

◆ Consultants in Minnesota ◆

May 1998

President's Message

by Ray Giske

In order to meet the deadlines imposed by our editor, I am once again obligated to write this epistle under some considerable pressure. Consequently, I will put it together as best I can under the circumstances, leaving it to the Editor to make this look like a quality document. I understand he is pushing the deadline in order to get the newsletter out prior to the Strictly Business Expo.

Last Month's Meeting

Since last month's Program Sponsor, Norm Nelson, has a summary of last month's meeting elsewhere in this issue, I needn't dwell on that. I know I went away with the feeling that there was a lot more I needed to know about IBM's e-Business. Thanks, Norm, for putting the program together. Because of the Strictly Business Expo in May (see below) and the ICCA National Conference in June (see below), the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be Tues. July 21 at the Lido.

Strictly Business

The plans for ICCA-MN's participation in the Strictly Business Expo have been pretty well finalized. As indicated earlier in this column, our participation is scheduled for Wed. May 13th, the first day of the Expo. Three presentations have been planned. At 11:30 AM, I will be making a presentation on "Selecting and Using Consultants". At 2:00PM, Joan Barnes will be presenting her version of the Bill McTeer presentation on "Becoming and Independent Consultant". This presentation will be followed by a panel of four practicing chapter members describing how they do business and responding to questions from the audience. At the same time, a chapter information table will be set up at the entrance to the room and will be staffed by ICCA-MN members throughout the day. The

arrangements have been made by a small committee consisting of Bill McTeer, Bob Seiber, and Joan Barnes.

Please pass the word on the availability of these **FREE** presentations to anyone whom you think may have an interest. The first presentation is directed to the potential user of consulting services while the afternoon sessions are directed to those who may be thinking about being a consultant.

At the end of the day, ICCA-MN chapter members will once again gather at Pronto's in the Hyatt Regency Hotel for an "Expo Facto" get-together. As a result, no regular monthly meeting is scheduled for May.

National Conference

The National ICCA Conference is being held this year in June in Philadelphia, PA. If you have not already signed up, you should give it serious consideration. As announced at the April meeting, Joan Barnes is working on getting a significant number of MN chapter members to go with an added incentive of a side trip to Lancaster County, PA. I'd recommend you contact her directly (257-2570) if you have any interest at all. Since several chapter members have already expressed interest in going, no regular monthly meeting has been scheduled for June.

Training Opportunities

Another technical training opportunity is being provided to ICCA-MN chapter members. ExecuTrain, with offices in Normandale Lake Office Park, is offering discounted training to chapter members. (See ExecuTrain announcement elsewhere). While Jim Tincher, ExecuTrain Manager wanted to have a representative at the last meeting to discuss the details of this opportunity, it wasn't possible. Nevertheless, he has provided a summary of the information, including procedures for registration and accessing the course schedules on their web site so that members can begin using this opportunity as soon as possible. Thanks to ExecuTrain for making this opportunity available!

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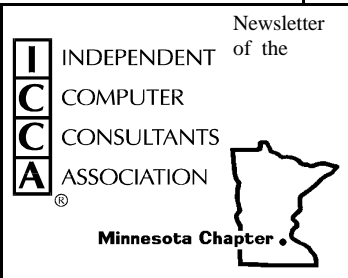
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April Meeting Wrapup

by: Norman Nelson

The program for April was "E Business" presented by Bob McMullan and Ida Lano of IBM, Network Computing area. We were told of IBM's commitment as a corporation to the idea of the internet and its open standards as being the focus and direction for its development of new products. The "Network Computing Framework" is the technology foundation of their strategy. The principles of the NCF are: based on open standards link network computing solutions to existing applications and data provide a consistent programming model security, reliability, scalability, and manageability distribute work between clients and servers NCF must be an enduring model

Some products discussed were the Domino Go Webserver, Lotus Domino and Domino Mail, DB2 Universal Database, various IBM Transaction Series products for multi platforms. We were also given information about Enterprise Java, current products and products in development. Tie it all together with "e-business connectors" that make it possible to retrieve needed information from existing systems via a universal (web) access. For more info on any of these topics or to find out if JavaBeans, ServletBeans or AppletBeans are coming to a Starbucks near you, please contact Bob McMullan via Email at rlmcmul@us.ibm.com.

