This Month

Our October meeting will be presented by **Bob Angell**, a Managing Partner of *Applied Management Informatics* in Salt Lake City. He will share his expertise and experience in **Database Connectivity** to the AS/400 and how to use the AS/400 as a database server.
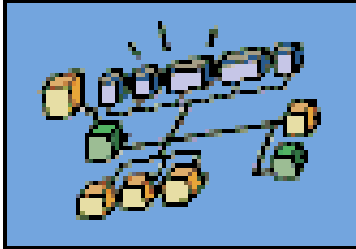
Bob is an expert in the subject and is in the process of writing a book on this topic to be published next spring. Bob has also published other work in this field. This is going to be a great interactive presentation where you can ask specific questions about your needs and get answers. The information given will give you fundamental knowledge to prepare for the future in AS/400 database connectivity and data interchange. Come out and feast on some great material!

Our meeting this month will be held on **Wednesday, October 9th at 11:00 a.m. at the Murray City Offices (City Council Chambers), 5025 South State Street.**

Last Month

Gary Larson of *Lagoon Corporation* gave a presentation on **Preparing for the Year 2000**. As you may or may not know, when the clock strikes midnight on December 31, 1999 many computer systems will crash or produce erroneous results if they are not changed. The problem lies with dates stored without the century, for example 10/02/96 instead of 10/02/1996. With dates stored in this manner computers don't know the difference between 1901 and 2001.

The presentation covered the following topics:

- **What is the Year 2000 problem and why should I care?**

- **How widespread is the problem?**

- **What is being done about it?**

- **How much will it cost?**

- **What conversion options are available?**

- **What date handling options are available?**

- **What are the basic project steps?**

Basically the point that was put across is that anything with a computer chip in it needs to be suspect and may potentially pose a problem. The main areas of concern included:

1. **All legacy applications**
2. **In-house developed software**
3. **Vendor software**
   - **Is the vendor working on the problem?**
   - **Is it going to cost you?**
   - **Is the vendor still in business?**
   - **Is the source available?**
4. **Most pre-Pentium PCs**
5. **Older DOS applications**
6. **Client/Server systems**
7. **User created spreadsheets and databases**
8. **Security systems**
9. **Elevator controls**
10. **Copy and fax machines**
11. **Bar code systems**
12. **ATM machines**
13. **Credit card systems**
14. **Cash registers**

The cost of converting all the world's software to handle the year 2000 has been estimated anywhere from $300 billion (IBM), to $600 billion (Gartner Group). The job is no small task.

When it comes to the year 2000 problem you have several options to choose from. They are:

Option 1: Do nothing (and pray!)
Option 2: Replace systems with purchased software
Option 3: Totally re-write current systems
Option 4: Outsource entire conversion
Option 5: Hire consultants to help you with conversion
Option 6: Purchase tools to help you do the conversion
Option 7: Do analysis and conversion yourself
Option 8: Retire in the fall of 1999

The next portion of the presentation covered what date handling options are available and the pros and cons of each one. Then the last part of the presentation discussed the basic project phases involved with doing the conversion yourself:

Phase 1: Preparation
Phase 2: Evaluate and select conversion tools
Phase 3: Physical software inventory
Phase 4: Impact analysis
Phase 5: Develop plan of action
Phase 6: Do a small pilot conversion

Phase 7: Main software conversion
Phase 8: Testing

Time is running out. You only have 3 years to complete this task and this is one project with an immovable, drop-dead, set-in-stone deadline!

Next Month

For November we are planning a *User Group Roundtable*. This will be an open forum to share your problems or solutions with the group. You may bring up any midrange issue or just come to listen.

We have some tremendous untapped talent in our group and we would like to hear from you. So come to our November meeting and let's put our heads together and have a great time.

Humor Department

In the Beginning 2

A doctor, a civil engineer, and a computer programmer were arguing about what was the oldest profession in the world. The doctor remarked, "Well, in the Bible it says that God created Eve from a rib taken from Adam. This clearly required surgery so I can rightly claim that mine is the oldest profession in the world."

The civil engineer interrupted and said, "But even earlier in the book of Genesis, it states that God created the order of the heavens and the earth from out of the chaos. This was the first and certainly the most spectacular application of civil engineering. Therefore fair doctor, you are wrong; mine is the oldest profession in the world."

