

BITUG Autumn 2008

Welcome to the action-packed BITUG Newsletter

Thoughts of Chairman Farrow

Chairman Mao said "Letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend is the policy for promoting the progress of the arts and the sciences". BITUG thinks a similar policy should apply when defining the role of User Groups.

Accordingly, BITUG primarily exists to assist and encourage the spread of ideas and information about our platform amongst users. We try to ensure that vendors get heard, putting alternative products in front of our members. We ask users to talk "warts and all" about their experiences. We sometimes cause HP a little pain but feel that we help strengthen the HP NonStop platform.

At the international level, one measure of success for Connect (the new, merged, multi-platform user group) will be to see how well it performs this same role.

It will be a real challenge, partly due to the difficulty in maintaining a balance between the diverse platforms. Historically, some platforms have had vibrant user groups and they will still have a small army of volunteers to step forward and serve Connect. I count the NonStop platform in this happy group and feel sure that we'll continue to get good program content delivered. Other platforms have weaker user group communities and their representation in the program may suffer.

We could be selfish and say "Great, more room for our stuff". However, one of the benefits that I want from Connect events is the opportunity to put the merits of NonStop in front of the widest audience and not just to "preach to the converted".

Connect needs to work for all if it is to work long term. So, do whatever you can to support Connect and encourage your colleagues from other platforms to do the same.

Or, put another way "We must oppose the tendency towards selfish departmentalism by which the interests of one's own unit are looked after to the exclusion of those of others".

Taking a different tack, the year is sweeping by and the sights of the Committee are on our Big SIG in London in early December. You'll find the agenda outlined elsewhere in this newsletter – we are focusing firmly on the future of our favourite platform with only a small but important look back at 30 years of "Tandem" in the UK. At the end of September our website should have all the details you need to convince you to mark it in your diaries as a "must do" event. I really do hope to see you there.

Finally, my last appeal during 2008 for one or two volunteers to join the BITUG Committee. We have lots to do to achieve our targets for this year and we are already planning SIGs, education days and other events for 2009.

As someone said (was it about BITUG?) "We go there to work and struggle to overcome difficulties. A good comrade is one who is more eager to go where the difficulties are greater".

In all honesty we do work hard sometimes and it all gets done in addition to the "day job" - but we actually have a good deal of fun too. Your eager help would be greatly appreciated and you'll be helping to make BITUG even better.



BITUG Committee

Chairman
Richard Farrow

Vice-Chairman
Neil Barnes

Outgoing chairman
Darren Coffey

Treasurer
Sean Bicknell

HP Liaison
Dave Russell

Webmaster
Peter Born

SIG Coordinators
Graham Nield
David Ross
Stuart Taylor

Help Wanted!

If you're passionate about NonStop and can spare some time to assist the NonStop user community please contact any of the committee members for further details

Introducing the HP Integrity NonStop NB50000c BladeSystem

HP brings proven NonStop 24/7 leadership to the server blade form factor with the introduction of the HP Integrity NonStop NB50000c BladeSystem – the world's first 24/7 mission-critical computing environment on a standards-based bladed infrastructure.

The Integrity NonStop NB50000c BladeSystem offers:

**Twice the performance - half the footprint;
Reduced IT and per-transaction costs in a
trusted NonStop fault-tolerant environment
A simplified infrastructure and lower TCO**

Combining the economies of standards-based, modular computing with the trusted high availability and data integrity of HP NonStop technology, the Integrity NonStop NB50000c BladeSystem has half the

footprint of Integrity NonStop NS-series systems, yet delivers up to twice as much processing power per unit of floor space within the same power envelope.

At the same time, it preserves the proven, dependable, and highly available attributes of the Integrity NonStop environment, empowering customers to add new capacity to existing facilities at a lower per-transaction cost and a lower total cost of ownership.

