

Growing Interest in Local Mainframe User Groups

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Topics

- Session Abstract
- Central Ohio Mainframe User Group
- Emerging Metro User Groups
- Teaming Up?

Session Abstract



Topics



Session Abstract

- While the Central Ohio Mainframe User Group (COMUG) is a decade old, the user group in Cincinnati is just a year old. And in Detroit and Cleveland user groups are just now getting "off the ground".
- COMUG is being used as a pattern to facilitate the construction of these emerging user groups, connected by word-of-mouth facilitated by the proximity these metros have with one another.
- But what about other metros? Is there interest in development of local user groups elsewhere? Would a little push, like knowing about COMUG, help other groups form up?
- And if enough localized user groups spring up, would there be value in creating an association wherein those user groups can help one another ... indeed ... what role could or should a national user group organization like Share play in the emerging interest in local user groups? We are all on the same team ... maybe we should all team-up?

End of Section



Topics



Central Ohio Mainframe User Group



Topics



Central Ohio Mainframe User Group

- Mission
 - Co-support and education for members (and for their enterprise's)
- Founded
 - April 23, 2002
- Membership
 - 168 members
 - 39 enterprises (33 user companies, 5 suppliers, 1 consultant)

COMUG – Management

- Steering Committee (self appointments)
 - Scott Chapman - AEP – System Prog & Capacity Planner
 - Doug Carroll – Nationwide – Systems Engineer
 - Allan Balian – Nationwide - Capacity Planner
 - Polly Kossow – Nationwide – Manager – DB2/IMS Teams
 - Rich Olimpio – Retired – Sys Prog
 - Joe Gill – Consultant – Systems Engineer
 - Monte Bauman – IBM – System z Technical Support Specialist
- Direct COMUG efforts
- Makes COMUG plans

COMUG – Missions

- Education
 - Vendor education
 - Member to member education
 - Roundtables
- Co-support (peer professional support)
 - How would you...
 - Did you hear...
 - What do you think about...
- Outreach
 - COMUG provided services to schools (and the like)
 - Talks / Games

COMUG – Meetings and Other Activities

- Formal Meetings
 - Periodic and Semi Regular
 - Every other month (even months)
 - 2nd Tuesdays (1st choice)
 - 3PM to 5 PM (unless more content takes more time)
- Breakfast breaks
 - Off months – just for fun – touch base
- Aftermaths
 - Social hours – local watering hole – after COMUG or other mainframe vendor events wherein COMUGers are in mass

COMUG – Past Meetings

- November 2011 - IT Staffing
 - We had planned to have a roundtable discussion about IT decision making. Instead we had a long discussion about staffing and how to find new mainframe people. Finally, after Monte had filled the whiteboard with thoughts on staffing and community outreach, we also did discuss IT decision making briefly before we decided to adjourn.
- August 30, 2011 - z114 and COMUG Hardware Day
 - This was a full day discussion about the z114, various hardware details, and customer experiences with various hardware features. We heard how the mainframe processor cores really work and how the z196 series compares to the z10 series of machines. Customers talked about successes (and challenges) with running Java on z/OS, chargeback changes when moving to z196s, and how one customer managed 22 z196 migrations.

COMUG – Past Meetings

- July 12, 2011 - Life on the Other Side
 - A former z/OS Sysprog and DB2 for z/OS DBA discussed what life is like supporting Oracle on AIX. It's not better, it's not worse, it's just different.
- June 16, 2011 - IBM Global Technology Outlook
 - The IBM Global Technology Outlook for 2011 was presented to an audience of nearly 30. The GTO included chapters on:
 - *The Internet of Things*
 - *Socially Synergistic Systems*
 - *Resource Optimization*
 - *Big Data*
 - *Learning Systems (The Frontier of IT)*
 - The session, which ran long (90 minutes was stretched to 180 minutes by questions, answers, and discussions), was extremely well received.
- May 2, 2011 - WAS Week 201
 - The 8th (or so) annual edition of WAS Week was held May 02, 2011. WAS Week Education Day was combined with COMUG to offer both IBM educational modules surrounding WAS for z/OS as well as user stories. IBMers David Follis (from the WAS development lab), Mike Loos (from Advanced Technical Support) and Ron Lotter (from AIM Software Services) were the cornerstones for the IBM-provided content. Scott Chapman provided a user story entitled "How I Became a Cheerleader for Java on z/OS". No pom-poms were used in the presentation. Fortunately.

