

# IBM MIDRANGE USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE IBM AS/400 COMPUTER SYSTEM

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## April 1997 Newsletter

### April Meeting

Our featured speakers for the User Group this month will be **Jeff Williams** and **Scott Anderson**. Jeff is with IBM and is the Western Region Manager for Notes on the AS/400. Scott is with Assist Cornerstone Technologies and is Vice President - Integrated Services. Prior to Assist, Scott worked as an I.S. Director in a large AS/400 shop for five years.

Jeff and Scott will present a vast array of topics on **Lotus Notes and the AS/400**. Featured points will be the IBM offering of Lotus Notes on the AS/400, what it is, Notes strategic direction, and Notes vast potential when teamed with the AS/400 capabilities and DB2/400 database. Also to be presented will be the strategic value of Notes, tying applications and databases together, database replication, forms creation and routing, workflow, templates, and Internet integration.

Both Jim and Scott are very knowledgeable about Notes and its potential on the AS/400. Please join us for this unique opportunity to learn firsthand what this exciting technology has become and what it means for you and your company!!!

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

### March Meeting Highlights

For March we met at the IBM office in Salt Lake and were treated with a presentation by **Robin Van Wagenen** and **Sue Griffin** of IBM. The topic was the AS/400 February Announcements & Directions. They covered a slew of announcements for the AS/400 including the following:

- **IBM Network Station.** This is IBM's version of the Network Computer (NC) that you read so much about in the trade publications. It is a simple, low cost device that you attach a keyboard and a monitor to and allows you to do terminal emulation, connect to multiple servers, access the internet and intranet, and run Java applications. It is centrally controlled and managed eliminating much of the management costs associated with PCs.
- **Java for the AS/400.** If you haven't heard about Java, the hot new programming language developed by Sun Microsystems, you must be in a coma. The appeal of Java is the ability to run the same application of many

different hardware platforms. The AS/400 can execute Java applications today because of a recent port of Sun's JDK 1.0.2 to the AS/400. This implementation runs on top of OS/400 and therefore is not optimized for speed. IBM is currently working on integrating the Java technology with the OS/400 operating system to give it the speed it needs to execute Java code. As this technology is developed it will allow GUI applications to run directly on the AS/400 without modifications. This will allow AS/400 programs to have graphical interfaces using the standard Java language on the AS/400.

- **Integrated PC Server (IPCS).** The IPCS (formerly known as the FSIOP) is the next step in the evolution of the file serving IOP family. It now sports either a 486 66MHz, Pentium 133MHz or Pentium 166MHz processor and can have up to 256 MB of memory.
- **Novell NetWare and Integrated PC Server.** Greater integration has been achieved with the IPCS and Novell Netware providing synchronized user profiles and passwords, access to NetWare printers even from twinax users, access to NetWare files from Client Access users and AS/400 applications, and simplified network operations.

Robin discussed many more topics including:

- IPX and the AS/400
- NetWare for SAA Gateway
- AS/400 Mail Options
- Lotus NOTES/DOMINO
- AS/400 on the Internet
- Year 2000 Planning Information
- Client Access enhancements
- Project Unity > Operations Navigator
- New Magstar MP tape drive
- New AS/400 optical drives

It was a great presentation and was well attended with standing room only. We are very grateful to Robin and Sue for a taking to time to give this presentation.

### User Group May Elections & Luncheon

Elections for new officers will be held at our annual May luncheon. We will be taking nominations for officers at the April meeting this month. So come prepared to nominate those who you would like to serve as user group officers.

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 14th at 11:30 A.M.** at the **Hometown Buffet** located at **5682 S.**

**Redwood Road.** This is our annual election luncheon. The meal will be buffet style and will cost only \$3.50 per person with because the User Group is covering half the cost. The cost of your meal also includes tax and a 15% gratuity. You will pay for the meal directly to Hometown Buffet as you enter the restaurant. **Please RSVP by Monday May 5th** to one of the user group officers so we can get a count of those who will be attending.

## In the News

### Windows NT Support on AS/400 by '98

IBM and Microsoft recently announced plans to deliver by the first quarter of 1998 AS/400 systems that support Windows NT applications, according to the March 3 issue of Information Week magazine. It will be implemented using a 200-MHz Pentium Pro IPCS card and allow users to download files and records from a DB2/400 database and load them into NT applications. Users will be able to back up all NT files onto AS/400 storage. Although IBM and Microsoft were able to put this deal together it doesn't mean the relationship is any more that lukewarm.

### South American Chic - Cell Phones!

In Santiago, Chile, 30% of drivers stopped by police for using their cell phones while driving (they're supposed to pull over before chatting) were using fake phones instead of the real thing, according to the newspaper *La Tercera*. One driver said using a phony phone was cheaper than the real thing. Another sheepishly admitted, "I was only doing it to look better." Hmm, I wonder if they sell fake Mercedes?

