

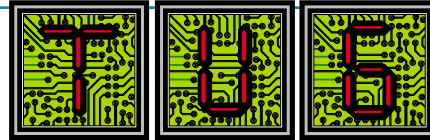
# – TUG MoM Review –

## The January 2002 Meeting of Members



Léo Lefebvre

By Léo Lefebvre



Starting her November 2001 MoM review in the previous TUG Magazine, Eveline Gaede said that she should stop going to MoMs because every time she attends, she comes out with a shopping list of “must haves” and a bucket full of ideas. The January 23, 2002 MoM was no exception either. Ideas presented and “must do” lists were plentiful in both sessions presented. Both sessions had so much material to cover that they needed more time. That’s why the first session started at 4:00PM and the second session finished just before 9:00PM. The material was not only lengthy, but also very interesting!



Richard Dolewski

The first session started with laughter... Just to make sure that people would recognize him, Richard Dolewski, (the speaker), walked on stage dressed the way he was on the cover page of the last TUG eServer magazine, (i.e., with his pants rolled up to his knees.)

They say that sometimes to deal with a serious subject you need to be able to laugh about it. And that was Richard’s approach.

Disaster Recovery is a serious subject. For example, Richard started by saying that 86% of companies are unable to function at all without their computer system. He went on to explain that if the disaster is not recovered within 15 days, 56% of those companies will never reopen, and 29% will close within 2 years. That’s serious!



Where does your company stand? As Richard said, “Only 50% of today’s businesses have fully documented Disaster Recovery Plans. And of those companies 64% have never tested their plan.” What can you answer to that?

During his two hour presentation, Richard went through a 93-page handout. His presentation was well structured.

He went through the W5 of disasters: **where** a disaster can happen, **when** it can happen, **what** can happen, **who** will make it happen, and **why** it can happen.

Once you have answers to those questions, you have to act on them. What can you do to keep a high availability of your system? How much backup do you need? What do you backup? What do you do with your backup? Where do you keep your backup tapes? All those questions were addressed by Richard.

Back ups and recoveries are different from company to company. There is no “one plan fits all”. Each company has to evaluate its needs and plan according to its objectives. Richard could only make the audience aware of the potential problems and give some direction on how to get prepared.

Good backups and good documentation are a good start for a Disaster Recovery Plan. How far can you go in that plan? You may consider external help. Good planning is a shared responsibility – IT alone cannot determine which processes are critical. Involve other people in your organization. (I could go on and on about what Richard talked about.)



**George Farr**

The presentation was so filled with interesting subjects that the two hours just flew by, and everybody kept their highest attention focused on Richard.

After the TUG social hour, the second session was less serious, but equally important and interesting: “WebFacing Your RPG Application”, presented by George Farr and Phil Coulthard of the IBM Toronto Lab. Whenever George and Phil are presenting, it’s a delight to listen to them, and quite entertaining. They work great together. They complement each other.



**Phil Coulthard**

While one presents the concept and the approach, the other shows how it is done. Phil and George are frequent speakers at TUG and all over the world. They also write books and articles on the subjects they work on.

Web-facing RPG applications is all about using a new tool called “WebFacing/400”. As mentioned by George in his introduction, it is the new SDA. Alternating on the stage, Phil reminded us of where we are today, and then George showed us where we are going.

WebFacing/400 is a brand new tool coming soon to to an iSeries/400 near you. It converts DSPF source to JSP and Servlets, while the RPG runs “as is” – no need to change the application code. It is part of the WebSphere Development Tools for AS/400 (WDT/400).

The tool works well with Cascading Style Sheets, too. It generates servlets so we do not need to know JSP. The tool will be available to the general public in the Second Quarter of 2002. Today some selected Business Partners are already experimenting with it.

Phil and George’s presentation was excellent (should I say again) and the interest was so high that most of the audience stayed till the end, even though the day was quite long.

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This presentation was a premiere for the TUG members. At the time of the meeting, the handouts were not available for the audience. It is now available on the TUG website in two presentation formats, PDF and Freelance. Go to [www.tug.ca](http://www.tug.ca) and click the file format you want to download. If you do not have any of the two viewers, there are also links to get them for free on TUG web site.

The subject is so great, and there is so much to talk about that George and Phil are publishing a series of articles in the TUG eServer magazine. See this issue's feature article: "The Future of Software Development – Introduction to IBM's ECLIPSE Technology."

