

The 2007/08 season started a bit later than usual: October 3<sup>rd</sup>. But what a start it was! We could also say that this new season picked up where the previous one left off—with record breaking attendance—25% higher than the May 2007 MoM. That was just fantastic, especially when we know that **Dr. Frank Soltis** was doing his third presentation in 24 hours...and everywhere he presented, the audience loved him. (I was there for all three presentations.) The night before, COiN had a record crowd as well. Almost twice as big as their largest previous attendance.

In the morning, Soltis presented a tailored session to a promising new group of i5 enthusiasts, or future “iVangelists”, as **Kathy Gregson** would put it. Soltis spoke to an attentive crowd of 50 plus students and teachers of Seneca College (at York University Campus). As usual, it was a great presentation. At first, it looked like many of those students did not really know why they were there, but by the end, everybody was listening with attention as he brilliantly described the events that brought us the platform we all know and love, along with the stories behind the different “Power” levels (and their three year cycle.) And guess what? The students want to meet “Dr. Frank” again.

If you want a pictorial review of those three public presentations go to <http://www.tug.ca/PhotoGallery.html>.

So, you can see that we *are* off to a good start! And, believe it or not, we are already preparing our 15th annual TEC—to be held on April 22 – 24, 2008. The prognosis is great:

- “Power 6” has just been announced;
- Version 6 Release 1 of i5/OS will be announced sometime in February or March 2008 (just in time for the speakers to update their presentations to cover that release);
- DB/2 Web Query shipped September 14, 2007;
- PHP (native to i5/OS?); etc.

What a conference it’s going to be! Great topics, great speakers, great times to refresh those RPG skills and System i knowledge... And, you know what? “**Modernizing RPG and taking it to the Web – i.e. Web-browser**” is great and fun too—you need to learn how it can be done! And TEC 2008 is the way to start.

Speaking of “taking RPG to the web” reminds me of the discussion I had last week at the COMMON Focus in Columbus, Ohio, with another Director of COMMON. We believe that the word “Web” is often wrongly interpreted when referring to system applications. For most people, the word “Web” is interpreted as the outside world, the “Internet.” And they are right. It may scare away the newbies who are afraid of sending information over the Internet and do not understand that the information processed by those applications will never get outside the company.



Vaughn Dragland

Léo Lefebvre with Dr. Frank Soltis

The point is, in most of our day-to-day lives, we should change this Web “connotation” to simply “Web browser” or “Intranet” or something similar, where the “Web browser” acts like a simple (local) User Interface replacing the panels we all developed with good old DDS and SDA.

We do NOT need to connect to the Internet to benefit from “taking RPG to the Web.” We can develop slick, neat, productive applications where the U.I. is a Web browser and where the users would all be “local.” Do you have an idea how much your life would change? You would become an RPG “Web programmer” and your work would have a brand new meaning. You could add life to your (normally) green screens and users would have a renewed faith in their applications.

But, to get all that, you really need to understand how it works, how the applications come together. You may need to read books, take courses, and attend meetings on the subject. You also need to join us at TEC. You’ve been a programmer for many years. You know how to evaluate a project, develop solutions, and fix problems. Don’t you want to know something new, something interesting, something “out-of-this-world?” Modernizing your skills (RPG?), creating programs to run on “Web BROWSERS” is the way to go! **And YOU can do it!**

Don’t get left behind! Get the info! Get the education! Get going in a new world, on the best platform in the world which is here to stay... as Kathy Gregson sums up in her review of our last MoM: “[the] attendees left feeling secure in the knowledge that their beloved system has a future (whatever the name) and the future is bright.” Go for it, Go!

