

– TUG MoM Review –

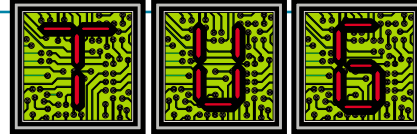
The Nov. 2001 Meeting of Members

By *Eveline Gaede*



Eveline Gaede

"I really have to stop going to MoMs!"



Every time I attend, I come out with either a shopping list of “must-haves” or a bucket full of ideas of “must-look-intos”. Take our November meeting as an example – two great topics that just scream for action – “What’s Hot and New in iSeries Storage” at 5:00pm and “iSeries V5R1 Infoprint Solutions” at 7:00pm.

Nancy Roper, IBM Canada Storage Group, started the evening off with her talk on storage solutions. She covered a board range of topics from SAN on iSeries, to tape technologies; to BRMS; and ended with a brief discussion on ESS – Enterprise Storage Server “Shark”. (Now if only I could convince my company that we need a Shark. I’d be the envy of all my colleagues!)

We all know about LAN’s and WAN’s, but what about SAN’s – what is it and how does it work with in an iSeries environment? A SAN is a Storage Area Network. Nancy used her “portable” iSeries to demonstrate different topologies and how with using hubs and switches, you can have your SAN located at a distance from your iSeries. This now becomes feasible because fibre connections are now here on the iSeries. Fibre increases your performance speed dramatically.

For example, an 8xx with a SCSI connection has a performance rating of 40 MB/sec. The same model with a Fibre connection increases the performance to 100 MB/sec. (So besides the SHARK, my shopping list now includes a new 8xx!)

The big advantage with a Storage Area Network is that you now have a centrally managed, high-speed, secure network that enables any-to-any interconnection of servers and storage systems across longer distances. Whereas with a traditional “Direct-Attached” storage setup, each system has its own storage and connection distances are limited.

Nancy’s advice on choosing between point-to-point, a hub or a switch was to buy the switch today but keep your future plans in mind and buy what you will need then. It may be more expensive initially, but in the long run, will be more cost effective and will give you room for growth. With all good things, there are some restrictions, the biggest being that you need a minimum 270 or 8xx CPU running V5R1.



Nancy Roper

Next on the agenda was tape hardware. I was happy to learn that we have the “Cadillac of drives – the 3590”. But once Nancy talked about the LTO (Linear Tape Open) drive, I knew I just had to have one! (Item 3 on my shopping list.) The technology (and low cost) in this drive is amazing! Storage capacity is 100 GB (native), 200 GB (compressed) and has an incredible transfer rate of 10-20MB/sec. The road map for this technology is to double with every generation so that by Generation 4, the native capacity is 800GB and a transfer rate of 80-160MB/sec.

This technology can be purchased as a single LTO drive right up to a scalable Tape Library, containing from 1 to 72 LTO drives. Another one of Nancy’s recommendations was that if you are currently using DLT and 8mm, switch to an LTO for performance and reliability.

So now that you have can manage all your backups from all your systems in a centralized SAN, how do you manage your backup and recovery policies? BRMS – “Backup, Recovery and Media Services” is IBM’s Strategic Backup Management Product. It contains several functions to make this very critical aspect of every companies computing environment, easier:

- Backup and Planning
- Recovery
- Hierarchical Storage Management
- Media Management
- Tape Library Support

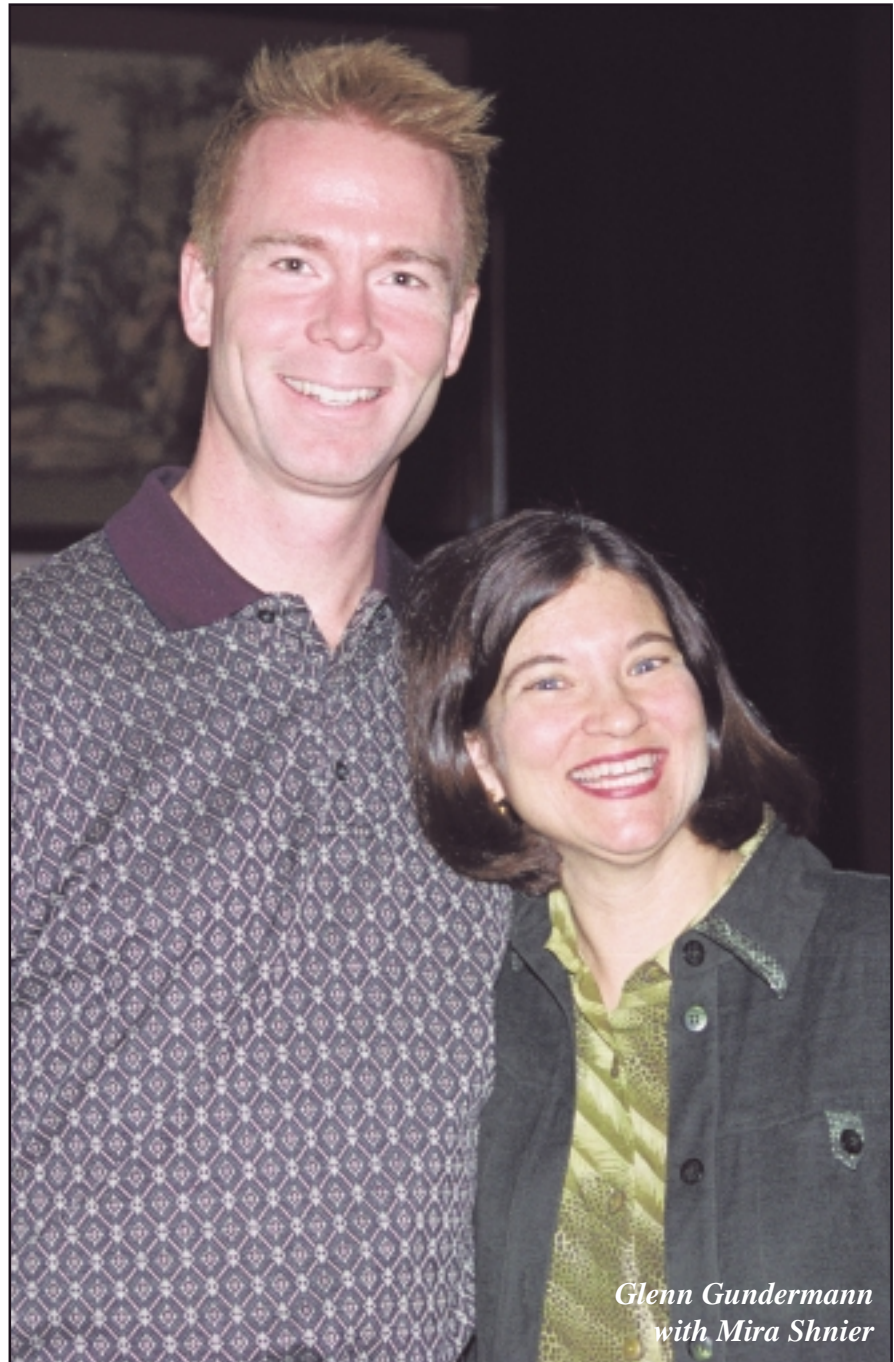
The new GUI interface makes BRMS very intuitive and easy to use.

