



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
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:

reservations@mnips.org

\$30 Members
\$35 Non-members

Meeting NOTICE

Tuesday, Mar. 16, 2004

Minnesota Information Professional Society

Networking Event Topics:
"Getting Your Foot in the Door"

&

"How to Make Yourself Indispensable to Corporate America; or How to Cover Your Rear-End"

Dinner Topic:

"IT Doesn't Matter Anymore... or Does IT?"

Speaker:

Dr. David Bahn

SPEAKER TOPIC

In a controversial article in the Harvard Business Review early last year, Nicholas Carr proposed that, since IT is an affordable commodity available to all, businesses should no longer try to view IT as the basis for competitive advantage. That is, they should spend less on IT, follow competitors, and focus on risks rather than opportunities. Dr. Bahn will explain the rationale behind this idea and offer his views on when it is the correct approach and when it isn't.

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

SPEAKER PROFILE

Dr. David Bahn is an assistant professor of Management Information Systems at Metropolitan State University's College of Management. A former systems analyst, he received his Ph.D. in Information and Decision Sciences from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management and his MBA from the New York University. The author of several articles, Dr. Bahn current research addresses the challenge of "Clicks and Mortar": how organizations establish a balance between new electronic commerce channels with traditional "brick-and-mortar" business operations and strategy. Dr. Bahn directs the undergraduate MIS program of Metropolitan State University and has developed new courses on supply chain information systems and electronic commerce. Dr. Bahn is also a consultant on IT planning and implementation for business and government organizations. Dr. Bahn lives with his wife and son in suburban Minneapolis, where he enjoys bicycling down many of the twin cities' commuter trails.

President's Letter

It is March and time for March madness and MnIPS madness. MnIPS madness because we are coming up to our busiest time of the year with three more

networking and dinner events, our Education Seminar on Wireless Technology, preparing for our booth at the Strictly Business Expo and then our annual golf outing to finish out the year.

Along with all that activity I have some other business items for you to be aware of:

Nominations: We are currently looking for nominations for the MnIPS elected board for next year. If you are interested in an elected board position please feel free to contact our past president, klinberg@capella.edu for more information. If you are interested in a board position that is responsible for a committee, contact any member of the current board or myself. Our contact information is at <http://www.mnips.org/doc/memserv.htm>. You can also find more information regarding any of the board positions at <http://www.mnips.org/doc/about.html#Bylaws>. Please consider joining us in helping to run this wonderful organization. If you aren't sure you want to take a board position, please also consider volunteering on one of our committees. You can find more information at <http://www.mnips.org/doc/memserv.htm#Volunteer>.

May meeting: We have been in contact with the AITP organization regarding the annual joint meeting we normally have with them in May. This year they will be holding a breakfast meeting in May, jointly with Robert Half International, Inc. Because MnIPS attendees are used to dinner meetings and we would like to still conduct a networking event for the month we have decided to hold our usual networking and dinner event on May 18th. The committees are busy working on the events and we will publish more information on our website at www.mnips.org as we finalize the plans. AITP would still like to extend an invitation to attend their May breakfast meeting on May 6th. They are planning a CIO Panel for the event. You can find

more information on their meeting at www.nwaitp.org.

Price Increase: This is the most difficult of the business items to inform you about. Since fall, MnIPS has been losing about \$300 on each dinner meeting. On February 17, the Board reluctantly decided to institute a second increase to meal charges, effective with the March 16 meeting. **The new charges are: in-transition: \$20, member with reservation: \$30, non-member or no reservation: \$35.** We are hoping these charges are increased enough to help us to cover our costs but to not dramatically affect people's pocket books. We also continue to look for sponsors to cover the roughly \$150 shortfall for specific dinners. Volunteers can contact vice president Rebecca Hoover RebeccaLHoover@yahoo.com.

Please join us at our March meetings and see what we are all about. As always, we want to hear from you regarding this article or anything else you might have to say about our organization - good or bad. Have a great month!

- Sylvia Wiebe, MnIPS President

Request for a Volunteer

Thank you to all volunteers who have joined us this year to help with our many activities. We are currently looking for a golf enthusiast to work with Joe Perzel on our golf outing. They are needed in about two weeks and there is a minimal time commitment. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Joe Perzel at jperzel@enrgi.com or 612-340-1110.

To learn more about all of our volunteer opportunities, visit <http://www.mnips.org/doc/memserv.htm#contacts> or contact Jeff O'Connor - our volunteer coordinator - at jandjconnor@mindspring.com.

MnIPS Wireless Seminar 22-April-04

Mark your calendars and register for the 9th Annual Minnesota Information Professional Society Education Seminar.

