Additional Benefits of Being a *Member of* TUG

By Jay Burford

Often we join a group or organization for a specific set of reasons. Some of the possible reasons include: a common interest; a spirit of volunteerism; a recommendation from friends or colleagues; an opportunity to increase your knowledge; or a desire to band together to discuss concerns or problem. One or more of these may have been the motivation for you, or your company, to join TUG. Once we join an organization, we usually find that there are other additional areas of interest that attract our attention. With TUG it could be the opportunity for networking at the Meeting of the Members, or the opportunity to enjoy the recent TUG Golf Tournament.

However there are other "hidden" benefits of belonging to an organization like TUG that may not be obvious to all of our members. For example, there is the new program called Hot Topics, offered by ASTECH Solutions Inc., one of the TUG Gold Members. Hot Topic events are half-day education sessions provided by ASTECH for its clients. They consist of presentations and demonstrations on currents products and programs of interest to the iSeries 400 users. A lunch and an opportunity to network with both the speakers and other iSeries 400 users follow the sessions. There is usually a twenty-dollar fee to cover the cost of the lunch.

Why is this a hidden benefit to TUG members? Well, during the past year there have been two of these sessions, and TUG members were invited to attend for FREE. The agenda for the first gathering, held in November 2000, included Mark Buchner, President of ASTECH, discussing "A Future View of Application Development – IBM WebSphere". A Live Demonstration of the WebSphere set of products, including the Application Server, and VA JAVA, given by Chris Sekulovski, an ASTECH Consultant and Shark Camp Instructor, followed this presentation.

The good word spread. The second event, in February, included: "A View of Post-2000 Application Modernization Techniques" offered by Mark Buchner, President, ASTECH Solutions Inc.; "IBM Web Facing Tools", a presentation and a **preview demonstration** given by Claus Weiss, AS/400 A.D. Planner, at the IBM Canada Laboratory; and "Developing with Java in the WebSphere and iSeries Worlds" with Kevin Allen, Consultant, ASTECH Solutions Inc. as the speaker. Phil Coulthard, another well-respected member of the Development Team at the IBM Canada Laboratory, was also present to answer questions and discuss the latest product developments with the attendees.

The presentations and demo were all received enthusiastically, and there were many questions, and lots of lively discussion that carried on throughout the lunch period.

We look forward to more of these "Hot Topic" sessions in the future, and with any luck, you and your colleagues will be able to take advantage of this (hopefully no longer hidden) benefit of being a member of TUG. Due to high levels of interest in the new Web-Facing tool from IBM, ASTECH will be holding another demonstration and discussion on this Hot Topic on July 19th. For those who missed the first one this is a must attend event. Other upcoming topics later in the summer/early fall include V5R1 LPAR Performance and Configuration on September 27th and IBM Connect for iSeries B2B (connecting to electronic markets) Solutions - date TBD. See the details for the July 19th and September 27th sessions below and mark your calendars now. For additional information, or to register, please contact ASTECH at 905-727-2384 or by e-mail lwitherspoon@astech.com.

Cost: **Free to TUG members**, $20 for non-TUG members.

Topic: IBM Web Facing Tool - learn how to leverage this new product and provide thin client interfaces to your users from existing 5250 applications.
Date: Thursday July 19th, 2001 8:30am-Noon.
Location: Aurora, Ontario 15010 Yonge Street
Presenter: Cliff Liang - Senior Consultant, ASTECH Solutions Inc.

Topic: LPAR Configuration and Performance Tuning (V5R1)
Date: Thursday, September 27th, 2001 8:30am-Noon.
Location: Aurora, Ontario 15010 Yonge Street
Presenter: Ian Cai - Senior Consultant, ASTECH Solutions Inc.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER –
SEE YOU IN THE FALL! TUG

Jay Burford, currently a Senior Consultant at ASTECH Solutions Inc., retired from the IBM Canada Laboratory in 1997. He is an active Manager of the COMMON Training Program, and was the Showcase Manager for the 2001 TUG TEC Showcase.

Jay Burford