After a brief intermission and a short word from board director **Glenn Gundermann** on our upcoming technical conference (TEC 2002 – May 15, 16), **Mira Shnier** showed us how “iSeries V5R1 Infoprint Solutions, Deliver the output of e-business”. The title is a bit of a misnomer – the product is not just about printing – “**Infoprint**” stands for **Information Presentation for Internet**. She focused her presentation on these three tools - Infoprint Server, Infoprint Designer and Print Services Facility.

Infoprint Server gives you the capability of electronically distributing your output. You can move from the traditional ‘print-and-distribute’ scenario to ‘distribute-and-view.’ Spool files can be turned into PDF’s for emailing or web applications. One of its biggest strengths is that you can segment any iSeries output, generate separate PDF’s and email each one to a different address. (Okay, so my shopping list just got bigger!) The idea is to move the point of print.

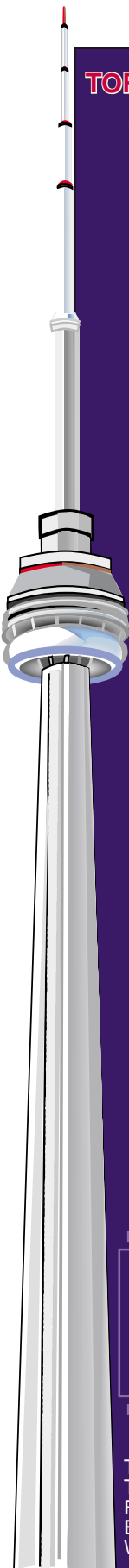
The intended recipient can now print or save the document – you no longer have to print, stuff and mail. Mira’s included lots of examples and how-to’s in her presentation. The next item Mira discussed was IBM Infoprint Designer for iSeries. This tool allows you to design sophisticated forms. Some of the key features are:

- It is truly WYSIWYG, and not like the original green screen. You drag and drop your fields and data.



*Glenn Gundermann
with Mira Shnier*

Photos by Léo Lefebvre



TORONTO USERS GROUP for Midrange Systems

- ☑ Attend our regular meetings
- ☑ Network with hundreds of knowledgeable executives and technical professionals
- ☑ Receive our association magazine (free of charge for paid members)
- ☑ Enjoy the reduced rate at technical conferences
- ☑ Attend special events sponsored by your user group
- ☑ Join your peers on the golf course at the annual TUG "Golf Classic"
- ☑ Participate in the midrange-specific annual salary survey
- ☑ Preferred rates for Internet access
- ☑ One low rate includes all your IS staff

Magazine Subscription: \$72
 Individual Membership: \$199
 Corporate Membership: \$325
 Gold Corp. Membership: \$1200



Telephone: (905) 607-2546
 Toll Free: (888) 607-2546
 Fax: (905) 607-2547
 E-mail: admin@tug.ca
 Web Site: http://www.tug.ca

- It has integrated download of iSeries output data and integrated upload of the completed project.
- Includes Image Design editor for logos and images
- Creates standard OS/400 print resource objects.
- You can also create a constant back (i.e. terms and conditions)
- You can change the layout or forms based on the data—"Conditional Processing"




Nancy Roper

And the list goes on! By the time the evening was over, my shopping list was complete and I was again armed with lots of new ideas to bring back to my team at work! Mira's last slide quite aptly stated, "The journey begins...." How true – IBM continues to bring

us the products, both hardware and software to conduct our business; and TUG continues to bring us the speakers and knowledge on what can be done. (Now if only someone could get us more time to accomplish all these projects!)



Mira Shnier

And speaking of knowledge, the board members are busy planning for our next technical conference, "TEC 2002 – Unleash the Power! May 14-15, 2002" The preliminary grid is complete and the conference again promises to be an outstanding learning opportunity. Mark your calendars now, plan to attend, and learn how to unleash the power of your iSeries system! 

Eveline Gaede is our TUG Secretary and is also Manager, Information Technology Group at Challenger Motor Freight Inc., in Cambridge, Ontario. She can be reached at evelineg@challenger.com or (519) 658-5154.

