



NEODBUG

ELECTRONIC NEWS:

Jan / Feb 2003

Official Newsletter of the Northeast Ohio Database User Group

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I hope all of you had a great Holiday Season. This year it was especially difficult for me to come back after vacation. It wasn't long enough! Once again, I feel honored to be returning as a member of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of NEODBUG. I will work hard to continue the fine work performed by the 2002 Board. I want to thank the members of 2002's Board of Trustees for all of their hard work. There was a lot accomplished during last year, including:

- Last year, NEODBUG hosted presentations covering Oracle and Microsoft as well as IBM databases, continuing our coverage of any database product able to reside in mixed environments.
- We were also able to bring in speakers such as:
 - Bryan Smith, a Senior Technical Staff Member with IBM, presenting "DB2 for z/OS Trends and Directions (V7 and beyond)" and "Query Parallelism on DB2 for z/OS".
 - We had a company talk titled: "What the Heck is that Explain Plan Trying to Explain?" presented by Lateefah Hafeez, of KeyBank. This presentation was given at Oracle World 2001.
 - Chuck Hoover presented "Understand the DB2 for z/OS Sort." Basically it was everything that you wanted to know about Sorting on the mainframe, but might have been afraid to ask.
 - Sheryl Larsen is an internationally recognized researcher, consultant and lecturer, specializing in DB2. Sheryl presented "DB2 Advanced & Complex SQL Coding" for our second Special Educational meeting attended by 140 of our members.
 - Moez Chaabouni, from Rational software presented: "Introduction to the Unified Modeling Language (UML) and Data Modeling with the UML." His presentation included discussions of Visual Modeling.
 - Louis Gonzalez from Microsoft Corporation. His presentation was entitled "BI Analysis Using SQL Server".
 - Jay Yothers, from IBM gave two presentations. The first was entitled: "SQL Triggers in DB2 for z/OS and OS/390" and his second presentation was "High Performance and High Availability with DB2 for z/OS and OS/390 Version 7"
 - Our Tools Fair included a keynote address at the beginning of the day by Gene Austin, Vice President and General Manager of the Enterprise Data Management business unit at BMC Software Inc.
 - Rob Crane, a Senior DBA from Computer Associates, gave two. His first presentation was entitled: "The DB2 Log—What's in it for me?" and his second was "A Nuts and Bolts Approach to Plans and Packages."

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- Scott Hayes, the founder of DGI, company specializing in performance management tools, consulting, and support for DB2 UDB UNIX, Linux, and Windows, presented: "Cut Query Times in Half: Sort & I/O Tuning"
- Bill Schneeweis, an IBM Software IT Specialist, gave 3 presentations: "DB2 - today and tomorrow" which examined the architecture of DB2 (all platforms) with an eye toward synergies and future enhancements and Part 2, titled: "DB2 Trends" which dealt with general trends in DB2 and Information Integration – something new from IBM. Bill's third presentation was titled: "DB2 Next - What is Known Now About the Next Version of DB2 for z/OS". This presentation reviewed what has been disclosed about the next version of mainframe DB2.
- NEODBUG held its 10th Annual Database and Data Warehouse Tools Fair at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven in association with the North East Ohio Oracle Users Group. There were 7 vendors who participated and we had 90 Pre-registrations and around 80 attendees. Quite a strong showing in a year that was weak for IT, in general and software sales, in particular. For the 6th time, we featured a Keynote Speaker: Gene Austin, VP and GM of the Enterprise Data Management for BMC Software. Your feedback from the Tools Fair confirms the Board's belief that this event is considered valuable to our membership. Several people enjoyed the "intimate atmosphere" of the event.
- All of our efforts to cut our expenses have proven to be successful. While our expenses have increased again, we have been able to hold the line for both annual corporate fees and the quarterly meeting fees for 2003.
- We changed our format for the February meeting into a Special Training Class, taught by Sheryl Larson. The pricing for this class was at a large discount for the membership and we used the profit from this meeting to help build the NEODBUG coffers and decrease or postpone any future increases.

This year, NEODBUG will be changing, not improving, the offerings that we provide for members of the organization. In addition, the Board of Trustees made some decisions for 2003. These include the following:

- We are changing the schedule of our events. Instead of our February meeting, we are holding our Educational meeting on March 6th. The pricing for this class remains discounted for NEODBUG members and we will use the profit from this meeting to help build the NEODBUG coffers and postpone any future increases in our fees. This year, we are bringing Terry Purcell to present "SQL Coding for Performance". The costs for the meeting are:
 - \$199 for Pre-registered Members, \$225 at the door.
 - \$225 Once checks are received by NEODBUG, they are non-refundable. Another person maybe substituted.
 - for Pre-registered Non-Members, \$250 at the door.

