

# COMMON Online Networking Center

## Network 24/7, 365 Days a Year


Have a technical question—or solution—you'd like to share with other midrange users? Looking for someone to chat with about upgrading to V5R4, or whether to dip your toe into Linux, or any other idea or question that comes up in your job?

Visit the COMMON Online Networking Center, where you can meet your peers from around the world, post your questions, solutions, concerns, ideas and comments — or ask someone to join you for a live chat.



### The How-To's

It's easy to sign up. COMMON members should use their COMMON ID number and password when they register in the networking center to ensure that they can access the Requirements section.

(See Dan Kimmel's article on this page.) Keep track of your sign-in name and password so that you can visit the Online Networking Center frequently to see new discussion threads and meet new members. 

# Make Your Voice Heard by IBM



By Dan Kimmel

What's been bothering you about the iSeries? What kind of project takes far too long to complete? What missing feature has you mumbling under your breath as you attempt a work-around?

If you're like most COMMON members, you have something to say to the product planners and technicians at IBM, and you haven't had a means to say it since the COMMON Requirements project was disbanded several years ago. Well, now you have a way to make your voice heard by those with the influence within IBM to "get 'er done." In addition, you have the opportunity to gather support from other COMMON members who are also mumbling under their breath.

In March, an online Requirements forum debuted as part of the COMMON Online Networking Center at <http://community.common.org>. COMMON members can use this forum to post Requirements electronically. Here's how it works:

1. Go to <http://community.common.org> and sign up. Anyone can use the COMMON Online Networking Center—but only those using their COMMON member ID when creating their

profile will be able to create or respond to the Requirement forums. You must enter an e-mail account when you sign up. COMMON WILL NOT disseminate this information in any way. You may choose a "handle" that will be displayed along with your messages; this may be your name or any pseudonym.

2. Once you're in, click "Discussion" to find the list of discussion forums, and then find "Requirements."

3. You can add your idea as a new topic within the forum, as well as comment on someone else's idea by replying to messages within the topic.

The Requirements forum is moderated by the COMMON Americas Advisory Council (CAAC). All CAAC members are COMMON volunteers, and work for companies that use an iSeries. Each CAAC member has signed a non-disclosure agreement with IBM and may know about impending announcements in advance. IBM often comes to this group with their own ideas about changes or improvements to the product asking them for their opinions on the worthiness of the proposal. CAAC members have been trained in how to compose a request for a product improvement in a way that will make it most likely to be accepted by the powers at IBM.

## “You said IT...”

**Subject: Thanks for the Memories**  
**To: All Volunteers,**

Thanks for 25 years. To those of you who were at the volunteer night this past Wednesday, and at CUDS 2 on Thursday, I appreciate the send-off. I'll miss you all. If I didn't get to say good-bye in person, take care of yourselves, and may God bless you.

**Paul Nelson**

**Re: Thanks for the Memories**

Best wishes to you, Paul. COMMON has been very fortunate throughout the years to have all of your help at the conferences. Whether it be providing attendees help and/or guidance, or assisting quickly, calmly and effectively to a could-be disruption in a presentation, jumping in when anyone needed help, or all of your efforts in bringing people together through CUDS2—you will be missed. The TLC group is certainly going to miss you. It has been a pleasure working with you and I do hope we see you again. Regards,

**Laura Ubelhor**



Congratulations to Paul Nelson, shown here receiving his 25 year service pin from COMMON President Beverly Russell, at the Spring 2006 COMMON Conference

The CAAC will monitor the ideas posted on the Requirements forum. They'll take those ideas, gather and revise them, then move them into another forum. For the time being, we're calling this the "Distilled Requirements Forum." COMMON members will be able to reply to topics in this forum for a short (but not too short) period of time, during which the CAAC may continue to improve the wording of the requirement before the requirement is posted on a poll for a vote of the members.

The COMMON Online Networking Center also includes a Polls section. The CAAC will gather a set of "distilled" Requirements and post them as a poll. For a certain amount of time, you'll be able to vote on each of the Requirements in a set. If we show IBM that a particular requirement has broad support among COMMON members, IBM will surely see the need to incorporate that feature into the product.

So get started. Sign up now, and post your own IBM Requirements on the discussion forum. It's a sure way have your voice heard by IBM!



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