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as laws vary from state to state and also because the facts or your situation may not support application of any rule, statement, or suggestion

Strictly Business Computer Expo.

By: Joan E. Barnes jebarnes@dbasystems.com

I hope everyone is planning on attending and supporting ICCA/MNs efforts at Strictly Business - and the good time that we all have afterward at Pronto's. For those of you who have not joined us in the past, here's the scoop: Please call in a reservation to my office, 257-2570, to reserve a chair at Pronto's, the Italian restaurant located on the third floor of the Hyatt (an easy walk from the convention center). The dinner is an order-off-the-menu arrangement so you don't need to decide a week in advance what you think you will be in the mood to eat. When the bill shows up, we pass it around and write a check to ICCA for the amount that we think we owe, and the treasurer writes a check for the bill. This year, if anyone expects to want Tiramisu for dessert, please include that request with your reservation so the folks from Hewlett Packard don't have it all gobbled up.

Now about the ICCA conference in Philadelphia: Plan to be there. The conference appears to be another series of swell sessions, and the east coast has fistfuls of stuff to see and do. So how you spend the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22 and maybe a few days before and after is a rather easy decision. Bring your families. I plan to have the Minnesota Chapter Summer Fun itinerary for Monday, June 23 figured out by the post-Strictly-Business dinner.

TOP TEN ANTI-WINDOWS LAWSUITS

From: William Smale

You know, we're getting really tired of doing lawsuit-based top ten lists, but this week's Justice Department suit against Microsoft is just too good to pass up. So here we go again, with the top ten *other* items that will have to be removed from Windows 98 if the legal beagles have their way...

10. Recycle bin: infringes on Rubbermaid's line of waste receptacles.
9. Icons: the Russian Orthodox Church has been making icons for 2,000 years.
8. DOS prompt: unfair competition with

Unix.

7. Windows Explorer: Ford claims likely product-line confusion with its sport-utility vehicles.
6. Desktop wallpaper: unfair to Taylor Wall Coverings.
5. CD player control: makes your PC the world's most expensive CD player; Bang & Olufsen claims that trade as its own.
4. Volume control: infringes on Radio Shack's knob and slider business.
3. Calculator: competes with Hewlett-Packard.
2. Minesweeper: undermines U.S.Navy recruiting programs.
1. All the Easter eggs in Windows that say "Janet Reno is the Antichrist": better safe than sorry...

Visitors and new members at the ICCA Minnesota Thursday April 16th meeting

A hearty welcome to our visitor at the April 16th ICCA meeting. We all hope you will visit again and become part of our association

Michael Nalette

[ed. note]

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Attention all ICCA members: Get involved, write a story for the newsletter. I need stuff to fill these white(blue) pages!!

Microsoft Patents Ones, Zeroes

By: Joan Barnes

REDMOND, WA--In what CEO Bill Gates called "an unfortunate but necessary step to protect our intellectual property from theft and exploitation by competitors," the Microsoft Corporation patented the numbers one and zero Monday.

With the patent, Microsoft's rivals are prohibited from manufacturing or selling products containing zeroes and ones--the mathematical building blocks of all computer languages and programs--unless a royalty fee of 10 cents per digit used is paid to the software giant.

"Microsoft has been using the binary system of ones and zeroes ever since its inception in 1975," Gates told reporters. "For years, in the interest of the overall health of the computer industry, we permitted the free and unfettered use of our proprietary numeric systems. However, changing marketplace conditions and the increasingly predatory practices of certain competitors now leave us with no choice but to seek compensation for the use of our numerals."

A number of major Silicon Valley players, including Apple Computer, Netscape and Sun Microsystems, said they will challenge the Microsoft patent as monopolistic and anti-competitive, claiming that the 10-cent-per-digit licensing fee would bankrupt them instantly.

"While, technically, Java is a complex system of algorithms used to create a platform-independent programming environment, it is, at its core, just a string of trillions of ones and zeroes," said Sun Microsystems CEO Scott McNealy, whose company created the Java programming environment used in many Internet applications. "The licensing fees we'd have to pay Microsoft every day would be approximately 327,000 times the total net worth of this company."

