

In my last column I was anticipating the COMMON Fall 2006 Conference and wondered if I should worry about a hurricane hitting the region that week. I said I would let you know what happened. Well, as I expected, there was nothing to worry about. The weather was just fine (if hot and humid is fine for you.) It was a great week... and so was the conference! In addition to the announcement of COMMON's new format, a new group of System i devotees was created. It is called **iSociety** — an organization of which TUG is proud to be a member.

When you go the iSociety Web site at www.isociety.org, you'll see what it's all about. The following is a sample:

"iSociety is the online home for everyone who believes in the System i philosophy of business computing. They believe that business computing should be as effortless as possible, through the reduction or elimination of complexity... The individual websites, chatrooms and blogs, and the organizations and businesses that believe passionately in System i, all existed independently long before iSociety was formed. iSociety makes it easy to move freely among all of them. iSociety includes small and large users group organizations, news organizations, forums, blogs, students at colleges and universities throughout the world, and many other groups."



ISOCIETY.ORG

You can join iSociety by registering at isociety.org and you can proudly display your membership by adding the iSociety logo and navigation system to your Web site. Due in part because of my association with COMMON, I was one of the first to sign up for iSociety. I signed up even before it was officially announced. You may remember the iSeries Nation adventure few years ago. One of the major differences between iSeries Nation and iSociety is that

the later is "users-based", meaning it is not managed by IBM—it is managed by the System i community itself—the users and advocates, consultants, analysts, journalists, IBM business partners, independent software vendors, and users group small and large (like TUG).

Here is a list of a few key sites that currently form the pillars of iSociety: www.common.org, isociety.common.org, www.cafepress.com/isociety, www.systemicafe.com, www.midrange.com, www.angustheitchap.com, and www.systemiportal.com. Through these initial sites and the navigation tool that all iSociety sites will display, you can find many more System i resources that make up the total community.



photo by Vaughn Dragland

Gloria and Léo in Miami Beach, Florida

In other words, in iSociety you will see all sorts of System i related items: Web sites containing articles about System i, blogs, System i advertising, videos about System i, podcasts, etc.—the list is endless. You will even find a "frappr" map where you can see who has signed up to iSociety and where they live. If you have an idea about the System i, put it in iSociety—show it to the world! If you need information about the System i, go to iSociety. You will find it there.

One of the "evangelists and builders" of iSociety, **Trevor Perry**, will be our first speaker at the TUG MoM on November 22. Trevor is the chap behind Angus the IT Chap (www.angustheitchap.com). Although his presentation will not be about iSociety, I am sure the subject will be mentioned. Actually, Trevor will show us some negotiation skills. He will show us how and when to say "No!" Trevor says, "Negotiation is one of the keys to success—successful management, successful careers, successful companies, successful IT organizations." In actual negotiations, you cannot always say "No!", so Trevor will also teach us the power of the "Yes, and". This is a brand-new session from Trevor. He presented it for the first time last month during the COMMON IT Executive conference in Miami where it was extremely well received.

Another iSociety evangelist and good friend of TUG, **Alison Butterill**, will close the November MoM with her award-winning and more technical session: *Embedding SQL into Application Programs*. SQL is IBM's relational database language that can be used for query and for data definition, manipulation, and retrieval. It is a simple, yet extremely powerful tool. SQL is becoming the "de facto" industry standard for accessing distributed data. This is a rare appearance by Alison at a TUG MoM. Don't miss it!

Are you a member of the iSociety yet? Will you join us? Go to www.isociety.org and find out all about the advantages of joining the iSociety. And remember, it is free to join!