COMUG – Past Meetings

- February 15, 2011 - Mainframe Software Management Tips and Techniques
 - IBM's Linda Beckner presented "Software Portfolio Review and Analysis" and patterns observed therefrom. Scott Chapman followed with a discussion on Optimizing Software Charges with Variable Workload Licenses and LPAR Management and Controls. The meeting concluded with a discussion on the new "Integrated Workload Charging" license for Websphere for z/OS products announced late in 2010.
- December 14, 2010 - Year End Event
 - We enjoyed a nice meal and conversation, recapping 2010 and discussing plans and thoughts for 2011 meetings
- November 11, 2010 - zEnterprise Deep Dive
 - Monte led a deep white board discussion of the z196 and zEnterprise. That was followed by a roundtable discussion.
- August 24, 2010 - CICS Day
 - This was an all day joint IBM/COMUG event with IBM and local customer presenters.
- July 8, 2010 - Fit for Purpose
 - Monte led a discussion around the factors, considerations, technology and politics of deciding where applications should run. Some things maybe shouldn't run on a mainframe.

COMUG – Realities

- Quality vs Quantity
 - If you're happy, I'm happy
- User-based focus – takes effort
 - Getting “systems” guys to talk in front of a crowd
- Dovetailing is the way to go
 - Be not proud

COMUG – Miscellaneous Notes

- Websites
 - External – <http://www.comug.info>
 - Member Only – IBM provided Lotus Quickplace
 - Detailed Meeting Minutes
 - Document Repository
- Charter
 - “Welcome to COMUG” document
 - COMUG Operating Principals
 - COMUG Code of Conduct
 - “What happens at COMUG, stays at COMUG”
 - “No selling”
 - “No poaching”
 - To join COMUG, one must agree to abide by the “COMUG Code of Conduct”

COMUGer Quotes

- “COMUG presentations actually helped ODT resolve problems or avoid pitfalls when implementing new features a number of times. It was one of the few user groups that I have encountered that were not dedicated primarily to help the vendor market to members. I have not attended other user groups (e.g. Teradata, Oracle) more than once because the sessions were mostly marketing.”
 - *Jim Murtha, Ohio Department of Taxation*

COMUGer Quotes

- “In my mind, the most important thing about COMUG is the ability to informally gather and talk amongst ourselves about our strangely common problems and to get frank feedback from other local customers. I remember we initially talked about COMUG as being a professional development venue. While perhaps it is to some degree, I think to a greater degree it allows me to get a bit of a feel for the state of the mainframe world in Columbus that's unfiltered by the vendors. Is that important? I think it is--I think absent that feel for what other people are doing you're really working in a vacuum. Which is a risky proposition, even if you do have a space suit.”

- *Scott Chapman, American Electric Power*

COMUGer Quotes

- The value of COMUG has increased in value through the years, because of the time you have carefully developed it to make it worthwhile. We noticed as the travel / education budgets began to dry up, we needed some where to "share" our experiences with other users locally. Our management did not mind us traveling to a local meeting place, as long as the time away from our "work" was profitably. COMUG was able to form great agendas around various mainframe products, that brought us together. Thinking back through the years, it included:

zOS WAS
RACF
Security
Performance
New Hardware (z10, z196, etc)
New zOS Operating Systems
CICS / IMS
DB2

- Recently, it included "future" talks from IBM Research
Based upon the agendas, either other people shared their experiences, or you were able to secure great IBM Speakers.

From that initial framework, COMUG was able to draw together special training days, around software products. Including the famous WAS Week, zVM, CICS, DB2, Linux, etc.

- *Rod Hacker, Nationwide Insurance*

COMUGer Quotes

- “COMUG helps me keep up with mainframe technical change especially since our budget for training and travel has been drastically cut over the years. “
 - *Dan Schumacher, OCLC*

End of Section



Topics



Emerging Metro User Groups



Topics



Emerging Metro User Groups

- Cincinnati – several years old
- Detroit – going on a year
- And talk of...
 - Cleveland
 - NYC
- Use COMUG as a model
 - And adapt to local needs / conditions

Issues Shared

- Critical Mass
 - Getting Started (Steering Committee construction)
 - Management
 - Membership (enterprise's willing to allow participation)
- Keeping It Going
 - Management Commitment (Steering Committee leadership)
 - Supplying Content and Value

End of Section



Topics



Teaming Up



Topics



Teaming Up

- Solutions Shared
 - Inter - Steering Committee roundtables
 - Idea sharing
- Content Sharing
 - Red Rosey (speaker exchanges)
 - Speaker coordination (road-tripping)
- SHARE?
 - Clearing house?
 - Content source?

End of Section



Topics



**Thank
You**

Questions?

Comments?

Critiques?

Requests??!?!?

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