



IBM

MID-RANGE USER GROUP

The Utah User Group Newsletter - JULY 1991 EDITION

JIM FRENCH GIVES PEEK AT FUTURE FOR IS/MIS IN 1990's

Jim French addressed the User Group at its June 12 meeting. Jim French is a former member of the Board of Directors of COM-MON, former editor of SAA World, and author of many AS/400-SYS/38-SYS/36 articles. He spoke on *Technology Trends for the 1990's*.

Jim believes the *Five Force Model* will drive Information System in this next decade. The model shows environment, buyers, substitutes, and suppliers having direct impact upon industry competition. He feels suppliers will provide faster, cheaper (cost per unit of work), scaleable (vertical movement), and more features. Machines will be more reliable, be more graphic in nature, much more secure, have various cooperative processing options, and will include imbedded training.

Jim considers Substitutes for Information Systems will diminish. "The Laws of nature cannot be broken," he said. Average Systems will beat manual techniques, data worth using is worth sharing and protecting. In the future IS/MIS will "Buy the clothes and make the look." Companies will buy canned software and make it work and look to their desire. This will be possible as software companies provide more flexible software packages.

Corporate Buyers, company CEO's, will see daily *Whiz-Bang* announcements in the media along with Information for competitive advantage success stories. However, CEO's will also see a lack of a coherent architecture and increasing system rigidity.

Jim feels the environment will substantially change during this decade. There will be more distributed systems, co-operative systems, CASE and CASE-based packages, rules based/object oriented software, imbedded training, and systems integration & change management.

In order to survive IS/MIS must plan strategically while defending tactically; balance/trade-off between people vs. hardware vs. tools vs. software; understand two businesses—their own firm's and general software engineering.

The greatest challenges for the 1990's will be: Implementing New Technologies; Connecting Dissimilar Systems; Protecting Existing Investments in technology; Understanding Where Information Technology fits into Core Business Strategies; and Managing Personnel inside and outside the IS/MIS organization.

Jim believes strongly that all IS/MIS managers must *Defend while they Plan*. They must adopt strategic technologies as part of their ongoing daily fire fighting. For example, provide management with defendable strategic plans—an AS/400 in emulation mode is cheaper to operate than a Sys/38; proven software packages can be cheaper than ongoing maintenance. Further, he feels managers must effectively utilize resources. While fixing a bug, upgrade the routine to current shop (or package) standards. Implement proven techniques when maintain code such as a *Walkthru* with an associate to make sure logic and outcome are as intended. IS/MIS managers should allocate one hour per day for strategic planning where they must learn and understand what drives the company, what can give IS/MIS a quick hit (small fix but big corporate payoff), and what items give an everlasting hit.

The *Productivity Cycle* as defined during the presentation is a constant cycle where you automate then integrate then simplify then back to automate. This is the only way IS/MIS organization will survive the 1990's. It will require more resources, better resources, better tools, better techniques, and better integration.

At the request of the users present, Jim gave an additional presentation on CASE tools and the IBM AD Development Cycle.

TECHNICAL MEETING

The technical group is meeting monthly on the Third Wednesday of each month at the Whitmore Library starting at 7:00 pm in the evening. The meeting is geared for programmers and other technical people who want to exchange ideas. Further information can be received by contacting Ken Duke at BMA (487-5151).

USER GROUP OFFICERS

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Weider Health and Fitness of Utah

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Abbott Critical Care Systems

DOUG BIDWELL IS GUEST SPEAKER AT JULY MEETING

Come learn how to best tune your AS/400 from Doug Bidwell from Level One Technical Support (LOTS) out of California. Doug is a former employee of IBM and is regarded an expert on the AS/400-Sys/38/36 environment.

JULY MONTHLY MEETING

will be held on

July 10, 1991

at 11:00 AM

in the

Murray City Council Chambers

5025 South State Street

Murray, Utah 84107

Doug Bidwell

will discuss

Tune your System Right