March Dinner Meeting

Tim Kramer on System i Navigator in V6R1

Tuesday, March 25th, 5:00 at Embassy Suites, Lombard IL

This month’s speaker, Tim Kramer, joins us from IBM Rochester with the latest news on System i Navigator for V6R1. In preparation for the annual COMMON conference where there should be myriad announcements, Tim will be showing some of the hottest new features of the iNav product line. Most notable will be IBM System Director Navigator for i5/OS. IBM Director has been a staple in System i shops running IBM Blade Center technology using System i storage as the SAN, and its use will continue to grow as IBM pushes for this to be the convergence platform for console activity. Come see what’s going on and how you too can take advantage of the hot new technology sure to improve productivity and manageability!

Tim Kramer is a Senior Software Engineer from the Rochester, Minnesota lab. Tim has worked for IBM for 28 years. He has worked on various parts of System i Navigator for several years. For the past few years, Tim has worked on taking individual functions of System i Navigator and making them available on the web. In V5R3 and V5R4, this involved making functions available via web servlets and accessible via individual URLs. In V6R1, he integrated these web enabled functions into the Integrated Solutions Console, which is now part of the base operating system of the System i, resulting in what is now called the IBM System Director Navigator for i5/OS.

Our dinner meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lombard will begin around 5:00 PM with a networking session and registration with dinner at 6:00 and Tim’s presentation at 7:00. This is a can’t miss session at a fraction of the cost of a full blown conference. Come by and meet old friends, new friends and folks you just haven’t seen in at least a month or two! We will formally introduce the new Board of Directors, and a award a handful of door prizes to some lucky attendees. Details and an online registration form can be found at http://omniuser.org
Meet Your 2008 OMNI Board Of Directors

The 2008 Board was elected at the last dinner meeting, and individual positions were assigned at the Board Meeting in February. Unfortunately, Dave Andruchuk found that other commitments made it necessary for him to relinquish the Vice President’s post, leaving OMNI with a vacancy. So, like McCain, Obama, and Clinton, Duncan is in need of a Veep. If you’d like to pitch in and help guide this organization, contact any of the board members.

President          Tom Duncan         tduncan@collectionsetc.com
Vice President     [Your name here]       
Treasurer          Bill Parks           wparks@worldnet.att.net
Secretary          Ray Dutil            dutilr@gmail.com
Seminar VP         Mike Pavlak          Mike_Pavlak@tripplite.com
Web Master         Vince Salomon        kingsalomon@gmail.com
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Sticker Shock or Highway Robbery, You Make The Call
By Bill Parks, Treasurer

Sticker shock is the best way I can describe the latest conversation between OMNI and the Embassy Suites. Management at the Embassy Suites has changed many times over the years as we have held our meetings there, but one thing has remained constant - the price. And since 1994 or possibly before that (those of us that go back that far now have memories that are failing us) our member price for attending our meetings has been $25.00. Embassy has now changed its price to $30 for chicken and vegetarian meals and $33.00 to $35.00 for real meat and fish dinners. Yikes!

OK, ok – so this includes salad, entrée, desert and service and we get the private use of one of their rooms for our meetings. And so you couldn’t go to a decent restaurant and pay less… it’s the principal of the thing or maybe the surprise of the thing. Actually, if we had taken that $25.00 from 1994 and extrapolated that amount to 2008 at 3% increase per year, we would be at $37+. Anybody feeling any better? Yah, I really think I am.

So what’s a user group to do?

Well, your board of directors is looking into several options. Among them are:

- Increasing dinner meeting prices
- Finding a new, less expensive, place to meet
- Changing the format so we have something other than a sit-down meal
- Moving toward the pizza events with a much smaller charge for the meeting
- Changing to an on-line meeting format

Some of the considerations given to any change we make will be the personal relationships we have developed over the years with each other, the time we spend before and after a meal kibitzing about our shops and our challenges, being able to face a speaker (not over a phone line – but live and in person) to ask questions on the topic at hand, and just the relaxed atmosphere while actually learning tricks of our trade. We will also keep in mind that many of our members are reimbursed for these educational events and for some it provides a tax deduction – though this is the least important of considerations. Education and information is now and will always be OMNI’s top concern.

For right now and the very near future nothing is going to change. We will use monies derived from our conference and monthly newsletter advertising to cover some of the excess monthly costs of the meeting dinners as well as costs related to bringing in the quality speakers. We want to prepare you for any future changes in the monthly meetings. And, of course, we value your opinions in these matters and would like to hear any suggestions you might have concerning future meetings.
WMCPA 23rd Annual Spring Technical Conference

April 8th - 10th, 2008
Grand Geneva Resort
Lake Geneva, WI

Registrations must be postmarked no later than March 26, 2008 to avoid $100 late fee
Join WMCPA Tuesday evening for their first "Meet the Experts Roundtable"
6:00 p.m. - Deli Buffet
7:00 p.m. - Expert Discussion Panel

Details at www.wmcpa.org
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Heeeeee’s Baaaack
By Jim Wazorick, Communications Director

Some people are slow learners, it seems. After my original two-year stint as newsletter editor and communications director a few years ago, I stepped back from the Board while I returned to school for a while. But, I’m back to the scene of the crime for another crack at it. Boy, have things changed in the meantime.

When we printed and mailed the newsletter, we were always watching the number of pages to hold down printing and postage costs. It reminded me of the good old days when we had to scrimp on every byte in our record layouts. These days we can include what data we need in our databases, and since we post the newsletter online, it can grow as well.

Last time here, too, I was ably assisted (some would claim propped up) by Diane Blackwood, who did the heavy lifting by taking the articles I collected and wrote and actually did the layout. This time around, I’m on my own, except for my helper, one Coco Chanel, shown above. She’s pretty good, except every time I tell her to press PAUSE, she spends too much time looking for a PAWS key.

Having re-introduced myself, I’ll also confess that we’re a little short on content this month. Once I get myself organized it’ll get better. I could certainly use any contributions, suggestions, and tips. Drop me an email at jwwazorick@yahoo.com