The computer programmer leaned back in his chair, smiled, and then said confidently, "Ah, but who do you think created the chaos?"

From **FORUM/400**

User Group Dues

Last month an invoice for our yearly user group dues was faxed to each company or organization on our user group list. The yearly dues for one company is $45.00. We appreciate your support in the past and hope you will continue to be a part of our group. Thanks.

Upcoming Conferences

As we mentioned last month, the **COMMON Fall Conference and Expo** take place October 20-25 in Atlanta. As a benefit of belonging to the user group, all member can take advantage of COMMON membership prices for this event. If you have not registered yet and want to, please contact David Larsen at the meeting and he will provide you with materials.

IBM Corner

IBM SEMINARS

1. AS/400 SERVER SEMINAR - Three of the top "gurus" from Rochester are coming to Salt Lake to do an all-day seminar. If there is ONE seminar I would highly recommend this year, this is the one! It's all day, but we'll buy lunch for those who take the time to come. The presenters include the infamous John Sears, Steve Miedema, and Bob Shuster from the lab. They are all excellent...and will cover AS/400 file/print serving, notes serving, application serving, database serving, and internet serving. To enroll call 1-800-IBM-4YOU, priority code QAS6G001 for Monday, October 7th.

2. THE INTERNET AND THE AS/400 - A business partner of ours, ATS, is coming in to do a seminar on the Internet on October 10, from 9 AM to Noon. To enroll, call 1-800-IBM-4YOU, priority code QASD001.

3. CLIENT ACCESS for OS/400 - October 14 from 8:30 to 10:30. Again, Carole Miner from Rochester will be talking about the new enhancements for Client Access for both Windows 95 and NT, as well as the new systems management product called Unity. You can enroll by calling 1-800-IBM-4YOU Dept. PAS61.

4. NETWARE ON THE FSIOP - Seminar - October 23. To enroll call 1-800-IBM-2648.

5. NETWORKING - October 8 from 11:30 - 2:00 - A major kickoff of new networking announcements. To enroll, call 1-800-IBM-2468 ext. DM100.

IBM TELECONFERENCES - Enroll by calling 1-800-289-0579.

1. FINANCIAL ACQUISITION ALTERNATIVES - #261550 - #261550, Oct. 8 at 11:30 MST.

2. AS/400 SEPTEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT OVERVIEW - #273068 - Oct. 17 at 11:30 MST.

3. AS/400 AND THE INTERNET: A CONSULTANTS VIEW - #261551, Oct. 21 at 11:30 MST.

4. LOTUS NOTES ON AS/400 UPDATE - #261557, Nov. 7 at 1 PM MST.

5. AS/400 AND THE NEW "THIN" CLIENT - #269073, Nov. 14 at 1 PM MST.

For further information contact our local AS/400 Specialists: Robin Van Wagenen at 968-5552 or Sue Griffin at 328-6840.

Calendar of Events

October 9

> **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.

October 10

> **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.

October 7

> **IBM Seminar - AS/400 Servers** - held in Salt Lake City by John Sears. See IBM Corner for details.

October 8-11

> **IBM Class - The New World of RPG IV** - Held in Salt Lake City, $1,500.

October 10

> **IBM Seminar - AS/400 and the Internet** - held in Salt Lake City. See IBM Corner for details.

October 14

> **IBM Seminar - AS/400 Client Access** - held in Salt Lake City. See IBM Corner for details.

October 23

> **IBM Seminar - AS/400 NetWare on the FSIOP** - held in Salt Lake City. See IBM Corner for details.

October 20-25

> **COMMON Fall Conference** in Atlanta**.**

November 18-22

> **COMDEX** in Las Vegas

AS/400 Tips and Techniques

Q: I use a "zip" package to compress data I'm sending between two PCs so I can reduce my telephone connect time. I'd like to do the same with AS/400 files. Is there a utility that will let me compress files and reports on the AS/400 and then decompress them on the PC?

A: You can compress files and send them across platforms with PKZIP AS/400 from ASI, Inc. (513-222-9012). The product sells for $2,950 (in North America); it's available for Unix and MVS environments as well.

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

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