

❖ Consultants in Minnesota ❖

October 2000

President's Message

By Larry Bremer

Greetings.

Thank you to Mr. Don Tredinnick, Senior Solutions Consultant, for his excellent presentation on Business to Business. There are certainly opportunities for Independents to capitalize on project work interfacing legacy systems to the B2B interfaces and/or partnering with B2B firms such as TIBCO Software Inc.

Thank you also to Joan Barnes for her contribution to the national publication, the Independent. See the latest publication for a short bio on Joan.

There is still a need for a program chair for the December meeting. If you have any ideas please discuss potential venues with Gordy Schesel.

The National office has done much to enhance their web site. Visit as soon as you can to update your personal profile on their site. They have a good search engine that lets prospective clients search for a specific skill (keywords on your profile, you can update your profile online) and also by location (state). Other highlights include the ability to order handbooks, client brochures, establish an email alias such as ljbremer@icca.org, maintain your own web page on their server,

examine the many benefits and review ICCA's bylaws.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Lido on October 17th, to learn more about entrepreneurship.

Larry.

Officers:

President: Larry J. Bremer

Voice (612) 553-1994

Fax (612) 553-9094

email LJBremer@Compuserve.com

Vice President: Gordon Schesel

Voice (651) 429-8280

email 103011.3513@compuserve.com

Treasurer: Roger Montague

Voice (612) 545-7993

Fax (612) 546-3114

email rogermon@minn.net

Secretary: Ben Moyle

Voice (612) 933-2885

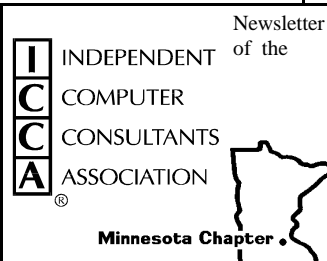
Fax (612) 933-7764

email bmoyle@bimoyle.com

Editor: Magne A. Hatlevik

Voice (651) 264-1608

email magne@magpcs.com



Entrepreneurship.

By Paul Miller



The Advantage Group is a company that shows entrepreneurs how to utilize powerful business tools. We operate as a one-stop shop for the entrepreneur. We specialize in helping someone who is in business for themselves take advantage of the same business tools that large corporations utilize. We have been in business for 9 plus years, and work with over 1500 entrepreneurs in the metro area.

Personally, I am one of the founders of the Advantage Group. My background consists of being involved in business ever since I can remember. I grew up on a dairy farm near St. Peter, MN, received a business degree from St. Cloud State and moved to the twin cities in 1991. At this time, I started working with local business owners while being involved in the insurance business. While working with business owners I noticed how many hats one had to wear as an entrepreneur, and was not being serviced by professionals who understood that aspect. Because of this situation, we started to create a place where the entrepreneur could go to get information that made sense to them and helped them make money.

We have been steadily growing our company over the past nine years to where we are now by providing services that our clients need and want. We have business coaches, tax

coaches, CPA's, Attorneys, Life Planners, Money Managers, and Administrative people who assist our clients with their business and personal life situation.

New E-Cruiter Focuses on Moonlighters

From the Contract Professional magazine
Submitted by Gordon Schesel

A2Zmoonlighter.com hopes to carve a niche for itself in the crowded e-cruiting market by focusing on finding extra work for people already working full-time. Moonlighting is a time-honored tradition, and this site will match professionals of all types with companies seeking talent for small projects.

Use of the site is free for professionals; companies scan the A2Zmoonlighter.com database for the appropriate people and then pay to obtain contact information. Do IT contractors and consultants qualify as moonlighters, since the work they do is essentially project-based? It doesn't seem to matter as long as you are available to do the types of projects the site's clients need done.

Posted Tuesday, October 3

Getting Started in CD Recording

DiscBurn.com

(952) 930-5177

<http://www.discburn.com/>

1. Install your system - follow instructions.

Just for the heck of it, start off by following the instructions. Then, if it doesn't work, you call up the manufacturer and get useful information on

fixing it. This follows the K.I.S.S. method - Keep It Simple, Stupid.

