

Why My Company is a Member of TUG

By Ken Sadler



This is an article that every Manager and IT Director should be reading! My company is a Member of TUG because of the educational opportunities that TUG brings for my team and me. In the past 2 years, I personally have taken 5 courses outside the company. Most IBM developers and project managers do not have that kind of an opportunity. Actually, if you have taken no training in the past 2 years in any technical job, then you are 2 years behind in your thinking, your ideas, and sometimes your tools.

You and your team need access to the best ideas in the industry, and to interact with the best minds in this midrange industry in which you are working. That is what TUG brings to the Toronto marketplace! We want to be the best at what our customers (our users) value most and that is to do our jobs at an outstanding level for our companies. We need to know the latest technical products, the latest IBM announcements, the latest developments with wireless, the latest developments in Microsoft integration to our servers, the latest Sarbanes-Oxley issues and their impact on the IT industry, and the latest tools available to us. Regular attendance at TUG meetings gives you and your team all of this.

TUG brings regular opportunities for education consistently throughout the year. The Annual TEC conference is 2 days of education sessions on the leading edge of technology in the System i5 space. At this conference you can speak to the IBM developers who are developing the RPG compiler, or the Websphere toolkit, or other IBM tools. Where else can you listen to a presentation by one of the developers of the DB2/400 database and then, after the session, meet them in the corridor for a coffee and ask questions. This is a technical developer's heaven!

But TUG does not just do this 2 days a year at TEC. There are also 5 more times

in the bi-monthly Meetings of Members (MOMs.) Here you can experience the same speakers talking about their technical or management area or their software product. And at supper, quiz them on your ideas and their designs. This is an unparalleled opportunity for Toronto IT to have access to the best and brightest ideas. You can meet and discuss over coffee with the co-chairman of RIM technologies on where his company and products are going. Or you can ask questions of a Chartered Accountant who is shortly presenting the latest update on the Sarbanes-Oxley issues and how they affect Canadian IT users. All this is brought to you by TUG.



The cost of \$495 includes all of your company employees, and the TUG magazine that comes to your desk before every MOM is simply a great investment in education for your IT team.

Please let your controller or VP Finance know that this is one of the best investments that your company can make, with a great ROI. Show this article to your Manager when you want to renew your TUG membership or become a new member. Speaking of new members — this March through May we are having the Membership Promotion, during which all new members will receive a special recognition from TUG. If your company sponsors/invites a new member, you are entered into an early-bird draw for a 27-inch colour TV in March and a Grand Prize draw in May. You can only win 1 prize. Each new member you sponsor is one more opportunity in the draw. Good luck, and let your VP Finance know that you want to go to the next MOM. And that TUG is part of your education plan!



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