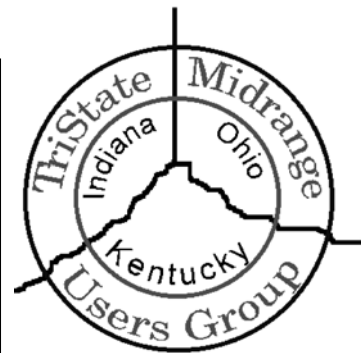


TSM Voice

Volume 10, Issue I

September 2002



September Meeting Information:

Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Where: Montgomery Inn, Boathouse
925 Eastern Ave. (Pete Rose Way)
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-721-7427

Time: 5:30 to 6:30 Networking
6:30 to 7:30 Dinner
7:30 to 8:30 Meeting

Cost: \$ 27.50 Members,
\$ 35.00 Non-members
\$ 5.00 Meeting Only

All last year members will receive the member cost at this meeting.

Topic: eFacing your iSeries Applications

Learn how to eBusiness your legacy iSeries applications using technologies such as Websphere and DB2 everplace.

Speaker: Darrin Nelson
Vice President of eDevelopment,
NetSetGo, Inc.

Reservations required, before noon, September 1, 2002 by calling 513-357-6173. To cancel, you must notify us 24 hours before the meeting or you will be billed the meeting fee.

**** Door Prizes ****

A Message from TSMUG Secretary, Sue Clement... Mark Your Calendars

2002 Kickoff Meeting

Don't miss the excitement. Our first meeting of the year is at Montgomery Inn at the Boathouse. The Board of Directors has been busy meeting all over town this summer, checking out the menus and verifying room accommodations.

The Vendor Show

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 14, 2003. Our vendor show will be at the Montgomery Inn Banquet Center (formerly the Gregory Center). Expect interesting and educational vendor information, speakers, as well as Montgomery Inn ribs.

We are looking for volunteers to help. Contact a Board member to see what you can do. No job is too large or too small.

The Year Ahead

Our next meeting for the year will be at Jillian's in Covington, Ky on Tuesday, November 12, 2002. You will notice that we are scheduling meetings for different nights of the week to help those who had a conflict with Thursday. Also, we are moving the meetings around town to add variety.

At Jillian's we will have fun as well as great food at the Groove Shack in Jillian's Tower. Our January and March meetings will also be in fun, new locations or if we hear really good feedback, we may make a return visit. Let us know.

Hope to see you soon!

Easy Way to Copy a Report to the PC

By Nancy Chance

How many times have you wished for a simple way to copy a Spool File from an iSeries output queue directly to your PC? Well my friends, the day has arrived where our beloved system can now perform these tasks without the help of a programming tool bag. Using V5R1 Client Access Express iSeries Navigator (Operations Navigator) and Notepad on your PC, you can now do this very thing following these steps.

To use this technique, you must be running your iSeries host servers. To start your host servers, use command STRHOSTSVR (*ALL). You must also have Client Access Express with the OpsNav component installed on your PC.

First, you must set the font appearance in Notepad to a fixed width font and a font size that will accommodate the number of columns on the reports you wish to copy. I use the font Courier New, with a font size of 8 for reports with 132 columns and a font size of 5 (you must type this value) for reports with 198 columns. Once you set the font appearance in Notepad, it will apply to each file opened in Notepad from then on, until the settings are changed.

Next, create a folder on your PC desktop named 'AS 400 Rpts' for storing the reports you copy. You can also copy reports directly to the desktop.

Now you're ready to copy away! Just follow these steps:

- Open OpsNav and expand the folder corresponding to the system where your iSeries reports reside.
- If prompted, log on the system.
- Expand Basic Operations and click Printer Output. The system will now build a list of spool files (command WRKSPLF).
- Select the spool file you wish to copy.
- Resize the OpsNav window so you can see your AS 400 Rpts folder on the desktop.
- Drag the selected spool file from the OpsNav window and drop it on the AS 400 Rpts folder. You can also use right-click on your mouse and cut, copy, paste, etc.
- Once the file is copied, open the AS 400 Rpts folder and the copied file will be listed there. The file will be in plain text format.
- To view the file, you can open it in Notepad (I do this to check the formatting of different reports) or in any other program that can use the plain text format (email, word processing pgms, excel, etc.)

OpsNav and System Values

By Nancy Chance

Did you know that OS/400 V5R1 has 138 unique system values? The iSeries has a lot more values since the days of the S/38, but well worth the price of maintaining given the abilities today.

On the green screen, system values are categorized into 8 types of values: *EDT, *ALC, *DATTIM, *LIBL, *MSG, *SEC, *SYSCTL and *STG.

