IBM Midrange User Group

For Users of the IBM AS/400 Computer System

December 1997 Newsletter

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Our annual December Christmas Luncheon will be held at **11:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 10th, 1997** at the **Riverboat**, 4393 South Riverboat Road, Murray Utah.

A paid membership entitles two people to come to the luncheon free of charge. Any additional guests will be charged $10.00 per person at the door. Make checks payable to GSL User Group.

Dave Allred, Vice President of PR for the **Utah Jazz** will be our featured speaker.

Come and share the Christmas cheer with your fellow Midrange User Group members. Remember, everyone attending will receive door prizes and a special drawing will be made for other special prizes. Please RSVP to a member of the User Group presidency ASAP. We will see you there!

November Meeting Highlights

For our November meeting we were pleased to hear from **Sury Narayanan** and **Bala Subramaniam** of *S Square Technologies*. Their presentation was entitled: **Year 2000 Projects on the AS/400 - Case Studies.**

The first part of the presentation was given by Sury. He described the basic problems that are unique with the AS/400 regarding the Year 2000 conversion. He then described the methodology his company uses to do the actual conversion.

Bala gave the second part of the presentation. He discussed a real-life case study. He described in detail how an actual Year 2000 conversion was done for a real company. He talked about the methods used and the reasons those methods were chosen.

We are grateful for Sury and Bala for taking the time to present this topic. Those in attendance came away with a better understanding of the issues involved in AS/400 Year 2000 conversions. Thanks!

Short Takes

Some Real Screen Presence

Looks really do matter in film and television, and that also applies to the desktop computers that are used as props. IBM's sleek Network Station edged out the chunky PC as the desktop of choice in the upcoming movie *A Perfect Murder*, starring Michael Douglas, which began filming in New York last month. IBM's Network Station will also appear in episodes of Fox's police drama *New York Undercover* next year, according to IBM.

Think it's just a trend? Remember that Sun Microsystems' JavaStation appeared in several episodes of NBC's *Friends* that aired last February. And don't forget that in the summer of 1996 it was Apple's Powerbook notebook that helped save the planet in *Independence Day.*

But the one nagging question still remains: In real life, do network computers work as well as they look?

Information Week
November 10, 1997

Turkey Day Comes Early

Microsoft may have a lot to be thankful for, but must its customers celebrate a day early? When it comes to Thanksgiving, Microsoft's Outlook 97 has a problem with the very year for which it's named. Ask the calendar to display holidays, and Thanksgiving Day shows up on Wednesday this year, rather than the usual last Thursday in November.

Outlook also celebrates Wednesday Thanksgivings in 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2005. In 1999 and 2003, Turkey Day is scheduled for Tuesday. For 2006 and beyond, Outlook does not even hazard to guess.

A search of Microsoft's Web site revealed no information about this error, but did find that the Russian version of Outlook moves Orthodox Christmas from April 27 to Jan. 7. Thanks a lot and pass the uncooked stuffing.

Information Week
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IBM Corner

ARE YOU BEING DROWNED BY SPOOL FILES AND MICROFICHE?

You may not be aware that you can now order REAL Vision Spool File Solution as a program product directly from IBM, Product 5620-ABL. This product enables AS/400 cold storage so you can view on-line invoices, statements, reports and listings. This can provide considerable savings in paper, labor, microfiche and storage space. The products lists at $10,000. For more information you can contact Terry Brogan at 910-721-4472.

V4R1 TECHNICAL OVERVIEW - education available by CD SK3T-0225. You can order this by calling 1-800-879-2755 Option 5.

V4R1 QUALITY WHITE PAPER - discusses the quality enhancements with V4R1. Get off the web at www.as400.ibm.com, click on Reference Library. There are many other white papers available at this web site which may be of interest.

BYPASS 2000 for AS/400 - There is a new Version of this great Year 2000 tool which has many enhancements. The old version is 5697-C20. The new version is 5697-D11. If you have the older version, you can get it refreshed by calling IBM Direct 1-800-IBM-CALL. Use the following feature codes to order the refresh (P05-1581, P10-1582, P20-1583, P30-1584, P40-1585).

NEW CONSULTANT REPORT - IDC - "Speed to Deploy Differences Among Server Architectures". This report compares PC-based LAN systems (mainly NT) vs. UNIX midrange-systems and AS/400. This can be accessed off the internet at www.as400.ibm.com. Some of the specific results include:

	AS/400	PC LAN	Midrange
Customer satisfaction	1.9	2.1	2.4
Time to Deploy (months)	5.8	6.2	7.5
Person Months to Deploy	38.5	53.1	51.4

The AS/400 won despite the following environmental differences:

	AS/400	PC LAN	Midrange
# of users	72	49	80
% of respondents w/ multiple locations	86%	62%	66%
Lines of custom code	1220	600	900

CONFERENCES

AS/400 Java Decisions - 1/20/98 in New York, 2/3/98 in Anaheim or 3/10/98 in Dallas. Cost is $499. Call 1-800-621-1544 to enroll or visit www.news400.com/education on the web.

