

The CE Times

Dear friends of COMMON Europe

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 CEC 2011
- 3 Innovation Awards - IA 2011
- 4 Top Concerns 2011
- 5 Interview with Frank Soltis
- 6 CE Information



Welcome to Common Europe first edition of CE times, which we are very proud to present to the Power community.

Common Europe has changed magnificently over the past 12 month – to be able to benefit its countries and members much more dedicated and given much more valuable to you – working in the Power industry.

Common Europe has now a solid base of being the central and core [user community of IBM Power IT services and solutions](#) – in Europe and we are expanding both in activities and geographically.

The list of benefits are getting longer and more solid and we will surely continue our work for end-clients, business partners and ISV's – as a user group - developing our shared and progressive business. So be ensured to see a strong partner in Common Europe – giving advantageous services to all members and partners. If not already connected to Common Europe – make you best choice of today - contact us!

In this and future newsletters we will give you information of our activities and services – and the first major activity is our Common Europe Congress in Milano – Mai 22nd to 25th, where the Power community will be joining for getting the latest information, networking and be educated for ensuring and developing their companies.

Full details can be found at our newly developed website. Therefore I hope to see you all in Milano.

Jan Leth-Kjaer

President
Common Europe

CEC 2011 – Signs of Excellence

Like every year COMMON Europe invites to their international COMMON Europe Congress - the IBM POWER i (AS/400) educational event in Europe. You can meet specialists, YIPs (young i professionals) and friends while networking, learning and having fun at a famous place in Italy. Education, workshops, social events and culture under the flag of the IBM POWER Systems and COMMON Europe will await you in Milan, May 23rd to 25th 2011.

This prestigious event is being held at our new COMMON Europe member Italy in Milan– this is 'the' System i event of the year. Please mark the dates in your calendar to attend and benefit from the best value POWER i educational event in Europe. In keeping with previous years, we have planned multiple sessions, covering most of the System i , AIX and Power technologies, as well as sessions of general knowledge covering the most important areas important to an IT department.

The event also has a focussed System i/Power exhibition, consisting of many international, IBM business partners and Independent Software Developers who offer the newest products and solutions related to the IBM midrange Eco system.

We must not forget one of the most important reasons to attend the congress - the fact that you will have the opportunity to network with your fellow professionals during lunches, coffee breaks and social occasions, exchanging experiences and best practices with them and in likelihood being able to go back to your own company with new ideas on dealing with your projects and everyday tasks.

The Congress organisation team have worked very hard to provide you with the ideal environment and series of activities to ensure that your investment in time and money is put to maximum use.

What's in store for you?

First part of call should be the welcome party on Sunday evening. Here you can meet up with old friends or most certainly, make new ones. The Congress begins on Monday with the opening keynote sessions. These are a must attend as we have a high profile set of Strategic keynote presentations that start the Congress, with more Keynotes during the following two days. Parallel streams running through the three days have a comprehensive range of relevant System i/Power topics/Open Source materials.

We all know that our inboxes are inundated with invitations to briefings, seminars and conferences. These are often sponsored by business partners or suppliers. But this is different. Common Europe is an organisation that is not about selling products but about bringing great value education to you. No matter what function you have in your IT organisation, a developer, a designer, or a manager, there will be many sessions on the agenda to whet your appetite. These sessions will be presented by a range of speakers from IBM US, IBM Italy and local specialists with extensive knowledge of the IBM midrange architecture and environment.

For the IT Manager (or aspiring developer), there will be a range of topics including Moving from Development to Management and Architecting Modernisation. With other technical education streams covering Security and Linux, Extending the System i/Power and System Management, there is no reason why anyone from your IT shop should be excluded.

In the modern system delivery environment, Software of all descriptions is playing an ever increasing role and development teams are embracing ever more innovative software enabling technologies. Common Europe Congress is the place to be to understand the best tools that are available and which to use in your environment.



CEC 2011 – Signs of Excellence – cont.



For the developers, our ever popular RPG coverage will be included with all of the latest techniques, tips and tricks. Whether you are a seasoned RPG developer, a junior looking to further your understanding or a developer from another discipline looking to gain an understanding of this language, the RPG sessions are a must

On Monday, after the sessions finish, there will be a cocktail reception where you can relax and unwind for a while. On Tuesday evening there will be our special Gala Event. This begins with a pre-dinner reception and then a dinner in a special setting. The Conference will officially close with a Keynote presentation on Wednesday afternoon.

I am confident you will enjoy your visit to the Common Europe Congress 2011, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or any other member of the organisation team if we can help you in any way.

More information and registration can be found at <http://www.comeur.org>

COMMON Europe & IBM Innovation Award

[Go for prestige!](#)

Go for the COMMON Europe Innovation Award 2011 and gain attention by the world! Show Business partners, competitors and other companies, that **THE** IBM Power Innovation is YOURS.

