

Fifteen in a Row

Another year, another conference! As in the previous fourteen years, we are again preparing for another TEC. And our fifteenth production promises to be great again. With all the changes that happened recently at IBM, and with all the announcements that were made, there is so much to be aware of... and a two or three day break in your work schedule to update yourself on those events could be your passport for a great future.

As soon as last year's TEC was over, IBM started its round of announcements and re-organizations, that at this date are still going on. These exciting hardware/software announcements included: DB2 for Web Query, the Power 6 processor (providing IBM the opportunity to converge the System i & p families into a single Power server family), i5/OS V6R1 (allowing the system to run on the existing JS22 blade), WDS*c* repackaged into smaller components, RDi, RDi SOA, and RBD. There were also some company reorganizations to move to a "client-centered structure – top to bottom".

All of those changes and announcements should really whet your appetite and push you to get more information and more training—just to stay abreast of all recent developments. So, guess what? TEC 2008 has been designed to give you a big push in that direction. Two full tracks have been reserved for the IBM Toronto Lab developers to show you the new toys you will want to get and play with. They will demonstrate what you can do with them. And, if you have the chance to stay for a third day, you will also be able to test drive some of them.

Dr Franken @ TEC 2008

Also this year, we put a bigger emphasis on system setup, operations and maintenance. Among our selection of superstar speakers is **Larry Bolhuis** (a.k.a. Dr Franken). Larry currently holds more than 30 IBM System i certifications, including Certified

Advanced Technical Expert, LPAR, Linux, Windows Integration, and System Design & Implementation. In addition to System i, Larry has extensive experience with Ethernet, Wireless, and TCP/IP networking. If you have any questions to ask about running your System i, Larry is the guy to ask. To see what Larry can do with an old System i and parts, I encourage you to check his website at www.frankeni.com. Larry is also a prolific contributor to the iSociety (www.isociety.org) and has his own "opinion-space" (read: BLOG) at www.angustheitchap.com/Angus/Bloghuis/Bloghuis.html.

Elections 2008

It appears that 2008 will be an election year in many countries. Who does not know about the Primaries in the USA? Who knows about possible elections in Canada? (Even the Canadian government itself doesn't seem to know.) But here at TUG there is no guessing. Every year is an election year. At least we try—and it is always during the same period of the year. Yes, the TUG 2008 election process runs between the months of March and May. I encourage you to think about what you could do for TUG—your users group. If you have some time to devote to TUG and your System i fellows, and have some ideas where TUG should be in the future, put your name down to become a TUG director. This year, five current directors will again have to ask the TUG members for their support. If you are "willing and able", or know someone who is—please call Wendé at the TUG office for a nomination form. If you want to talk about it a bit more in detail, you can always reach me by email or by phone. I would be glad to talk to you about what life is like as a TUG director. And guess what? You don't need to spend \$millions & \$millions to run for a seat on the TUG board.

Association Manager

As you may know the TUG Association Manager, **Wendé Boddy** is retiring at the end of April 2008. Wendé has been



Vaughn Dragland

(and continues to be) a great asset for the organization. But, as they say, every good thing must come to an end. We will certainly miss her for all the energy, enthusiasm, and time she put into the organization for at least 23 years. Yes, Wendé was a co-founder of the Toronto Users Group in 1985. She served as a director for six years before taking the Association Manager's position. Actually, Wendé is the only Association Manager that TUG ever had. She "carved" that position.

Anyway, time is passing and we have to look at the future. A committee has been formed to find a replacement for Wendé and it is nearing a decision. During that process, we made some changes in our operations and we are also changing some of our systems. As of January 1st, 2008 we hired an accounting firm to look after our day to day financials. We are now looking at re-designing our Web site and, at the same time, our database. More on that soon...

See you at MoM on March 19, and at TEC 2008 on April 22, 23, and 24. (Both events will be held at the Sheraton Parkway, Toronto North.)

And don't forget, consider becoming a director. TUG needs your help! 