"If this patent holds up in federal court,

Apple will have no choice but to convert to analog," said Apple interim CEO Steve Jobs, "and I have serious doubts whether this company would be able to remain competitive selling pedal-operated computers running software off vinyl LPs."

As a result of the Microsoft patent, many other companies have begun radically revising their product lines: Database manufacturer Oracle has embarked on a crash program to develop "an abacus for the next millennium." Novell, whose communications and networking systems are also subject to Microsoft licensing fees, is working with top animal trainers on a chimpanzee-based message-transmission system. Hewlett-Packard is developing a revolutionary new steam-powered printer.

Despite the swarm of protest, Gates is standing his ground, maintaining that ones and zeroes are the undisputed property of Microsoft. "We will vigorously enforce our patents of these numbers, as they are legally ours," Gates said. "Among Microsoft's vast historical archives are Sanskrit cuneiform tablets from 1800 B.C. clearly showing ones and a symbol known as 'sunya,' or nothing. We also own: papyrus scrolls, written by Pythagoras himself in which he explains the idea of singular notation, or 'one'; early tracts by Mohammed ibn Musa al Kwarizimi explaining the concept of al-sifr, or 'the cipher'; original mathematical manuscripts by Heisenberg, Einstein and Planck; and a signed first-edition copy of Jean-Paul Sartre's Being And Nothingness. Should the need arise, Microsoft will have no difficulty proving to the Justice Department or anyone else that we own the rights to these numbers." Added Gates: "My salary also has lots of zeroes. I'm the richest man in the world."

According to experts, the full ramifications of Microsoft's patenting of one and zero have yet to be realized. "Because all integers and natural numbers derive from one and zero, Microsoft may, by extension, lay claim to ownership of all mathematics and logic systems, including Euclidean geometry, pulleys and levers, gravity, and the basic Newtonian principles of motion, as well

as the concepts of existence and nonexistence," Yale University theoretical mathematics professor J. Edmund Lattimore said. "In other words, pretty much everything."

Lattimore said that the only mathematical constructs of which Microsoft may not be able to claim ownership are infinity and transcendental numbers like pi. Microsoft lawyers are expected to file liens on infinity and pi this week.

Microsoft has not yet announced whether it will charge a user fee to individuals who wish to engage in such mathematically rooted motions as walking, stretching and smiling.

In an address beamed live to billions of people around the globe Monday, Gates expressed confidence that his company's latest move will, ultimately, benefit all humankind.

"Think of this as a partnership," Gates said. "Like the ones and zeroes of the binary code itself, we must all work together to make the promise of the computer revolution a reality. As the world's richest, most powerful software company, Microsoft is number one. And you, the millions of consumers who use our products, are the zeroes."

[ed. note]

: I believe that this article is purely fictional and printed for its entertainment value.





Next Meeting

**Wednesday May 13
Strictly Business®
Computer Expo**

**Minneapolis Convention Center
Dinner at Pronto's
at the Hyatt
13th. and Nicollet**

Dinner at 6:00PM

For reservations call
Joan Barnes @ 257-2570

FUTURE MEETINGS

**June 19-21
Annual Conference - Philadelphia**

ExecuTrain sets up Discounted Training for ICCA Members

ExecuTrain is offering all ICCA members discounts in both Instructor-Led and Computer-Based training.

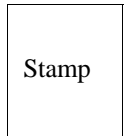
ExecuTrain provides a full line Microsoft and Novell-Authorized Instructor-Led classes, including courses in Windows NT, Visual Basic, NetWare, Microsoft Exchange, GroupWise, and Visual InterDev. ICCA members can receive a 25% discount by calling our Technical Training hotline at (612) 921-8972. **Be sure to mention your ICCA discount – this offer is not available to the general public!**

ICCA members can also receive single-user licenses of CBT Systems Computer-Based Training courses. CBT Systems is the world's leading supplier of self-based training, and ICCA members receive a 10% discount off their courses. Courses are available in many technologies, including Windows NT, C++, Java, Visual Basic, and others – call (612) 921-8972 for a full list.

Or better yet, combine the two for the best retention – purchase your instructor-led courses, and receive the CBT Systems course of the same name for only \$100 extra! Just make certain to mention your ICCA membership when you



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