



A note from the Chairman...

June 2016



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Dear Member/Guest

Conference Success and Endorsement from IBM

This year's International i-Power Conference held at the popular Wyboston Lakes Conference Center in Bedfordshire has built on last year's event with a significant increase in attendance despite the clash with IBM's own LUG and the closeness of the Common Europe Conference.



Delegates, Sponsors and IBM gave an overwhelming "thumbs up" to the event with many already planning their attendance for other **i-UG** events and for next year's main conference and education sessions. More, IBM joined in, headed by Steve Will – IBM i Chief Architect from Rochester - with specific and targeted IBM i on POWER messaging and marketing. This combined with continued growth in IBM i means that things are indeed looking up!

Once again the education sessions led the way and despite an increase in the number of Labs on offer this year, we had to close registrations for some Labs well before the week of the conference. The feedback from the students on the Labs has been comprehensive and very welcome.

One thing to note here is that Steve Bradshaw and his team from Rowton IT brought along 100,000 CPW of processing power, their own private wireless network and we all watched over 100 users consuming it. Think about this in another way and this was essentially like setting up a business – or recovering a business – overnight. If anyone ever doubted how easy it can be to roll out a POWER8 for Disaster Recovery purposes, this is proof. Steve & his team created a fully functioning, business grade network for 100 people in 4 hours with just 2 people! Our thanks go out to his team for this capability that underpins the Labs for the conference.



On the conference day, amongst many highlights (not least the ever entertaining 'Speed Dating of the Sponsors'), Steve Will's Keynote presentation was a breath of fresh air. Clearly Steve had some good stuff to bring out as IBM has just released 7.3 of our O/S but that was only part of what Steve had to say. There was of course the expected endorsement of the excellent IBM OpenPower initiatives and IBM's links with the likes of Apple and Twitter, but at all times there was the message of IBM i, the special place that it occupies and its expected longevity, despite some perceived opinions.

Our perception of how the conference was received has been underpinned by the Post Event Reporting which relies heavily on the feedback forms and entries made by the delegates themselves. Again the venue was well received, the Labs, the presentations, the entertainment and other aspects like the Ask-the-Experts and the excellent prizes provided by the sponsors were all marked highly.

Thank you to all the Delegates, Speakers and Sponsors for this 2016 event and thanks to ALL for the excellent feedback. It gives the i-UG team the confidence and assurance to move on to next year with the vigour to improve and expand to the next level. I hope that you will join us in Wolverhampton later this year ([Wednesday 19th October](#)) and throughout next year as we support the community on IBM i and beyond; hopefully with all of you as i-UG Members.

Regards

Mike Ryan

Chairman i-UG/Common UK

See the **i-UG** web site (www.i-UG.org) for more information.

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