2. Prepare your system to burn a CD-R.

Clear out enough space on your HD to be sure you can burn a CD-R. To be certain, use a drive (IDE or SCSI/AV) with 1,000 MB free. Ideally, use a separate drive from that on which your temporary files are stored. Make certain that all drives that may be used are fully defragmented. Your disc must be defragged to avoid wasting time while the heads seek the next data item

3. Burn a simple data disc first.

Then build on your experience from there. The fundamental requirement for a successful burn on a CD-R is maintaining a steady flow of data. Anything that interrupts that flow will create a "coaster" instead of a usable disc.

Turn off anything you can on your computer that is not needed to burn the disc: screen savers, AV monitors, fax receivers must not be active if you want to make a disc you can read. Again, you **may** get away with violating those rules, but until you know your system and its capabilities, don't take the chance.

Can I just copy files onto a CD-R like I would to a floppy?

Yes and no. The process can be a bit more involved than that, and requires special software that (usually) comes bundled with the drive.

With "packet writing" software, and a

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recorder that supports it, you can treat a CD-R or CD-RW disc like a floppy. Generally speaking, you can only write to each part of the disc once, so deleting files doesn't gain any space. There are other limitations as well.

With more traditional software -- necessary if you want the broadest possible compatibility -- you usually end up writing everything to the disc all at once. When you're doing the writing you can't interrupt the drive, and you can't reclaim the space you've used. If you want to write your files in smaller bunches, you lose a fair bit of space every time you stop and start again.

Replication vs. Duplication – Whats the difference?

The CDs from your favorite musician, AOL, or Microsoft are created from a mold. CD-Rs are “burned” with a laser. They may look different (often green, gold, or blue instead of silver), they're less tolerant of extreme temperatures and sunlight, and they're more susceptible to physical damage. Whether CD-Rs or pressed CDs last longer is difficult to answer.

While they're not physically identical, they work just the same! By the way, you can't record on pressed discs, so you might as well throw out all those AOL CD-ROMs you've been accumulating. You have to buy blank CD-R or CD-RW media.

*DiscBurn.com 3108 39th Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55421
Info@DiscBurn.com (952) 930-5177*

Business to Business

A wrap up By: Amy McKenna

I would like to thank Don Tredinnick of Tibco Software Inc. for presenting to us on the topic of B2B Servers. His ability to be flexible and personalize the presentation for the ICCA group was appreciated. Don focused on the many functions a B2B server must provide to meet the requirements of most businesses. The following is a high level summary of Don's discussion.

Foremost a B2B server must provide a method for dealing with multiple protocols of data exchange, for example EDI, FTP, email and proprietary file formats. Additionally, the server must be able to validate trading partners, who the data is coming from. Once a document has been received the B2B server software should validated the document and keep a detailed audit tracking of the document. An advanced B2B server will provide a Non-Repetition Database, which is used to prove a document was received from a given trading partner and what method it was transfer via. Finally, the B2B server must provide a method for interfacing the received document to internal applications.



Meeting Reservations: Members may phone your reservation to Joan Barnes at 651-257-2570, **by 3:00 PM, Friday, October 13, 2000.** Non-members should mail this form to: ICCA Minnesota, c/o Roger Montague, 2738 Winnetka Ave. N, New Hope, MN 55427.

Name: _____ Company: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Phone: () _____

Menu Selections: The Lido Italian Buffet

Members \$25 Non-members \$28 x _____ = _____
Late Charge \$2 x _____ = _____
Enclosed is a check for: _____



Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Entrepreneurship

Italian Market Deli by Lido

2801 North Snelling Ave
(north of Rosedale)
651-636-9721

Social Hour at 5:30PM
Dinner at 6:30PM

For reservations call
Joan Barnes @ 651-257-2570

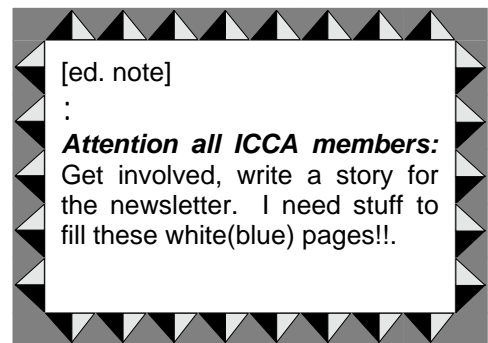
FUTURE MEETINGS

Nov 15 High Tech Legislation @ Wyndham
Dec 21 Holiday Party
Jan 16 Broker Fair

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