March 1997 Newsletter

This Month's Meeting

ATTENTION: Please note the change in location for this month's meeting. We will meet at the IBM Office in Salt Lake City, 420 East South Temple, 5th floor, on Wednesday, March 12th at 11:00 a.m.

We are pleased to have **Robin Van Wagenen** and **Sue Griffin**, AS/400 Specialists from IBM, as our featured speakers this month. They will be sharing with us the latest AS/400 announcement information. If you are interested at all in the AS/400 you won't want to miss this meeting.

Last Month

Our featured speakers for our February meeting were **David Shoaf** and **Mike Juarez** from the *Alpine School District.* They have been responsible for connecting 50 elementary, jr. high and high schools using TCP/IP over the internet to give them access to the school district's AS/400. David is the district's application development coordinator and Mike is the network engineer.

They shared with us their experiences with setting up, configuring and managing their complex network and the strengths and weaknesses of using TCP/IP to connect to the AS/400. It's one thing to read the glossy marketing hype about products and solutions but it's another to hear from people who have actually done it.

We appreciate David and Mike for taking the time to speak with us. It was a good meeting. Thanks!

We're On the Web!

Check out our new site on the Web at: **www.xmission.com/~midrange.**   You will find much of our newsletter information and also other items of interest that we couldn't include with the newsletter. Give it a look and if you have any comments or suggestions contact Gary Larson at **glarson@davis.uswest.net.**

Short Takes

Dilbert-mania!
Can you really make money on the Web? Well, if you are Dilbert you can. United Media has been running the Web site **www.unitedmedia.com** where you will find a wealth of Dilbert humor and products.   And thanks to advertising revenue that site has taken in more than $1 million. In addition to the advertising revenue, sales of "Dilbert Software", mostly books, novelties and apparel, will soon top $1 million too!

Software 2000 Collides with Year 2000
Software 2000, a well known vendor of AS/400 accounting software, has been in the software business since the early 1980s. At that time, when they chose the company name, Software 2000 implied a long-term, forward-thinking commitment to technology development.   But now, with the public awareness of the coming Year 2000 problems, they are getting many calls from people wanting to know if they can re-write COBOL code to recognize 01/01/00 as 01/01/2000. Company officials have decided to change the name from Software 2000 to Infinium Software, a less date-sensitive name.

The Incredible Shrinking Computer
To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Electronic Numeric Integrator and Calculator (ENIAC) last year, professors and students at the University of Pennsylvania succeeded in replicating the original ENIAC system on one CMOS chip. The project is described on the Web at www.ee.upenn.edu/ ~jan/eniacproj.html.

Microsoft Using AS/400s?
When you place an order for Office 97 what computer does Microsoft use to process that order? We don't know for sure but it may well be an AS/400. According to John Conners, CIO of Microsoft, "We've got AS/400s in Ireland, here in Redmond, and in Japan for order management..."   Do you think they would be stupid enough to run *their* business on Windows NT?

Client Access/400 & Office 97 = Oil & Water
Thinking about running Microsoft Office 97 with Client Access/400? Better think again. Midrange Computing's recent tests indicate that many PCs running both of these software packages will choke if you try to print from Microsoft Word 97. Luckily IBM knows about the problem and already has a fix. For CA/400 for OS/400 V3R1M0, download PTF SF36717. For CA/400 for OS/400 V3R1M1, download PTF SF36801. Make sure your Windows 95 PCs are set up to download the fixes or they won't get them. Good luck.

IBM Corner

AS/400 CERTIFICATION

There are six levels of AS/400 Certification available for professionals:

  Certified AS/400 Associate System Operator
  Certified AS/400 Professional System Operator
  Certified AS/400 Integrator for NetWare
  Certified AS/400 Associate System Administrator
  Certified AS/400 Professional System Administrator
  Certified AS/400 Network Administrator
(Network/Multiple
  Systems)
For more info, check out 1-800-959-EXAM or
http://ww.austin.ibm.com/pspinfo/proroad.htm.