AS/400 LUNCH AND LEARN - Sit back in the comfort of your own office and dial in. Call 1-800-289-0579 to enroll.

Lotus Domino on the AS/400...Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow - 11/18 at 10 AM (322350) or 11/20 at 11AM (322352).

Business Recovery Services - AS/400 Value Express - 12/3 at 11:30 (331810)

AS/400 Trends and Directions - 1/13 at 10AM (379367) and 1/15 at 11AM (379369)

Building a Year 2000 Business Case for Your AS/400 - 1/27 at 10 AM (379372) and 1/29 at 11 AM (379374)

Announcement Update - 2/10 at 10 AM (379375) or 2/12 at 11 AM (379376)

NEW JAVA CLASSES - Call 1-800-IBM-TEAC for more information or visit www.training.ibm.com/ibmedu on the web.
  Essentials of Java for e-business - 2 days - $445 - various locations
  Architecting Java Applications for e-business - $445 - various locations

NET.COMMERCE DEMO CD'S

IBM has made available a free demonstration CD of the IBM Net.Commerce product. This offer is to IBM's US customers and partners for a limited time. Net.Commerce includes everything you need to build and maintain your electronic commerce Web site -- security, scalability, and ease of integration. It's designed to turn your business into an e-business.

To order your demonstration CD, send a note with your name, company name, street address, and voice and fax numbers to SPOTLITE@US.IBM.COM and refer to document number 0142. For information on your subscription, see the bottom of this document.

For further information contact our local AS/400 Specialist: Robin Van Wagenen at 968-5552.

AS/400 Tips and Techniques

Performance and Packed-Decimal Fields

Q: I've been told that the performance penalty associated with even-length packed-decimal fields is no longer an issue with newer releases of OS/400. Do you have up-to-date information on this situation? We are presently at V3R1 and will be migrating to a RISC system in a couple of months.

A: I'm not aware that the performance issue concerning odd- versus even-length packed-decimal fields has gone away. If you were to look at the Internal Microprogrammed Interface instructions on both CISC and RISC machines, you'd see that both systems generate different code for odd-length and even-length packed-decimal fields, so it appears there is still additional overhead. However, it's rare that having an even-length packed-decimal field is a *real* issue. The amount of additional code the system must execute to handle even-length fields is minimal, and execution is extremely fast. Unless you have some very intense mathematical routines

being repeated in rapid succession, I wouldn't expect a noticeable impact when using even-length packed-decimal fields

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

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.

Delivering Multimedia on the Internet and Intranet
Dec 16, 8:30-11:30 am, event code 14310

How to Architect Distributed and Multi-tiered Solutions Leveraging Microsoft's Implementation of COM and Distributed COM
Dec 17, 8:30-12:00 pm, event code 14334

How to Access All Types of Data through a Single Data Access Model
Dec 17, 1:00-5:00pm, event code 14314

Humor Department

Redneck Computer Lingo

LOG ON: Making the wood stove hotter
LOG OFF: Don't add no more wood.
MONITOR: Keepin' an eye on that woodstove.
DOWNLOAD: Gettin' the farwood of'n the truck.
MEGA HERTZ: When yer not careful gettin' that farwood of'n the truck.
FLOPPY DISK: Whatcha git from tryin to carry too much farwood.
RAM: That's the thing whut splits the farwood.
HARD DRIVE: Gettin' home in the winter taim.
PROMPT: Whut the mail ain't in the winter taim.
WINDOWS: Whut to shut in the winter taim.
SCREEN: Whut to shut when it's black fly season.
BYTE: Whut them dang flys do.
CHIP: Munchies fer the TV
MICRO CHIP: Whuts left in the munchie bag.
INFARED: Whur the left over munchies go. Fred eats 'em.
MODEM: Whutcha did to the hay fields.
DOT MATRIX: Ol' Dan Matrix's wife.
LAP TOP: Whur the kitty sleeps.
KEYBOARD: Whur ya hang the dang keys.
SOFTWARE: Them dang plastic knifes and forks.

MOUSE: Whut eats the grain in the barn.
MAIN FRAME: Whut hole's up the barn roof.
PORT: Fancy flatlander wine.
ENTER: Northern for "come on in, y'all."
RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY: When you cain't remember whut ya paid for new rifle when your wife asks.

Thanks to John Sullivan of Equitable Life & Casualty

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