

COiN Meeting Review — March 26, 2007

Central Ontario iSeries Network

By Glenn Gundermann



As usual, the COiN Members Meeting was held at Conestoga College in Kitchener. The topic tonight was Enterprise Generation Language (EGL) and was presented by **Linda Cole**. Linda is a Senior System i Software Engineer in IBM's Rational Software group.



Linda Cole

This is one subject that is getting a lot of buzz lately. EGL is all about Accelerating Modernization. It satisfies the business need to leverage existing applications, respond to customers that need applications for the Web, and talk to Web services that partners are running.

What is EGL?

EGL is Java without the Java. EGL is a combination of a high-level language and advanced Eclipse-based development tools. EGL is simple yet complete. Even Java developers are going this route. You can use EGL to generate and consume web services. It is used for batch, web, rich client, plus more. The newest version adds Rich Client support and more will be coming later this year.

Not only does EGL allow you to easily and quickly develop your business applications, it also allows you to retain your highly knowledgeable staff without the high cost of retraining. Retraining a RPG/COBOL developer to Java/J2EE is estimated at \$50,000 and only 12% actually succeed. Contrast this with the fact that someone can learn EGL in eight days and be very successful within one month writing their first web applications.

The Challenge

- **Existing Applications:** A huge investment with thousands of lines of code must co-exist.
- **Skills Gap:** Business oriented developers lack Java & OO skills. It is very expensive and very risky to train. There is a lack of transferability of people across projects.
- **Platform & Middleware:** Ability to support and target the broadest variety of platforms and middleware.


EGL not only addresses these but also provides the most cost-effective solutions for each.

Learn More

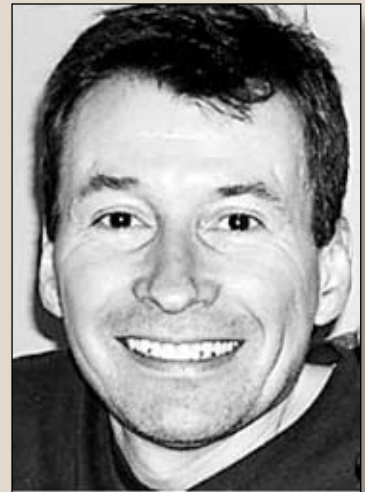
A document titled "Enterprise Generation Language (EGL): an overview" was e-mailed in advance of the meeting. This and Linda's presentation material are both on the COiN website (see below for details). You can find more information including a free tutorial on the IBM website: <http://www-128.ibm.com/developerworks/rational/products/egl/>.

At time of this writing, IBM is offering a free two-week distance learning class. This has been ongoing for the last two years but Linda says it will not be forever.

What's Next for COiN

COiN's next event is an exciting year-end members meeting on May 7 at the Galt Country Club, featuring a full sit-down dinner followed by special guest speaker, **Dr. John Tibbits**, president of Conestoga College. Dr. Tibbits will talk about the future of Conestoga College and the impact it will have on our community. The bi-monthly meetings are worth the drive for any System i professional who want to continually keep learning. More information can be found (including presentation materials and newsletters) at www.coinusergroup.ca or e-mail coininfo@coinusergroup.ca for further details. 


Glenn Gundermann is a TUG board member and chairs TUG's Technical Education Conference committee. He can be reached at ggundermann@tug.ca or (647) 272-3295.



FRANK SPEIGHT

You may remember Frank. [See obit below.] He was a big fan of the System/38/AS/400/iSeries when he was at CTV, Saville, ADC, and Corus. Just an all around great guy. Frank was one of the finest people to have ever walked this planet.

He had to undergo a very complex and risky multi-hour spinal operation and sadly he did not survive. If you know of anyone who may have known him but not heard the news please pass this on.

— Dan Duffy 

*"It is our deepest sadness and regret to announce the unexpected passing of **Frank Speight**, on Thursday, February 22, 2007, at Toronto Western Hospital. He was a beloved husband to his devoted wife Judy. Cherished by brother Daniel and his wife Jan, his sister Paula and her partner Peter, and by brother David. Proud nephew to Uncle Paul Rosa and son-in-law to John Chiu. Loving uncle to all nephews and nieces: Jeremy, Danny Jr., Joey, Riley, Cassidy, Connor and Allyson."*

"Frank was courageous to the end of his life. He overcame all challenges in his path. He faced one last obstacle with great composure and with strength of character. Although he lived his life with scoliosis, he never once allowed it to limit him. He showed no fears or regret and never forgot how to live or laugh. Frank had a short but wonderful life. He was an inspiration to all of his family and friends."





* Tug members are free to attend COiN meetings.