

IBM MIDRANGE USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE IBM AS/400 COMPUTER SYSTEM

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March 1998 Newsletter

This Month's Meeting



Do your users complain of slow response times on your AS/400? Do you have savings bonds that mature in less time than it takes for some of your batch jobs to run? Do your users have to shave twice between enter keys? Have your batch jobs sometimes lasted longer than some marriages in your company? Have you requested an AS/400 upgrade only to be told to hold off for one more year?

If these sound familiar you will want to come to this month's meeting. We have asked **David Patten**, president of *Millennitech* to come share with us his **AS/400 Performance Tips and Techniques**. Millennitech is a software and consulting company specializing in transportation and distribution software for the trucking industry. So if you need help in diagnosing and treating the problems that are slowing down your AS/400 you will want to come to this month's meeting.

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

February Meeting Highlights

Our February meeting was held at the IBM Building in Salt Lake City. **Robert Boisen** of *ShowCase Corporation* treated us with a great presentation on the subject of **Data Warehousing**. You hear a lot about data warehousing these days and how great it is and how we all need it. But to some of us the concept of what it really is and why we need it has eluded us. Robert explained just what data warehousing is and how it can benefit your company. He gave some great demonstrations and examples.

He explained that data warehousing isn't a product you go out and buy, but a process. It is a way of getting your company's information into the hands of the people who run your business. It's a decision support tool.

Robert explained that too much data can confuse and distract you. A decision support tool like data warehousing is like an aircraft instrument panel that tells you at a glance how your plane (company) is flying.

He suggested you start small by taking a portion of your database and create a small datamart for end users to access.

This means you take the complex data and put it in an understandable format – to actually de-normalize it and make it easy to understand.

Another suggestion was to not even attempt a data warehouse without getting sponsorship from management. It must be user driven, not IS driven. He suggested talking to a top management person and asking "What keeps you awake at night? What information are you missing?" Take the time to find out just what is needed before embarking on the creation of a data warehouse. We want to thank Robert for doing a great job. We also would like to thank IBM for letting us use their facilities.

Notes from All Over

IBM Invades NT Server Territory With AS/400

"IBM will take on the entry-level Windows NT Server this week with the launch of its new line of AS/400 servers. The AS/400 Model 170, called Invader, provides faster processing, a threaded architecture and Windows NT support at a lower price than most AS/400 models, according to IBM.

"Invader is targeted at three fast-growing markets: PC LAN servers, Internet servers and groupware servers, with a focus on small and medium-size businesses, sources said.

"Crucial to Invader's success in the markets it is targeting is its ability to run Windows NT. The new server accomplishes this by running NT on a coprocessor alongside the main OS/400 operating system. This configuration not only lets users run Windows NT print and file services under OS/400, but those services crash less often because OS/400 is a more stable operating system, sources said."

PC Week, February 2, 1998

Domino Theory: One Platform after Another

"The move to increasingly Network-Centric computing, either through Web-based groupware or through network computers or both, will be a painful one without extremely reliable servers and networks.

"On Feb. 27, IBM will release a bid to address just that need. It's a new model of the AS/400. Yes, the AS/400, the system that traces its roots to the 1970s and since the days of its precursor System/38 has attracted a cultlike following.

"The AS/400 Model 170, under the code name Invader, sports a low-priced entry point. More important, it contains operating system enhancements, such as multithreading, that

enable it to natively run Lotus Domino. Invader pricing begins at \$7,995 for a barebones model.”

PC Week, February 9, 1998

The IBM Agenda

“So, help me understand something about this crazy thing called electronic business, and about the IT vendors rushing headlong to become leaders in the field. There seem to be two sets of facts that don’t jibe. The first has to do with IBM and its role to date in this dynamic new market. The company has 10,000 service employees dedicated full-time to electronic business. Last year, per-seat shipments of Lotus Notes were more than twice as high as 1996’s, and the company sold 100,000 network computers during a time when many competitors couldn’t finish their prototypes. IBM’s suite of supply-chain applications for the retail industry has generated strong interest from Disney, Sears, and Woolworth. The company also plays a pivotal role in the Integriion online banking and bill-payment system.

“So why, then do IT managers say the vendor they think is most prepared to support E-business solutions is not IBM but Microsoft?”

