



TSM Voice

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March 2004

The Affordable Commerce Solution from IBM, costing 40% less than Microsoft

Our speaker for the month of March will be Mr. Willam A. Holtshouser of IBM . Bill has 20 years of development and marketing experience in the high tech industry. He joined IBM Corporation in 1983 with a B.S. degree in Computer Science from Syracuse University, and in 1998 received his MBA from Duke University. For ten years Bill worked in IBM's Enterprise Systems division where he was a software developer and later managed a VLSI chip design automation programming team.

Bill joined the IBM Software Group in 2001. In his current assignment he is responsible for all aspects of IBM's e-commerce offerings to the Small-Medium Business (SMB) market segment. He recently brought to market IBM WebSphere Commerce – Express, an affordable e-commerce solution designed especially for mid-market customers and the business partners who serve them.

Bill is married with three children and resides in Cary, North Carolina, USA.

March Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Time: 5:30 – 6:30 Networking
6:30 – 7:30 Dinner
7:30 – 9:00 Meeting

Place: Four Points Sheraton
8020 Montgomery Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45236

Topic: The Affordable Commerce
Solution from IBM, costing
40% less than Microsoft

Cost: (includes coffee, tea, milk & dessert)
\$ 27.50 Members
\$ 35.00 Non-members
\$ 5.00 Meeting only

**Reservations required, before noon, Friday,
March 12, 2004 by calling 513-357-6173 or
send an email with your company name, phone
number and each attendee's name to
tsmug@tsmug.org.**

No cancellation after above date and time.

**See our web page for directions via MapQuest,
www.tsmug.org/meetings.html**

President's Corner

David W. Corfman, CCP

“2003 was a great year for the iSeries” –
IBM

Did you see the announcements from IBM about how the iSeries revenue has grown 12 percent last year, comparing the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2002? That pales in comparison to the revenue increase at some of the iSeries vendors. 2004 is looking like an even better year for the IT industry in general and the iSeries specifically.

After two meeting topics on WebSphere and associated development products, our January meeting's presentation was on the future trends of IT, with special references to the iSeries. The March meeting will be on WebSphere Commerce. I assure you we aren't turning into a WebSphere user group, but this is another relevant topic to us.

It's not too early to consider serving on the Board of Directors. The time commitment is reasonable, and you will be doing a great service to our iSeries community. Think of it as simply “taking your turn” leading the group. Contact me at CorfmanD@tsmug.org to volunteer or to nominate someone you know.

See you at the meetings!

Common Spring 2004 Conference

Register for the Spring 2004 Conference & Expo before April 6 to enjoy Early Bird savings.

<http://www.common.org/registration02.html>

January Meeting Review

It was great night at the Montgomery Inn Restaurant for our January meeting of TSMUG. Another excellent turnout of about 50 people heard Jeff Welsh from STAR BASE Consulting give a presentation titled, “5 Future Technologies.” Originally titled, “5 Future iSeries Technologies,” Jeff changed the title to reflect how the future of the iSeries is similar to other platforms.

Jeff gleaned this information from Dr. Frank Soltis (AS/400 chief architect), as well as other IBM and industry sources. In reverse order of impact and importance, the following are Jeff's Top 5 Future Technologies:

#5. Hardware Independence – The AS/400 has evolved through microcode, vertical microcode, Technology Independent Machine Interface (TIMI), to the current System Licensed Internal Code (SLIC), which is running on the iSeries today. Hardware Independence will reach a level where the operating system will be running in what is called a Virtual Machine. Hey, isn't that what Java is running in already?

#4. Objects – Help simplify rapidly changing technology through abstraction. IBM created a machine in the early 80s designed to do that, but it was just twenty years ahead of its time.

#3. Single Level Store – This technology allows for direct addressability, and is the most undeveloped technology out there. Although already in place in the AS/400 years ago, this allows for the integration of Unix and Linux on the iSeries today. Also watch for AIX to be available on the iSeries later this summer.

On a related hardware note, you may see 64 processors on high-end iSeries later this year, allowing for up to 256 LPARs. Now that's a lot of server consolidation!

#2. 128-bit Chip Architecture – This may come as early as 2007 and be introduced in the iSeries by the end of the decade. The iSeries is 128 bit capable today! The 64-bit Power PC chip has been around since 1993, and was in the AS/400 in 1996. The Winders OS is trying desperately to catch up, and is expected to have full support for the 64-bit Intel chip by 2007.

The AS/400 started as a 32-bit chip on a 48-bit bus. The 64-bit chip was introduced in 1996 and the 128-bit chip is expected in 2010. Jeff's chart showed the life span of each iteration of chip is getting progressively longer, so none of us may be programming by the time the 256-bit chip is introduced.

#1. The top future technology is Integrated Design. Imagine an operating system that integrates Security, Database, Communications, and a Base OS. None of us have to try hard to imagine it – we call it an iSeries! Well, Microsoft is touting it as the latest, greatest version of the Winders OS family, codenamed Longhorn. While we can snicker at the association of “security” with anything Microsoft, the folks in

Redmond think this solution is groundbreaking.

This OS approach allows for hardware independence, so perhaps we will see Winders moving away from Intel? This can also provide for a Single Level Store (see #3), as well as possibly skip the 64-bit chip architecture and jump straight to 128-bit (see #2).

How will IBM counter Longhorn? More important, how will YOU respond? We need to continue being cheerleaders of our beloved iSeries platform within our companies, making sure the word gets out that the iSeries is not just some proprietary green-screen platform. It already has the future technologies built in today.

Thanks to Jeff Welsh for another excellent presentation, and for all the STAR BASE Consulting giveaways.

IBM iSeries Technical Conference

Exploit the iSeries Advantage with new tools for managing e-business, application flexibility and innovative technology.
New Orleans, LA, June 14-18, 2004.

<http://www-1.ibm.com/servers/eserver/series/nation>

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