

# eServer Evolution

## Unfolding the beauty of IT

### TEC 2005 Wrap-up

By Glenn Gundermann, TEC Chair

It's hard to believe another TEC is over. This was TUG's 12<sup>th</sup> annual Technical Education Conference (TEC) and I feel very fortunate for being chair for the past 6 of them.

TEC 2005, held Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Parkway in Richmond Hill, was a very successful event with over 200 people in attendance. They enjoyed great speakers at the over 65 education sessions, 30 booths in the Vendor Expo area, a well-attended Executive Breakfast, and an inspiring Keynote Speaker at Wednesday's sit-down lunch.

This all would not have been possible if it weren't for the thirteen very dedicated TEC Committee members: **Alkarim**

**Sachedina, Bob Lesiw, Ed Jowett, Eveline Gaede, Jay Burford, Ken Sadler, Leo Lefebvre, Richard Dolewski, Stephen Bingham, Stephen Quan, Vaughn Dragland, and Wende Boddy.** They are all hard working and very special people with hearts of gold.

It's been a privilege for me to be a part of this team. TEC 2005 started for us on June 1st of 2004. What each of our attendees experienced over the two-day conference took many long meetings over the past almost 11 months.

It's obvious this hard work was not in vain. We had a great turnout of attendees and some busy sessions. There was



## TEC 2005



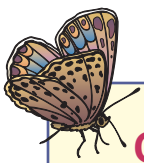
### TEC 2005 Showcase Vendors

**Able One Systems Inc.  
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Skyview Partners  
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Symtrax Software  
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T. L. Ashford & Associates**

Photos by Léo Lefebvre



TEC 2005 Committee



## Certification Round-Up

By Stephen Bingham

Once again TEC is over with for another year and with it the first of what I hope is many opportunities to provide IBM Certification testing to our attendees. Each attendee was entitled to write one free exam ranging in topics from Console Operations to System administration to the new ILE exam. Other exams included various Technical Solutions and Sales related topics. Additional exams were offered at a discounted price.

There are three main ingredients to make something like the testing lab work. The first is the individuals who chose to write an exam. This included our TEC attendees, Showcase vendors and even some of our speakers.

The second is the group of volunteers who gave up their time to work in the lab and make sure everyone who wanted to write an exam was registered properly and given any needed guidance on how to proceed. A special thanks to **Ken Davis**, **Harry Hastilow** and the newest member of the TUG board, **Aziz Saleh**.

Our third ingredient is the equipment, all of which was donated. Our lab consisted of 11 laptops, a single hub and a printer. Thanks to the folks (listed in Glenn's article) who secured all of these for us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Don Heller** of IBM, for his assistance in organizing the availability of the exams and coming to Toronto to run the testing lab. Thanks again to everyone who wrote an exam and congratulations to all of those who passed.



Photos by Léo Lefebvre

### *Lunch time is a busy time at TEC Showcase*

something for everyone. There was a lot to learn about Security, WDS, RPG ILE, and a whole lot more. There were more than sixty sessions in total. If there was one message I got, it was: "Stop using PDM!"

Thank you to the extra volunteers who came out to help: **Angela Gonsalves**, **Aziz Saleh**, **Jerry Dmytrasz**, **Ken Davis**, **Rajendra Kumar**, **Harry Hastilow**, and **Lindsay Sutherland**. Although there are many integral parts to a technical conference, a big part is the speakers. With about 25 speakers covering many different topics, it was tough for our attendees to decide which sessions to attend because they all sounded so good.

Last year we introduced the hands-on labs at the IBM Toronto Lab and after being such a great success, we brought it back this year and improved it by making it an open lab (where you get to choose your lab topic from four when you get there.)

With all of the long hours of preparation, it's nice to see things work out. New this year was the IBM Certification, which was a great success. **Stephen Bingham** worked hard on this and we are very fortunate for the great partnership we have with IBM. **Don Heller** from IBM is the person responsible for IBM Certification at user conferences and he flew up from Rochester Minnesota to be here. Over forty attendees took advantage of the great deal being offered. You can't beat a free first test, saving \$195 USD, and \$75 USD subsequent tests, saving \$120 USD each! We are also very fortunate that various parts of IBM worked well with one another to help make TEC 2005 a success. We would like to thank:

- 1.) **Tom Birchall**, manager of IBM eServer Techline, for authorizing the loan of the six ThinkPads for IBM Certification Testing
- 2.) **Kevin Simon**, Printing Systems Division for the generous loan of two Infoprint printers.