We are offering two (2) ways to reduce the cost for this Education. First, there is a \$30 credit offered for every 5th pre-registered attendee from the same company. Second, if you have coupons for prepaying 2003 meetings fees, you can apply one of them for \$30 off the price of the class. More details of the class will be sent out in the next week.

- We voted to continue the individual membership level for consultants and people whose companies won't approve a corporate membership at the same cost as well.
- NEODBUG is online at www.neodbug.org. We have redesigned the site to provide more useful information in addition to the newsletter and links to Websites for various database vendors covered by our organization.
- We will continue to issue email blasts with information about the upcoming meetings, events, IDUG information, etc. This is the only way we be communicating with you, so if you have not given us your email address, and there are many of you that have not, please let us know that you would like to be added to that list. Just send an email to neodbug@sps-solutions.com a request to be added to the mailing list.
- We continue accepting email registrations for all of our meetings except for our annual Tools Fair. However, your registration for any meeting is not confirmed until we receive payment. If payment is not received before the meeting, you will be charged the "at the door" rate for the meetings. We are required to pay for reserved, but unused, lunches and must guarantee the number of attendees to the hotel three (3) business days before the meeting.
- Our show sponsor, Fox Productions, has decided that they were interested in holding hold another Tools Fair this year, so the Board decided to support that effort as we have previously. This is the only venue where we allow "sales pitches" and demos of vendor software and services. The Database and Data Warehouse Tools Fair will be held on August 7th at Executive Caterer's of Landerhaven.
- Remember, NEODBUG is still the only independent users group dedicated to presenting information about heterogeneous databases. The Board has voted to maintain this status.
- The Board voted to hold the line on Meeting Fees for 2003. Therefore, if your company or you are members of NEODBUG, the fees are: \$30 pre-registered and \$40 at the door. If your company or you are NOT members of NEODBUG, the meeting fees are: \$40 pre-registered and \$50 at the door.

None of these accomplishments could have occurred without the support and assistance of the 2002 Board of Trustees. I would like to especially commend the efforts of Kirk Bailey and Carmen Rosa for their relentless efforts to provide an exceptional program for database issues at each and every quarterly meeting. I would like to thank Jim Szabo and Al Solnick for their efforts to keep us on track and under budget during 2002, Bill Moran and Phil Sherman for their good council, Sue Birgeles for all of her efforts to re-establish our SIG programs and Jason Sperko for all of his work on our website.

NEODBUG



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Secretary - Jim Szabo

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By this time the Primary Contact at each member company should have received the invoice for 2003 corporate dues. If you have not received these, please contact either Al Solnick or myself to get one. There is only ONE Primary Contact for each member company. All checks for either Annual Membership Dues or Quarterly Meeting Fees must be made out to:

NEODBUG
35000 Chardon Rd., Suite 200
Cleveland, OH 44094

If your company is reluctant to purchase a NEODBUG corporate membership, inform them that this year, there are the 3 Quarterly meetings, 1 Special Education Event and a Tools Fair. Also, please reflect on one of the responses to the question of the "Name three reasons you attend NEODBUG meetings":

"I consider NEODBUG as a requirement to be able to perform my job."

If you have any comments about our programs or anything else, please email the Board of Trustees at neodbugquestion@sps-solutions.com to share your thoughts and suggestions. We really read your thoughts. Watch for future NEODBUG newsletters and email blasts. We will keep you informed of events as they unfold.

For our March Special Educational Meeting, we are proud to present Terry Purcell with a day's worth of education. Terry will be presenting "SQL Coding for Performance." He is a Senior Consultant with YL&A (Yevich, Lawson & Associates) and is an industry recognized authority in DB2 SQL. Terry has presented at numerous conferences, user groups and private companies on SQL coding and performance, and was voted Best Overall Speaker for the 2001 IDUG Asia/Pacific Conference. He has published many articles on SQL performance including an IBM whitepaper on "Star Joins", and is a frequent contributor to the DB2 List Server. Terry is also an IBM Certified Solutions Expert in DB2 V7 Database Administration for OS/390 and a member of the IBM Gold Consultants program for DB2.