Go to www.comeur.org to submit your nomination. Nominations will be accepted until April 10th, 2011.

Winners will be announced and honored at the COMMON Europe Conference at Milan/Italy 23rd to 25th May 2011

What is Innovation?

Innovation is a unique combination of people, passion, and technology that helps power your business. Power Systems innovation includes servers that feature the industry's leading processors, with solutions based on AIX, IBM i and Linux operating environments - integrated to help you simplify your IT, reduce your costs and fuel innovation in your business.

What is the COMMON/IBM Power Systems Innovation Award?

Several years ago, COMMON Europe and IBM introduced Innovation Awards to recognize, showcase, and share clients' best practices for Power Systems solutions. Award winners exhibit excellence in utilizing new technologies to create significant business value by delivering new solutions faster, improving the quality and capability of existing solutions or improving the economics around solution implementation. New technologies deployed cover a wide variety such as virtualization, web-based solutions and services, open source solutions, the performance of POWER7, data analytics, or enhancing core business solutions.

Who is eligible for the COMMON/IBM Power Systems Innovation Award?

IBM clients who use Power Systems servers (including IBM i, AIX and Linux) are eligible for these awards.

A judging committee will be assigned and will include COMMON Europe Board Members and IBM members. The judges will rank and score each nomination on the following criteria:

- Demonstrate business innovation
- Supports outstanding achievement
- Highlights business value to the company and its end users
- Is considered a best practice in the industry
- **Stands out from the other nominations**



The Crystal Award – IA 2011



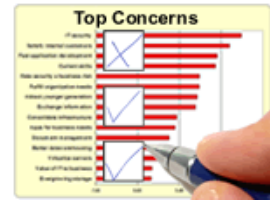
Top Concerns 2011

The annual Top Concerns survey is a regular feature of COMMON Europe. In addition to the "on the spot" survey conducted during the opening session of Common Europe Congress to be held in Milan, Italy, from 23 to 25 May 2011, we are addressing all Power i (System i, iSeries, AS/400) and AIX community through the web **in order to know their challenges for the coming years.**

An iPod nano will be sent to a web winner each from Europe, North America, Africa, Australasia and Japan whose form number will be chosen by an innocent person. Two other iPods will be awarded for the "on the spot" survey respondents. The big prize is a voucher for an iPad 2 for a participant in the total survey.

For more information and to fill out your form, please go to www.comeur.org

Also for more information on Top Concerns:
Project Leader - [Ranga Deshpande](mailto:ranga@comeur.org), Tel. +32 2 541 3650.
ranga@comeur.org



Interview with Frank Soltis

In October 2010 Dr. Frank Soltis, former Chief Architect IBM System I (IBM AS/400, iSeries, Power i) visited Vienna/Austria. The following interview with him was held at Café on one of Vienna's hills by Christoph Cuscoleca, Marketing Director of COMMON Europe and Vice President of COMMON Austria.

CC: Frank, when did you decide to retire from IBM?

FS: In January 2008 the decision was made inside of IBM to merge the System i and System p into a single line of hardware system to be called "Power Systems." I had been supporting such a merger for almost four years, and I was very happy to see it finally happen. It also was the perfect time for me to retire, since I had accomplished everything I wanted to accomplish within IBM. After I announced my retirement, I was asked to stay on for a few months to help with the announcements of the new Power Systems, and I agreed to do so. I ended up staying until the end of that year.

CC: And what was the final reason for retiring?

FS: My IBM responsibilities allowed very little time for me to spend with user groups, business partners or even individual customers. Because IBM had decided years earlier to promote the IBM Company as a whole rather than promoting individual systems, there was little or no publicity for IBM i. The job of promoting this wonderful system fell to user groups, business partners and existing customers. I felt that I could help with this promotion after I retired.

CC: Do you miss anything from your IBM time?

FS: I miss many of the people. I do try to stay in touch with many people who are still in IBM, but it becomes more difficult from the outside.

CC: What are you doing now?

FS: I am now working with several business partners, user groups and customers around the world, which is exactly what I wanted to do. I also have more free time. My wife likes to tease me about my free time by pointing out that before I retired I worked seven days a week, and now I only work six days a week.

CC: How do you see the future of "AS/400"?

FS: IBM i has a great future as a fundamental part of IBM Power Systems. Any concerns that this system may soon disappear are unfounded. The AS/400 left us ten years ago to join the S/36 and the S/38 in the museum of outstanding business systems. Today, we need to support and promote Power Systems.



Frank Soltis in front of the „Mailuefterl“ – the first full Transistor Computer in Europe (Technical Museum, Vienna)

Frank Soltis Interview – cont.

CC: What will IBM i enthusiasts face in the future?

