

Session Abstracts for Thursday, July 19, 2018

Modernization Sessions

Synchronous Multi-platform Deployment & Modernization at Hormel Foods and System U – Floyd Del Muro – ARCAD Software

Most IBM i businesses are using multiple platforms to support modern interfaces. Hormel Foods uses Ruby to provide that modern user interface, but DB2 on the i as their database engine. System U relies on several core IBM i applications written in-house in RPG, plus multiple Web and client/server applications written in Java on Linux and ORACLE. Both companies needed to make changes to all interfaces and have them be easily and automatically deployed at once across all servers – Hormel with more than a dozen and 2,000 at System U.

Hormel's IBM i applications are voluminous and constitute 65% of the deployment workload at the group. What happens when a file change on the i impacts non i platforms? Hormel uses Arcad DROPS to deploy to IBM i libraries, IFS directories and Windows servers, collecting deployable artifacts from the platform they live, including source control like Git, and delivering to the appropriate target.

DROPS was chosen at System U because it was clearly way ahead in terms of support for IBM i which is their core system. Also, with DROPS, System U could standardize on one single tool for deploying all of their technologies which include Java, ORACLE, DB2, and RPG. DROPS made deployment simple by masking all the complexity and technical detail so that operators no longer needed to know which technology was behind.

Learn in more detail how Arcad Software can help your company with modernization in a multiplatform environment.

Create IBM i web & mobile apps with no programming (unless you want to) – Rob Swanson - CNX

The Valence Framework for IBM i, available for free download, includes a browser-based development utility called Nitro App Builder. Using this tool, anyone with a solid understanding of their IBM i database can quickly create dazzling dashboard or query-type apps, complete with download-to-Excel functionality. You can also create apps that allow users to adjust specific fields in one or more physical files — you control which fields they can change and set the edit-check rules.

All of this can be done with no coding required, though advanced developers can extend the app's functionality with RPG code to handle business logic and make special database adjustments as needed. IBM i programmers who really want to get their hands dirty in the front-end JavaScript code can put other Valence development tools to work to create highly intricate data entry apps, all working hand-in-hand with your server-side RPG code.

The bottom line: With Valence, IBM i developers and super users alike can crank out highly functional web and mobile apps in a matter of minutes with no prior experience in web or mobile development. Come to this session to see how easy it can be to build such apps on your system today!

35 Hour Backups Done In 4 Hours – Derek Henderson - Cybernetics

This session will explore how using virtualized disks to store data backups is reducing backup/restore times and increasing reliability. With the ability to incorporate high-performance Solid State Drives and high-capacity drives, there are a wide range of options available to come up with the right balance of speed and capacity to meet your RPO/RTO targets. Taking advantage of advanced deduplication techniques, you can have immediate access to petabytes of backups, as well as cost-effective offsite copies to support disaster recovery/business continuity. For those operations with longer-term archiving requirements like HIPAA, data can be selectively moved to your tape devices automatically in the background.

Using different approaches depending on the size and specifics of the backup tasks, you will see many options to addressing backup challenges, whether on IBM iSeries, p-, x-, or other platforms. One solution can be a centralized management point for all your backups, even with dissimilar operating systems and software. Deployment and implementation is straightforward using existing software, connections, and equipment. From the company who developed the industry's first virtual tape library, you will learn strategies that can make long, painful and unreliable backups a thing of the past.

Fresche Strategies for IBM i Modernization Success – Mike Pavlak & Eamon Musallam – Fresche Solutions

Join IBM i Champion and expert, Mike Pavlak, and Eamon Musallam, as they share how Fresche Solutions have been successfully helping IBM i customers map out a strategy to evolve from heritage applications and tools to contemporary applications and toolsets. Learn from the experiences of other IBM i customers, and how to avoid common mistakes to ensure that your IBM i projects can be delivered on time, and on budget.

Advantages of attending:

- 1) Understand the "why" and ROI of modernization
- 2) Develop the success criteria that ensures a successful modernization strategy
- 3) Learn how this strategic approach leads to accurate timeline and budget estimations

About Fresche:

As a leading expert in IBM i, Fresche provides products, services and solutions that span the IBM i application modernization and management spectrum. Companies running RPG, COBOL, CA 2E and Java applications rely on us for automated solutions that optimize IBM i systems and help take advantage of technologies such as Web, Mobile, Cloud and AI on IBM i. Our portfolio includes solutions in the following areas:

- IT Strategy & Planning
- Analysis & Productivity
- Graphical User Interface, Web & Mobile
- Staff Augmentation & Application Services
- Code & Database Modernization
- Reporting & Document Distribution

Rapid Application Modernization – Daniel Moriarty - LANSA

See how LANSA's Rapid Application Modernization Process addresses both your immediate tactical needs and strategic long-term modernization requirements. With LANSA's low-code approach you can rapidly consolidate your 5250 applications into a graphical application framework to create composite applications. You can then incrementally replace your 5250 programs with new components in a timeframe that makes sense to your organization.

