

Speaker Biographies



Patrick Behr

Cambro Manufacturing

Twitter: https://twitter.com/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

Rogue Wave Software

Senior Solutions Consultant

Website: www.roguewave.com

With over 20 years working in the IBM i community previously at IBM and now with Rogue Wave Software I have worked with a number of technologies on the POWER platform including cloud (PowerVC), Dev/Ops solutions (Docker, Chef), Open Source technologies (Linux, MySQL/MariaDB, PHP). I have expertise in a variety of technologies including virtualization, storage, networking, and operating systems including AIX, IBM i, and Linux. I am a frequent speaker at various user groups and technical conferences and have authored numerous articles on Linux, PHP, virtualization, and systems management.



Orlando Ferrer

inFORM Decisions

Document Management Specialist

Website: www.informdecisions.com

Orlando Ferrer is a Document Management Specialist with inFORM Decisions, IBMi Professional, and enthusiastic mountain biker & baseball fan. A graduate from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with direct experience in the lodging, food & beverage, telecommunications, and computing industries, and a crazy good cook. Most recently has spent the last several years with inFORM Decisions directly working with customers in bringing solutions to solve complex problems.



Jesse Gorzinski

IBM

Senior Business Architect - Open Source Software on IBM i

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

Charles can be reached at cguarino@centralparkdata.com.

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Birgitta Hauser

Toolmaker Advanced Efficiency GmbH

Software and Database Engineer

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

Birgitta Hauser has been a Software and Database Engineer since 2008, focusing on RPG, SQL and Web development on IBM i at Toolmaker Advanced Efficiency GmbH in Germany.

She graduated with a business economics diploma, and started programming on the AS/400 in 1992.

She also works as trainer for RPG and SQL developers and database administrators/engineers. In addition, she consults companies who want to modernize their legacy IBM i applications and grown over the time databases.

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 the author of several articles and papers focusing on RPG and SQL for a German Publisher, iPro Developer and IBM DeveloperWorks.

In 2015 she received the John Earl Speaker Scholarship Award and in 2018 she received the Al Barsa Memorial Scholarship Award.



Simon Hutchinson

NHBB

IT Manager

Website: www.RPGPGM.com

Simon's experience with IBM midrange started over 30 years ago in the United Kingdom, in a pre-AS400 world. Since immigrating to the USA in 1992, he freelanced in many parts of the South West before finally settling in Southern California. Currently, Simon is an IT manager with an international manufacturing company, based in the San Fernando Valley. He works with all aspects of IBM i development, software support, and training.

While training Java developers to program in RPG, he became frustrated by the lack of modern examples of

IBM i programming on the internet. This inspired him to create his acclaimed IBM i blog: RPGPGM.COM. After writing for six years giving many detailed examples of the latest in RPG, SQL, and CL, his greatest fear is running out of things to write about. Fortunately, IBM keeps adding many new things to IBM i with each new Technical Refresh, which will surely keep him busy for many years to come.



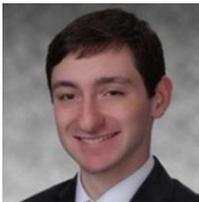
Buk Kapadia-Jackson

Avalara

IBM i Sr. Strategic Alliance Manager

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

Buk is the IBM i Sr. Strategic Alliance Manager for Avalara, working with IBM I Partner Community and Customers. After graduating from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelors in Computer Science and Engineering Buk began her career as a Systems Engineer at IBM. Over the last 20 years Buk has applied her technical expertise in the area of sales, marketing and consulting in the SMB and Enterprise space, including running her own Website Design and Consulting Business.



Aaron Magid

Eradani

VP, Open Source Technologies

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

Aaron Magid has been writing modern applications to leverage open-source technologies on the IBM i for more than 10 years. His applications are part of commercial products that are installed in thousands of IBM i shops around the world. His work combines open-source languages such as PHP, Java, Node.js, and Python with traditional IBM i technologies to create leading-edge IBM i solutions. He is currently working on a new company, Eradani, which strives to help businesses leverage the best of both the native IBM i and open-source worlds through products and training.



