

The Founding of a Nation:



The *iSeries* Nation!

By Matthias Schmidt

FINALLY!!!! IBM has recognized the largest, most satisfied, passionate, and important group of business computers users in the world! While some of us may be asking what took them so long, the significant point to note is that: IT HAS HAPPENED!

As part of the April 23-01 IBM eServer iSeries 400 Announcement this important new community was founded. The name for this community is the "iSeries Nation". Many of you may have attended the TUG TEC conference in April and had the pleasure of hearing Malcolm Haines' great speech about this new community. This article will inform you about the community and hopefully convince you to join!

What is the iSeries Nation?

The iSeries Nation is a place for everyone in the community of iSeries! All that you need to have is an understanding and appreciation – many will even have a strong passion – for the platform. Members of this global community include visionaries, leaders, luminaries, decision makers, and rule changers as well as regular folks like you and I! But the point is that it is there for everyone!!

Why the iSeries Nation?

For years the AS/400 user community has been fragmented, under appreciated, and not recognized as a large and unique group of people. The iSeries Nation is a place for all the users in this vast population, who are passionate, and who have an understanding or appreciation for the IBM eServer iSeries and its unique benefits.

IBM created this group to give members a sense of community and belonging that was missing. IBM also wanted to provide tangible benefits for being a member. A few of these benefits are access to information, education, feedback forums, and announcements.



What is the purpose of the iSeries Nation?

The purpose of the iSeries Nation is many fold depending on which way you look at the coin, but for most citizens the web site portal will become a place to find product information, features, education, news, stories, discussions, web polls and much more. Once the community grows, it will



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become a place to meet and exchange ideas, and become a real living breathing community.

IBM has aggressive plans for enhancing the portal and is planning to add personalization features in addition to many other features in the coming months. The web portal is really just starting out, but expect some major new features to enhance your experience.

For user groups like TUG, the iSeries Nation plans to become the "Arms Supplier to User Groups" so that as members, we will get relevant marketing and product information on a timely basis, in order to help us to support and 'sell' the platform, that we all love, within our companies.

Some members of the community are also working towards building non-IBM home pages for certain member functions. Keep an eye out for these in the next few weeks, as some of them may even become more popular than the IBM portal!

iSeries Nation Web Portal

Go to: <http://www-1.ibm.com/servers/eserver/iseries/nation/>

Features of the Web Portal

Privileges

Currently Extreme Support Personalized services like a Disk Arm Calculator, and Fix Maintenance Strategy advisor are available. Also included are discounts on IBM Learning Services education and free subscriptions to iSeries Magazine. Additional features will be coming soon, including more education and external promotions.

Community

The iSeries Nation is the place for users to share experiences and information with other members of the community. Currently "Citizen Awards" are available for "real life" stories of how the iSeries proved itself in your company. The 1st citizen profile is also available (See Side Bar: iSeries Nation Quick Facts) with future plans to have other features for noteworthy achievements.

Access

Technical, marketing and support resources are going to be included in this area of the portal. In the plan is a CIO Corner and links to assist us in finding the IBM merchandise that we all love to wear.

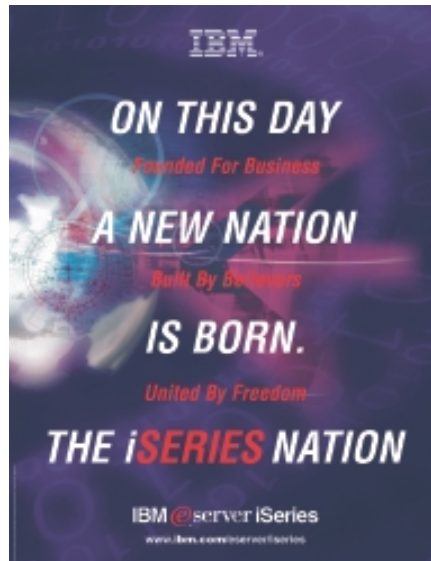
Voices

This is where the "buzz" will be and where you can make yourself heard! Planned inclusions are press highlights, videos, citizen comments, a feedback box, advertisements featuring iSeries, and interactive web polls. I'm personally looking forward to the interactive web polls.

It will also be exciting to find out what kinds of topical questions will be posted for feedback – hopefully there will be some really interesting ones that spark a lot of discussion!

Happenings


What is going on in the world of iSeries? This will be the place to find out. Included will be world wide and local events, news and happenings.



How do I join?

Joining is not only easy but it actually important as this is the first time all the different people who are passionate about the iSeries are able to be united. By joining you are casting a vote and showing your support and enthusiasm for the iSeries platform to all of IBM, your peers, and the competition. To join simply go to the IBM iSeries Nation home page (see Side Bar: iSeries Nation Web Portal for the URL) and click on "Enroll Now".

What's stopping you?

Now that you know what the iSeries Nation is all about and the benefits you can get from joining – what's stopping you? Your fellow citizens are waiting for you! JOIN US!! 

Author Profile:

Matthias Schmidt is the Business Manager of Consulting Services at ASTECH Solutions based in Aurora, Ontario. In that role he helps his clients define, plan, and build modern iSeries solutions using the latest IBM technologies like WebSphere Application Server, Visual Age Java, and Web Facing. He has been a member of Malcolm Haines' "Propaganda Council" since 1997, and is also a member of the recently formed iSeries Nation "Freedom Council". He can be contacted at mschmidt@astech.com.

i think therefore iSeries

Benefits to being a Citizen

- ◆ Arms suppliers to the User Group Community
- ◆ Information source for 'selling' the iSeries to executives in your company
- ◆ A place to exchange information
- ◆ A place to give feedback to IBM

The Five Freedoms

The following 5 Freedoms are the principles that define the system we love, and they also define the iSeries Nation:

- ◆ Freedom to govern mixed environments
- ◆ Freedom to run almost all applications
- ◆ Freedom to be virus-resistant
- ◆ Freedom to readily exploit technology

All of which lead to the

- ◆ Freedom to *succeed* now!

Quick Facts

Founding Date: April 23, 2001

First Citizen: Neil Palmer, A Canadian and fellow TUG Member

First Citizen Story: Working during the early hours of the morning, on Monday, April 23rd, 2001, Neil Palmer noticed the iSeries Nation website soon after it went live at mid-night on Sunday. He promptly became our first citizen. Neil works in Markham, Ontario, Canada and has been involved with Rochester products throughout his entire career. From System/3 through to the iSeries, he has worked consistently on the best computers any business can buy.

Current Population: 29,100 (and growing!)