Controlling Tesla Model 3 from IBM i using Open Source/Node.js – Alex Roytman – Profound Logic

IBM i is capable of some pretty amazing things that many people aren't aware of. I decided to demonstrate this by controlling my Tesla Model 3 using my IBM i, Node.js and a tablet. I was able to quickly write an application that let me control the car by doing things like honking the horn and unlocking the car.

In this session, I want to show you how Open Source enables you to accomplish amazing things by integrating IBM i with almost anything. I'll walk you through the Tesla application I created, and demonstrate how the free Profound.js development framework made it possible. As I build the application in real time, I'll take your questions about Node.js and Open Source development, and give a live demonstration with my Tesla Model 3!

How to Build a Node.js and Angular Application on IBM i - Dan Magid & Dave Romo – Rocket Software

Are you ready to start using Node.js and Angular to build the latest user experiences for IBM i? In this session, we will use a real-world case study to show you how to architect, design and build effective Node and Angular applications for IBM i.

This session will cover:

- Client/Server architecture of web applications
- Methods of serving the client side
- How to use XMLSERVICE to call programs and run SQL on IBM i
- Sequence of calls in a typical use case

Professional Development Sessions

LinkedIn is NOT a Job Search Tool - Strategically Leveraging the Power of LinkedIn to become a more valuable asset to your organization - Greg Johnson

Most people think of LinkedIn as primarily a Job Search tool, and therefore miss the opportunities that can be gained by strategically leveraging the power of LinkedIn.

Learn the strategies that will help you be a more valuable asset to your current employer and keep you in demand.

Communicating Outside the Code – Linda O'Neil

Admit it... we developers tend to communicate in tech speak. Techies can be good communicators too! It's fun to learn not only new tech skills but communication skills as well. Effective communication is an important soft skill for your current position and when seeking another. We need effective communication, not miscommunication. This session will be informative and entertaining.

Overcoming the Legacy Label – Alan Seiden

Many CIOs and IT professionals, while appreciating what the IBM i platform does for their organizations, have a slight inferiority complex about the platform, believing that the issues of deferred maintenance and skill replacement are unique to us. They aren't. Any long-lived platform brings similar challenges, to be met head-on with confidence. The grass isn't really greener elsewhere. At this session, you will learn how to talk about the challenges of long-lived systems in a way that that business people can understand, how to create a plan for moving forward with IBM i modernization (or we might say, more precisely, "paying down technical debt"), if appropriate for your business, and to gain support for doing so.

Learning Objectives

1. Learn to speak in a way that transcends platform and helps other leaders in your organization see a strong business case—in reduced cost, risk, and stress—for retaining and improving your existing IBM i infrastructure.
2. Be able to answer questions about benefits and risks of cloud offerings.
3. Understand how to work more effectively with business people who may want to dictate technology to you.

Audience

1. IBM i professionals who want to communicate development needs to business people in a non-technical way.
2. CIOs and other leaders with responsibility for IT direction, whether experienced with IBM i or not.

Building the Next Generation of IBM i Professionals – Brian May

I have been running internship programs in IBM i shops for almost 15 years now. In this session we will discuss what I have learned during that time. I will share what has worked and what hasn't. Learn how to find the right interns and keep them. Building an internship program is the key to being prepared for the future. Are you prepared?

Flourish! Non-Technical Strategies to Maximize Your Success – Eamon Musallam

Do you feel like you are not reaching your full potential? Are you not quite as fulfilled or as happy at your current job as you feel you should be? Perhaps you feel like you should be making more money? If the answer is 'yes' to any of these questions, then you must attend this session. If you are currently working in any role in IT, it is very likely you have many more options to advance in your career than you realize. Learn how to harness soft-skills like emotional intelligence, mission statement creation, and leveraging your personality type to align with your day-to-day activities. Learn how to maximize your skills and experience to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Water Cooler Topics – I'll Show You Mine if You Show Me Yours – Charles Guarino

With our industry changing so fast you never know what's current and what's not. This session will discuss a variety of topics, all relevant to our community as IT professionals. But you won't just sit there passively. Like any water cooler discussion, you'll be asked to participate with your own opinions on current topics. You can expect the actual topics to be very timely and career-worthy, so the next time you're at your own water cooler you'll sound like a pro!

Mindfulness at Work – Alan Seiden

Mindfulness is a practice that trains your brain to gain a fresh perspective on your life and work. Learn how to use this powerful tool to see more calmly and clearly the challenges that you face in your organization. Major corporations have adopted mindfulness training to provide their employees with improved memory, better decision making, and lower stress. Some IT professionals report greater empathy and improved conflict resolution. We will not only talk about it, but actually do a few mindfulness exercises as a group, to experience a calm mind in the midst of a busy conference.

Learning Objectives:

1. Learn simple exercises to bring focus and calm
2. Know several practical applications of mindfulness