NEW CLASS - AS/400 INTERNET ACCESS AND TCP/IP - S6092 - includes lab Orlando March 5-7, Dallas March 19-21- Call 1-800-IBM-TEACH

AS/400 TECHNICAL CONFERENCES - Call 1-800-IBM-TEACH or
http://www.training.ibm.com/ibmedu/conf.htm
  June 15-20 - San Diego
  Oct. 12-17 - Orlando

AS/400 QUICKSHIP through IBM DIRECT
  Check out the new home page - http://ibm-direct.e-com.ibm.com/us/quickship. Orders received by 11 AM MST will be shipped the same day.

SOFTWARE WITHDRAWAL - May 16, 1997
  IBM will withdraw from marketing V3R0.5 and V3R1

NEW CLIENT ACCESS ANNOUNCEMENTS -
http://www.as400.ibm.com/client/cahome.htm
  Support for NT
  Operations Navigator (Unity Project) - adds database, user, security and backup administration
  Lotus cc:Mail for Internet ships no charge
  Support for direct IPX connection
  Enhanced ODBC driver for OPEN C/S database accesss

JAVA IS HOT!!!!!!! IMPORTANT!!!!!!
For those who have been struggling with which client/server tool to embrace, add Java to the list. The appeal of Java is the flexibility of running the same piece of software on multiple platforms that are 100% Java enabled. The AS/400 can run Java applications today, with significant performance enhancements coming in the next several months. Several classes are being planned specifically for RPG programmers to learn Java programming. The great thing is that we have the best Java server around with the AS/400. So, as your friends are running their Java applications on 32-bit NT solutions

or partial 64-bit solutions, you can point to your AS/400 and say...."See, a 64-bit Java server....EVERY BIT, 64 BITS...with RISC!" (And it runs all your other stuff, too!) Performance-wise, the AS/400 will be the one to watch!

AS/400 TELECONFERENCES - Call 1-800-289-0579 to enroll

Lotus Notes and the AS/400
  March 11 - 10AM - #291964
  March 13 - 11 AM - #291965

Novell and the AS/400
  March 25 - 10 AM - #291969
  March 27 - 11 AM - #291971

AS/400 and the Intranet
  April 8 - 10 AM - #292067
  April 10 - 11 AM - #292068

Consultant Views - D. H. Brown - Comparison with NT
  April 16 - 11:30 AM - #392070

New AS/400 Operations Navigator
  April 22 - 10 AM - #292071
  April 24 - 11 AM - #292072

How to Interpret PM/400 Reports
  April 30 - 11:30 AM - #292073

Getting Started with Data Warehousing
  May 13 - 10 AM - #292074
  May 15 - 11 AM - #292075

Advanced Data Warehousing: Data Mining
  May 20 - 10 AM - #292076
  May 22 - 11 AM - #292078

To Receive AS/400 Dynamics Newsletter, call 1-800-IBM-7914, Priority Code 6N7AP001.

AS/400 Event Information on the Internet -
http://www.as400.ibm.com/usa

AS/400 - THE PREMIER SERVER - a return and update of our most popular seminar last year with John Sears, Bob Schuster and Steve Miedema - May 13 from 8:30-4:00 (lunch included). Enroll at 1-800-426-7914 Priority Code 6L7VA001.

AS/400 Tips and Techniques

Qualify Those Program Names

OS/400 commands and interprogram communications make it easy to run or call programs without qualifying the program name with the library name. This means someone

can sneak into your system by placing an identically named program in a library higher on the library list than the one in which your program resides.

For example, if a calling program doesn't qualify a call to program PGMA, and a hacker's PGMA is in a library higher on the library list than your PGMA's library, the calling program's call to what you think is your PGMA may call the hacker's PGMA instead. Once called, the hacker's program can perform any tasks the current user of the calling program has authority to do. And think about the additional security exposure if the hacker's program adopts authority (acquiring all the authorities of the calling program's owner)!

The cure: Make sure no one can insert programs in libraries ahead of yours (e.g., secure libraries so you control who adds objects to those libraries and secure commands that might let users alter their library lists), or qualify your program calls.
Wayne Madden

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

Humor Department

You May Be A Computer Geek If ...

