



By Glenn Gundermann

When IBM announced that V6R1 was going to be available March 21, we knew it would be a hot topic. We also knew we needed some real experts to go over the most relevant information at our MoM. And so we did. We invited **Barry Pow** and **Barbara Morris**, both from IBM.

It was really tough writing this MoM Review. There is so much useful information that I can't do any justice with either of tonight's topics unless I publish both handouts. Hopefully you were present to hear these great speakers and were able to receive a handout. If not, check our web site www.tug.ca to download a copy.

Whether your shop is ready to go to V6R1 tomorrow or not, you should be ready! Below are just a few highlights.

Barry Pow – System i 1Q 2008 Announcement Overview

Barry Pow is the System i Power Systems Platform Lead and System i Product Manager in the Systems and Technology Group (STG) of IBM Canada. Barry has spoken in front of our group before and it was nice to see him again.

Barry's message was how to...

- Maximize return on your IT investments
- Improve responsiveness of systems & people
- Drive innovation with technology advancements.

IBM Systems Director Navigator for i5/OS is the new systems management tool and is a new web-based tool for managing i5/OS and an alternative to iSeries Navigator.

New Java and Web Services Technology includes the IBM 64-bit Java Virtual Machine, which has an improved performance over Classic JVM, the integrated Web Application Server, and the Integrated Web services environment.

Java & WebSphere Performance Improvements are primarily in JDBC (68% improvement using Native JDBC and 78% improvement using the Toolbox JDBC compared to V5R4), as well as DB2 for i5/OS, and Java.

The new Performance Investigator Tool comes included in i5/OS V6R1.

DB2 for i5/OS Enhancements include:

- New functions – full outer join, VALUES in FROM, decimal floating point, and more
- Performance improvements – more queries will take advantage of the new SQL Query Engine (SQE)
- Enhancement to On Demand Performance Center

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- Full text document searching through DB2, using the OmniFind Text Search Server (5733-OMF), capable of searching documents (e.g. Word, PowerPoint) stored in a DB2 column.

DB2 Web Query enhancement includes a new flexible pricing option, which can significantly reduce prices with a large number of run-time users.

Other enhancements include several System i Access enhancements; IBM Transform Services for i5/OS, which delivers Adobe PDF output support to i5/OS applications; faster IPL; network install of Cumes and Licensed Program Products; i5/OS V6R1 shipping on DVD media; the high availability solutions manager; enhancements for BRMS, security, SAN, i5/OS virtual storage enhancements; Blade Center, plus more.

There was quite a lot on the Rational announcement highlights. IBM repackaged all of the compilers and tools in order for customers to buy just what they want and for IBM to be able put the resources where needed the most. Just when you've learned ➔

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Barry Pow





Barbara Morris

to say WDSC three times fast, it's now called Rational Development for System i, or RD*i* for short.

Barbara Morris - What's New for RPG in V6R1?

Barbara Morris is the lead developer for the WDS compilers in the IBM Toronto Lab and has been working on the RPG compilers since she started at IBM in 1989, working first on enhancements for RPG in V2R1: ENDIF/ENDDO, and *ON/*OFF. Her more recent RPG enhancements have included qualified names, Java support, and XML support.

I could listen to Barbara forever. I like people who know what they're talking about and Barbara is one of those people. She talks fast and this is the way I like it because you can cover a whole lot more information this way. Any time you have a question, you just ask it and she will go over it in more detail and as slow as you need. And I did ask my questions. When Barbara asked everyone how much time she still had, I quickly replied "as long as you want!". It was a great technical session. I think for the most part that the people that come to the MoMs the most are RPG programmers,

although I don't recall ever seeing anything to back this up. I'm all for Web applications, having taken several WDSC courses and the IBM EGL course, but I love my RPG. I guess because I still have so much to learn.

One of the great things about this V6R1 presentation was the fact Barbara went back and reviewed from V5R2 on. There have been so many enhancements over the years and a lot people are still not using them all.

If you've ever opened up the IBM RPG reference manual, you will see it contains a list such as this in the front. I haven't listed the V5R2 - V5R4 enhancements here so I encourage you to take a close look at Barbara's handout as well as the manuals today.

- V6R1 highlights include:
- TEMPLATE definitions
- Data structure type definitions
- Declare files in subprocedures
- Pass files as parameters between procedures and programs
- No more compile-time override
- Define huge variables - no more 64K limit
- Define huge arrays - no more 32767 limit
- Run in multiple threads
- Qualified record formats
- LIKEFILE keyword
- MAIN without cycle
- Relaxed UCS-2 rules
- And more...

Léo Lefebvre



TUG Meeting of Members, March 19, 2008, Sheraton Parkway Toronto North, Richmond Hill



In closing, I hope you enjoyed the MoM, and if you weren't there, all I can say is, "You should have been there!"

Please let us know if you'd like to volunteer to write a future MoM Review.

See you at the next meeting!



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The 5th Wave By Rich Tennant



"Hey - let's put scanned photos of ourselves through a ripple filter and see if we can make ourselves look wierd."