

The CUA January 2006 Newsletter

Welcome to the January 2006 CUA Newsletter. Following what the CUA Council hope was a good Christmas and New Year celebration break for all readers, in this edition we look forward with an outline of what is to come in the next few months so that you can reserve the dates in your diary now.

Programme Highlights

Well, it's yet another year for the CUA and we have worked hard to not only maintain our high standards but also to really listen to what our members want. Owing to this, our event calendar for 2006 is particularly strong.

In our ever-changing industry it is getting increasingly difficult for organisations to gain an unbiased view on the latest happenings within the industry. Therefore the CUA will endeavour to maintain its independence and bring members all the information needed to make informed decisions, whilst also offering practical steps on how to install, develop and maintain many different disciplines into their organisations.

Our event Calendar for 2006 is as follows;

January 24 th	Remote Access Methods
February 22 nd	Value Management
March 21 st	Business Continuity
April 25 – 26	Common UK – iSeries Technical
May 16 th	Lotus Workplace
June 22 nd	Intellectual Copyright
July 18 th	Common UK - iSeries & Windows
September 19 th	On Demand Business
October 10 th &11 th	Common UK - iSeries Symposium
November 7 th	Corporate Governance
December 5 th	LINUX – The inside Story

Remember CUA members can bring a colleague new to the CUA to any of our one-day events and that colleague will receive a 50% discount off the price of that event.

IT Staff – “The Professionals”..... Why Did It Take So Long?

IT has made it, at last with recognition as a responsible bunch of technical and managerial people who contribute to the business and can be trusted.

Over the years many excuses have been developed to address comments such as “Joe seems to be able to keep the system going – but does he really understand what he is doing?” IT management typically responded with, “We are still a young industry – too early for standards and professional accreditation” I am sure we all recall our own methods of avoiding comparisons with accountants, doctors, etc.....

So to find ourselves now enjoying such a wide range of IT certification and assessment driven skills measurement is to me frankly wonderful. Finally we can rely upon formal and cross industry recognised standards and levels of competence. These both give staff career development paths and their employer the range of skills required to keep pace with ever changing technology.

In the iSeries world, IBM Certification has created a dynamic but consistent accreditation environment that the entire IBM midrange industry recognises. Admittedly we have quite a few accreditations to work with, ITIL, Microsoft Engineer certification, PRINCE 2 for Project Management, and many more across the industry – but we have certification, that is the key point.

The CUA is committed to enhancing skills in the use of IBM products, hardware and software, as well as offering IBM Certification at most 2 day Common UK events at either zero or low cost.

Ray Titcombe, CUA Chairman

Free Membership For A Year

Have you or your company bought a new iSeries product or upgraded in the last 12 months? If the answer is “yes”, do you have “proof of purchase” and are not currently a member of the CUA? If the answer is “yes” again, we will give your company free membership to the CUA for a year. The CUA not only offer our members informative and entertaining events held by top industry speakers, but also excellent networking opportunities, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

This really is an opportunity for your company to be involved in our ever growing community. For more information please contact Chloe Burt on 020 8518 5110 or email her on office@ibm-cua.org.uk.

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Call For Volunteers

The CUA is continuing to look for any members interested in becoming Council Members, assisting in the running of events, and influencing the management and growth of the organisation. There is always plenty to do, especially as we are currently looking to construct a new development and marketing strategy.

As well as assisting with the CUA, being a Council Member will help your development of contacts within and outside of the IBM arena, and there is tremendous satisfaction when your efforts are rewarded with a successful event, or ideas for developing the CUA are accepted. In addition, after each Council Meeting we make time for a trip to the local pub in the best tradition of technology groups.

If anyone is interested but would like to learn more or meet us all first, you are welcome to join us for a drink at the end of the next Council Meeting on the 19th January 2006. Please contact the CUA office on 020 8518 5110 for more details, or email margaret@ibm-cua.org.uk.

It is Your Newsletter

The CUA is always looking to understand and represent the views of our membership, so remember this is your Newsletter and each member is welcome to contribute to the content. If you have a burning issue or opinion that you would like to share with other members please contact the CUA office on marketing@ibm-cua.org.uk with an overview of the topic, or a completed article. We offer a £10 gift voucher for any articles published.

If you feel that you would like to respond to any of the views expressed in an article published in this newsletter, another publication, or discussed at one of our events, then submit your comments via the above email address. We will give a £5 gift voucher for any comments that we print.

The CUA reserves the right to edit any articles for length or unsuitable content, and as per CUA policy, no advertising or selling is permitted.

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