Your idea of good interpersonal communication means getting the decimal point in the right place.
Your spouse sends you e-mail instead of calling you to dinner.
You want an 16X CD-ROM for Christmas.
Dilbert is your hero.
You stare at an orange juice container because it says CONCENTRATE.
You can name 6 Star Trek episodes.
The only jokes you receive are through e-mail.
Your wrist watch has more computing power than a 486DX-66.
You look forward to Christmas only because you get to put together the kids' toys.
You use a CAD package to design your son's Pine Wood Derby car.
At Christmas, it goes without saying that you will be the one to find the burnt-out bulb in the string.
You window shop at Radio Shack.
Your ideal evening consists of fast-forwarding through the latest sci-fi movie looking for technical inaccuracies.
You have "Dilbert" comics displayed anywhere in your work area.
You don't even know where the cover to your personal computer is.
You have modified your can-opener to be microprocessor driven.
You know the direction the water swirls when you flush.
You own "Official Star Trek" anything.

You have ever taken the back off your TV just to see what's inside.
You ever burned down the gymnasium with your Science Fair project.
You own one or more white short-sleeve dress shirts.
You have never backed-up your hard drive.
You are aware that computers are actually only good for playing games, but are afraid to say it out loud.
You have ever saved the power cord from a broken appliance.
The salespeople at Circuit City can't answer any of your questions.
The thought that a CD could refer to finance or music never enters your mind.
You rotate your screen savers more frequently than your automobile tires.
You need a checklist to turn on the TV.
You have introduced your kids by the wrong name.
You have a habit of destroying things in order to see how they work.
Your I.Q. number is larger than your weight.
The microphone or visual aids at a meeting don't work and you rush up to the front to fix it.
You can remember 7 computer passwords but not your anniversary.
You have memorized the program schedule for the Discovery channel and have seen most of the shows already.
You know how to take the cover off of your computer, and what size screw driver to use.
You can type 70 words a minute but can't read your own handwriting.
People groan at the party when you pick out the music.
You can't remember where you parked your car for the 3rd time this week.
Your checkbook always balances.
You have more friends on the Internet than in real life.
You thought the real heroes of "Apollo 13" were the mission controllers.
You think that when people around you yawn, it's because they didn't get enough sleep.
You spend more on your home computer than your car.
You know what http:// stands for.
You've ever tried to repair a $5.00 radio.
Your three year old son asks why the sky is blue and you try to explain atmospheric absorption theory.
Your lap-top computer costs more than your car.
You have no life - and you can *prove* it mathematically.
You know vector calculus, but you can't remember how to do long division.
When you look in a mirror, you see a programmer.
It is sunny and 75 degrees outside, and you are inside working on a computer.
You always do work on Friday nights.
You know how to integrate a chicken and can take the derivative of water.
You think in "assembler."
You've calculated that the World Series actually diverges.

You have a pet named after a scientist.

You can translate English into Binary.

You can't remember what's behind the door in your building which says "Exit."

You are completely addicted to caffeine.

You consider *any* non-computer job "easy."

The "fun" center of your brain has deteriorated from lack of use.

You make a hard copy of this list, and post it on your office door.

You read this entire list.

Mark Your Calendar

March 10
IBM Class: Advanced Client Access/400 Workshop
Denver, Colorado, Course # S6047, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

March 11
IBM Class: RPG/400 Fundamentals Workshop
Phoenix, Arizona, Course # S6086, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

March 12
IBM Midrange User Group
Monthly meeting held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 AM at the Murray City Office (City Council Chambers), 5025 South State Street.

March 12-14
Common Regional Conference: Denver
Contact: Common Regional Headquarters, Chicago. 1-800-761-5799.

March 13
Utah Computer Society (Blue Chips)
Monthly meeting held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the U of U Engineering building, room 104. For more information call 281-8339.

March 17
IBM Class: AS/400 System Administration and Control
Denver, Colorado, Course # S6019, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

March 18
IBM Class: AS/400 Concepts & Facilities Workshop
Phoenix, Arizona, Course # S6049, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

April 9
IBM Class: AS/400 System Operator Workshop
Denver, Colorado, Course # S6029, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

June 15-20
AS/400 Technical Conference

San Diego, CA. call 1-800-426-8322 and ask for "Conferences."

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