

# Solutions Beyond Limits ...

## eServer has IT all!



By Glenn Gundermann  
Chair – TEC2004

*“If you build it, they will come...”  
Well, we’re building it!  
And we’re expecting you!”*

I’m talking about our 11th Annual TUG Technical Education Conference which will be held April 20-21, 2004. Our conference every year has the most asked for topics by the best speakers in the field. As Beverly Russell put it: “superb speakers + superb topics = a superb conference.”

We are well under way and by the time you read this, we’ll have had the third of our TEC 2004 committee meetings which happen every three or four weeks. We have a great committee as usual, comprised of thirteen hard working individuals; **Alkarim Sachedina, Bob Lesiw, Dale Perkins, Ed Jowett, Eveline Gaede, Ken Sadler, Leo Lefebvre, Neil Andrus, Richard Dolewski, Stephen Bingham, Vaughn Dragland, Wende Boddy and myself.** Plus there are several key people working in the background.

Every year we take it up a notch by being innovative and introducing something new. For example, we introduced our CD at TEC2002 that contained all of the handouts for the entire conference. Everyone still received the handouts for the sessions they attended but the CD saved everyone from lugging a very huge binder, which used to contain all of the handouts, around the conference all day. At TEC 2003, it was revamped with html, a lot more content with easy to navigate links and an auto-run.

We’re still planning all the exciting things for TEC 2004 but this much I can share with you right now – what would you say to a lab giving you hands-on experience with the latest in technology?

We are working on having a two-hour lab on both Day One and Day Two (most likely in the mornings), at the IBM lab, 5 minutes away via a chartered bus. If you’re as excited about this as I expect, you’ll want to be one of the fifty people on the bus!



**Glenn Gundermann**

We’re also planning on an Executive Breakfast Meeting for Day One. And you thought you would be able to avoid your boss at the conference!

For our American readers, let me say a couple of things you already know. First of all is the most obvious advantage of your dollar. You get more bang for your buck up here! Everything from the conference fee to hotels and food is more attractive if you come up. Secondly, Toronto is a beautiful city you just have to come and see. It’s the capital city of Ontario with around 5 million people

The temperature during our conference will most likely be in the 70s. To top it off, our highway speed limit is 62.

One thing that mystifies me is why we don’t have 1,000 attendees at our conference. Education is similar to an RRSP in that you should be making regular deposits. What are you doing for your iSeries education? Is it that you or your company can’t afford the time and/or money? I say you can’t afford to miss it!

Some companies have an education plan laid out. I know of one company that has ten days of education per year for each IT employee. These companies are not the norm and it’s up to the individual employee (YOU!) to do something about it. You may want to take in the RPG track to become more proficient at programming. You may want to learn ILE because for some reason you’re not running ILE and everyone knows you should be. Or you may want to take in some WebFacing or WebSphere sessions because your company isn’t doing it right now but you want to see what all the excitement is about.

On Day One, we’ll have our Vendor Showcase for you to check out some great iSeries products and services from our various vendors. Lunch will be provided so you can enjoy a relaxed atmosphere while you are exploring the Showcase. The Showcase continues in the afternoon and early evening with our Hors d’oeuvres table. Then on Day Two, we’ll have a great keynote speaker for you, and a lovely sit-down lunch. See you then!

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