bad about that?

Well what is wrong with that is that we are focusing on the wrong thing. We are focusing on the hardware name and NOT the software name which is way more important and sustainable. It was OS/400 in 1988 and was changed to i5/OS in 2006.

It is like comparing Windows to Dell or Compaq. Hardware will come and go but the operating system and general environment basically stays the same. Trevor is saying we need to get over and forget about AS/400, iSeries, System i or whatever the next fancy ➔

**Don't let this  
be you!**



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name might be and focus on getting the “i5/OS” name out there and respected. (For me the “penny dropped”, and I agree with him.) Perhaps we should change our user group name to “Toronto User Group for i5/OS”, something for the TUG Board to discuss?

Trevor then went on to ask the audience if we were Developers or Programmers and what was the difference? Trevor’s philosophy is that a Programmer knows COBOL or RPG or SQL, while a Developer has a whole bag full of many tools and languages to create applications and pulls out the best tool for the job in hand. He states it is clear that to be an IT Survivor you need to be a Developer not a Programmer. We desperately need to Modernize, not code..... OURSELVES.... and NOW!

Trevor then talked about and elaborated on 22 things to do to be an IT Survivor, and here they are in brief:

1. Change Vernacular. Stop using hardware names like AS/400 — use i5/OS and get over it.
2. Show your Passion....

3. Backup your PC. It is crucial, and becoming more crucial to your career.
4. Languages. Learn HTML, XML, SQL.
5. Governance. Embrace change management.
6. Modularize. Write Modular code, test modules not programs.
7. SOA. Adopt SOA principles. SOA is here to stay.
8. Standards. Embrace standards and consistency.
9. Industry Publications. Read them, don’t just stack them up.
10. Community. Join IT organizations / user groups.
11. Training. Don’t take NO for and answer from your boss. Find alternatives, or take courses on your own nickel if necessary.
12. Certify.
13. BLOG. Talk about the great or neat stuff you are doing.
14. Learn Visual Development.
15. Choose the right tool for every job.
16. Comments and Comments and Comments.....
17. Become Replaceable. So you can be replaced and promoted.
18. Recruit a Recruiter. Find a recruiter you trust, make sure he is always up to date with what you are doing.
19. Remember—Reputation is EVERYTHING.....
20. Leader / Follower. Be both.... but better still be a Teacher and a Student.
21. Modernize.....YOU!
22. STOP Whining, Making excuses, Apologizing. “DO Something!”

Trevor finished up by reminding us to:

**“FIND YOUR PASSION..... FOLLOW IT..... TODAY!”** 

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Léo Lefebvre

TUG Meeting of Members November 21, 2007 — Living Arts Centre Mississauga