*Attendees writing their certification exams*



- 3.) **Kathy Taylor** and **Elaine McFarlane** for kindly arranging the IBM eServer i5 sponsorship at TEC.
- 4.) **Gwen Spencer** for her technical skill and for organizing IBM's presence at the Vendor Showcase.
- 5.) **Steven Stronach**, National ThinkPad Brand Specialist, for the loan of two ThinkPads for registration.

We owe **Stephen Quan** a huge thank you for arranging all of this terrific IBM support. **Rajendra Kumar** was kind enough to provide additional laptops plus a switch from his employer (Aon Re). **Glen Gautreau** supplied a switch plus cables from CGI, and **Stephen Bingham** brought a printer from home.

Everything at TEC was meticulously put together with a lot of planning and hard work. One example of this is our CD. I worked hard arranging the outside design



### **Over 40 IT Executives attended the TEC Executive Breakfast on day one.**

and duplication of it while Léo worked hard on the content. The latter was better than ever. Not only does it contain all the session abstracts and handouts, speaker and volunteer pictures and bios, and daily schedule; it also contains several IBM video commercials on a secret link. (See *TUG Notes* on page 26 for more info on

this.) Registration worked very smoothly again this year thanks to a lot of people with the man in charge being **Bob Lesiw**. If you attended TEC 2005 and have not yet filled out your conference feedback form, please do so and fax it to our office. If you would like us to e-mail you a form, let us know. Of course, we could

## Sponsors are Special – Thank You from TUG TEC 2005



*By Jay Burford*

As Glenn mentioned, the attendees, speakers, vendors, volunteers, and the organizing committee members all deserve a “round of applause” for all of their contributions to this winning event...

There is another group that deserves a big “thank you” for their assistance to the success of TUG TEC 2005. They are our sponsors – companies that provided some of the funding for the education sessions, coffee breaks, the executive breakfast and the morning continental breakfast. They understand the value of on-going education for the IT community and they support TUG TEC in helping to provide that education.

### Our sponsors for the 2005 TUG TEC

**Business Computer Designs** brings you award winning WebSmart, which has become an industry leader in the IBM AS/400 / iSeries / i5 marketplace for Web Development and Deployment, enabling you to develop web applications faster and easier than you could have imagined. WebSmart is the tool of choice for thousands of RPG pros and others. (<http://www.bcdsoftware.com>)

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headquarters are in Atlanta, with local operations in over 200 countries around the world. (<http://www.coke.com/>)

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**sofCast** now offers the Decentrix Web Site Solution: a secure, centrally hosted service that allows you to create, modify, and manage a professional Web site, all from a standard Web browser. No longer is it necessary to hire or contract expensive technical and design specialists. There is no hardware or software to buy, no contract to sign: only a low initial expenditure, and fixed, affordable monthly billing. (<http://www.sofcast.com/>)

Finally we must thank **IBM Canada**, the source of the eServer iSeries technology, for their continued contributions to the success of TUG and in particular TUG TEC. (<http://www.ibm.com/us/>)

Thank You ALL for Your Support!



*TEC speakers: Alison Butterill and Trevor Perry*



*Wende Boddy presenting the TEC Showcase Passport door prize (Coca-Cola golf bag) to Kim Barnes*

not have done it without our Showcase Exhibitors. (See sidebar list.) **Richard Dolewski** and **Wende Boddy** put this together with all the right touches. The interesting information about each product/service kept many an attendee glued to the booth to learn more. Thank you vendors for a great showing and for your generous prizes. The main “passport” door prize (a golf bag donated by Coca-Cola Beverages) was won by **Kim Barnes** from Contrans Corporation. We are also grateful to i3 and Maxium for the Executive Breakfast, and Coca-Cola, Challenger Motor Freight, and *sofCast* for sponsorship and prizes. Thanks also to COMMON – A Users Group for donating the registration bags.

For a second time, TEC offered an Executive Breakfast, giving a chance for IT executives to attend a high level session geared just for them. **Trevor Perry** provided the insight this year, talking about Architecting Modernization. Trevor’s enthusiasm on this topic was felt around the room and was well enjoyed.

**Trevor Perry** also presented this year’s keynote address, entitled “Get A Life.” He told us in no uncertain terms that we need to get a life, and gave us many good examples on how to do this. He gave us insight into what he has done himself and what he still plans to do. Not only did we come out of this session thinking about what we might do to get a life, but we were also feeling very good about ourselves. We created posters with I M X O on them, which stands for “I aM eXtraOrdinary”. Feel free to visit his web site [www.urxo.com](http://www.urxo.com) for more words of encouragement.

It’s amazing how fast these two days have passed. Before you know it, it will be next year and another TEC! I would suggest you register now for TEC 2006.



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