

TUG MOM REVIEW

THE MARCH 2006 MEETING OF MEMBERS



By Alena Sabo

Mississauga, Ontario – March 22, 2006

It promised, and as usual, turned out to be a valuable MOM meeting. In our progressively shifting setting, it is important to stay in tune with technology advances. These meetings help us all do just that.

Matinee Session

The first session was shared by three professionals from ASTECH Solutions Inc. (Advanced Systems Technologies) and the i3 Tech Group Inc. Having three presenters for one session added flavour to the information offered. Each presented valuable input to the Systems Management session. An area often under utilized.

Garth Tucker from the i3 group covered the importance of good systems management. Good systems management is a combination of knowledge, experience, dedication and teamwork, while poor systems management was summed up as not knowing, not caring or procrastination.

Right: Speaker Garth Tucker

Below: Wende Boddy, Lindsay Sutherland, and Harry Hastilow



The “Re-active” approach was compared to the “Pro-active” approach and described in an analogy with your health. Are you living all the bad habits in life, waiting for an illness to set in, or do you use preventative measures to ensure your good health? This is similar to examples of preventive measures necessary for your iSeries; monitor your

messages, ensure good response time, establish proper system settings, and manage your disk storage.

“You can’t manage what you haven’t measured. If you plan to go forward, you need to measure or assess your situation first.” was referred to.



Photos by Vaughn Dragland and Léo Lefebvre



Speaker Mark Buchner

After Garth Tucker's intro, **Mark Buchner** from ASTECH started the discussion with a startling piece of trivia about the emperor of the Taj Mahal creating this wondrous structure out of the love of his deceased wife. The measures to prevent duplication of this architecture were compared to today's improved methods.

The differences between poor and good management were reviewed in more detail and further information was provided to describe some of the difficulties encountered to getting where we want to be.

The Business-driven Development Lifecycle and the IBM Software Development Platform were modeled and discussed.



Speaker Jonathan Perry

These roles and tools described can assist in building a sound, productive environment.

Systems management also encapsulates areas such as change management, creation of standards, reusing code and standards (SOA), and choices made in software purchases.

The iSeries Developer Roadmap was covered with Application Technology observation.

Later, **Jonathan Perry**, also from i3 Tech Group came out to talk about the importance of hardware maintenance, such as cleaning, cable organization, peripheral maintenance and testing your UPS regularly.

Security was also included in this informative session. Many security tools are available which can help you get to the root of your issues without spending the time searching for them. SkyView, Bsafe, NetIQ and PowerTech are some of them. These tools are adjustable and allow you to be informed by tailoring the desired level of the warnings and methods of output (reports, messages, page/email etc.). Security audits are an important part of the system integrity and it was suggested that they be done by independent consultants.

Performance / Message management and tools were also covered in the presentation.

Jonathan discussed the importance of having a solid backup strategy and bridging these requirements with BRMS save/restore attributes and BRMS Media Management.

Garth came back to close the presentation with a discussion on Remediation which is defined as "The process of correcting a deficiency or deficiencies". He gave us tips on where to start, measure, and proceed to identify the requirements and gaps.

The handouts to the above session are now available on TUG's download page (www.tug.ca/Downloads.html).

Intermission

After dinner, our dedicated TUG board members presented information on the membership drive, the golf tournament in September, Board elections, and the upcoming TEC 2006 conference.



TUG Meeting of Members March 22, 2006 — Living Arts Centre Mississauga

Photos by Vaughn Dragland and Léo Lefebvre

Nomination forms for the election are available on TUG's website (www.tug.ca/Elections2006.html). Door prize gifts were also given to many lucky winners. The August membership drive draw is eligible to those who successfully spread the word about the Toronto User Group membership. This has always been good value for the investment, being of a non-profit status, you know that every dollar is re-invested back into its members. Our board members do a sensational job at continuously providing this value for us.

Glenn Gundermann described the enhancements and benefits of TEC. This year an additional room is offered for leadership/project management sessions.



TEC 2006 Chair Glenn Gundermann

Also offered this year is an additional day at the IBM lab as part of the conference package. By the time this issue of the magazine hits the streets TEC 2006 will be over, but I predict it will have been the best TEC ever!

Evening Session

The second half of the MOM meeting was also very enlightening. **Stephen Quan** from IBM started the session by discussing the hardware and product changes in V5R4.

The new power 5+ chip models were reviewed; i520, i550, i570 & i595. Enterprise enablement is becoming the standard. The i595 is classified as a "Super computer" and



Speakers David van Geilswyk and Stephen Quan

therefore falls under government export restrictions. Some distinctions of these new models are that they are powered with the new Power 5+, the frequencies and clock rates are 15-33% higher, new I/O, new DDR-2 memory, ROHS (Reduction of Hazardous Waste) compliancy and funky blue stripes are displayed on the front of the machines. Incidentally, these new i5 models will support both OS versions V5R3 and V5R4.

Improved virtual tape back-up strategies integrated with BRMS, spool file save/restore capabilities and WebSphere performance features were also highlighted. The merging of the Webfacing Deployment Tool for WDS with HATS Technology (WDHT) got my attention!

Indications were heard that IBM is getting ready to release a new technology to the i5 — Voice over IP.

Then, **David van Geilswyk** from Mid-Range Computer Group came out to wrap up the features in V5R4. The ability to save/restore spool files is now available. SAVSYSINF / RSTSYSINF (Save and Restore System Information) commands are now also offered to save specific system information. This includes system reply

list entries, most system values, service/network/environment attributes, PTFs, and other system objects such as DTAARA, JobD, Jrn/Rcv, MsgF, JobQ, etc. There is a lot to learn about incorporating this command into your backup process and the handouts cover this in more detail (www.tug.ca/Downloads.html). We are also hearing of increased virtual tape backup requirements and IBM has been forward with this advancement by including this System Resiliency capability in V5R4.

Security enhancements include increased journal functionality, reduction of EIM administration, Intrusion detection and complete NAT traversal support (UDP encapsulation). Network enhancements (IPv6), expanded SNA support and additional features such as new alias names for IP interfaces and Virtual Private Networking were summarized. IBM continues to deliver enhancements to the i5/OS, and this new Power 5+ architecture has added distinct value to the i5 line.



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