

2021 Speaker Biographies



Patrick Behr

Software Developer

Twitter: @P_Behr

With a career in IT spanning 20 years, Patrick Behr has been working on IBM i (and its predecessors) for all of it. He spent most of his career working with RPG and Db2, and earned the ILE RPG Developer Certification, and has also worked in web development and application and database modernization. Patrick is a COMMON Speaker of Merit and Bronze medal winner, and has spoken at conferences and user groups across the country.



Erwin Earley

IBM

Customer Success Manager – Architect

Website: www.ibm.com

After three years exploring other opportunities, Erwin Earley is back at IBM. Currently filling the role of Customer Success Manager (CSM) in the Financial Services Market, Erwin works with customers to help them on their journey to the cloud. Prior to his current assignment Erwin was a Senior Solutions Consultant at Perforce Software working with IBM i customers on the usage of PHP and other open source solutions.

Other IBM activities that Erwin has been involved in include working in the Lab-Based services organization responsible for implementation of cloud-based solutions leveraging IBM's PowerVC solution as well as Dev/Ops solutions centered around Chef and Docker. Throughout his IBM career Erwin has played key rolls in the propagation of open source technologies in IBMs Power community. Erwin was responsible in the initial enablement and roll out of Linux on the Power platform as well as PHP support IBM i. Erwin has expertise in a variety of technologies including virtualization, storage, networking, and operating systems including AIX, IBM i, and several distributions of Linux including RedHat, SuSE and Ubuntu. Erwin is a frequent speaker at various user groups and technical conferences and has authored numerous articles on Linux, PHP, virtualization, and systems management.



Yvonne Enselman

iTech Solutions

Director of Professional Services

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Yvonne Enselman is the Director of Professional Services at iTech Solutions and she is based in Chicago, IL. She started working with the IBM i Platform (AS/400, iSeries) in 1996 holding positions including programmer/analyst, B2B coordination, and instructor. Since 2005 she has focused on quality assurance and project management bringing certifications in these areas to the technical disciplines of the traditional IBM i professional. She is a passionate advocate of the system volunteering in myriad ways such as serving as a director for professional associations (COMMON, OMNI), speaking, writing, blogging, teaching, and mentorship.



Scott Forstie

IBM

Senior Technical Staff Member

Twitter: @Forstie_IBMi

Scott Forstie is a Senior Technical Staff Member within IBM i development and spends most of his time working as the Db2 for i Architect. He has worked on IBM operating system development since joining IBM in 1989. Scott is a frequently published author, speaker at industry events around the globe and can be found @Forstie_IBMi and forstie@us.ibm.com. Scott is an avid runner and enjoys cooking. Websites: <http://ibm.biz/Db2foriServices>, http://ibm.biz/IBMi_ACS



Jesse Gorzinski

IBM

Business Architect of Open Source Technologies.

Twitter: @IBMJesseG

Jesse Gorzinski works for the IBM i development lab in Rochester, MN. He is the Business Architect of open source technologies. Jesse, who was doing RPG programming at the age of 18, is an expert on application development on IBM i, as well as system access and modernization. His hobbies include playing with his dog, replacing complex applications with 5-line Python programs, and advocating for the use of new technologies on IBM i! Prior to his 2006 employment at IBM, Jesse worked with the AS/400 as an I/T administrator for an IBM customer in the finance/mortgage industry, where he specialized in data backup/recovery, process optimization, and information integrity. He has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science as well as a Master of Business Administration degree.



Charles Guarino
Central Park Data Systems
CEO

Website: www.centralparkdata.com

With an IT career spanning over 30 years, Charles Guarino has been a consultant for most of them. Since 1995 he has been founder and President of Central Park Data Systems, Inc., a Long Island and New York City area based IBM midrange consulting and corporate training company. In addition to being a professional speaker across the United States and Europe, he is a frequent contributor of technical and strategic articles and webcasts for the IT community. He is a member of COMMON's Speaker Excellence Hall of Fame and The Long Island Software and Technology Network's Twenty Top Techies. In 2015 Charles became the proud recipient of the Al Barsa Memorial Scholarship Award. Additionally, he currently serves as a member of COMMON's Strategic Education Team (SET) and is also the monthly Q&A host and chairman of the speaker committee for LISUG, a Long Island IBM i User's Group www.lisug.org.

