August 1996 Newsletter

August Meeting

Last month **Gerald Nichols** of *Vitrex Corporation* introduced us to ILE RPG. This month he will expand the topic by teaching us about the **Integrated Language Environment (ILE)** of which ILE RPG is only a part. ILE is a new programming environment that includes the new ILE family of compilers. That family includes ILE RPG/400, ILE COBOL/400, ILE C/400, and ILE CL.

ILE offers many benefits over previous program models. Those benefits include binding, modularity, reusable components, common run-time services, coexistence, and a source debugger. They also include better control over resources, better control over language interactions, better code optimization, a better environment for C, and a foundation for the future.

Gerald will delve into the mysteries of ILE to help us understand how this new programming environment will help us improve our application development.

Our meeting this month will be held on **Wednesday, August 14th at 11:00 a.m. at the Murray City Offices (City Council Chambers), 5025 South State Street.**

July Meeting Highlights

As mentioned above, Gerald Nichols introduced us to **ILE RPG** in our July meeting. He did a great job teaching us what was new with RPG and wetting our appetites to begin using it. The new RPG has much to offer over the old RPG. You may wonder why we need a new RPG in the first place. Some of the reasons are:

- **Reformat and simplify the RPG specs**
- **Raise or remove language limits**
- **Add new features**
- **Improve existing features**
- **Allow RPG into the ILE world**
- **Position for future changes**

Some of the key changes made to the language are:

1. **Wider columns for new limits**
2. **Keyword notations**
3. **Limited free-format specs**
4. **New Definitions (D) specifications**
5. **Support for new DATE and TIME data types**
6. **Pointer support**
7. **New built in functions**
8. **Names 10 characters long**
9. **Larger numbers (30 decimal places)**
10. **Larger arrays (32767 elements)**
11. **Mixed case characters for readability**
12. **Underscore (_) allowed in field names**
13. **Blank lines allowed**

Gerald explained many of the new features of the Header Specification, File Specification, Definition Specification, Input Specification, and Calculation Specification. He also discussed what it takes to migrate from RPG III to RPG IV and what is coming in the future of RPG.

Our thanks go to Gerald for a job well done. He was well prepared and knew his stuff. And to our surprise the mild mannered Mr. Nichols showed us he has a sense of humor too! Thanks.

Humor Department

See the last page of this newsletter for the "Welcome to Utah" piece featuring the joys of traveling on Utah highways.

User Group Member Featured in Midrange Computing

One of our own user group members, **Dale Simpson**, was featured in the July issue of *Midrange Computing* magazine. Dale is the MIS manager of **LDS Foundation** which works in support of Brigham Young University (BYU) to solicit contributions from the university's alumni. The two page article, found on pages 18-19, described Dale's positive experience with migrating from an AS/400 E50 to the new AS/400 Advanced Server 50S.

The article begins, "Dale Simpson was no longer fully satisfied with his AS/400 E50. For one thing, he fretted about the 700,000-entry database that was straining the system's capacities. The database, he knew, was like a perpetual adolescent -- it would do nothing but grow. The

system was like a pair of shoes that fit last year but were now pinching his users.

"...Simpson, however, is a calm, seasoned professional, and with professional calmness, he determined to make a change. As a former programmer, analyst, systems engineer, teacher, and currently manager of MIS, Simpson knew that migrations weren't necessarily bad. "

The article goes on to describe Dale's migration experience to the new Advanced Server. It was good to read about someone from our own user group. If you haven't read the article, well, you should!

IBM Corner

New Offering: IBM "Web Server in a box". Model 20S and everything you need to get started on the internet!

New Promotion: Substantial discount on second AS/400 installed with a High Availability solution such as MIMIX or OMS.

New Promotion: There are some great packages and services credit to install an AS/400 Data Warehousing solution. Call Robin for details - 328-6817.

NT Client Access Beta Code is available off the internet at http://www.as400.ibm.com/client/cahome.htm

AS/400 Fall Technical Conference - Sept. 8-12 - Anaheim, Calif. Call 1-800-IBM-TEACH and ask for conferences, or Internet: conf@tucvm2.vnet.ibm.com

Client Access for Windows '95 Service Paks are available. Call SupportLine for information.
> V3R1 - 7/30/96
> V3R2 - 7/11/96
> V3R6 - 8/6/96

Fall COMMON will be held in Atlanta - October 20-25.

New Redbook: **Inside Client Access for Windows '95** - SG24-4748. Call IBM Publications at 1-800-879-2755, option 5 to order or for more information.

New Class: **Lotus Notes on AS/400** in Rochester, Minnesota. 3 days for $1200. 8/13-15, 9/17-19, 11/19-21, 12/17-19. Call 1-800-365-4IBM x400 for information.

New Computer-Based Training Courses - $395 each or all three for $995:
> Security and Planning
> Work Management and Basic Tuning
> AS/400 Availability and Recovery Management

Call 1-800-IBM-TEACH xCBT for more information.

IBM Teleconferences - Call 1-800-289-0579 to enroll.
> Client Access for OS/400 Update - Aug. 8

> Wireless LANs - Aug. 29
> Gartner Group on the AS/400 - Aug. 27

Salt Lake City Classes
> AS/400 System Operator Workshop - 8/19-21 $945
> Advanced Sys Operators Workshop - 8/14-16 $1150
>
> The New World of RPG IV - 10/8-11 $1500

Check out the new AS/400 server prices! Quite a deal for a system with a file system that can run PC, UNIX, and AS/400 applications!

