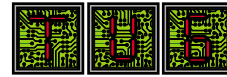


# – TUG MoM Review –

## The January 2003 Meeting of Members

By Alkarim Sachedina



Al Sachedina

**E**vening of January 22 felt like it was -22°C; it was cold. Topics for this Meeting of Members, IFS and Java Toolbox, were so interesting that it was worth enduring the low temperatures.

Noticing the number of attendees, it was obvious that there is a great deal of interest in these subject matters – despite the deep freeze outside.

### IFS

After an unexpected delay in trying to locate a projector, **Tom McBride** from IBM's Rochester, MN office took the podium for his presentation on **iSeries Integrated File System (IFS) Technology**. The IFS is a common interface to data on iSeries. Tom described it as “industrial strength plumbing” for many types of data that can be accessed on the iSeries. Before the IFS, we only had libraries and objects; today referred

to as QSYS.LIB within the IFS. Now the iSeries is capable of managing many file systems through the IFS “plumbing”. These file systems starting at Root include: QSYS.LIB, QDLS (folders and documents), QopenSys, QOPT (optical data), QFileSvr.400 (remote iSeries access), QNetWare (Novell Netware), QNTC (NT client systems), NFS (Network file system), and UDFS (User defined file systems).

With all these types of file systems, an application on the iSeries or a client can have access to many different types of files. The requests can be from traditional OS/400 applications like RPG, COBOL, CL, etc. They can also be from PC clients, PASE, JAVA, or remote systems. All requests for data are processed through the IFS. The IFS structure can be managed / viewed from either a “green screen” command line using WRKLNK / DSPLNK or from the iSeries Navigator (PC based GUI interface). Using the iSeries Navigator you will have more IFS functionality since this is where the development focus is compared to the “green screen”. Access to non-traditional data will require understanding of API's related to IFS.

With the release of V5R2 there have been a substantial number of more powerful



Matinee speaker: Thomas McBride

Photos by Léo Lefebvre



**Dale Perkins presenting gift to Thomas McBride**

IFS API's added. One of the topics for the March meeting will be about API's. This will be a good opportunity to get a general understanding of API's. Trying to understand, let alone using, all aspects of the IFS will definitely take some time. The benefit of this session was that we learned how much capability there is under the covers of the iSeries operating system. If you missed Tom's presentation on IFS, or would like a copy, it's available at the TUG website ([www.tug.ca](http://www.tug.ca)) in Acrobat and Freelance versions.

**MoM**

A break after Tom's presentation gave everyone a chance to mingle and enjoy a buffet dinner. Salad, buns, and pasta with two kinds of sauces was on the menu. The dessert table was terrific, courtesy of **GSS Marketing Inc.**

([www.gssmarketing.com](http://www.gssmarketing.com)) with a great selection for the sweet tooth. Prior to the start of the second topic, we had a

few announcements. **Dale Perkins**, IBM Liaison, provided dates for the upcoming IBM Announcement and other events. **Beverly Russell** reminded us of the *Common Spring 2003 Conference & Expo* in Indianapolis, Indiana on March 9 -13, 2003. If you're planning to attend, remember that being a member of TUG can save on the cost of registration. Please contact the TUG office for more information.

**Glenn Gundermann** presented the dates for the TUG Technical Education Conference (TEC) and Showcase. This year's TEC will be on April 22 and 23 with the Showcase on April 22 and the keynote by **Randall Munson** on April 23. Details are available at the TUG website. As with every MoM, there were numerous door prizes drawn.

**Java**

Our second speaker, also from Rochester, **Robb Wiedrich**



discussed the IBM Toolbox for Java. The toolbox is a no-charge licensed program (5722-JC1) on the iSeries (OS/400 V4R5 or later). It is a set of Java classes and utilities that provide access to iSeries or OS/400 data and resources. The toolbox can be used in server and client/server applications, Internet based servlets and Applets.



**Al Sachedina sampling the buffet with Vaughn Dragland**





Platforms supported by the IBM Toolbox for Java include: OS/400, Linux, Windows, AIX, Solaris, OS/2, Netscape Communicator and Microsoft Internet Explorer. The toolbox is divided into several packages making it easier to work with functions you need. For example, “access package” would have API’s for accessing iSeries data and resources, and “vaccess package” would have GUI components. A new addition is “micro package” which has API’s for wireless devices. More popular toolbox functions include: database access via JDBC and a record-level interface, access to files in iSeries IFS. There is also Program Call via both Java code and XML. Data Queues, User Spaces and Data Areas can also be referenced.



**Evening speaker: Robb Wiedrich**

There are many iSeries software products and functions built on the toolbox including the iSeries Navigator, Management Central, Host on Demand, and many more. Robb demonstrated some examples of how to use the toolbox. The handout also had examples of different functions with sample code. There is no doubt that the IBM Toolbox for Java has enough functions (with more being added) to build applications for modern times with the horsepower of

the iSeries. To supplement the feature article by Robb in the January 2003 issue of the TUG eServer magazine, there are some code examples (along with the article) available at the TUG website. See also Robb’s second Java instalment in this issue (“What’s new for Java in V5R2?”).

There is always more to learn from industry experts on topics like IFS and Java. One opportunity is in attending

TEC 2003 on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have not yet registered, decide now and contact the TUG office. The next MoM will be March 19, 2003 – hope to see you there.



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**TUG Meeting of Members, January 22, 2003**