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BITUG Newsletter Summer 2009

Chairman's chat

"2009 is now half way through. The weather forecasters are telling us that we should have a lot warmer and sunnier summer this year, but they then let us know that we should expect more rain. Another typical British summer!

The first half of the year has been busy for BITUG and the committee. We have had three successful Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on NonStop Migration, MQ and Comms and NonStop Briefing. Details of these can be found on our website. We also had an Education day on Performance on the new Integrity boxes.

We are busy working on the rest of the year's activities, and by the time this newsletter goes to press, we will have attended HPTF in June, where we will have had our say on the direction of the HP user groups. This is currently a hot topic with ETUG no longer being run, many vendors are requesting more regional representation. This in turn means that our BIG SIG may need to grow. The two UK user groups BITUG and HPUG are working together to make this a better day for all of our users without losing the identity of either group.

We also have two more SIGs, DR and Active/Active in July and Security/Risk/Compliance in October. We will also be arranging another Education Day on 2nd December the day before the BIG SIG.

I hope you find this Newsletter informative and I look forward to meeting you all at one or all of our events this year." - Neil Barnes, BITUG Chairman

NS2000 Announcement

The new HP NonStop NS2000 server family extends the J-series multi-core product platform to the entry-level. This 100% NonStop offering offers complete investment protection and provides customers an affordable solution that delivers fault tolerance and high performance at the lowest cost available for a multi-core Integrity NonStop system.

The NS2000 provides the same continuously available, highly fault tolerant system and runs the same applications as other NonStop servers from S-series on up to the NonStop BladeSystem.

http://h20223.www2.hp.com/nonstopcomputing/us/en/servers/integrity-ns2000s-announcement.html?jumpid=reg_R1002_USEN

Business Continuity SIG 8th July 2009

Come along to BITUG's Business Continuity SIG on Wednesday 8th July 2009 to hear all about the latest innovations in this area at this ever popular SIG.

A presentation from one of the biggest names in Business Continuity on NonStop is expected so stay tuned to BITUG emails and visit BITUG website for further information.

Also, an update from HPTF will be given at the SIG with focus on NonStop announcements and BITUG affiliation with Connect.

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Special points of interest

- SIG Report from "NonStop Briefing" SIG—reports from senior HP speakers
- Significant new research data from Standish Group comparing IBM zSeries and HP NonStop

Connect

Connect is an independent membership organization formed from the consolidation of former HP users groups, including Encompass, ITUG and HP-Interex EMEA. Connect is a worldwide community of IT professionals who utilize the full spectrum of HP enterprise products and services, like ProLiant, Integrity, 9000, NonStop, Alpha, e3000, and blade servers, as well as the complete suite of storage, IT, and information management solutions

Newsletter Archive

To signup to receive future newsletters and to read this and previous newsletters check out <http://www.bitug.com>



BITUG Events—2009

Date	Event
08 Jul 09	SIG – DR, Active-Active, HPTF Update
07 Oct 09	SIG – Security
02 Dec 09	Education Day
03 Dec 09	Big SIG—in conjunction with HPUG



“With the power of both HPUG and BITUG this year’s BIG SIG will be better than ever!” - Neil Barnes, BITUG Chairman

BIG SIG 2009

BITUG are again holding a “**BIG SIG**” in December, in London.

Planning is well underway and with this years event being held in conjunction with HPUG we have been able to secure an extremely prestigious venue—Institute of Directors, Pall Mall! Take a look at www.116pallmall.com for further details:



As in 2008, there will be an Education Day on 2nd December at HP’s offices in Wood Street, followed by a social event that evening open to all BITUG members with the BIG SIG itself taking place on 3rd December. There will be a number of plenary sessions with two separate presentation threads throughout the day. At the current time, the two threads are planned to be—**User Case Studies and NonStop topics**—this should provide a wide range of end-user experience along with the latest and greatest NonStop technology innovations from HP and partners.

In addition to all of the above, there’ll also be:

- The ability to view latest technologies
- Presentations from HP, vendors and users – so you can benefit from the knowledge and experiences of others.
- A separate vendor exhibition area where you can compare products and product features.
- The ability to get educated or, maybe, even certified !
- There’ll be opportunities for networking with your peers in NonStop (and across all HP technologies with HPUG)
- The ability to help BITUG celebrate it’s 25th birthday!

Clear your diary for 2nd/3rd December, come along and join us at the largest NonStop event outside of HPTF!

Recent SIG Reports

Communications & MQ—15th April 2009

HP hosted the day and provided the refreshments in Wood Street, London. This SIG was well attended with representation from over 10 different organisations.

Kevin McGeough of HP presented a well received overview on the new NS2000 server to set the scene for the BITUG HP Non Stop User audience.

There followed a series of presentations from the attending IBM team. First up was Morag Hughson of IBM Hursley labs on the likely structure and features of MQ version 7. Toby Wardill from IBM then presented on WebSphere MQ strategy for the NonStop Server and finally in this session, Simon Webb from IBM US presented on the technical aspects of WebSphere MQ on NonStop. Following IBM, Dave Shields from Insider Technologies presented on Managing MQ as a Service.

After the break, Andy McLaren and Chris Chambers from Brightstrand presented on their experience in upgrading from MQv5.1 to MQv5.3. The experience of this particular upgrade did seem to strike a chord with a number of attendees and there was some excellent feedback from IBM to some of the issues experienced.