There are 7 system values that can only be accessed via the green screen. They are:

- QADLSPLA
- QBOOKPATH
- QCENTURY
- QJOBMSGQSIZ
- QJOBMSGQTL
- QPRCMLTTSK
- QPWDVLDPGM.

In OpsNav, Management Central is the main navigation window. System values are listed in the Configuration and Service folder. Values are then grouped into 16 categories: Auditing, Date and Time, Devices, International, Jobs, Library Lists, Messages and Service, Passwords, Performance, Power Control, Printing, Restart, Security, Sign-on, Storage and System Control.

The GUI display does not display the 'Qvalue' of the setting (i.e. QTIME). To view this, press the ? in the lower right corner of the screen then click the setting.

On the IBM iSeries Nation web site they have a System Value Finder tool. The web site is:

<http://www-1.ibm.com/servers/eserver/audience/Homepage.wss?view=ination>

iSeries Event Calendar

TSMUG members are also members of the COMMON users group and receive discounts at conferences. If you are a member and plan to attend the COMMON conference, contact Mike Riemen (MPRiemen@IX.netcom.com) before you register to get our group membership#.

- COMMON Fall 2002 IT Education Conference & Expo, October 13 – 17, 2002, Denver, Colorado
- IBM iSeries Technical Conference, October 28 – November 1, 2002, Miami Beach, Florida

RPG IV Style, with V5

By Nancy Chance

In the February 2002 issue of iSeries News, Bryan Meyers reviews RPG IV's programming practices in light of changes with V5. Version 5 brings with it free form calculation specs, new built-in functions, improved facilities for error handling, a new comment syntax and more. With all these changes, it is probably a good time to review programming style standards. Here are some of the suggestions from the article.

Use comments judiciously

- Use comments to clarify, not echo your code
- Always include a brief summary at the beginning of a program or procedure.
- Use consistent "marker line" comments to divide major sections of code.
- Use blank lines to group related source lines and make them stand out.
- Avoid right-handed "end-line" comments

Centralize Declarations using D-specs

- Declare all variables within D-specs
- Whenever a literal has a specific meaning, declare it as a named constant.
- Indent data item names to improve readability and document data structures.
- Use length notation instead of positional notation in data structure declarations.
- If your program uses compile-time arrays, use the **CTDATA form to identify the compile-time data.

Expanding Naming Conventions

- When naming an item, be sure the name fully and accurately describes the item.
- When coding an RPG symbolic name, use mixed case to clarify the named item's meaning and use.
- Avoid using special characters (e.g., @, #, \$) when naming items.

Write Indicator-less Code

- Use indicators as sparingly as possible; go out of your way to eliminate them.
- If you must use indicators, name them.
- Use the EVAL opcode with *INxx and *ON or *OFF to set the state of indicators.
- Use indicators only in close proximity to the point where your program sets their condition.
- Don't use conditioning indicators – ever.

- Include a description of any indicators used.

Structured Programming Techniques

- Use free-form expressions (or EVAL) wherever possible.
- Banish IFxx, DOUxx, DOWxx, and WHxx from your code forever. Use IF, DOU, DOW, FOR, WHEN.
- Don't use GOTO, CABxx, or COMP.
- Perform multi-path comparisons with SELECT/WHEN/OTHER/ENDSL.
- Always qualify END opcodes.
- Avoid programming tricks and hidden code.

Modular Programming Techniques

- Use RPG IV's prototyping capabilities to define parameters and procedure interfaces.
- Store prototypes in /COPY members.
- Include constant declarations for a module in the same /COPY member as the prototypes for that module.
- Use IMPORT and EXPORT only for global data items.

Character String Manipulation

- Use a named constant to declare a string constant instead of storing it in an array or table.
- Avoid using arrays and data structures to manipulate character strings and text.
- Use EVAL's free-form assignment expressions whenever possible for string manipulation.
- Use variable-length fields to simplify string handling.

Avoid Obsolescence

- Don't sequence program line numbers in columns 1 – 5.
- Avoid program described files.
- If an opcode offers a free-format syntax, use it instead of the fixed format version.
- If a BIF offers the same function as an opcode, use the BIF instead.
- Use the date operations on dates.
- Shun obsolete opcodes – CALL, CALLB, DEBUG, DSPLY, FREE, PARM, PLIST

Miscellaneous Guidelines

- In all specs that support keywords, observe a one-keyword-per-line limit.
- Relegate mysterious code to a well-documented, well-named procedure.

TriState Midrange Board of Directors

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Secretary: Sue Clement, Synapse Corp, synapse@one.net

Treasurer: Paul Musselman, General Cable Corp,
pmusselman@generalcable.com

TSMUG gets new Board member: Mike Riemen joined the TSMUG Board of Directors in July, as our Vice President of Membership. Our membership drive for 2002 – 2003 is currently in progress, look for our Membership Application inside this newsletter.