

IBM MIDRANGE USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE IBM AS/400 COMPUTER SYSTEM

February 1997 Newsletter

This Month's Meeting

David Shoaf and Mike Juarez from the *Alpine School District* will be our featured speakers this month. 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. This project has been no small undertaking and both David and Mike have learned a great deal from it and are willing to share their expertise with the group.

The meeting will be more of a discussion where you will be able to ask specific questions about their project. So come and get enlightened.

Our meeting this month will be held on **Wednesday, February 12th at 11:00 a.m. at the Murray City Offices (City Council Chambers), 5025 South State Street.**

Last Month

We started the new year off by having **Paul Coleman** from *Vitrex* talk to us about using the AS/400 as a back-end server in a Client/Server application. Paul expounded on the uses of ODBC, APPC, DLLs, Gateways and other methods. The AS/400 comes equipped to handle being a Database Server extremely well. It has all of the features of other servers (NT, Oracle, Informix....) but with added features that the others do not offer. One of the first noticeable differences is the ability to create stored procedures on the AS/400 in any language, the other options only allow stored procedures to be written in Transact SQL. This feature alone means that any AS/400 shop can start developing Client/Server applications without the risk of losing their investment in RPG programs or programmers.

We briefly discussed the commands for creating triggers and stored procedures on the AS/400:

Create Trigger: ADDPFTRG

Create Referential Integrity Constraint:
CRTPFCST

Create Stored Procedure: Must be done via SQL to be entered in the system catalog, see below, or can be defined dynamically from client...

Create Procedure MYPGM
(Char(10), Char(10))

(External Name QGPL/MYPGM
General)

Two of the exciting things we talked about were IBM Projects Lightning and Unity. Project Lightning is the creation and use of new components for accessing AS/400 data at the record level from a PC GUI language (such as Visual Basic, Delphi, Visual C++). Unity is an initiative that extends the Client Access suite of applications to add AS/400 Administration via a Windows Explorer-like interface.

Information about Project Lightning, Unity, and Client Access/400 can be obtained from the AS/400 home page at <http://www.as400.ibm.com>. Take a minute to also review the Shareable Object-Oriented Frameworks initiative of IBM code-named San Francisco. Our thanks go to Paul Coleman for a very informative session. Paul can be reached at: paul.coleman@vitrex.com

User Group Web Site

We are happy to announce that our user group now has a web site on the internet. Before you get too excited you need to realize it's just a beginning home page. Having never undertaken a project like this before we were just happy to get the page up and running. Now that we know slightly what we are doing we will re-do the page and put some really useful information on it. You will find the site at: <http://www.xmission.com/~midrange>

COMMON Regional Events

If you can't make it to the regular COMMON Conferences you may want to check out the regional events. There are two coming right up, one in San Diego, California and the other in Denver, Colorado. Our user group is a paid member of COMMON which means any of our user group members can attend the COMMON conferences at the member rate. For details about the regional events check the calendar section in this newsletter. If you would like to use the user group's membership you need to have your dues paid up and then contact David Larsen for details.

Mark Your Calendar

February 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.

February 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.

February 13

Microsoft Seminar: Networking for Small Business

Salt Lake City, Utah, event code 10415, call 1-800-550-4300 to enroll.

February 14

Microsoft Seminar: The Internet for Small Business

Salt Lake City, Utah, event code 10413, call 1-800-550-4300 to enroll.

February 14

Microsoft Seminar: Inside the Microsoft Desktop

Salt Lake City, Utah, event code 10446, call 1-800-550-4300 to enroll.

February 14

Microsoft Seminar: Microsoft and the Intranet

Salt Lake City, Utah, event code 10448, call 1-800-550-4300 to enroll.

February 19-21

Common Regional Conference: San Diego

Contact: Common Regional Headquarters, Chicago. 1-800-761-5799.

February 19

IBM Class: AS/400 Advanced System Operators

Workshop Denver, Colorado, Course # S6041, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

February 20

Microsoft Seminar: Corporate Solutions Briefing

Salt Lake City, Utah, event code 10404, call 1-800-550-4300 to enroll.

February 24

IBM Class: LAN Server/400 Administration

Denver, Colorado, Course # S6089, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

February 26

Microsoft Seminar: Introduction to Visual Basic

Salt Lake City, Utah, event code 10442, call 1-800-550-4300 to enroll.

February 26

Microsoft Seminar: Microsoft Database Solutions

Salt Lake City, Utah, event code 10456, call 1-800-550-4300 to enroll.

March 4

IBM Class: The New World of RPG IV

Denver, Colorado, Course # S6085, call 1-800-426-8322 to enroll.

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 12-14

Common Regional Conference: Denver

Contact: Common Regional Headquarters, Chicago. 1-800-761-5799.

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.

June 15-20

AS/400 Technical Conference

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

Short Takes

Microsoft Not Ignoring the AS/400

You may have heard of IBM's Project Lightning, a middleware product that will allow easy record-level access to AS/400 data using products such as Visual Basic or Delphi. Well, Microsoft hasn't been sitting still in this area either. By spring, Microsoft plans to have its own record-level access tool for Windows development available for beta testing. Its code-named Thor, for the Nordic god of thunder.

Both Thor and Lightning will use ActiveX controls. These components can snap into Windows programs giving them access to all kinds of data sources. With a project called Lightning can thunder be far behind? Check it out on the web at: <http://microsoft.com/ado>

The Ultimate Hackers Challenge!