Also new is NonStop Multi-core Architecture (NSMA), the performance-oriented system software architecture for the Integrity NonStop BladeSystem. The NSMA integrates multi-core logical processors with Integrity NonStop hardware and software to deliver nearly twice the processing power as Integrity NonStop NS-series systems.

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BITUG Annual Event—The “BIG SIG” 3 - 4 Dec 2008 NonStop Blades and 30 years of Tandem



Trinity House

BITUG are holding a “BIG SIG” on December 3rd and 4th in London.

If it were a social event, we'd call it a party. And one reason to party would be to celebrate a Pearl Anniversary - **2008 is the 30th year of Tandem in the UK.**

As with any anniversary, you celebrate past achievements and events but you also want to look forward. So our Big SIG will spend most of it's time looking at HP NonStop Futures.

- **There'll be a NonStop Blade system on site for you to see and learn about.**
- **You'll hear about HP's roadmaps for software and hardware.**
- **We'll have presentations from HP, vendors and users – so you can benefit from the knowledge and experiences of others. First hand NS Blade System experiences, Active/Active, ACI's Base24 futures are amongst the issues we plan to be under the spotlight**
- **Vendors will have their own exhibition area where you can compare products and product features.**
- **You be able to get educated or, maybe, even certified !**
- **There'll be opportunities for networking with your peers – or just plain gossiping.**

Our “BIG SIG” consists of three independent events – and BITUG members can attend any or all of them for FREE !

Why my company should be a member of BITUG

It's important and indeed vital, that we keep abreast of developments in the HP NonStop world: not only from HP but also from third party suppliers and our peers in other companies. For most of us, no matter what size the company, we do not have the opportunity to see the broad spectrum of offerings in the market place. If you want to broaden your view of the industry you need the opportunity to meet a range of suppliers and other peer companies as well as experts from HP.

Question: What is the best way to achieve this?

Answer: Join BITUG: the user group for HP NonStop platform.

BITUG hold a number of SIGs every year covering various NonStop topics including: platform futures, system management, capacity planning, disaster recovery, middleware, and security. All SIGs feature real-world experience from other HP NonStop users and provides a forum to question HP experts and third party suppliers.

With the recent announcement of the new NonStop Blade Systems, BITUG is the prime source of independent user experience and feedback to HP.

Wednesday Dec 3rd An Education Day at Wood Street. HP's Dave Sly will take you through a one day Performance workshop – with the material updated to take the new NonStop Blade Systems into account

That evening (Dec 3rd) sees a social event. Details are still being finalised but we anticipate joining up with the famous “Not The City Lunch”. HP are sponsoring a buffet to help keep hunger at bay. Do come along to relax and meet people who have witnessed first hand most of the significant events in Tandem history.

Thursday Dec 4th The main event - the “BIG SIG” itself. We have some exciting keynote speakers lined up, who will feature in the opening and closing general sessions. In between we will have several concurrent “threads” of HP and user presentations to give you a high quality SIG experience. We also plan to offer you certification exams and, last but certainly not least, allow you to **see a NonStop Blade System – up close and personal!**

Getting a bit retrospective – we will have faces from the past, we want to show off Tandem related memorabilia (see the separate invite for you to put yours on display) and we hope to reward the oldest piece of Tandem code still in production use today. More on all of this will come soon. For now, book the dates and make your excuses – whatever you do, don't miss out on the BITUG Big SIG. **30 years of Tandem can't be wrong !**



Each year BITUG holds a two day event at which there is trade fair, a number of SIGs, special presentations NonStop users, HP and also from other third-party suppliers. This is the place to network with your peers and a vast array of suppliers and HP experts.

Entry to the SIGs and annual two day event is free for BITUG members. I cannot stress more highly the benefits of meeting others and sharing experiences in the same HP NonStop world. BITUG is the local, independent NonStop user group for the UK; easily contactable, inexpensive to be a member, run only by volunteers from member companies who have no interest in making profits for themselves or management companies, they only want to make BITUG useful to the members.

