

MOM: May 2007

By Rick Phillips, Francisco Caringal,
and Jim Hilchey

The May 2007 Meeting of Members (MoM) was held at the Sheraton Parkway North in Richmond Hill on Wednesday May 30, 2007. It started at 5:00 pm, and included presentations by **Jackie Jansen** from IBM, followed by dinner and networking at 6:00 pm, and

concluding with a presentation by **Randall Munson** of Creatively Speaking® at 7:00 pm. This event was sponsored by RJS Software Systems Inc.

IBM DB2 Web Query for System i

The evening started off with a product review for IBM DB2 Web Query for System i. The presenter was Jackie Jansen who was also celebrating her 30th anniversary with IBM that week. This was belied by the level

of excitement and exuberance displayed by Jackie, which apparently is her natural demeanour from those that know her. This level of passion and the knowledge she has of the product, brought a high degree of interest and excitement to the audience as well. The product itself was well-received by the audience (and frankly was felt by most to be overdue to the market.)

The Web query product allows for dynamic creation of both transactional and analytical reporting from the iSeries [System i.] This product will be replacing the Query/400 tool that will be sun-setted by IBM. It includes integration with other tools such as spreadsheet and graphing, as well as having OLAP capabilities. When data is exported to Excel, the tool also brings the calculations (not just the values) into the worksheets it creates.

Web Query also runs on the Web server that exists on all AS/400, iSeries, and System i boxes and doesn't require the administration or setup of the other Web servers (e.g. HTTPServer, Apache, or WebSphere.) This makes setup and use simpler for the System i user base as well as system administrators.

IBM DB2 Web Query for System i is expected to be available by the end of summer 2007 and is currently in beta at some locations. More information on this product can be found at <http://ibm.com/systems/i/db2>.

Jackie Jansen can be reached at jjansen@ca.ibm.com. ➡



Léo Lefebvre

Jackie Jansen

Magic of System i: What IBM Will Never Tell You

Next on the agenda, Randall Munson brought his professional experience in education, presentation, comedy, ventriloquism, and magic together with his 20 years of IBM experience; for a passionate presentation of how IBM should improve their marketing strategies around the most powerful computer system on the planet, the System i.

Randall has worked with Jackie at IBM, and also has an intimate understanding of the System i. He has led research and development of this platform at the IBM AS/400 Laboratory in Rochester, Minnesota. His numerous awards in professional speaking and technical background on the platform bring an air of authority to his presentation that is immutable. The audience consisted mostly of fairly to highly technical iSeries professionals that would garner an instant respect of Randall from his dialogue on the platform.



Randall Munson

Léo Lefebvre



Randall covered topics from Cost of Complexity to Cost of Ownership, and other Return of Investment (ROI) concerns from most managers, in presenting the value of the System i platform in comparison to the competition. He marries this information with invaluable insights on conducting a successful presentation, from studies on conducting presentations with success; that he also instructs as part of his “Creatively Speaking” training programs.

The results of the audience evaluation survey submitted after this presentation were a resounding 100% that they would like to see Randall back. The overall program rating was “Poor 0%, Fair 0%, Good 4%, Excellent 96%”.

Other comments included, but were not limited to:

“Brilliant, inspirational, funny and enlightening all at the same time!”

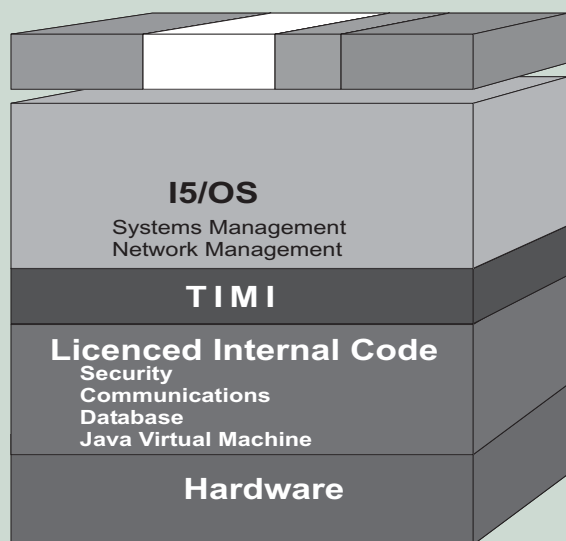
“Randall makes you look at things a whole new way! Excellent presentation.” ➔