There followed a User forum session facilitated by Stuart Taylor and Neil Barnes of the BITUG committee and a number of points were raised which have been fed back to the IBM attendees for response: - **check the BITUG website regularly for IBM WebSphere MQ updates!**

Following the User Forum, Vince Cooper provided an overview of Communications on NonStop Blades and finally Stuart Taylor wrapped up the session and thanked all for their excellent input to a very worthwhile SIG.

The level of feedback from the attendees throughout the day was magnificent and due to the level of interaction, the SIG eventually finished at 1730, the longest running SIG for some time! Many thanks to all those who took part and 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 "Communications and MQ" will continue to be a subject covered in future Special Interest Group events to ensure that Users concerns in these areas are addressed effectively.

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

NonStop Briefing—11th May 2009

The NonStop Briefing event was a precursor to an HP Executive Briefing running on 12th/13th May. This BITUG Extra SIG - NonStop Briefing mirrored the first day's content for the Executive Briefing, which focused on Business-Critical Solutions.

This SIG provided a great opportunity for BITUG members to get up-close and personal with some of the real decision-makers in HP such as Randy Meyer, etc along with some significant end users such as Marty Edelman of Home Depot. The format of the day was as below and presentations will be made available on request to Dave Russell of HP— dave.r@hp.com:

Industry Trends: As a major Employer, Manufacturer, Retailer and Bank and significant user of IT and Communications networks, how is HP responding to the intense market pressures we all face?

Industry standards go Mission Critical: How HP is exploiting the world's fastest-growing, most successful infrastructure platform to meet customer demands for lower cost per transaction with the highest levels of availability – enter the HP NonStop BladeSystem.

Modern Software infrastructures – a customer case study: Deploying business-critical processing that enables operations at \$7,500,000.00 per Hour, using the latest software technologies – or – how new business-critical applications can be developed by kids out of college with open software experience

NonStop joins the HP mainstream: Challenging your perceptions about HP NonStop –Modern, Standard, and 24/7

How is my Business growing? The HP EMEA NonStop Business continues to be highly successful, dynamic and innovative – how has this been achieved? By delivering a solutions strategy for local requirements.

Overcoming the legacy of information stovepipes: HP Supply Chain - a Case Study. Managing complex data across stove-piped operations? How to deliver real-time information into business decision processes for the world's largest IT manufacturer.

Feedback request

What would you like to see from BITUG?

An online poll will run on BITUG website with the following choices:

- Additional SIGs
- More online content such as blogs etc
- Solutions SIGS—Base24, Atlas etc
- More newsletters
- Where to find NonStop related information
- Vendor Directory

BITUG Committee

Chairman
Neil Barnes

Vice-Chairman
Dave Ross

Outgoing chairman
Richard Farrow

Treasurer
Sean Bicknell

HP Liaison
Dave Russell

Webmaster
Peter Born

SIG Coordinators
Graham Nield
Richard Farrow
Stuart Taylor
Damian Ward

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

Latest Standish Group Research

Traditional computer systems with enclosed cabinets, cables, and other trappings have been giving way to more flexible blade configurations for some time. These configurations dramatically reduce cost for the manufacturer. The vendor has the opportunity to pass this saving onto the customer, thus providing greater value to the solution. Today, IT is more focused on the total cost of ownership (TCO) and return on investment (ROI).

<http://h20223.www2.hp.com/NonStopComputing/downloads/NonStop-Stimulus.pdf>

Finally...

You Will Be Able to Easily Integrate Your Java-Based Applications With NonStop



Learn more at <http://www.nuwave-tech.com/products/makalink>

Integration Components
MAKOLINK

Ramblings from the BITUG front-line

So where are we all headed in the NonStop world—a brave new world where budgets are reducing, risk is no longer an option and headcount is frozen.

From a user perspective, these are clearly challenging times, especially in the financial sector where projects don't even get to initiation stage unless there is a direct impact on the corporate bottom-line. This clearly affects the contracting market as specialist NonStop projects have all but ceased and permanent recruitment is at a very low ebb. What help are you receiving from your NonStop suppliers, large and small, during these difficult times?

From a vendor perspective, how do you maintain margins when customers are applying significant pressure on you to reduce cost and threatening to replace your product/service? For HP partners, what assistance is HP providing and are you able to effectively engage? These are the issues facing everyone involved in NonStop and until overall business confidence improves we are likely to remain in a very challenging environment.

There has been much written about the superior TCO and ROI of NonStop platforms but do senior management in NonStop user organisations actually believe this and are you as a NonStop evangelist able to get this message across effectively in your organisations? Do HP UK sales force effectively get this message across to your decision makers and when was the last IBM zSeries to NonStop migration in the UK? What more would you like to see HP do in this area?

Does your management support your membership of BITUG? Are you able to attend the BITUG events that you want to? Would you like more events, less, different types or different delivery channels such as webcasts? Does BITUG communicate with you too much, too little, about right? Would a BITUG vendor directory help you in procuring NonStop based products and services?

A lot of questions, not a lot of answers, so it's over to you the BITUG membership to let the BITUG committee know what we can do to help. Contact feedback@bitug.com

HP Integrity NonStop BladeSystem wins Gold for Product of the Year

The HP Integrity NonStop NB50000c BladeSystem topped IBM's z10 Business Class mainframe and Sun's SPARC Enterprise T5440 server to win Gold in the SearchDatacenter.com 2008 Product of the Year competition for servers.

"The NB50000c BladeSystem caps the transition of NonStop from wholly customized hardware technology to a product line that fully leverages the same HP c-Class blade infrastructure that also includes x86 and Itanium-based products," the panel of judges reported. "This makes the fault-tolerant and high-performance NonStop architecture far more accessible in terms of both price and accessibility than it has been historically."