### Jobs, Jobs, Everywhere IS Jobs

The March 10 issue of Computerworld noted that according to a recent poll, there are about 190,000 unfilled information systems jobs at large and midsize companies. There were 2000 companies polled. The shortage of skilled workers and a decrease in the number of students pursuing computer careers will cause even more shortages. Between 1986 and 1994, the number of computer science graduates in the U.S. dropped 43%.

### Microsoft Lukewarm on Java?

Nathan Myhrvold, Microsoft's chief technology officer, was recently asked what he thought of Java. His response: "A mildly interesting programming language. We're a language company, and we're going to support it enthusiastically. But a good programmer can write a good program in any language. Porting an app to Java is like porting from Fortran to C. The application doesn't get any better, but you have to do a lot of work."

### Gerstner Gets \$5,000 Pay Cut

With IBM's revenue last year at an all-time high of \$75.9 billion, you would think the company would like to keep chairman and CEO Lou Gerstner on board for a while

longer. But his 1996 salary and bonus dropped \$5,000 from the prior year! Before you get out your handkerchiefs you need to remember that his salary for 1996 was **\$4,770,000!** And the \$5,000 pay cut was more than made up by a bonus payout of nearly \$2.1 million -- half in cash, the rest in restricted stock. If Lou doesn't want the job I know of someone who would be willing to step in and take over!

## AS/400 Tips and Techniques

### Printing a PC5250 Screen

**Q: Is there any way to get PC5250 to print a copy of the screen on the AS/400 the way Rumba does when you press the PC keyboard's Print screen key? I know I can use the Windows functions to print a copy of the screen on my PC or LAN printer, but how do I create a print file on the AS/400?**

**A:** Although the Client Access for Windows 95 version of PC5250 doesn't let you remap the Print screen key, you can still perform a host print screen. By default, PC5250 uses Ctrl-Pause to generate a print screen to an AS/400 print file. You can remap this function to other keys but not to the PC Print screen key. In addition, you can generate a print screen to a Windows-attached printer by clicking on the Print screen icon (the first icon on the PC5250 toolbar). PC5250 also lets you put a PC print screen on the Windows clipboard by pressing the standard PC Print screen key.

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

## Humor Department

### Questions That Keep You Awake All Night

**Question:** Where do the characters go when I use my backspace key or delete them on my PC?

**Answer:** The characters go to different places, depending on whom you ask:

**The Religious Right's explanation:** The nice characters go to Heaven, where they are bathed in the light of happiness. The naughty characters are punished for their sins. Naughty characters are those involved in the creation of naughty words.

**The Buddhist explanation:** If a character has lived rightly, and its karma is good, then after it has been deleted it will be reincarnated as a different, higher character. Those funny characters above the numbers on your keyboard will become numbers, numbers will become letters, and lower-case letters will become upper-case.

**The 20th-century, bitter, cynical, nihilist explanation:** Who cares? It doesn't really matter if they're on the page, deleted, undeleted, underlined, etc. It's all the same.

**The Mac user's explanation:** All the characters written on a PC and then deleted go to straight to PC hell. If you're using a PC, you can probably see the deleted characters, because you're also in PC hell.

**Stephen King's explanation:** Every time you hit the Delete key you unleash a tiny monster inside the cursor, who tears the poor unsuspecting characters to shreds, drinks their blood, then eats them, bones and all. Hah, hah, hah!

**Dave Barry's explanation:** The deleted characters are shipped to Battle Creek, Michigan, where they're made into Pop-Tart filling. This explains why Pop-Tarts are so flammable, while cheap imitations are not. I'm not making this up.

**IBM's explanation:** The characters are not real. They exist only on the screen when they are needed, as concepts, so to delete them is merely to de-conceptualize them. Get a life.

**PETA's (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) explanation:** You've been DELETING them??? Can't you hear them SCREAMING??? Why don't you go CLUB some BABY SEALS while wearing a MINK, you PIG!!!!

## Mark Your Calendar

**April 9**

### **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.



**April 9**

### **IBM Class: AS/400 System Operator Workshop**

Denver, Colorado, Course # S6029, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

**April 10**

### **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.

**May 6**

### **IBM Class: AS/400 Concepts and Facilities Workshop**

Denver, Colorado, Course # S6049, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

**May 13**

### **IBM Class: AS/400 RPG IV Programming Workshop**

Denver, Colorado, Course # S6086, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

**May 19**

### **IBM Class: OS/400 Structure, Tailoring and Basic**

**Tuning,** Denver, Colorado, Course # S6023, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

**May 21**

### **IBM Class: AS/400 Performance Analysis and Capacity**

**Planning,** Denver, Colorado, Course # S6027, 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."

**June 24**

### **IBM Class: AS/400 RPG IV Programmers Workshop**

**Advanced Topics,** Denver, Colorado, Course # S6088, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

## User Group 1996-1997 Officers

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