InformationWeek, February 9, 1998

Industry Achievement Award

“This year’s Industry Achievement Award goes to Lou Gerstner, chairman and CEO of IBM. Lou Gerstner attained this prestigious position at IBM in 1993 after serving four years as CEO of RJR Nabisco and 11 years at American Express.

“In retrospect, it is poetic that Lou Gerstner began his reign at IBM on April Fools Day. But the joke wasn’t on IBM. It was on the competition and on those who had written IBM off as a future major force in computing. Under Gerstner’s leadership, IBM not only reversed its downward spiral into irrelevance, but IBM is now emerging as the born-again leader of open, enterprise computing.”

InfoWorld, February 2, 1998

IBM Corner

JAVA TELECONFERENCES

There are some great JAVA teleconferences at 11:30 -12:30 MST:

March 24 - An Introduction to Java on the AS/400 platform
March 5 or April 9 - AS/400 e Java Technology: An in-depth look at products and technologies for supporting JAVA on the AS/400.

March 17 or April 28 - The Road to Java: How to get where you want to go with JAVA on the AS/400

To register for any of these events, send a note - >INDICATING THE DATE FOR WHICH YOU WANT TO ENROLL<- with your name, company name, street address, and voice and fax numbers to SPOTLITE@US.IBM.COM and refer to document number 0178. Call-in information will be provided with your confirmation.

DATA WAREHOUSING TELECONFERENCE

March 31 - Confirmation 417109 - Enroll by calling 1-800-0579 - call at 11:30 MST

AS/400 TELECONFERENCES

AS/400e "Lunch and Learn" Teleseminar Series
Net.Commerce & e-business Solutions for the AS/400.

For a new view of the latest AS/400e announcements, please join us for these "lunch and learn" teleconferences. All calls will begin at 11:30 am, MST and will last approximately one hour. There is no charge.

March 10: Net.Commerce on AS/400, Conf. No.: 416976

April 7: AS/400 e-business Solutions, Conf. No.: 416988

To register call 800-289-0579.

TOP EVENTS: March-April 1998

The big one is the Solutions Showcase in Salt Lake on May 1.

Tuesday March 03

AS400 teleconference series, What's New in '98 for AS/400 Data Warehouse , New announcements, new industry solutions and why AS/400 for Data Warehousing (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Thursday March 05

CA: Visual Warehouse/OLAP Edition Developer Days seminar (2 days, 3/5-6) San Mateo CA (8:30am-4:30pm PT)
AS400 teleconference series, AS/400e Java Technology, An in-depth look at products and technologies for supporting Java on the AS/400 (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Sunday March 08

CA: Internet World, Los Angeles CA through 3/12

Monday March 09

CO: Notes Technical Workshop Series - Denver

Tuesday March 10

CA: VisualAge for Java seminar, San Mateo CA (8:30am-4:30pm PT)
AS400 teleconference series, Net.Commerce & e-business Solutions for the AS/400, (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Thursday March 12

AS400 teleconference series , Domino for AS/400 (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Tuesday March 17

AS400 teleconference series, The Road to Java (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Monday March 23

CA: IBM Firewall and Security Dynamics internet security technical seminar, Los Angeles CA (4 days, pick-and-choose schedule) through 3/26

Tuesday March 24

AS400 teleconference series, Java is Real for Business on the AS/400, An introduction to Java on an AS/400 platform (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Wednesday March 25

Phoenix AZ, CA: JAVA ONE, San Francisco CA through 3/27

Thursday March 26

AS400 teleconference series, Implementing Windows NT on the AS/400, Why and how to run NT on the AS/400 (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Tuesday March 31

AS400 teleconference series, What's New in '98 for AS/400 Data Warehouse, New announcements, new industry solutions and why AS/400 for Data Warehousing (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Tuesday April 07

AS400 teleconference series, Net.Commerce & e-business Solutions for the AS/400 (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Thursday April 09

AS400 teleconference series, AS/400e Java Technology. An in-depth look at products and technologies for supporting Java on the AS/400 (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Thursday April 16

AS400 teleconference series, Domino for AS/400 (1:30-2:30pm EST)

Thursday April 30

CO: AS/400e Solution Showcase - Denver

Friday May 01

UT: AS/400e Solution Showcase - Salt Lake City

Thanks very much!