You can keep in contact with BITUG via the web: www.bitug.com, by receiving the Newsletter and via e-mail information. You can talk to anybody on the committee, contact details can be found on the BITUG web.

Come along and see what BITUG can do for your company and encourage others in your company to make time to attend. It will be worth it.

Advertising on www.bitug.com and BITUG Newsletters

Reach your target audience! The rates for a shared rotating banner on www.bitug.com are £300 p.a. Please contact the [webmaster](mailto:webmaster@bitug.com) for Newsletter rates and to discuss your advertising requirements further.

New Product

In June, HP brought its proven NonStop 24/7 leadership to the server blade form factor with the introduction of the HP Integrity NonStop BladeSystem—the world's first 24/7 mission-critical computing environment on a standards-based bladed infrastructure.

Now HP announces an additional product set for the Integrity NonStop NB50000c BladeSystem, a novel I/O infrastructure offering enhanced capabilities that complement new blade and multi-core processor technologies.

These new storage and communications I/O controllers and adapters are built on standards-based servers and tightly integrated with the NonStop NB50000c via the HP ServerNet server area network. Called "CLuster IO Modules" (CLIMs), they enable the Integrity NonStop BladeSystem to provide faster time to market for new storage devices, more current TCP (and related) protocol support, a more compact footprint, improved performance for both storage and networking, and a platform on which to develop additional capability in the future.



Got any old Tandem photos or other memorabilia? Could you loan this to BITUG for a 30 years of Tandem display during December event? Contact the BITUG committee!

BITUG 2008/2009 Calendar

Date	Event
05 Nov 08	Committee Meeting
10–12 Nov 08	Community Connect Europe, Mannheim
03 Dec 08	Education Day on "Performance Update – including NonStop Blades" with Dave Sly
03 Dec 08	Social evening with NTCL
04 Dec 08	Certification
04 Dec 08	Big SIG & AGM, 30 years of Tandem in Europe
21 Jan 09	Committee Meeting & Christmas Lunch
18 Feb 09	SIG – Security/Risk/Compliance/Audit
11 Mar 09	Education Day on "Performance Update incl Blades"
18 Mar 09	Committee Meeting
5 Apr 09	SIG – MQ and Comms
03 June 09	Committee Meeting
15-18 June 09	ITUG Summit Las Vegas
08 Jul 09	SIG – DR, Active-Active, HPTF Update
23 Sep 09	Committee Meeting
07 Oct 09	SIG – Ops and System Management
18 Nov 09	Committee Meeting
09-11 Nov 09	Community Connect Europe
02 Dec 09	Education Day
03 Dec 09	Big SIG

SIGS EDUCATION DAYS COMMITTEE ITUG

CommunityConnect
Europe 2008



10-12 November 2008 | Mannheim, Germany



BITUG and Affiliation to Connect

At HPTF in June, Connect announced the establishment of their "Chapter Affiliate" model which they'd like all Regional User Groups (RUGs), including BITUG, to sign up to.

It costs BITUG nothing yet our members get full Connect membership benefits (apart from voting rights) i.e. access to

- **Connect website and webcasts.**
- **Social and technical networking opportunities via web forums, etc.**
- **Connect Now – the Connect e-Newsletter.**
- **"The Connection" magazine.**
- **Community voice – formerly termed Advocacy under ITUG.**

No change to our identity is needed. BITUG keeps its name - all Connect ask is that we use a tag-line (e.g. "affiliated with Connect") on our documentation

So what else do Connect get out of it ?
Connect expects each RUG to :

- **hold regular meetings**
- **promote Connect to its membership and**
- **maintain a membership list, elements from which would be shared with Connect.**

We were concerned about the disquiet that sharing membership data might cause as well as the legal issues around Data Protection.

After discussion, it looks as if we'll recommend that BITUG affiliates to Connect and that you will be able to sign up directly to Connect membership if you wish. We won't share your data, you will give it to Connect – or not as you see fit.

