

# IBM MIDRANGE USER GROUP

## December 1995 Newsletter

### December Meeting



Our Annual Christmas Luncheon will be held at **11:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 13th, 1995** at the **Riverboat**, 4393 South Riverboat Road, Murray Utah.

A paid membership entitles two people to come to the luncheon free of charge. Any additional guests will be charged \$15.00

per person at the door.

Our speaker for the Christmas Luncheon will be **Mary Lavern** from Seattle, Washington. Mary is the IBM AS/400 brand manager for the Western Area. She is going to talk about exciting things customers are doing with AS/400s on the West Coast and throughout the area including Client/Server, Data Warehousing, network-centric computing, web servers, etc. She is IBM's interface for accounts such as Disney, Countrywide Insurance, Nintendo, Sega, and other large customers doing leading-edge applications with AS/400s. She will also talk about IBM's plans for the AS/400 of the future.

We are looking for donations that can be given away as prizes at the meeting. If your company would like to provide a prize please contact Steve Walker at 264-1442.

We will need to give the Riverboat a count of how many people we are expecting to attend. **So please RSVP to a member of the board by noon on December 6th.**

### November Meeting Highlights

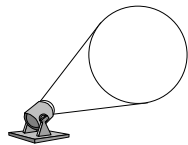
Bruce Chapple of **SMS Health Systems, Inc.** was the speaker for our November Meeting. Enhancements to the AS/400 database in V3R1 was the topic of discussion. Bruce gave an excellent presentation on how triggers, stored procedures, and referential integrity may be used to insure data integrity and to reduce programming time. Group members were given good examples of how these new tools may be implemented.

Bruce has been a long-time member of our user's group, and we appreciate his willingness to share what he has learned with us.

### Member Spotlight

Our member spotlight this month will focus on Jerry Ropelato, president of **Vitrex Corporation**. Jerry graduated from Weber State

University with a Bachelor of Science degree and has worked in this industry for over 15 years. His past experience includes independent consulting, manager of system development at IOMEGA, instructor at Weber State University and the Davis/Weber Applied Technology Center and as senior programmer/analyst for the Corporation of the President.



He lives in Huntsville, Utah and loves it there. He is married and has 4 children with 2 in high school. His interests besides computers includes all sports, especially basketball and football. He says he enjoys See Food, that is, anything he sees on a plate! He enjoys reading books like *The Firm* or any John Grisham or Tom Clancy books. His favorite movie is *The Fugitive*.

**Company** - Jerry is the founder of **Vitrex Corporation**. What started out as a small consulting firm has grown to 30+ employees with plans for continued growth over the next few years. Vitrex is located in Ogden, Utah and has been in business for 4½ years. Vitrex specializes in system design and consulting in the areas of the AS/400, PCs and networking. The company also provides training courses for popular software packages. They are also an Authorized AT&T Training Center and a Microsoft Solution Provider.

**Hardware** - Being a consulting firm, Vitrex doesn't necessarily have an MIS Department. But they do have computer systems they use for training, software development and to run their own business. They have an IBM AS/400, Windows NT Server, Novell Network, 54 PCs and 16 computer terminals.

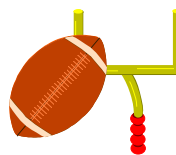
**Software** - The software tools used by this company are extensive and include Delphi, Visual Basic, Lotus Notes, Oracle, PowerBuilder, Synon, ILE, ODBC, Rumba, NetSoft, OS/2, and Windows 95. Jerry stated that his company has developed three software packages: 1. Sales and Marketing Software in Delphi, 2. I.Q. Quest (Pascal) and 3. Student Management System.

**Successes** - When asked about a few successes Jerry was particularly pleased with he mentioned two. The first was establishing a client base of 60+ companies, several of which are Fortune 100 companies. The second was his company's ability to attract employees of such high caliber and expertise.

**Biggest Challenge** - Jerry feels his biggest challenge facing him in the future is being able to manage the growth of his company.

We appreciate Jerry Ropelato for letting us spotlight him and his company in this month's newsletter and wish him success in his ventures. He can be reached at 801-393-0008.

### Humor Department



An MIT student spent an entire summer going to the Harvard football field every day wearing a black and white striped shirt, walking up and down the field for ten or fifteen minutes throwing birdseed all over the field, blowing a whistle and then walking off the field. At the end of the summer, it came time for the first Harvard home football game. The referee walked onto the field and blew the whistle and the game had to be delayed for a half hour to wait for the birds to get off of the field. The guy wrote his thesis on this, and graduated.

## IBM Corner

### Client Access:

There is a lot of Client Access information which is now available via IBM FAX. These include frequently asked questions and tips and techniques.

To access this information, call the IBM FAX service at 1-800-IBM-4FAX and reference the following FAX numbers:

- Document 4954 - Index of information available
- Document 4929 - Optimized CA/400 for OS/2 PTF list
- Document 4930 - V3R1M1 Information Index
- Document 4931 - V3R1M1 Windows Client Access tips
- Document 4933 - CA/400 Optimized for OS/2 Refresh PTFs and tips.
- Document 4934 - LanServer/400 Common Problems and Solutions.
- Document 4935 - PTF Listing for QSERVER subsystem
- Document 4938 - V3R1M1 Windows 3.1 Client known problems.
- Document 4939 - RUMBA/400 Facts and Fixes

### Microsoft SNA Server:

I've had several questions about SNA Server and whether that is a good alternative to NetWare for SAA or direct connect options. There is some new benchmark information available. If you would like me to send you a copy, please leave me a message at IBM at 328-6817.

Thanks,  
Robin Van Wagenen  
AS/400 Specialist

## Calendar of Events

### December 4-6

#### AS/400 Advanced Operator

Training - A 3 day course taught in the Salt Lake City IBM offices. To enroll in this class call 1-800-IBM-TEACH.

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### December 13

IBM Midrange User Group Annual Christmas Luncheon held at 11:30 a.m. at the Riverboat. See details at the beginning of this newsletter.

### December 13

Utah Computer Society (Blue Chips) monthly meeting held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the U of U Engineering classroom building, room 104. For more information call 521-7830.

### December 20

Monthly meeting of the Midrange Programmers Association (MPA) held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the HBA fifth floor conference room, 5295 South Commerce Drive, Murray. For more information call Ken Duke at 284-6555.

## AS/400 Tips and Techniques

**Q: I'm looking for a way to prevent messages issued with the SNDBRKMSG (Send Break Message) command from interrupting work at a specific display station. I've looked at the CHGDEV DSP (Change Device Description for Displays) and CHGMSGQ (Change Message Queue) commands, but I haven't come up with a solution yet. Can you help?**

**A:** You can prevent break messages from interrupting work at a display station by having the workstation message queue use a break message handling program. The CL Programmer's Guide (SC41-8077-01) describes break message handling programs.

As strange as it may seem, CHGMSGQ DELIVERY(\*HOLD) won't prevent messages issued by SNDBRKMSG from breaking in. But a break message handling program intercepts all messages sent to the message queue and determines, based upon each message's importance, whether to display it.

Another method is to issue from the appropriate display station the CHGJOB (Change Job) command with BRKMSG(\*HOLD). This command disables all break-handling functions for incoming messages, even if you have a break-handling program. You won't get any messages interrupting your work, no matter how important. Obviously, you should use this option with caution, or you might miss an important message.

*Compliments of NEWS/400 magazine. For subscription information, call (800) 621-1544.*

## User Group 1995-1996 Officers

President	Steve Walker Abbott Critical Care Systems (801) 264-1442
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