

TUG MoM REVIEW

THE JANUARY 2006 MEETING OF MEMBERS

One of the benefits of being a member of the Toronto Users Group is attending the Meeting of Members (MoM). These meetings are held five times a year. This is your chance to get acquainted with some of the current developments that impact the iSeries servers. I know you would agree that there is a whole lot more information available than can be presented in a few hours during each MoM. Our attempt at expanding these meetings is one way we are trying to maximize your already over-committed time in our fast-paced world of Information Technology. Normally, the meetings start at 5:00 p.m., however the November 2005 meeting started at 3:30 p.m. and the most recent meeting started at 4:00 p.m. When an opportunity comes our way of sharing additional or more in-depth topics, we will extend the time for the meeting.

Another way to help you take advantage of your membership is to make these meetings more accessible by selecting venues throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The last meeting was held at the Living Arts Centre (LAC) in Mississauga. As this was our first time at LAC, an impromptu survey was conducted. By show of hands, it was apparent that there were a lot of first time attendees to this MoM. For our March MoM we will be returning to the LAC; please

see page 8 for the meeting agenda. It was apparent that the Rogers Theatre at LAC was not very favourable to our meeting format, so we have reserved the Staging Room for our next meeting. We are looking at other possible venues in the eastern part of GTA for our future meetings. If you have any suggestions please forward them to **Wende Boddy** our Association Manager.



John Still

To help us serve you better, we ask that you register for the March 22, 2006 Meeting of Members at



Richard Dolewski

www.tug.ca or by contacting Wende Boddy.

As mentioned, there are times when a topic cannot be reasonably covered in an hour. This was the case where the 4:00 p.m. start was necessary for the "Best Practices for the iSeries" session presented by **Richard Dolewski** from Mid-Range Computer Group. (To break up this long session, **John Still**, also from Midrange Computer Group, stepped in to cover the

middle part of the presentation. Then Richard returned for the closer.

Best practices need to be established based on perceived value to your organization. There also needs to be a balance between what must be and what should be done. Having best practices and following them means that every process or function will be performed exactly the same way every time. This would apply to Change Control, Security, Backup & Recovery, Systems Administration & Maintenance, etc. There is a cost to initially developing, documenting and training everyone involved in following best practices. The long term benefits of following standard processes will be found in reduced downtimes, consistent results, less time spent in mitigating audit related deficiencies, to name a few. If you don't have formal processes, it may be a worthwhile discussion with your management to start planning.

Two hours went by quickly and at 6:00 p.m. a complimentary buffet was served. As part of the MoM, the hour break gives everyone a chance to make friends, discuss issues, and mingle. Before the start of the second session, there were a few announcements from the TUG Board of Directors. **Stephen Quan**, IBM Liaison



Alkarim Sachedina

Photos by Wende Boddy, Vaughn Dragland, and Léo Lefebvre





TUG MoM Intermission at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga

for TUG, spoke about the upcoming elections of the board members. Every year about half the board come to the end of their 2-year term. Nomination forms were available at the MoM or can be requested by contacting the TUG office. **Glenn Gundermann**, TEC Chairman, reminded us of the upcoming Technical Education Conference in April and all the advantages of attending. For updated information please visit the TEC website at www.tug.ca/TEC2006. **Kimberly McNally** and **Ken Sadler** announced a contest where you can help us increase our Membership. All you have to do is sponsor a new TUG member to qualify. Contact Kim, Ken or the TUG office for more information. With door prizes handed to numerous winners, it was time to start the second session of the night.



André Berns from Seneca College



The Mississauga venue attracted many first-timers



Ken Sadler and Kimberly McNally on the TUG membership promotion



Aziz Saleh (2nd from left) with friends

Photos by Wende Boddy, Vaughn Dragland, and Léo Lefebvre



Karen McGregor



Charles Machalani

The topic of the 7:00 p.m. session was “iSeries & .NET Interoperability” presented by **Karen McGregor** and **Charles Machalani** from Microsoft Canada. Karen started by summarising Microsoft .NET software and its various components that can support application development with


different User Interface, Services, and Data Sources; which include DB2, WebSphere and the iSeries. A high level .NET Roadmap preceded Charles’ continuation of the session. Charles showed examples of three businesses that used .NET to develop revamped delivery of User interaction where



Living Arts Centre Mississauga



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the iSeries was the key primary component of the business application. The PowerPoint presentation from this session is available at www.tug.ca. Thank you to our speakers Richard, John, Karen, and Charles for a very informative evening. A big thank you to all volunteers who helped with another successful meeting. We hope to see you at the next meeting on March 22 at the Living Arts Centre Mississauga. 

Alkarim Sachedina is a Business Systems Lead at Mattel Canada Inc. He is currently serving as the Treasurer for the Toronto Users Group. Alkarim can be reached at Alkarim.Sachedina@Mattel.com