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Birgitta Hauser
Diplom-Betriebswirt (BA)
Database and Software Architect

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BirgittaHauser>

Birgitta Hauser has worked on the IBM i and its predecessors since 1992. She graduated with a business economics diploma, and started programming on the AS/400 in 1992. She worked and works as traditional RPG Programmer but also as Database and Software Engineer, focusing on IBM i application and database modernization.

She also works in education as a trainer for RPG and SQL developers. Currently she is self-employed and works in Consulting and Application and Database Modernization on IBM i and Db2 for i. Since July, 2019 she is occasionally working for Fresche Solutions Inc. (Montréal) as a contractor. Since 2002 she has frequently spoken at the COMMON User Groups and other IBM i and Power Conferences in Germany, other European Countries, USA and Canada. In addition, she is co-author of two IBM Redbooks and also the author of several articles and papers focusing on RPG and SQL for the ITP Verlag (a German publisher), IT Jungle Guru and IBM DeveloperWorks. In 2015 she received the John Earl Speaker Scholarship Award. In 2018 she received the Al Barsa Memorial Scholarship Award. She is an IBM Champion 2020.



Mark Irish

IBM

Software Engineer

Website: www.ibm.com

I am a software engineer at IBM working on open-source software enablement for the IBM i. I am particularly knowledgeable about Node.js and Machine Learning software libraries. Feel free to talk to me about your open-source questions and tell me what open-source software you'd like to see on the IBM i!



Aaron Magid

Eradani

VP, Open Source Technologies

Website: www.eradani.com

Before I came to the IBM i, I led the JavaScript web application development for an IoT company. Now I'm working to bring the IBM i together with the world of open source technology. I'm always happy to chat about web technology, IoT, IBM i in the cloud, modern devops, or just about anything else!



Frederic Marceau
Fresche Solutions
Senior Strategist

Frederic Marceau works with IBM i clients to equip them with the best transformation strategy moving forward. As a Senior Strategist, Frederic is a creative thinker and heavily experienced across a wide array of technologies, methodologies and toolsets.



Pete Massiello
iTech Solutions
President

Website: <https://www.itechsol.com>

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Pete Massiello has been working with the AS/400, iSeries, IBM i since 1989, focusing on systems management and technical support. He has held numerous technical positions through out his career. He is the President of iTech Solutions Group, an IBM Premier Business Partner delivering solutions and services to IBM i shops throughout the world. He is a member of IBM's certification test writing team, an IBM Certified Systems Expert with certifications in IBM i Design, System Administration, LPAR, Virtualization, Implementation, and HMC management. Pete has a BS in Computer Science from Hofstra University, and an MBA from the University of New Haven. He was President of COMMON from 2010 to 2012, and again in 2014. He is a COMMON Hall of Fame speaker, and a frequent speaker at user groups all over the world. In 2011 IBM established the Champions award for Power Systems, Pete was one of the first recipients. In 2016, they revived the program and he was again made an IBM Power Systems Champion. Lightning struck for the third time in 2017, and that is the year he was also made the first Power Systems Lifetime Champion, an honor he continues to hold.



Mike Pavlak

Zend by Perforce

Solutions Architect

Website: www.zend.com

Mike Pavlak has been working with IBM midrange solutions since 1992 and IBM Mainframes before that. After years of developing applications using RPG, CL and PHP he managed IT development and IT for power protection manufacturer Tripp Lite. Later Mike was instrumental in developing the adoption of PHP as a primary solution for web development on IBM i working with Zend Technologies. Today, as a Solutions Architect at Zend by Perforce, Mike helps companies around the world approach the challenges of modernization and open source technologies. In addition to several roles as a volunteer with COMMON the premier IBM midrange user group, Mike also teaches PHP & Python classes part time at Moraine Valley Community College in Suburban Chicago.