If you've seen the movies "The NET", "Sneakers" or "Mission Impossible" you will remember some scenes dealing with computers, high security and cracking codes. Well one software company, *McAfee Network Security and Management*, claims to have a data encryption product named PCCrypto that is virtually unbreakable. They claim: "PCCrypto's encryption is so powerful, ...it would take 1 trillion supercomputers, which could each test a trillion keys per second, about 463 trillion centuries to break a PCCrypto code." Now what computer did they use to come up with that estimate, an Intel Pentium?

The Fix to Fix the Fix

The Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Service Pack 2 that contains over 100 bug fixes has itself two significant bugs that can shut down systems. Microsoft is now hurriedly releasing a bug fix for its bug fix.

E-mail Use Up

Forrester Researcher says 15% of the U.S. population now uses e-mail, up from 2% in 1992. They predict that within five years, that number will rise to about 50%. (Investor's Business Daily 15 Jan 97, via Edupage) Eventually, people will not have to physically speak to each other at all. In fact, it will be considered rude to do so. That's when the aliens will move in and start scooping up Earth's population. As our neighbors and friends stop answering our e-mail, we'll just assume that their server is down.

AS/400 Tips and Techniques

Quick File Browse

You can use the RUNQRY (Run Query) command to quickly display a file's contents. The display includes field formatting, and Query/400 is not required, nor do you need a preexisting AS/400 Query definition. You can display the contents of any physical or logical file with the following statement:

```
RUNQRY *N filename
```

Even more powerful is the use of the RCDSLT (Record Selection) parameter. If you specify *YES on this parameter a selection screen will display to allow you to filter the records displayed.

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

Humor Department

Are You In The Market For A New Toaster?

If IBM made toasters...

They would want one big toaster where people bring bread to be submitted for overnight toasting. IBM would claim a worldwide market for five, maybe six toasters.

If Microsoft made toasters...

Every time you bought a loaf of bread, you would have to buy a toaster. You wouldn't have to take the toaster, but you'd still have to pay for it anyway. Toaster'95 would weigh 15000 pounds (hence requiring a reinforced steel countertop), draw enough electricity to power a small city, take up 95% of the space in your kitchen, would claim to be the first toaster that lets you control how light or dark you want your toast to be, and would secretly interrogate your

other appliances to find out who made them. Everyone would hate Microsoft toasters, but nonetheless would buy them since most of the good bread only works with their toasters.

If Apple made toasters...

It would do everything the Microsoft toaster does, but 5 years earlier.

If Xerox made toasters...

You could toast one-sided or double-sided. Successive slices would get lighter and lighter. The toaster would jam your bread for you.

If Radio Shack made toasters...

The staff would sell you a toaster, but not know anything about it. Or you could buy all the parts to build your own toaster.

If Oracle made toasters...

They'd claim their toaster was compatible with all brands and styles of bread, but when you got it home you'd discover the Bagel Engine was still in development, the Croissant Extension was three years away, and that indeed the whole appliance was just blowing smoke.

If DEC made toasters...

They would claim their toaster can toast a 64 slice loaf of bread at one time but their instructions only discuss 32 slice loaves of bread.

If Hewlett-Packard made toasters...

They would market the Reverse Polish Toaster, which takes in toast and gives you regular bread.

If Cray made toasters...

They would cost \$16 million but would be faster than any other single-slice toaster in the world.

If Sony made toasters...

The ToastMan, which would be barely larger than the single piece of bread it is meant to toast, can be conveniently attached to your belt.

If Timex made toasters...

They would be cheap and small quartz-crystal wrist toasters that take a licking and keep on toasting.

If Fisher Price made toasters...

"Baby's First Toaster" would have a hand-crank that you turn to toast the bread that pops up like a Jack-in-the-box.

If the Franklin Mint made toasters...

Every month, you would receive another lovely hand-crafted piece of your authentic hand-crafted Civil War pewter toaster.

If CostCo or Sam's made toasters...

They'd be really cheap, as long as you bought a six-pack of 'em.

If MCI made toasters ...

They would claim their toaster cost less per minute to run than all the other toasters only to find out later that you can only toast between the hours of 5pm to 5am to get your savings.

If AT&T made toasters ...

They would advertise "True-toast" and claim that their toaster "really" toasts bread, while MCI and Sprint only makes bread "look" like its toasted.

If Sprint made toasters ...

They would tell you that their toasting is so clear, you could distinctly see every granule of toasted bread.

If Sun made toasters...

They would be programmable, you could get a really good cuppa Java while you waited, and the toast would be simple, object-oriented, distributed, robust, secure, architecture-neutral, portable, high-performance, multithreaded and dynamic: in other words -- buzzword compliant. But actually Sun doesn't need to make toasters because "The Network is the Toaster".

Picked up some where on the internet.

Editor's Note:

It takes many hours of hard work and creativity every month to produce a newsletter full of information, wit, and wisdom. Fortunately, this isn't that kind of newsletter. That's because much of the information in this newsletter is contributed from the other User Group officers or stolen from NEWS/400, InfoWorld, PC Week, Forum/400, or any number of other electronic or printed media. I copy, revise, editorialize, condense and share it with you in the hope that you will have something interesting to read during your lunch break.

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