FS: Enthusiasts who work in an IBM i shop need to become advocates and start promoting the IBM i as the best, most modern system for business. If no one promotes the IBM i in their own shop and explains the benefits that this system provides to their business, it is likely that the system will be replaced.

I am always amazed to hear IBM i enthusiasts complain about their management's plans to replace an older iSeries with a "modern" Windows or Unix system. Remember, IBM is not going to promote any particular system. If a customer wants Windows, Unix and even a mainframe, IBM will happily sell it to them. IBM i enthusiasts need to promote their own systems or risk losing them.

CC: What will be the challenges for the "COMMONs" worldwide?

FS: COMMON's challenges all involve recruiting new members. I see two very important activities that will go a long way towards helping any country COMMON recruit new members. The first is embracing all of Power Systems and not just IBM i. The second is a YIPs (Young i Professionals) program. YIPs programs represent the future of COMMON.

CC: How did you like the CEC (COMMON Europe Conference) 2010 in Stratford upon Avon?

FS: During the past year I have had the privilege to attend the COMMON US Conference, the COMMON Europe Conference and the Intermediate System Users Conference (iSUC) in Japan. These are always wonderful conferences, especially when I can spend some time with the people attending the conference and not have to rush off due to some other commitment. The enthusiasm that I find at these conferences is contagious.

CEC has always been special for me because of the many people from different countries that come together to share ideas and discuss the latest technologies in business computing. Over the years Europe has been the largest market for the systems that we developed back in Rochester.

CC: What do you think about "iManifest"? Can you tell me something about this?

FS: The iManifest initiative was originally started in Japan by a group of business partners shortly after Power Systems was announced. They recognized that IBM was not going to promote individual systems such as the IBM i, so they decided to do their own promotions. The effort has been phenomenally successful in Japan as a very important way to promote IBM i. Some of us are now trying to start similar efforts in other countries.

CC: What do you see in the future of technology? A few years ago you mentioned how "strange it is, to save data to rusty disks" and that this will be changed in the future. Now we are able to use SSD. What else do you think will change – not only in the IBM i world?

FS: Predicting hardware technologies is fairly easy. Hardware is constantly moving to cheaper and denser implementations, and this will continue well into the future. It is far more difficult to predict software technologies, primarily because we keep changing the way in which we use our systems. Ten years ago, we were all interacting with our computers in more or less the same way. We used a display, a keyboard and a mouse. Look at what has happened to user interfaces in those last ten years. There are new user interfaces and new user devices appearing almost every day. Keyboards and mice are rapidly becoming extinct. Now, think about how we will be interacting with computers ten years in the future. There is no shortage of new ideas for how we can work with our computers.

Future technology innovations are not just limited to user interfaces and devices. Our business systems will also see major innovations. For example, one of the hottest topics in the computer industry today is cloud computing. Yet cloud computing is being held back for many businesses because of a lack of adequate security. We need to invent some form of security that absolutely guarantees data stored in the cloud is totally secure. Only then will the potential of cloud computing be fully realized.

I could go on and on about future technologies that we should expect to see, but you get the picture. As I often tell young people in IT schools around the world, in many ways technology innovation is just beginning and they are at the forefront of that innovation.

Frank Soltis Interview – cont.

CC: You are familiar with IBM Academic Initiative. What do you think about this program?

FS: I am a huge fan of the IBM Academic Initiative. It has been very successful for the schools and for the students who are participating in the program. As the demand for IT skills grows worldwide, companies have found the participating schools to be the best source for finding those skills. Students who possess modern IT skills can significantly expand their job and career opportunities.

We always want to see more schools and more students involved in the Academic Initiative, but growth takes time. The program continues to demonstrate how to attract young people to Power Systems.

CC: What car is currently “on work” in your garage?

FS: I have several projects currently in my garage waiting for me. There is a Porsche rebuild that needs to be completed, a Pontiac Firebird that still needs some work, and a 1941 Studebaker pickup truck that my wife owns and wants restored. I wish I could say I was spending a lot of time working on these vehicles, but I have been fairly busy doing other things. Fortunately all of these projects will be waiting for me when I finally decide to retire.

CC: Do you still race?

FS: No, I decided it was time for me to take on the role of “chief mechanic” for my family and give up the driving. The youngest generation in our family is almost old enough to do some cart racing, so this looks like my next challenge.

CC: You are a Formula 1 Fan – what do you think about this season?

FS: I do enjoy watching Formula 1, and I very much enjoyed this season. I have had the chance to attend a few Formula 1 races in Europe and Asia over the last few seasons, and I am looking forward to Formula 1 coming back to the US. The new circuit being built near Austin, Texas looks to be a good venue for the US Grand Prix in 2012.

Thank you for the interview, Frank!

