



TSM Voice

Volume 12, Issue I

September 2004

Time for the 21st Century RPG **“No More Excuses”**

This topic is sure to promote audience participation, as we cover the often sensitive issue of complacency in AS/400 shops, most notably with RPG development. Join us as we span 25 years of RPG III development dating back to the early days of the System/38, in three phases:

'Excuses are like paper bags - they don't hold water, but they make great masks.'

In this segment we dissect some of the many reasons (excuses) used by AS/400 professionals at every level to avoid embracing RPG's evolution. There is certain to be some laughter, and maybe just a little soul searching, too.

'We may live long, but do we prosper?'

In this segment we compare the fortunes and misfortunes of two AS/400 RPG developers whose careers are headed in different directions. One uses the latest programming methods and architectures delivered by IBM during the past decade, including those introduced in V5R2. The other approaches business challenges the same way he did when Carter was still President. Then, disaster strikes. Stay tuned.

September Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2004

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

Place: Montgomery Inn
Ribs King
9440 Montgomery Road
Montgomery, OH 45242
513.791.3482

Topic: Time for the 21st Century RPG – “No more excuses”

Cost: (includes coffee, tea, milk)
\$ 27.50 Members
\$ 40.00 Non-members
\$ 5.00 Meeting only

Reservations required, before noon, Monday, September 6, 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

'Lay in a course for the Undiscovered Country.'

In this segment we discuss realistic ways to move forward. IBM is moving at warp with Websphere, while an RPG professional's best hope is to proceed at impulse. We lay out a game plan for sure and steady progress in both RPG/IV development and ILE modeling.

Our speaker is Christopher Burns, an IBM AS400/iSeries Certified Professional.

Chris is an 18-year veteran in the IBM midrange area, and in his 8th year with GEMKO. Besides vast programming expertise in RPG, CL and database, Chris also specializes in AS400/iSeries networking and web enablement, including Net.Data, HATS and Apache. His 2000 development of the Supply Chain Connection product provided a low-end footprint for business to enter the e-business community without a major investment. More recently, he has launched a six track hands-on workshop for RPG developers, known as 21st Century RPG. Chris perpetually researches the latest RPG, Internet and iSeries technologies and in turn provides consulting and training for users and IT personnel at all levels. Chris is an avid speaker at the Midrange Users Group of WNY and has presented to the Central New York 400 Users Group. Chris has also spoken at the 2002 and 2003 COMMON Conference, on both RPG and Net.Data topics.

President's Corner

David W. Corfman, CCP

Welcome back from a nice, not-too-hot summer! Our September speaker will present a topic always too close to our heart: complacency in iSeries shops and our professions. It's sure to make you aware if you are in a rut at work.

It is time for renewing your TSMUG membership again. Please fill out the enclosed membership form and sign up for another year of great topics, fine menus, and excellent networking with fellow iSeries professionals. Your membership dollars are vital for supporting the organization and bringing in speakers to our meetings. Please have your company sign up in time for our November Member of the Year drawing.

TSMUG was featured in COMMON Connect magazine this summer! It is being reprinted by permission in our newsletter. We thank COMMON for the attention, and always appreciate the partnership we have with them. As TSMUG members, you can attend COMMON at their member rate.

There are two positions available on our Board of Directors: Secretary and Executive VP. Please see any board member if you are interested in serving the iSeries community here in Cincinnati. We can do so much more as a group to promote our favorite platform if we all share in the effort.

I am looking forward to TSMUG's twelfth year - let's make it a great one!

Finding iSeries Tips on the Internet

Kim Anderson

Just so you know where I'm coming from, I am a long-standing believer in the power of the iSeries platform as a business-class workhorse. I've done some RPG programming and program design, but mostly I've been a hands-on manager in small IT shops. So that means there are plenty of occasions when there isn't anyone but me to try to do the problem solving.

I have a few good reference books, and some notes, but then again I am always in front of my PC. Why not look for good tips on the Internet? My experience has been both good and bad, but it doesn't stop me from expecting to find answers. I don't want to keep notes that will go out of date, or books that will cost a bundle and then gather dust.

As an example, I attempt a file transfer and get a CPF2845 error. Sorry, that's not an error message that I have memorized. (It relates to errors in copying stream files, I think.) I can get an explanation on the iSeries for what it means, but nothing about HOW DO I FIX THIS SO I CAN GET ON WITH MY JOB. If I go to Google and type in CPF2845 into the search tool, I get a reference to an IBM PTF, a page in German, a few pages in Japanese, a suggestion that I go to www.midrange.com.

I go to midrange.com, type in CPF2845 in the search tool, and I get nothing. I could tell more stories like this, but I do sometimes find good answers from the above site, and also from places like www.iseriesnetwork.com, www.tnt400.com or even that scary place www.redbooks.ibm.com. I have noticed a trend, however, that some sites want to start charging fees, and make you a dues-paying member, before you get any answers.

How about some reader feedback here? (Please don't answer my file copy question.) Do you know of any great Internet sites with free iSeries tips? Am I being a cheapskate for wanting tips for free? If I get any responses, we'll put them in a future TSMUG issue.

Kim Anderson
education@tsmug.org

Member of the Year !!!

At our November meeting, we will draw one (1) name from all applications accepted. One person will win free TSMUG dinner meetings for the year. That includes January, March, and September of 2005.

To be eligible, submit your application with payment prior to the November meeting.

TriState Midrange Board of Directors

President: David Corfman, PCMS Datafit, President@tsmug.org

Executive Vice President: Open, VP@tsmug.org

Vice President of Education: Kim Anderson, Profill Holdings, Education@tsmug.org

Vice President of Membership: Mark Douyere, General Revenue, Membership@tsmug.org

Secretary: Open, Secretary@tsmug.org

Treasurer: Jeff Welsh, STAR BASE Consulting, Treasurer@tsmug.org

Direct newsletter correspondence to tsmug@tsmug.org