Pete Massiello

iTech Solutions

President

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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.



Eamon Musallam

Fresche Solutions

Senior Account Executive

Website: www.freschesolutions.com

Eamon Musallam has specialized in IBM i modernization for over 23 years, helping hundreds of customers successfully leverage their legacy RPG and COBOL applications, taking full advantage of web, mobile and cloud technologies. Both proficient in technology and business value creation, Eamon helps guide IBM i customers so that they acquire the necessary funding and resources to ensure their modernization efforts provide maximum effectiveness to the underlying business. In addition to his role in Business Development at Fresche Solutions, Eamon currently serves as president of the OCEAN User Group, one of the largest IBM i user groups in the world. He has been a frequent speaker at COMMON, DevCon, OCEAN and other IBM i community events, and has authored articles in several IBM i publications on the subject of application modernization.



Linda O'Neil

PacSun

Senior Systems Analyst

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/LindaONeilCA](https://www.linkedin.com/in/LindaONeilCA)

Linda O'Neil is an IT professional who has been an IBM i developer most of her 30-year career. She's also an advanced level speaker and leader in Toastmasters plus a volunteer speaker and leader with American Cancer Society's Relay For Life and Bark For Life events. She understands the role that good communication plays in her career and all of her endeavors.



Richie Palma

iTech Solutions

Tech Solutions Consultant

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A Tech Solutions Consultant for iTech Solutions Group, IBM Champion for Power, IBM Fresh Face, founder of the "Midrange Meetup" in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the steering committee for YIP's (Young i Professionals), and on the board for SEMIUG (South East Michigan IBM i User Group). I spend most my professional time working with clients running on IBM Power Systems and especially IBM i. With a background and passion for lean manufacturing my mind is wired to seek the most efficient means toward producing a desired result. IBM Power Systems think the same way, and they can, due to IBM owning the whole solution stack. We believe in extreme efficiency, not sprawling server farms that require Band-Aids, duct-tape and lots of attention. Efficiency within the walls of the data center can and is driving competitive advantage across all industries. I believe it's my duty to share my knowledge and experiences with companies, so they can make an educated decision prior to purchasing that next x86 data center brick. I also speak at conferences and local user group meetings, attend industry conferences/events, and deliver opinions, ideas, and lessons learned through social media and authoring articles.



Mike Pavlak

Fresche Solutions

IBM i Strategist

Website: www.mikepavlak.blogspot.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 an IT Strategist, 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.



Alex Roytman
Profound Logic

CEO

Website: www.profoundlogic.com

Alex Roytman is the founder and CEO of Profound Logic Software. His decades of experience and passion in the field of Web and Mobile development have led his company to create many popular modernization tools, win multiple awards for innovation, earn a patent for modernization technology, and gain over a thousand loyal IBM i customers in more than 50 countries.

He is an IBM i evangelist and educator who shares his knowledge of RPG, Node.js, and Open Source development at user groups and events around the world.



Robert Swanson
CNX Corporation

Senior Partner

Website: www.cnxcorp.com

Rob has worked as a developer on IBM i — and its predecessors of various names — since 1992, focused initially on large scale 5250 development with RPG. As the web and mobile worlds evolved, the preferred medium gradually switched from green screens to browsers and mobile devices. Today Rob is Senior Partner at CNX Corporation in Chicago, where he serves as a staunch advocate for creating IBM i applications with the most modern and user-friendly UI possible.



Robin Tatam

HelpSystems

Director of Security Technologies

Website: helpsystems.com

Robin Tatam is HelpSystems' Global Director of Security Technologies and a COMMON subject matter expert (SME). As an award-winning speaker on security topics, Robin has been interviewed and quoted by industry magazines and has published numerous trade articles. Robin's extensive Power Server experience has resulted in more than 20 IBM certifications and the highly sought after designation of ISACA-certified Information Security Manager (CISM) and PCI-Professional (PCI-P). He is also co-author of IBM's Redbook publication on IBM i Data Encryption.