

# TUG MOM REVIEW

THE SEPTEMBER 2006 MEETING OF MEMBERS



By Aziz Saleh



**O**n the evening of September 27<sup>th</sup>, when it was a lovely 24°C outside, a group of System i5 enthusiasts were eagerly gathered at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga to hear what **John Mascarenhas** from IBM had to tell them about PHP. The presentation started off with a detailed introduction to Zend PHP on the i5 and was interspersed with screen captures that helped the audience follow along. John highlighted the fact that the Zend product and basic support was available, at **no charge** to all i5 customers who were running V5R4.

A demo followed, showing how to install the Zend product on the i5 as well as a brief tour of Zend studio. John pointed out that Zend could be used via green-screen or the GUI interface. A lively Question-and-Answer session followed, keeping John very busy. He indicated that WDSC users needing a PHP development environment would need to install Zend studio as no plugins were available for WDSC. The audience was advised that the presentation would be made available on the TUG Web site.

**Wende Boddy** addressed the group next, to thank John for his presentation on behalf of the audience, and present him with a token of appreciation on behalf of TUG. Up next were **Ken Sadler** and **Kumar Rajendra** to draw the winner of a beautiful 250GB external hard disk. This draw was open to all of the new members and existing members who were part of this year's membership drive. **Michael Walsh** from FirstOntario Credit Union in Stoney Creek was the lucky winner. Congratulations!

Once again the attendees were treated to mouth-watering cookies accompanied by an assortment of sumptuous sandwiches. There was also a nice selection of teas and Starbucks

coffee to wash it all down. As a special touch, Wende brought in a nice selection of chocolate bars for everyone to get a head start on their Halloween treat eating. There was also a stunning poster inviting people to TEC '007.

**Glenn Gundermann** was up next to speak about TEC '007. He pointed out that this TEC would be the best yet, starting now with a double discount for registering early. To take advantage of this amazing offer, attendees will have to register by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. The audience was reminded of the exceptional value of the conference, which includes **free** Labs on Day 3 for the attendees, plus a special Executive Breakfast to

Léo Lefebvre



*Matinee speaker John Mascarenhas demonstrates PHP on System i5*



Vaughn Dregland

attract company management to TEC '07 this spring.

***TUG Meeting of Members Sept. 27, 2006 Living Arts Centre Mississauga***

He suggested visiting <http://www.ibm.com/iSeries/db2> to learn more about the

To make a very good evening even better, Wende and Léo took the stage and drew for the MoM draw prizes. Up for grabs were quite a few things of interest, which included a nice bag, some uncorking

kits, and other knickknacks. The floor was then given to the second speaker of the evening. Up next was **Doug Mack**, also from IBM, to present the new and improved features of DB2.

The audience was informed that DB2 is currently available on 20 platforms based on three versions of underlying code. Doug reminded the audience that DB2 is the oldest commercially available Database software, which had its modest beginnings on the IBM System/38.

It was pointed out that on many i5s, DB2 has not been configured with settings appropriate for the environment, resulting in less than desired performance. To remedy this situation Doug suggested using the Service Vouchers from IBM, which are normally included with new systems. The audience was informed that, while traditionally DDM was used to share data residing on other AS/400s, there were other options now. DB2 Connect implements the DRDA® architecture to extend data residing on the i5 to other platforms such as .Net more economically and with greater ease. DB2 Everywhere was also briefly mentioned, as a tool which allows people in the field to capture and store information locally on laptops and handheld devices which could be synchronized to main DB2 databases upon returning to the office.

One of the challenges faced when running queries on the i5 is linked to indexes (or the absence of indexes). V5R4 addresses this by introducing autonomic indexes which are maintained on the system beyond the execution of the query which initiated them. These temporary indexes reside on the system until one of the following happens: 1.) an IPL is done on the system, or 2.) the storage space used for the index needs to be reallocated.

**The 5th Wave**

By Rich Tennant

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**“You should check that box so they can’t profile your listening and viewing habits. I didn’t, and I’m still getting spam about hearing loss, anger management and psychological counseling”**



*Evening speaker Doug Mack presenting the latest features of DB2*

The CQE and SQE were discussed next, CQE being the Classic Query Engine while SQE being the SQL Query Engine. Query requests from traditional (non-SQL) sources, such as OPNQRYF and Query/400 are handled by CQE. SQE handles query requests from ODBC, Net. Data and other SQL based sources. CQE is less optimized than SQE and handles operations such as sort sequence rather than being processed by the SQE engine.

DB2 federated server capability was discussed by Doug next. Traditionally i5 applications have been limited to data residing on the i5, but this is no longer the case. Now RPG applications can not only access DB2 databases residing locally, they can also access data on other servers and platforms. This is made possible by WII or Websphere Information Integrator, using federated server technology.

Other areas that were touched upon by Doug included, EVIs or Encoded Vector Indexing, MQTs or Materialized Query Tables and Parallelism, which aim to utilize parallel resources to avoid being paralyzed. Details of these and others are covered in more detail in Doug's presentation which will be available for download on TUG's Web site.

Doug too had his share of questions and answers from a very keen audience. At the end of presentation, he was thanked by Léo and Wende and presented with a gift from TUG. The audience was reminded about the upcoming TUG session on October 24<sup>th</sup>, which looked very promising and was not to be missed—at Seneca's Campus at York University. They were also reminded to hurry and take advantage of the early bird discount for TEC '007. Hope to see you at the next MoM on November 22<sup>nd</sup>!



*Wende Boddy picking a winner*

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