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Call For Articles

Can you write a few paragraphs on an interesting topic related to what you do for a living? ICCA of Minnesota is looking for articles for this newsletter, for our web page, and for submission to larger-circulation journals.

Please help!

Send articles or story ideas to editors@icca-mn.org, or call us at 612-245-ICCA.

ICCA-MN Meets at Microsoft

By Ray Giske

A small, but stimulating, group of ICCA-MN members met at the Midwest regional offices of Microsoft for the June, 2005 meeting. The meeting was hosted by Dan Kocon, Small Business Development Mgr., and Nick Stillings, Business Productivity Advisor. The two shared the podium with Dan opening the program with an overview of the Microsoft Partner Program and Nick followed with a review of the Microsoft Office 2003 suite of products.

Based on information provided by Dan, the Microsoft Partner Program is one heck of a deal! While the program has several levels of participation, the Registered Member level provides a variety of services and "not for distribution" software for as little as \$299.00 per year. Benefits of membership were classified into four areas:

- Planning your business as it relates to the Microsoft Initiatives Calendar and participation in the Microsoft Worldwide Partner Conference to be held in Minneapolis this year.
- Building and Maintaining Your Expertise which includes the option to acquire "internal-use" software as well as access to on-line tutorials and on-line hands-on labs.
- Marketing and Selling that includes a variety of resources such as Partner Guides, customer referrals, Microsoft License Configurator, etc.
- Service and support which provides phone support in business critical situations, access to online Knowledge Base, and a one-stop location for bulletins and resources on security issues.

You can learn more about the Microsoft Partner Program by visiting www.microsoft.com/partner/program.

Next Meeting Tuesday, August 16

Speakers:
TBD

Topic:
TBD

**Axel's
in the Radisson Hotel**
2540 North Cleveland Ave.
Roseville, MN

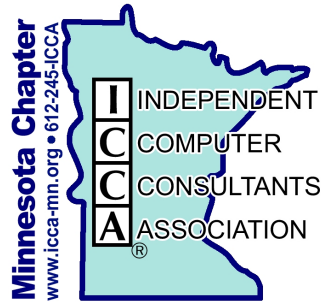
Mentoring 5:30PM
Dinner 6:30PM
Members \$25
Non-Members \$35

RSVP 651.257.2570

In his presentation, Dan announced that he will be moving from his position in the near future and the contact person will be Chris Conner. She resides in Fargo but does visit the Minneapolis office frequently.

As the Business Productivity Advisor, Nick spends a good portion of his time working with small business in the upper Midwest. His presentation focused on the product he considers to be highly beneficial to small business and that product is Sharepoint Services which is built into Small Business Server.

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Using Sharepoint Services integrated with the InfoPath product, Nick demonstrated building a portal site for a Finance Virtual Team on the small company's internet server. Using InfoPath as a "form engine", Nick demonstrated setting up expense reports and illustrated how these forms could be used for data entry over the internet.

The Microsoft presentations were preceded by a brief business meeting where Bill Middlecamp reviewed the actions of the chapter board at its most recent meeting. In addition, Bill as well as other members who attended reviewed the national ICCA conference held in Atlanta in early June.

ICCA Calendar

Minnesota Chapter

When	What	Where
August 16	TBA	Axel's Roseville Radisson Hotel
September 21	TBA	Park Plaza Hotel Bloomington
October 20	TBA	Axel's Roseville Radisson Hotel
November 15	TBA	Park Plaza Hotel Bloomington
December 17	Holiday Party	