Léo Lefebvre

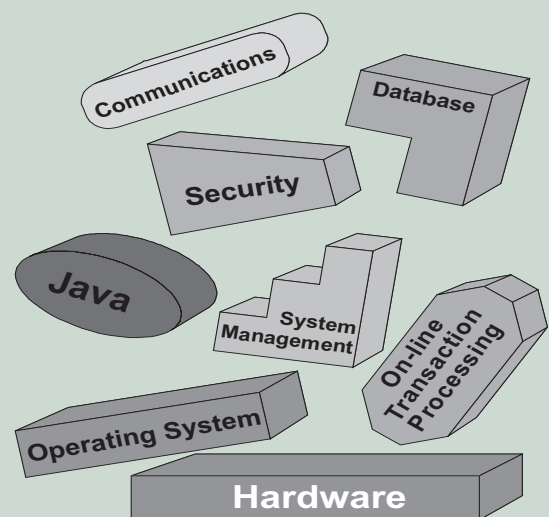


TUG Meeting of Members, May 30, 2007

System i Integrated System



Other "Systems"



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creatively speaking

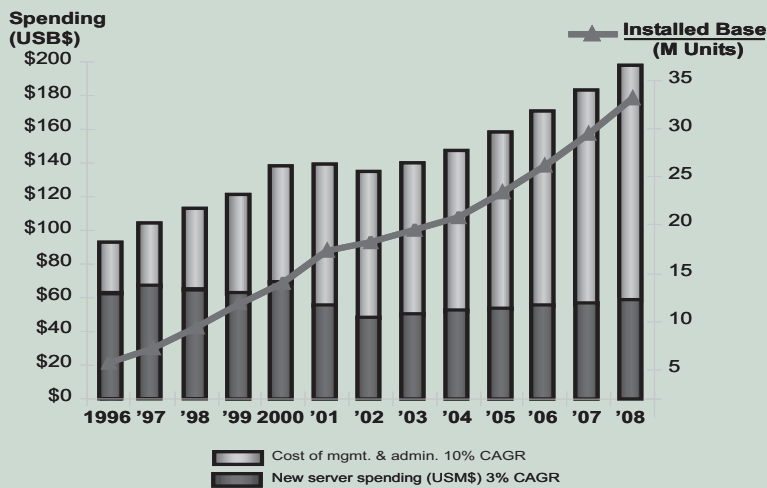
Handout from Munson's presentation: "Integrated Architecture"



Vaughn Dragland

May 2007 TUG MoM speakers Randall Munson and Jackie Jansen

Cost of People vs. New Systems



The cost of managing IT infrastructure is larger and growing faster than initial purchase costs



"Engaging, excellent and reinforced the need to creatively promote [the] system."

"Randall gave me the value of correct marketing. Excellent and very entertaining!"

"EXCELLENT. I never looked at my watch once! Humourous, direct messages, lots of visual aids."

"Excellent. Every level of experience can benefit from Randall."

"Very entertaining and extremely informative. Excellent presentation with humor."

Randall Munson can be reached at Randall@CreativelySpeaking.com or you can visit his web site at <http://www.CreativelySpeaking.com>.

Handout from Munson's presentation: "The Cost of Complexity"

In Summary

Follow Jackie's passionate instructional presentation with the extremely entertaining and educational presentation of Randall's, and you have a very exciting TUG MoM experience overall. It was also interesting to note that each speaker introduced the other, due to their years of working together and mutual respect and admiration. According to TUG President **Léo Lefebvre**, "This was the best meeting in more than 5 years and the best May meeting in at least 15 years!"



Randall Munson's session was sponsored by RJS Software Systems, Inc., a leading developer of iSeries/System i document management, report automation, and data integration software that allow businesses to improve productivity, make better decisions, and save money.

Vaughn Dragland



Rick Phillips, Francisco Caringal, and Jim Hilchey

Reviewers' Profiles

Rick Phillips has been in the IT field since 1984 specializing in IBM midrange systems since 1986. He is currently a Business Systems Analyst with Maple Leaf Foods within the Integration Competency Centre (ICC) which also focuses on Enterprise Application Integration (EAI). He can be reached at phillirb@mapleleaf.ca or by phone at 905-285-5669.

Francisco Caringal has been in the IT field since 1979 specializing in IBM midrange systems since 1981. He is currently a Development Team Leader with Maple Leaf Foods within the Integration Competency Centre (ICC) which also focuses on Enterprise Application Integration (EAI). He can be reached at caringfc@mapleleaf.ca or by phone at 905-285-5741.

Jim Hilchey has been working in the IT field specializing in IBM midrange systems since 1982 with 13 of those years as a consultant. He is currently the Manager of e-Business for Maple Leaf Foods with his team focusing on web development for the corporation. He can be reached at hilchejr@mapleleaf.ca or by phone at 905-285-5576.

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