FS: Dr. Frank Soltis

CC: Christoph Cuscoleca

Vienna, Oct. 2010



Membership of over 8.000 companies and professionals around Europe

Headquarter - Common Europe

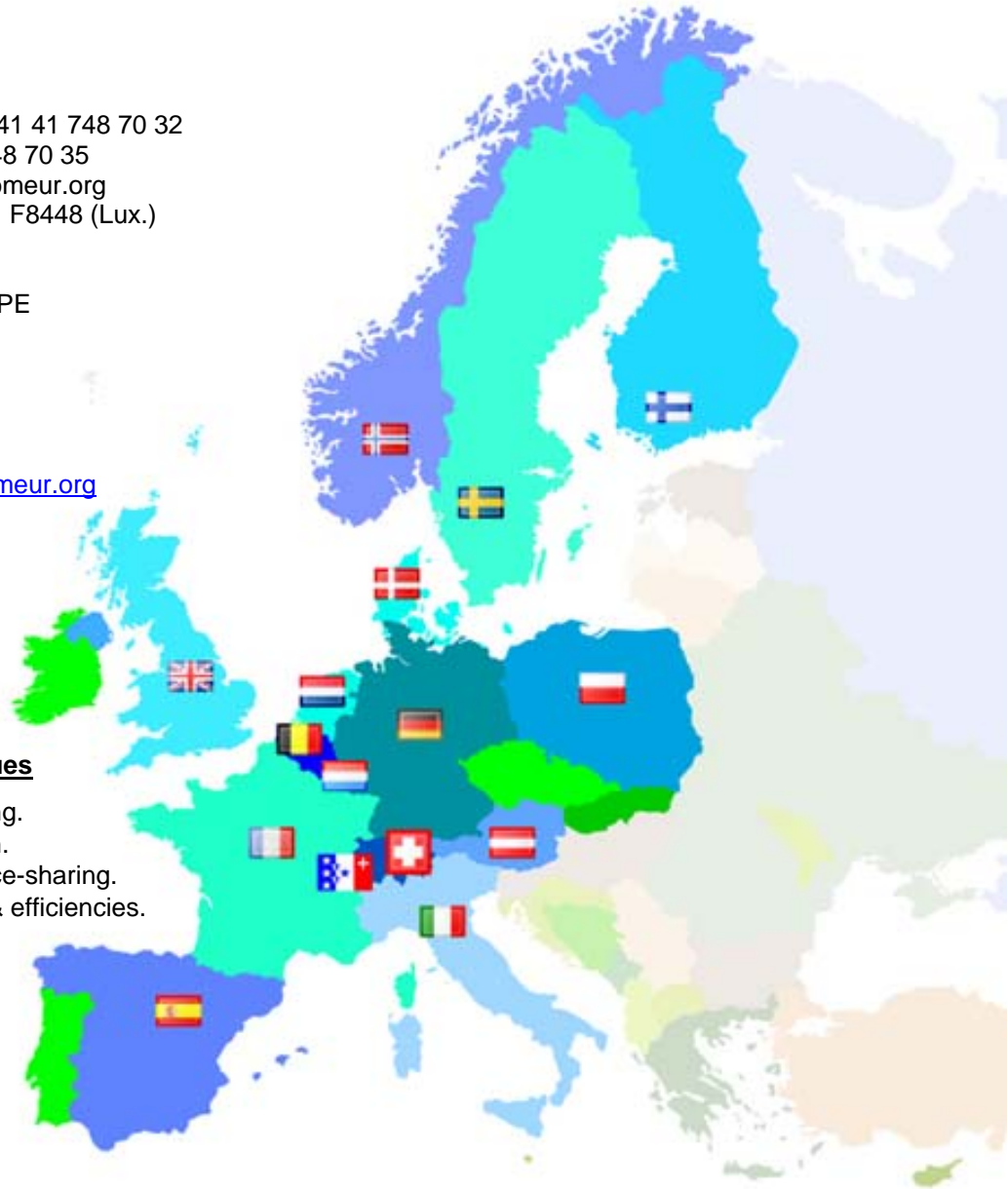
Zugerstrasse 47
CH-6330 Cham
Switzerland
Phone +41 41 748 70 32
Fax +41 41 748 70 35
E-Mail: office@comeur.org
Reg. org. number: F8448 (Lux.)


Postal address
COMMON EUROPE
Zugerstrasse 47
P.O. Box 2223
CH-6330 Cham 2
Switzerland

Website: www.comeur.org

Core market values

- Networking.
- Education.
- Experience-sharing.
- Savings & efficiencies.
- Influence.



CE Times is published by Common Europe at non regular interval and serves as core communication to all partners of Common Europe and a core source of information to the IBM Power community. We invite everyone in relation to Common Europe to contribute with information to be published in this newsletter. 

Contact:

Editor: Christoph Cuscoleca – Marketing Director.
Email: christoph@comeur.org