eServer Evolution
Unfolding the beauty of IT

By Glenn Gundermann

I t's already March and if you haven't yet thought about your education for this year, there is no better time than the present. If you are like a lot of people, you do not take an active enough approach in planning your future growth. There are some that are taking courses for a degree, whether in IT or another area like project management or accounting, etc. There are lots of others who either wait for something to fall into their laps or do nothing.

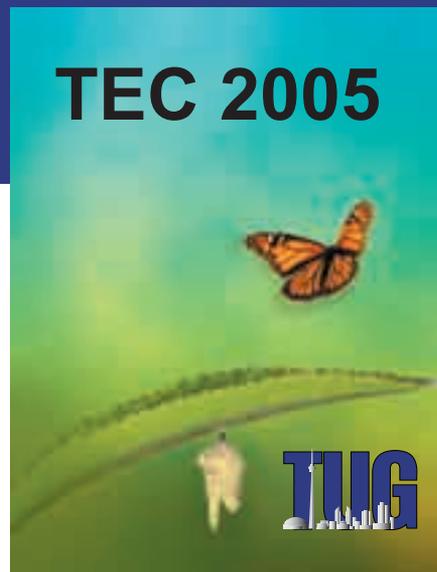*Glenn Gundermann*

This is where TUG can help you

TUG is holding its 12th annual i5 / iSeries / AS/400 Technical Education Conference (TEC) April 19 – April 20 at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North, and it just keeps getting better!

So many choices to make – Two days filled with 64 sessions by 26 speakers!

What hasn't changed is the top quality in the lineup of sessions we have planned for you. We have sixty-four sessions presented by twenty-six renowned speakers with the likes of **Jon Paris**, **Susan Gantner**, **Charlie Massoglia**, **Trevor Perry**, **Jackie Jansen**, **Carole Miner**, **Carol Woodbury**, **Linda Cole**, **Alison Butterill**, and **George Farr** (just to name a few.) We have the latest topics you need to be knowledgeable about. We have various aspects of WebSphere Development including WebSphere Development Studio Client (WDSc), WebSphere Application Server (WAS), and more. We have RPV IV, ILE, Java, Security, Disaster Recovery, DB2/400, Hardware Management Console (HMC), Remote System Explorer (RSE), plus too many others to mention.

Hands-On Labs at the IBM Lab

Again this year we have two 2-hour lab sessions at the IBM Toronto Laboratory in Markham. What is new this year is that they are open labs and you have the choice of four labs to choose from: Remote System Explorer (RSE), WebFacing, Web Tools, or VA RPG Tools. And of course we have a charter bus that will shuttle you back and forth between the lab and the Sheraton.

Attendees at one of the many sessions during last year's TEC

IBM Certification

The biggest addition to TEC this year is IBM Certification. For both days of the conference, each attendee will be able to write one free IBM Certification exam. (Subsequent exams can also be written at a very reasonable rate.) We have a large room filled with laptop computers and a laser printer, courtesy of IBM, plus a high-speed Internet connection. **Stephen Bingham** has written two articles on this, which I hope you read in this issue as well as the January issue, so if you haven't yet, take the time now.

Executive Breakfast with Trevor Perry

"Architecting Modernization" is a must-attend for any executive that doesn't have the time (or desire) to attend the two full days of technical sessions. Sit down for breakfast with a two-hour presentation by Trevor Perry, followed by the opening of the Vendor Showcase.

TEC 2004: Executive Breakfast

Vendor Showcase

Again this year is a great selection of Vendors presenting their hardware, software and solutions. Come and talk with the experts.

Keynote Speaker: Trevor Perry

We have a great keynote speaker for you again this year. If you've attended any of his sessions at COMMON, you will agree that Trevor Perry is a superb speaker and a definite crowd pleaser and must see. An excellent sit-down lunch is provided that you are sure to enjoy.

TEC 2004: Hands-on Lab

The TEC 2005 Team

Many thanks to this year's terrific group of volunteers who make it all possible: **Stephen Bingham**, **Wende Boddy**, **Jay Burford**, **Vaughn Dragland**, **Richard Dolewski**, **Eveline Gaede**, **Glenn Gundermann**, **Ed Jowett**, **Léo Lefebvre**, **Bob Lesiw**, **Stephen Quan**, **Alkarim Sachedina**, **and Ken Sadler**.

In closing

I think you will agree that education is good. Then doesn't it make sense that everyone should attend TUG TEC 2005? I know, this sounds like one of those cell phone marketers who use the tactic of stating something obvious like "this plan will save you money – don't you want to save money?" If you don't keep up then you most certainly will fall behind and then it's very hard to get back in the game. I encourage you to register now.

For the latest information on TEC 2005, including session grid updates, etc., check out our Web site at www.tug.ca/tec.html.   TUG

TEC 2004: Vendor Showcase

Why Are You Not Certified?
(That is the question...)

By Stephen Bingham

Be the first in your office to obtain IBM certification. Impress your friends and colleagues. (Hopefully some of them fall into both groups.) No, you cannot buy one on E-Bay or at an online pharmacy. You will not find them for download at Napster, either.

The good news is that you will find them at TEC 2005. For the low cost of admission to the two day conference you will be able to write 1 free exam. That's right, while attending the best AS/400 / iSeries / i5 Technical Education Conference this side of the 49th parallel, you will get absolutely free: The opportunity to write 1 exam towards an IBM certification!

The reasons to get certified are numerous and are only out numbered by the reasons to attend TEC 2005 on April 20 and 21. As I mentioned in the January issue, text books and study guides geared towards specific IBM exams are nearly impossible to find. There are many books available on iSeries security, performance management, WebSphere, and DB2. But none of those books are directly linked to any exam. I have only come across two such books. These were for the Associate and Professional Operator exams, both of which have been retired by IBM. The lack of these study guides makes the IBM Certifications all the more challenging and accepted as proof of one's knowledge.

Are you interested in writing an exam at TEC? Be pre-pared. Check out the IBM Professional Certification program website at: http://www-03.ibm.com/certify/index.shtml. Here you will find a list of all the exams offered by IBM. Select the exam of your choice and you will be provided with the information covered under the exam and be given the opportunity to write a practise exam for a nominal fee.

The list of exams to be offered at TEC has not been finalized at this time. We are currently planning to offer exams on the following subjects: System Administration, DB2 and Websphere.

Managers are looking to hire the best staff that they can find, and the applicant who has a certification in their area of expertise will get the attention. Something to keep in mind: If you were to book a sitting at your local testing center, the average cost of an exam would be approx US $200. See you at TEC 2005!

Stephen Bingham is the TUG Secretary and works for CGI as an iSeries Technical Analyst. He can be reached at 905-821-2252 ext. 7866, or stephen.bingham@cgi.com.

Attention IT Executives

TUG will host our second IT Executive Breakfast on the first day of TEC 2005 (Tuesday April 19.) Designed for high-level IT decision-makers, the executive breakfast will feature renown speaker **Trevor Perry**. Mark your calendars.

Trevor Perry