



# Solutions Beyond Limits eServer has IT all!

By Glenn Gundermann, Chair – TEC2004



Léo Lefebvre with  
Glenn Gundermann

## TEC 2004 Wrap Up

**W**hew, what a year! You might be wondering what I mean, considering this is only May, but we took a full year to prepare for our 11th annual TUG Technical Education Conference (TEC), which was just held on April 20-21, 2004.

For the fifth consecutive year, I had the honour again to be Chairman of the TUG TEC Committee and what a conference it was! In case you've heard enough from me throughout the year, I have included correspondence from several people below.

It was the usual format, being two days in length with six classrooms. What marked this year's event different from

previous years was the addition of two big items: an Executive Breakfast on Day 1 and two hands-on labs at the IBM Toronto Lab on Day 2.

Both labs were well attended. The morning lab was on "Remote System Explorer" and the afternoon lab was on "Web-Facing." TEC provided a free shuttle service between the hotel and the labs, so that those who attended both could still return for the keynote luncheon.

What topped this year's event was having one of the very best keynote speakers, **Robert Tipton**, author of the book *Untangling IT*.

[www.untanglingIT.com](http://www.untanglingIT.com)

**Eveline Gaede**, one of our own TUG TEC Committee members, attended the Executive Breakfast and had this to say; "Executives were invited to attend a hot-buffet breakfast and listen to Robert Tipton talk about 'Untangling IT.' The breakfast was well attended and all enjoyed Bob's comments and views on a variety of IT leadership topics. He covered topics as far-reaching as 'Analyzing the Industry', 'Leadership 101', and 'How to Position the IT Department to Become an Integral Part of the Company', to name just a few.

Afterwards, the executives were invited to visit our Vendor Showcase. An open invitation was issued to attend any of the regular sessions so they could fully appreciate where (and why) their education dollars were being spent."



Attendees at the executive breakfast sessions

Robert Tipton not only spoke at the Executive Breakfast but was also our featured Keynote Speaker as well as speaking for two sessions. One of our attendees, **Alena Sabo**, attended his session "Breaking Out Of Your Comfort Zone" and had this to say, "The TEC conferences always give me that leading edge understanding that is necessary in today's environment. It is part of professional development, which is high on my priority list.



Keynote speaker: Robert Tipton



Remote sessions at the IBM Canada Lab

Photos by Léo Lefebvre



*Joelle Cilley with Richard Dolewski*



*Bob Ash with Dan Le Huquet*

This elective session was different from the usual technical-filled experiences of TEC, nevertheless, a very worthwhile selection. Robert's good spirit touched everyone in the room that day. He is a teacher of ethics, understanding and motivation. This session made a difference for me and has the potential to benefit us all."

Robert wrote to let us know he made it home safely. "Greetings from snowy Denver! Go Avs, Go Leafs Go! ... It was my pleasure (very much so!) to be invited back to Toronto ..."

The IBM Liaison to TUG has been **Dale Perkins** for a couple of years and he helped us again with TUG TEC. Just recently **Stephen Quan** has come on board. Both were on hand at the conference and were a big help to the committee. Stephen wrote, "I got a real kick out of my first TEC conference as an IBM Liaison. It truly impressed me how smoothly TUG runs this event. My last time here was in 2000 as an attendee and it seems that this event, thanks to the

hard work of the TUG volunteers and TEC committee, always runs seamlessly. It's even more impressive to see first hand. The professionalism and cheerful attitude of the TEC committee are something many user groups would do well to emulate.

I found the WebSphere sessions by **Alison Butterill** et al were very informative and well laid out. The sessions by Bob Tipton were particularly enjoyable to attend. His insights were very informative and a reminder that the IT industry is one in which nothing can be taken for granted. At dinner the first night, I had the privilege to sit beside him and found over the course of a long chat that the integrity and character he exudes in his sessions is no exaggeration."



*Jim Schmiedendorf and Eden Watt with David Lefkowich at the Vendor Showcase*

I am very proud of the TUG TEC Committee. We all worked as a team and worked hard. A lot of hours went into this to make it such a success. During the meetings throughout the year and even during the conference itself, we can be pretty hard on ourselves or others, any time something doesn't go just right. Even the littlest of things can seem like a big deal for a split second. Now that the event is behind us, we all know what a great job the team did. **Wende Boddy**, TUG's association manager and TUG TEC committee member, couldn't have

**The 5th Wave** By Rich Tennant



"I saw the flames when they started too. I just thought it was part of the exhibit."



*Eveline Gaede teaching corks*



*Graham Cromar ... lovin' IT*

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said it better; "Give yourselves a pat on the back, you're a great bunch and I feel very lucky to be working/playing with you all."

Here is the list of TEC committee members: **Alkarim Sachedina** was in charge of Audio Visual and our Mtrack database. **Bob Lesiew** and **Eveline Gaede** were in charge of registration. **Ed Jowett** was in charge of security and facilities. **Glenn Gundermann** worked on arranging CD duplication, our committee shirts, printing of the flyers and session handouts, plus chairing the meetings. **Ken Sadler** worked on sponsorships. **Léo Lefebvre** was in charge of speakers, session topics, CD content and our Web site. **Neil Andrus** was in charge of marketing. **Richard Dolewski** was in charge of the Vendor Showcase. **Stephen Bingham** helped on everything. **Vaughn Dragland** was in charge of the budget and magazine content, and was our COMMON liaison. **Wende Boddy**, our Association Manager, was in charge of telemarketing, worked with IBM mailing, and assisted with marketing.

**Jerry Dmytrasz** was not on the committee, but volunteered to help out with registration. Also, from IBM we had **Dale Perkins** and **Stephen Quan**, who helped with IBM mailings, laptop and printing equipment, speakers, plus much more.

The Vendor Showcase was great this year. We had 33 vendors composed of our faithful regular sponsors plus quite a few new ones! (See sidebar for the list.) It was exciting to see all of the latest information on iSeries related products and services laid out for us, plus the hors d'oeuvres and the fabulous vendor-donated door prizes. A big thank you to all of the vendors for putting on such a super Showcase! A special thanks




**TEC 2004 committee members**



**Speakers: Daniel Magid and Robert Tipton**

also to our coffee break sponsors: **Coca Cola Bottling Ltd.**, **Challenger Motor Freight** and **sofCast Inc.**, as well as the executive breakfast sponsor: **CGI**.

I hope I have this honour again next year. So until then, happy computing! 

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