COMPAQ PC SUPER SERVER	HP UNIX SERVER SYSTEM	AS/400 ADV. SERVER
Proliant 4500	HP NetServer LH2	9402 4SE
64 mb Mem	64 mb Mem	32 mb Mem
2.1 GB Disk	2.1 GB Disk	4 GB Disk
2.0 GB DAT tape	8 GB tape	2.5 GB tape
		48 mb FSIOP
$16,912	$20,114	$11,470
MS Windows NT included	SCO UNIX OS	OS/400, Query Client Access
$0	$1,328	$3,500
Oracle 7 R7.1	Oracle 7 R7.1	DB2 OS/400
$7,763	$7,763	$0
$24,675	$29,205	$14,970

Note: If you have not upgraded to Version 3, now is the time! The 10% software charge to go to Version 3 will rise to 20% effective Jan. 1, 1997. Upgrade before year-end!

Thanks, Robin Van Wagenen, AS/400 Specialist, 968-5552

Calendar of Events

August 8

> **Utah Computer Society** (Blue Chips) monthly meeting held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the U of U Engineering classroom building, room 104. For more information call 281-8339.

August 14

> **IBM Midrange User Group** monthly meeting held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the Murray City Office (City Council Chambers), 5025 South State Street.

August 14-16

> **AS/400 Advanced System Operator Workshop** held at the IBM Salt Lake City Office. Call 1(800) IBM TEACH for enrollment information.

August 19-21

> **AS/400 System Operator Workshop** held at the IBM Salt Lake City Office. Call 1(800) IBM TEACH for enrollment information.

August 21

> Monthly meeting of the **Midrange Programmers Association (MPA)** held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at CompHealth, fourth floor (North East Corner), 4021 South 700 East, Salt Lake City. For more information call Ken Duke at 284-6555.

AS/400 Tips and Techniques

Q: How can I use the OPNQRYF (Open Query File) command to select records based on a part of an externally described character field?

A: Let's suppose you need to extract from your INVENTORY file all items that have the characters 0025 in positions 4 through 7 of the item number field. This would retrieved items such as 30-0025-01, 67-0025-AB, and so on. You can do this search with the following statement:

```
OPNQRYF FILE((INVENTORY))  +
      QRYSLT('%SST(ITMNBR 4 4)  +
      *EQ "0025"')
```

The QRYSLT parameter value sets up the selection string to use the %SST (substring) function to extract four bytes (starting at the fourth byte) from the ITMNBR field. QRYSLT then compares those four bytes to the string "0025".

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

User Group 1996-1997 Officers

President	David Larsen Murray City (801) 264-2501
Vice President	Gerald Nichols Vitrex (801) 393-0008
Secretary	Gary Larson Lagoon Corporation (801) 451-8035
Treasurer	Jeff Walker I-O Corporation (801) 972-3558 Ext 141

Mailing Address:

> **Greater Salt Lake IBM Midrange User Group**
> **PO Box 11923**
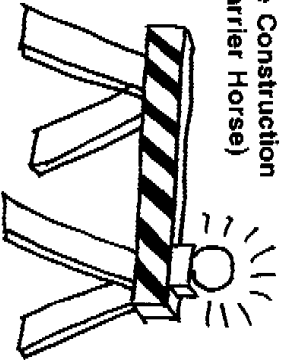> **Salt Lake City, Utah 84147-0923**

WELCOME TO UTAH

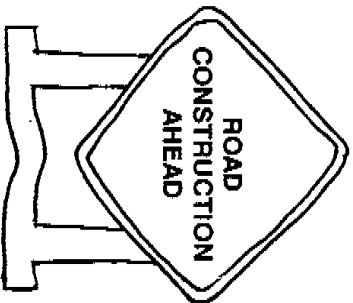THE STATE WHERE EVERY HIGHWAY EVENTUALLY NARROWS TO A SINGLE LANE OR IS

❖ ❖ ❖ **DETOURED** ❖ ❖ ❖

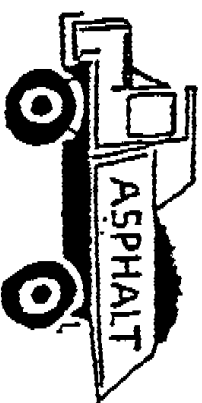*"We Only Have Two Seasons...Winter and Construction"*
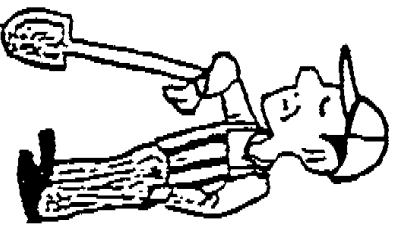
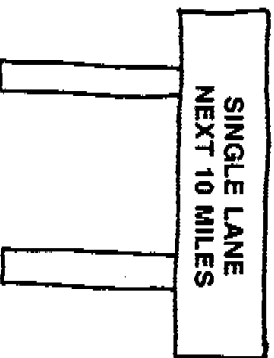**STATE ANIMAL**
(The Construction
Barrier Horse)

STATE STATUE

STATE MOTTO

SINGLE LANE
NEXT 10 MILES

STATE FLAG

STOP

**STATE HISTORICAL
LANDMARK**

ROAD
CONSTRUCTION
AHEAD

STATE TREE

BE
PREPARED
TO
STOP

STATE JOKE

MEN
WORKING

STATE MINERAL

ASPHALT