The objectives of this class are to:

1. Detail the basis of all SQL performance problems.
2. Outline the considerations for writing efficient SQL.
3. Highlight the processes that should be pushed into DB2 and those that should not.

This seminar focuses on specific SQL coding methods to achieve maximum performance. Discover why most general guidelines do not apply, and learn the approaches to designing performance into all applications. Attendees will obtain a logical understanding of the DB2 engine so that SQL features can be fully exploited (joins, table expressions, CASE, subselects, etc.). The major causes of performance problems will be highlighted with corresponding solutions, and SQL features will be analyzed to determine how queries should be written to enhance application efficiency.

The Optimizer

- DB2 SQL Processing Internals
- The Optimizer and the Catalog
- Filter Factors

Access Path Basics

- Tablespace/Partition Scan
- Index Retrieval
- Join Methods

SQL Performance Objectives

- Filtering
- Predicate Stages
- Repeat Processes

Query Performance Considerations

- Redundancy
- Predicate Evaluation
- Multi-table Filtering Concepts
- Sort Minimization
- Saving CPU
- Matching Index Columns

Influencing Access Paths

- Preferred Alternatives
- SQL Performance Recap

This first meeting of 2003 will be on March 6, 2003 at the Hilton Inn South on Rockside Road. The deadline for pre-registration is Friday, February 28th. So don't delay. As always, registration is on a first come, first served basis.

I hope all of you can attend.

Michael P. James
Chairman



TREASURER'S REPORT

NEODBUG's year-end financial report for 2002 is listed below. We started 2002 with a net worth of \$ 6,410.01.

ASSETS

Checking Account	\$ 11,788.37
Savings Account	\$ 1,951.48
TOTAL	\$ 13,739.85

LIABILITIES

Membership Prepayment	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 0.00

NET WORTH \$ 13,739.85

2002 INCOME

Corporate Memberships	\$ 2,715.00
Individual Membership	\$ 25.00
February Meeting	\$ 1,650.00
March Education Meeting	\$25,064.00
May Meeting	\$ 2,361.80
August Meeting	\$ 150.00
November Meeting	\$ 2,480.00
Miscellaneous/ Interest	\$ 84.56
TOTAL	\$34,530.36

2002 EXPENSE

Charitable Donation	\$ 50.00
February Meeting	\$ 227.40
March Education Meeting	\$19,751.15
May Meeting	\$ 3,237.05
August Meeting	\$ 92.95
November Meeting	\$ 3,103.55
Overhead/ Miscellaneous	\$ 738.42
TOTAL	\$27,200.52

NET INCOME (LOSS) \$ 7,329.84

In 2002, NEODBUG gained income by sponsoring the Sheryl Larsen Education Session in March and reduced our February meeting expenses by over \$1500 because Computer Associates sponsored lunch. Thanks CA! The NEODBUG Board also reduced its overhead from the previous year by 22%. In all, we saw our net worth increase by \$7,329.84 in 2002, making us financially healthier than in the past.

Corporate Membership invoices have been mailed to the contact person at each company. Contact and mailing list names (including e-mail addresses) are on the back of the invoice and need to be filled out and returned with the invoice so we can keep our newsletter mailing database current. If your contact person has not yet received your invoice, please call me at 216-689-0139 or email me so I could email you a new one. **Memberships will be late and will increase if received after 02/28/2003.** Remember, Corporate Memberships play a large role in keeping this organization afloat, so please be diligent in sending them in. Thanks for your support.



Alan P. Solnick
Treasurer



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2003

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>City</u>
02/10-02/14/2003	Transaction & Messaging (CICS & MQSeries) Technical Conference	Las Vegas, NV
03/06/2003	NEODBUG Special Educational Meeting Featuring Terry Purcell	Independence
4/26-4/28/2003	The International Oracle Users Group - Americas (IOUG-A) Live!2003	Orlando, FL
5/8/2003	NEODBUG Quarterly Meeting	Independence
05/18-05/22/2003	Information Builders Summit 2003	Chicago, IL
05/19-05/23/2003	IDUG 2002 — North America (DB2)	Las Vegas, NV
08/07/2003	NEODBUG Database & Data Warehouse Tools Fair	Executive Caterer's at Landerhaven
8/21/2003	NEODBUG Quarterly Meeting	Independence
Nov-03	NEODBUG Quarterly Meeting	Independence



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