TOPIC:

Enterprise Wireless Technology

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Where is it and where is it going?

From complete wireless offices to on-the-road at-the-moment service for your outside personnel, wireless technology is changing the IT world. This seminar is designed for Managers, Architects and Sr. Developers who are responsible for implementing and securing their corporation's wireless initiatives. Attendees will be presented a comprehensive, interactive look at wireless trends and issues in today's complex, enterprise world.

The topics to be covered will include:

- Wi-Fi Primer and Terminology, including the different flavors of 802.11
- Setting up a Wireless Office and other Enterprise Wireless Applications



- Wireless Security Considerations
- Future Trends & Directions of the Industry
- Wireless Technology other than local Wi-Fi: RFID, Blue Tooth, WiMax, Wireless ISP's
- Corporate Lessons Learned – multiple “20 minute” presentations from people who have been there and done it.

The seminar will conclude with an All-Star **Q & A Panel** made up of Corporate, Vendor and Consulting members.

WHEN: Thursday, April 22nd, 2004 from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

WHERE: Hamline University

COST: Individual Attendee: \$100 before Apr. 9th; \$130 after Apr. 9th. Add-on Attendee (must register at the same time): \$75 before Apr. 9th; \$100 after Apr. 9th.

CONTACTS: Kris Luopa – seminar@mnips.org or Joe Perzel – jperzel@enrgi.com. Also, you can check out additional information at www.mnips.org.

Legal Issues Ferment for IT

(Feb. 2004 MnIPS dinner topic by Gary Weinstein and Jonathon Asner, attorneys at Faegre & Benson LLP.

This summary will focus on one issue - Sarbanes-Oxley - via an article by Michael Fleming, another Faegre attorney. For the full text, see http://www.faegre.com/articles/article_1076.aspx)

In their ongoing efforts to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, companies have turned to their IT departments to help them manage their new financial reporting responsibilities. Many are finding that adjusting to new regulatory realities requires system-wide reconfigurations or even entirely new technology systems. Such projects usually require purchasing new software, redeploying internal resources, and engaging outside service providers. Wherever there is major change, of course, there is also the risk of disrupting business processes as new systems are rolled out.

While corporate compliance law may be the initial reason for this exercise, there are other “legal” aspects to consider in this process. Buyers of Sarbanes-Oxley solutions should take care to remember other legal doctrines – including those of contract, warranty and intellectual property – since those other laws will greatly influence the success of the project. Moreover, buyers should be wary of ‘magic bullet’ solutions – those that promise instant and easy compliance. Any wise buyer of Sarbanes-Oxley solutions should follow certain basic principles and practices in their purchase and implementation of new or improved IT systems.

Most corporations are going to have some significant IT work to do as a result of Sarbanes-Oxley. Some companies will find that their past implementations of IT resources were done in a way that is easily expanded and modified. Those companies will suffer less pain. Other companies, who might have put off modernization of their IT resources, may need to invest in wholesale replacement of their financial reporting systems. Most, of course, will be between those two extremes. However, by using deliberative purchasing processes aimed at the real purpose of Sarbanes-Oxley – to make financial reporting more reliable and transparent – companies can purchase new IT re-

sources or fix or expand their existing resources in a way that will not only help the company comply with the new laws, but may even help the company do what it really wants to do – grow their business.

Networking Meeting Agenda

30-second commercials for all attendees

“Getting Your Foot in the Door”

- Clare Pitera
Director of Human Resources, Capek Corporation.

“How to Make Yourself Indispensable to Corporate America; or How to Cover Your Rear-End”

- Deb Callahan
Founder, Positive Ventures, Inc.

Lead Exchange and Individual Networking

Please view our Networking Resources area on our website at: <http://www.mnips.org/doc/network.html>

Donate a Cellular Phone

Please bring your cell phones for donation to a MnIPS meeting. A receipt for donation will be provided to each donor.

Each cell phone donated benefits the Southern Valley Alliance For Battered Women. We only accept digital phones that:

- are 1 – 3 years old.
- have a charger (so they can be tested).
- are up to 7 inches long.

MnIPS Officers 2003-2004

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To view the full list of Officers, visit:
<http://www.mnips.org/doc/members.html>

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DINNER MEETING

Tues. Mar. 16, 2004, 3:30-8:00 PM
TOPIC: "IT doesn't Matter
Anymore... or Does IT?"

NOTE: Meeting Location
Holiday Inn Bloomington
35W & 94th (1201 W. 94th St.)

"You're not a real computer Nerd until you name your new baby girl Dot-com!"



by Earl C. Joseph, Futurist