



Mission Statement: Meeting the array of needs for the established IT professional while seeking to develop the IT profession and provide a service to our community and society.

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Published nine times per year (September – June) by the Minnesota Information Professional Society. We welcome materials for publication (articles, news or letters). Submit materials on disk or via E-mail to:

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NOTE MEETING INFORMATION

MEETING PLACE:
Holiday Inn – Bloomington
35W at 94th St.
Phone (952) 884-8211

Meeting Times:

3:30 PM Networking Event
5:00 PM Social Hour
6:00 PM Buffet Dinner
6:45 PM Meeting & Program
8:00 PM Adjourn

For a Dinner and Program Reservation, send email to:

reservations@mnips.org

\$28 Members
\$33 Non-members

Meeting NOTICE

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2005

Minnesota Information Professional Society

Networking Event Topic:
“What Hiring Firms Are Looking For”

Speaker:
Jim Erickson

Dinner Topic:
“What a Fine Mess we’ve gotten into! (Enterprise Application Integration)”

Speaker:
Hugh F. Juergens

SPEAKER TOPIC

With apologies to Laurel and Hardy, it is certainly a mess when a very significant part of IT development resources is expended on the chewing gum and duct tape we use to share information between our business software systems. Based on Hugh's extensive experience, this presentation will show us how to cut the comedy and get down to business.

Integration and interfacing is a severe and worsening problem for IT. We have more and more applications with conceptually shared data, but less and less control over those

applications. On the other hand, new tools and techniques provide a number of opportunities. Hugh will describe and provide pros, cons, and example products for various ways to handle integration and interfacing. He will also explain how, to solve the problem effectively, we have to change some of our stubbornly held IT habits and behaviors.

SPEAKER PROFILE

Hugh is a seasoned veteran with 25 years in IT as a practitioner, educator, researcher, and consultant. His background encompasses both people management and hands-on experience. As a self-described “data bigot”, he has navigated all facets of Data Management as a Manager of Data Warehouse Infrastructure, Manager of Database Administration, Manager of Planning and Architecture, Manager of Information Technology, Data Analyst, and Professor. His broad and in-depth career includes background in retail, distribution, manufacturing, payment services, banking, and graduate business schools of major universities. He currently works for MoneyGram International (formerly Traveler’s Express / MoneyGram).

In addition to business experience, Hugh’s education includes a Ph.D. in MIS. Ongoing university level teaching has enabled him to stay abreast of our rapidly changing information systems field. Most recently, Hugh has been on the adjunct faculty at the University of Minnesota in its Carlson School of Management’s MIS program.

President's Letter

Happy February! We hope your New Year is going well.

As we move forward into the rest of the year I thought I would elaborate on last month's article regarding volunteerism. We've all seen the news about the Tsunami's, avalanches, people with no place to stay in the bitter cold we have had. Do you think about helping some of these people? Everyone is looking for help or money. What can be done and how do you choose whom to help? Maybe you don't have the money to donate. Maybe you don't think you have the time to help.

First of all, money can be the easiest thing to give. You feel good you did something and you can move on to the next thing in your life. But what if you don't have the money or you want to donate your time. The best thing you can do is get involved. There are so many people out there that can use some help. I am partial to the senior citizens and the children. But then I could be a bit selfish. As I see it, the seniors have more information than I have learned yet and I feel I can gain some of their knowledge. The children will be growing up and taking over this world as I become a senior so helping them now will give them hope and teach them to be the kind of responsible people we need taking care of us and running the country.

There are lots of other ways you can help. Food shelves always need replenishing, people are needed to package meals to give out and/or deliver, adults are needed for mentoring the kids, your church may need help driving an elderly person to services weekly. They always need help, particularly at the holidays, serving meals at homeless

shelters. There are many, many more opportunities to help someone in need.

So where does MnIPS fit into the grand scheme of volunteering? I suppose you were wondering when I would get back to that. MnIPS is a volunteer organization that supports the IT market in general and its members and attendees specifically. We provide networking services, educational opportunities and special events like the Education Seminar and annual Charity golf outing. Because we are a volunteer organization we always need help in organizing and running these different events. What does MnIPS get out of it? MnIPS gets professionals that are willing to help to setup and work these events so we can help those that are in transition to learn how to network and find their next role in IT. We also are able to plan and sponsor better educational events, like our dinner events and Education Seminar, by using your knowledge to understand what the hot topics are that people want to hear about and then put on professional, educational, and interesting events.

What do you get out of it? You get the opportunity to meet new people, work with them and learn new things. Maybe you have never run a committee but would like to understand what goes into running it and working with other volunteers to perform the tasks needed? This is called project management. It is an excellent opportunity to show people what you can do. If you are networking it's the best way to show someone that you are a good worker, can get along well with people, can give and receive ideas during planning sessions and then execute what the group agrees to do.