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Computer History Highlights

Events in computer history this month:

- 1986 First AS/400 (Silverlake) prototype delivered to an IBM customer
- 1987 SAA Announced
- 1987 Apple introduces the open-architecture Macintosh II, priced from \$3900 to \$5500
- 1987 U.S. Robotics unveils a 9600 bps modem that sells for \$995
- 1993 Louis V. Gerstner is named Chairman and CEO of IBM

Free Microsoft Seminars

Microsoft is holding their free Solutions Briefing Seminars again in Utah. Unless otherwise indicated, they are all held at the new Salt Lake City office located in the Eagle Gate Plaza and Office Tower, 60 East South Temple, Suite 1570 in Salt Lake City. For directions call 801-333-8100. Register by calling 1-800-550-4300 and include the event code for the briefing you wish to attend, as well as the name, address, zip code and phone number of each attendee.

Microsoft Office 97

March 4, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 1669

E-commerce Implementation with Microsoft Site Server

March 5, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 16169

Managing Projects Now and in the Future

March 17, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 16171

Publishing your Data to the Web

March 31, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 16233

Internet Explorer 4.0

April 1, 9:00 am -Noon, event code 16231

Working in the Windows NT Workstation Environment

April 7, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 16177

Creating Microsoft Office 97 Solutions on the Server using Microsoft Message Queue

April 14, 1:00 -4:00 pm, event code 16172

Microsoft Exchange Server 5.5

April 15, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 16175

Microsoft BackOffice Small Business Server

April 16, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 16176

Microsoft Windows NT Server Directions

April 16, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, event code 16178

Making the Most of Your Web site Using Dynamic HTML

April 21, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 16168

Developing Database Solutions with Access

April 29, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 16174

Developing GroupWare Solutions with Microsoft Outlook

April 30, 9:00 am – Noon, event code 16173

Humor Department

Squeezing Juice from Lemons

The local bar was so sure that its bartender was the strongest man around that they offered a standing \$1000 bet. The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and hand the lemon to a patron. Anyone who could squeeze one more drop of juice out would win the money.

Many people had tried over time (weightlifters, longshoremen, etc.) but nobody could do it. One day this scrawny little man came in, wearing thick glasses and a polyester suit, and said in a tiny, squeaky voice, "I'd like to try the bet." After the laughter had died down, the bartender said OK, grabbed a lemon, and squeezed away. Then he handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little man. But the crowd's laughter turned to total silence as the man clenched his fist around the lemon and six drops fell into the glass.

As the crowd cheered, the bartender paid the \$1000, and asked the little man, "What do you do for a living? Are you a lumberjack, a weightlifter, or what?"

The man replied, "I work for the IRS."

THE WORLD'S 20 SHORTEST BOOKS

20. "The Book of Virtues" by Bill Clinton
19. "My Plan To Find The Real Killers" by OJ Simpson
18. Human Rights Advances in China
17. America's Most Popular Lawyers
16. Career Opportunities for Liberal Arts Majors
15. Detroit - A Travel Guide
14. Different Ways to Spell "Bob"
13. Dr. Kevorkian's Collection of Motivational Speeches
12. Easy UNIX
11. Al Gore: The Wild Years
10. Everything Men Know About Women
9. Everything Women Know About Men
8. French Hospitality
7. George Foreman's Big Book of Baby Names
6. "How to Sustain a Musical Career" by Art Garfunkel
5. Mike Tyson's Guide to Dating Etiquette
4. One Hundred and One Spotted Owl Recipes by the EPA
3. "Things I Wouldn't Do for Money" by Dennis Rodman
2. The Amish Phone Directory

And the number one World's Shortest Book:

1. The Computer Programmer's Guide to Fashion

Mark Your Calendar

March 11

IBM Midrange User Group Meeting

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 9-10

Client/Server Application Development for AS/400 Programmers

La Jolla, Calif. Sponsored by Midrange Computing. For information call 1-800-477-5665 or 760-931-8615.

April 19-24

COMMON Spring '98 Conference & Expo

New Orleans. For information and registration materials, call the fax back system at 1-800-426-4FAX and ask for document #7111.

May 1

IBM E-Business Seminar

A team from the Rochester lab will do a comprehensive 1-day seminar on e-business and a follow-up on the new AS/400 announcements. Location will be the Salt Lake Hilton. Details will follow.

July 23

COMMON Regional Event

COMMON will be having a regional event in Salt Lake. Details will come later

User Group 1996-1997 Officers

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