Steve Pitcher

iTech Solutions

IBM i Systems Engineer and Account Executive

Website: <https://www.itechsol.com>

Steve has been involved with IBM i since 2001 primarily in the manufacturing and distribution industries. Over that period he's been a systems administrator, developer, IT Manager and IT Director. He joined iTech Solutions in 2017 in a combined sales/technical role, bringing additional expertise in security, Domino and WebSphere. A longtime IBM Champion, first as part of the inaugural group for IBM Collaboration Solutions (2011) and then as an IBM Champion for Power Systems (2016-present), you'll find Steve speaking at events around the world about IBM i administration, modernization and security. He's been a community advocate on the COMMON Americas Advisory Council since 2012 and is currently serving a 2nd term on the COMMON Board of Directors.



Richard Schoen

Pegasystems

Senior Solutions Consultant

Website: <http://www.richardschoen.net>

Richard has over 30 years of software development, system integration, document management and process automation experience on all system platforms including IBM i, Windows, Linux and Mac. Richard started RJS Software Systems in 1990 and served as President and CTO until the company was acquired in 2014. Richard currently works for Pegasystems as a Senior Solutions Consultant. Pega provides Low Code Process Automation, Robotics (RPA), CRM and Marketing Automation software for any platform. Richard also does part time development consulting and has developed a native IBM i git client for use with RDI/PDM/SEU (iForGit- <http://www.mobigogo.net>). Richard can be reached via Web: <http://www.richardschoen.net> Email: richard@richardschoen.net Twitter (@richardschoen) and LinkedIn. Richard's open source development projects for IBM i and other platforms are available on Github: <http://www.github.com/richardschoen>



Alan Seiden

Seiden Group

Founder

Website: www.seidengroup.com

Alan Seiden founded Seiden Group to modernize IBM i applications using open source web technologies such as PHP, Python, Node.js, and DB2 for i and RPG business logic.

Recognized as an IBM Champion, Alan hosts the [CIO Summit](#) twice per year. He and his team work with the best minds in the industry to provide objective advice and hands-on development.

Alan co-developed the popular PHP Toolkit with IBM; was one of the first Zend Framework certified engineers; co-founder of the NYC Zend Framework Meetup; charter member of IBM/COMMON's PHP Advisory Board; and a consultant for IBM's manual PHP: Zend Core for i5/OS.

An award-winning speaker, Alan has been called "the performance guru of PHP on IBM i."

He shares his expertise regularly at conferences and user groups such as COMMON, ZendCon, the RPG & DB2 Summit, OMNI, the Northeast Users Group Conference, OCEAN and WMCPA. He also mentors other developers within the Club Seiden forum.



Paul Tuohy

Consultant/Trainer/Educator

Website: www.comconadvisor.com

Paul Tuohy, IBM Champion and author of [Re-engineering RPG Legacy Applications](#) and [The Programmer's Guide to iSeries Navigator](#), is a prominent consultant/trainer/educator for application modernization and development technologies on the IBM Midrange. He currently holds positions as CEO of [ComCon](#), a consultancy firm based in Dublin, Ireland, and founding partner of System i Developer, the consortium of top educators who produce the acclaimed RPG & DB2 Summit conference. Previously, he worked as IT Manager for Kodak Ireland Ltd. and Technical Director of Precision Software Ltd.

In addition to hosting and speaking at the *RPG & DB2 Summit*, Paul has been an award-winning speaker at COMMON, COMMON Europe Congress and other conferences throughout the world. His articles frequently appear in *IBM Systems Magazine*, *The Four Hundred Guru*, *RPG Developer*, and other leading publications. Paul also produces the popular [iTalk with Tuohy](#) audio blog with *IBM Systems Magazine*.