NERDC SHARES Experience, Leads user Group
Table of Contents

NERDC SHARES Experience, Leads user Group .......................................................3
NERDC SHARES Experience, Leads user Group

Twice a year, NERDC staffers join other IBM users at a conference devoted to sharing knowledge. At the biannual SHARE meetings, NERDC personnel lead as officers, shine as presenters, and learn as attendees.

The conference addresses the needs of users of many products in the IBM Information Technology area, including products by vendors other than IBM, such as Candle, Amdahl, and Cisco. Over a week's time, SHARE attendees exchange ideas, meet with IBM personnel and other vendors, and attend a smorgasbord of seminars to learn more about the products they use daily.

"They get education both from IBM and from other users," said Andy Olivenbaum, NERDC associate director. "We also benefit by building relationships, year after year, with IBM corporate personnel. These people are well aware of our staff’s capabilities, and this results in joint ventures as well as access to new IBM products and services, even during early stages of development. Consequently, we are able to strongly influence how IBM implements new technology."

According to SHARE literature, members "are leaders in the application of information systems technologies to real-world problems. A substantial percentage of major users of state-of-the-art information technologies is represented in SHARE membership, including more than 90 percent of the Fortune 100 companies, leading universities, and public sector organizations."

NERDC Director Ron Schoenau believes SHARE offers personnel vital tools for helping the data center's customers.

"Education of technical personnel is extremely important. SHARE is good, cost-effective education for those people willing to go and work. And our people do work, as seen by the number of NERDC employees who hold offices or give presentations," says Schoenau.

Presently, five NERDC staffers hold leadership positions in the 42-year-old user group. John Bevis, NERDC's manager of system programming, is president of the entire international SHARE organization.

Jerry Wetherington, NERDC network software coordinator, serves SHARE as deputy director for industry relations. Others lead as project managers: Richard Marquis, NERDC's DB2 coordinator, manages SHARE's DB2 Project, while Barry Brooks, NERDC's CICS systems coordinator, manages the group's CICS Project. Brooks says leading a project pays off in contacts with IBM, a network of colleagues who use the same systems and encounter similar situations, and improved managerial skills.

"I'm ultimately responsible for my project: finding speakers, organizing the agenda, and getting papers together," Brooks says about the position he has held at SHARE for 15 years.

Brooks has also involved Steve Ware, NERDC systems coordinator, as a CICS project officer to help put on the CICS section by setting the agenda, chairing sessions, and whatever else needs to be done, ensuring a smooth successful meeting.
Ware presented two sessions at recent SHARE meetings: a CICS/ESA 4.1 migration panel, and a presentation on REXX for the CICS/ESA program. The panel helped users of CICS/ESA 4.1 with an upgrade, while the REXX session aided users in learning about that program. "There's a lot of work behind the scenes to get everything together," Ware says.

Others from NERDC devote hours of personal time preparing SHARE presentations. This includes Documentation Coordinator David Burdette, who presents a popular lecture on the Internet, and Information Services Coordinator Vicki Kitts-Turner, whose contributions include training for numerically intensive computing projects.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

UFIT Information Technology

UFIT
2046 NE Waldo Rd, Suite 2100
Gainesville Florida  32609-8942
(352) 392.2061
<editor@cns.ufl.edu>