The great combination of good and timely topics and the presence of great speakers like Richard, George and Phil are the main ingredients for a successful meeting. The January 23, 2002 TUG Meeting of Members will stay in the TUG history books as one of the best meetings we had. T G

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*Richard Dolewski and Ron Campitelli at TUG's January 2002 Meeting of Members in Toronto.*

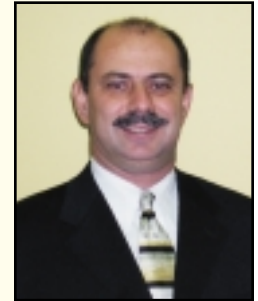
# Facing Reality – It's Good Business

By *Richard Dolewski*

Disasters usually come as a complete surprise. No warning at all. Most of us have car insurance, we all wear seat belts, and (always) drive at the speed limit, but we really do not believe we will get into a car accident. The same mind set exists with most organizations when it comes to Disaster Recovery Planning. We have never had a fire before so why worry about it now?

Organizations view disaster recovery planning as an insurance policy. This emphasis reduces the value of disaster recovery planning and becomes harder to get management commitment.. It's not an insurance policy, it's an organization's assurance that it has the ability to continue to meet its commitments, NO MATTER WHAT!

Another misconception is that disaster recovery is about being able to manage the impact of disasters. More precisely, it should be about the ability to meet our organizations' commitments. It's about reliability, consistency and dependability. Disaster recovery can be a differentiating factor in this highly competitive business world. It's also part of any quality organization's commitment to their shareholders, employees, customers and suppliers. Disaster recovery is not as much about the catastrophe as its about being able to manage successfully unexpected situations, any of which may cause an organization to miss one or more of its obligations to its customers.



*Richard Dolewski*

**Business Disaster Statistics**

- 93% of all companies that experience significant data loss are out of business within five years.

Gartner Group, Inc.

A graphic featuring a blue-bordered sign with the word "Closed" in bold black letters, hanging from a wooden post. To the left of the sign is a decorative graphic with overlapping colored squares (yellow, red, blue) and a black crosshair.

Remember – loss of market share is tough (or even impossible) to get back.

Murphy was right... Whatever can go wrong will go wrong. Usually at the worst possible time and in the worst possible way. The real question is: how will your company deal with it? In today's competitive business environment, a business must achieve improvements in their business model just to stay competitive in the market place. Any interruption in the market place is usually devastating. With what seems to be an ever increasing number of tragic events taking place each and every day, it is no longer a question of "What if a disaster strikes?" rather one of "When?"

Organizations committed to successful disaster recovery really know for the first time that their Disaster Recovery Plan will work when they actually test it or face a crisis. Your goal is to get back what was once "NORMAL". Some organizations have little but luck on their side as they continue to NOT embrace the needs of writing a comprehensive DRP. These organizations as it continues to be shown over and over, face the true reality that they will never recover. In these uncertain business times, the only thing for certain is that they have chosen their demise. Over 93% of businesses that do NOT have a documented, and tested DRP will go out of business within 5 years after experiencing a disaster. Closed for business. Statistics continue to show that those who continue to believe that nothing will happen, or if something does, someone else like

## Disaster Recovery Planning

- Only 50% of today's businesses have fully documented Disaster Recovery Plans.
- Of these company's with plans
- 64% **NEVER** test their plan

A cartoon illustration of a scientist with wild white hair, wearing a white lab coat over a red shirt and purple pants. He is holding two test tubes, one in each hand, and has a green glow emanating from them. He is looking towards the viewer with a slight smile.

their vendors will all race to their rescue and save the day. You couldn't be more in the wrong.

Many organizations view their disaster recovery efforts as data center oriented. We are all reliant on our IT capabilities. However the single points of failure that are human response based are significantly greater than those that are strictly technology based. The fact is if we have the necessary process in place, well tested and well documented, recovering technology will be the easiest part of the equation. The risks are in not being able to predict our employee's roles successfully. Do they know what is expected of them in a disaster? Can or will they perform these duties as expected?

The primary emphasis of any successful DRP is that it provides a clear road map so that everyone on the team clearly knows their role. It should allow for and expect flexibility, and responsiveness. It is the most powerful document empowering employees to make the decisions necessary for your survival and position you for a timely recovery.

Ensure that your DRP capabilities are not solely based on worst case. A horrific accident only. "If I drive up to my building, and it's a smoldering pile of rubble" I will know it's a disaster. True enough but that is far to limited in scope. A LAN failure can be equally as catastrophic as a snowstorm. Determine the criticalities within your business and rank them based on your recovery time objectives to what is truly deemed a disaster.

In conclusion, an organization that plans ahead for DRP is investing in its business continuity. The company is in a better position to recovery and resume operations. It is (simply put) just good business. T G

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## Interesting Facts

- Database failures account for 6% of all application outages, totaling about \$3 billion per year in downtime costs.

1999 Standish Group research