The two most important things to understand in any volunteer situation is that it won't be something you will feel good about unless you believe in it and have fun with it. The second item is that you can commit to something if you feel strongly about it. However if life takes

over and you find yourself without the time or aren't enjoying what you are doing you should remember that a commitment can be fulfilled by telling someone that you don't have the time anymore and either find someone to replace you or let someone else take up the task. Anyone that works with volunteers can easily deal with someone being up front about their schedule but can find it very difficult to have someone walk away with no warning.

If you are interested in volunteering for MnIPS you can contact the volunteer coordinator at volunteer@mnips.org. If you would rather volunteer elsewhere in your community, then I wish you well in your efforts and hope you find it fun and rewarding.

– Sylvia Wiebe,
MnIPS President
president@mnips.org

VP Update - Events of Interest

As Vice President of MnIPS I want to take this opportunity to pass along some information that may be of interest to the readers of this newsletter. The University of St. Thomas' Center for Business Excellence is conducting a Strategic Career Renewal Seminar on Saturday, March 19th. The seminar starts at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m. The seminar will be held at the Minneapolis campus, TMH 166, 1000 LaSalle Ave. The seminar focuses on a new way of managing one's career in the second half of life. For more information visit stthomas.edu/cbe (keyword: strategic career) or call 800-328-6819 ext. 2-4600.

Another event to consider attending is the Grand Opening/Appreciation party on March 3rd, from 5-8 p.m. at Kieran's Irish Pub, 30 Second Avenue, S., downtown Minneapolis. The Grand

Opening/Appreciation party is sponsored by ipHouse, the downtown Minneapolis Internet Service Provider founded by Bil MacLeslie, Mike Horwath and other former VISI.com staffers.

The party is a great opportunity to network with Webmasters, IT professionals, Internet marketing execs and others. Other activities include eating great food (smoked salmon, chicken wings, fish & chips), surprise guests, and visits to ipHouse's secure 10,800-square-foot collocation/data center across the street from Kieran's. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 24th and email your name, company, number of guests, and phone number to party@iphouse.com, through the Web site at www.iphouse.com/party or call ipHouse at 612-337-6320. I look forward to seeing all of you at this event.

– Jeff O'Connor,
MnIPS Vice President
vicepresident@mnips.org

Upcoming MnIPS Dinner Topics

- Feb. 15 – 'Enterprise Application Integration' by Hugh Juergens
- March 15 – 'Federated Identity and Our Interconnected Destiny' by John Fraser
- April 19 – 'Enterprise Architecture Best Practices' by Peter Dowd
- May 17 – 'Globalization and the affect on the IT Workforce' by Tim Voller

Riding the eLearning Wave!

(Summary of the Jan. 2005 dinner topic presented by Mary Texer, Manager of Technical Training for Target Corporation.)

eLearning holds both the promise of an exhilarating training "ride" and the threat

of drowning. Promises from vendors include:

- It's cheaper than classroom (not necessarily, especially if it is customized to meet your needs)
- Take your training any time and any where (presents an issue for hourly employees who must be paid for training time; for others it may mean it never gets done because it is never scheduled)
- Just-in-time training (Who has the time to complete the training? One tool is CDs that can be listened to in the car.)
- Your skills will ALWAYS be up to date

Major suppliers include SkillSoft, Netg/KnowledgeNet, Click2Learn, Microsoft, ElementK. Be sure to test the products!

Resources:

- eLearning Guild – www.elearningguild.com - \$130 fee provides access to many documents
- Masie Institute – www.masie.com
- CLO Magazine – www.clomedia.com
- Training Magazine – www.trainingmag.com
- Digital Learning Forum – mary.texer@target.com

Networking Meeting Agenda – Feb. 15, 2005

30-second commercials for all attendees

"What Hiring Firms Are Looking For"
- Jim Erickson, V.P of National Recruiting at Tech-Pro

Lead Exchange and Individual Networking

Please view our Networking Resources area on our website at:

<http://www.mnips.org/doc/network.html>



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For Career Information:
Contact Mr. Joe Perzel at
jperzel@enrgi.com

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Thanks to Telex Communications, Inc. for their help in publishing this month's MnIPS newsletter.

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MnIPS Newsletter

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MnIPS MEETING

Feb. 15 2005, 3:30-5:00 PM

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**“What Hiring Firms Are
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Speaker: **Jim Erickson**

Dinner Topic: **“Enterprise
Application Integration”**

Speaker: **Hugh Juergens**

Holiday Inn Bloomington
35W & 94th (1201 W. 94th St.)

**“Do you know what your
computer is doing
late at night?!”**



by Earl C. Joseph, Futurist