This seems simple enough, so we'll be driving out the details in time for discussion at the AGM. Until then – happy to hear your views on the subject, please get in touch with any Committee member.

Know your Tandem history!!

Excellent history of Tandem and NonStop available at:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TANDEM>

Platform Futures 9th July—SIG Report

The BITUG Special Interest Group topic chosen for the 9th July 2008 was 'Platform futures'. HP hosted the day and provided the refreshments in Wood Street, London. This SIG was well attended with representation from approximately 20 different organisations.

Kevin McGeough of HP presented the Hardware and Operating System roadmap to set the scene for the BITUG HP Non Stop User audience. There followed a presentation from Chris Ager of Brightstrand International describing experiences at the sharp end following a migration from S-Series systems. Dave Russell of HP completed a presentation on 'HP Blade System goes Mission Critical' which followed on from the HP Non Stop Blade launch in June 2008. A quick tour of the HP Non Stop Blade installed in Wood Street was facilitated by Dave Russell.

The User forum session facilitated by Graham Nield and Neil Barnes of the BITUG committee addressed several main areas of concern:

- The problems about keeping on S Series, for example support, and the announcement about the end of sales for certain HP Non Stop hardware, including processor and disk
- Migration experiences from ServerNet to Integrity technology that can be shared with the HP Non Stop User community

- The impact of the Non Stop Blade announcement and the implications for the User community

Announcement from ACI and the Base24 classic sunset status date and the impact on the User community
This session gave rise to a number of questions, which were raised to HP and ACI and in the months to come answers will be provided for the HP Non Stop User community.

Finally Richard Farrow provided an update following his attendance at the ITUG Summary in June 2008.

Many thanks to all those who presented on the day and this list should also include the BITUG volunteers. Reports from the presentations will be made available on the BITUG web-site. It is hoped that 'Platform futures' will continue to be a subject covered in future Special Interest Group events to ensure that Users concerns about the HP Non Stop platform are addressed effectively.

BITUG look forward to seeing all HP Non Stop Users at the next event.

BIG SIG: Dec 4th 2008 Call for Papers

Submit your "BIG SIG" presentation proposal to BITUG!

Be an active member of this collaborative event: Submit a presentation proposal to the BITUG committee for the opportunity to present during the "BIG SIG". The following tracks are available for presentation submission:

- Business Solutions
- NonStop Platform futures
- Other relevant presentations

Presenting has its benefits

By presenting, you'll not only benefit from the event's unparalleled educational and professional development opportunities, but you'll also have a platform to share your experiences, challenges, and fresh approaches with many NonStop professionals from across the UK.

BITUG welcomes and encourages first-time submitters and seasoned presenters alike.

Questions?

Contact BITUG directly if you have questions about submitting a presentation proposal for review. And check the BITUG website for the latest program details.

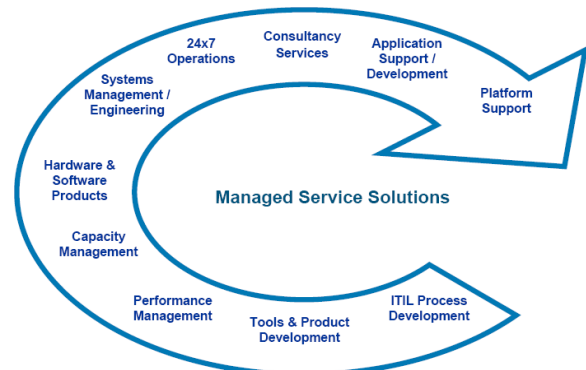
Strengthening NonStop environments

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TCM specialises in the provision of cost-effective service solutions for HP NonStop users - from one-off consultancy to complete outsourcing solutions – reducing cost and risk of support whilst delivering more to the business.

Our extensive experience in all aspects of NonStop service delivery and support give you the confidence that we know just about everything there is to know about NonStop service delivery. Being the only itSMF ISO20000 accredited NonStop service provider, we have the proven capability to add value and reduce risk.



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