



# CONSULTING MATTERS

A publication of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Independent Computer Consultants Association  
www.iccadelval.org

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## From The President...

### Lessons from Katrina... Or, What to Do When Disaster Strikes

John Erthal  
Alphalon Business Solutions, Inc.  
**President**  
ICCA/Delaware Valley



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Alphalon Business Solutions, Inc.  
**President**  
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We've all read the recent headlines:

- 'Katrina Makes Life Difficult in the Big Easy'
- 'Quake Shakes Area North of LA'
- 'Hurricane Rita leaves 1,000,000 Without Power'
- 'Missing University Laptop with Personal Info from 100,000 Alumnae Found with Data Erased!'

Many people and businesses were unprepared for the devastation of Katrina, despite the obvious facts:

- The Gulf region has experienced seasonal hurricanes since time immemorial
- Significant portions of New Orleans are below sea level

- The levee and dike system was designed to handle a level-3 hurricane at best
- This disaster was predicted by experts as inevitable. Yet, a month later after this tragedy struck, practically no business, education or commerce is being conducted in Southern Louisiana.

It became apparent to me, personally, when I unknowingly tried a web-site of one of my regular suppliers in Louisiana. The only response I got for weeks was: "Page not found."

So, what lessons can be learned from Katrina?

While it seems the obvious conclusion might be to not live or work below sea level unless you're an oceanographer, there are real lessons to be learned here.

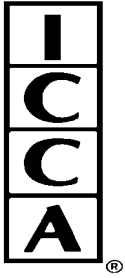
A small business runs the risk of experiencing disaster, large and small, sometimes without warning, at any time, at any place, not just in the hurricane zone. A fire at your office, small creek flooding, tornados, burglary, theft, vandalism, and, at a different level, espionage from ruthless competitors are all possible disasters that could strike your business. Remember the Tanya Harding case?

Unprepared, once a disaster strikes, there is actually very little you can do except to wait it out, return to pick up the pieces and start over.

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**Meeting  
Information  
610-394-9090**

**info@iccadelval.org  
www.iccadelval.org**

6:00 P.M.            Networking & Cash Bar  
7:00 P.M.            Dinner  
8:15 P.M.            Meeting & Program

Entire Evening Prepaid	\$30 Members	\$40 Guest
Entire Evening at Door	\$40 Members	\$45 Guest
Networking/Speaker	Free Members	\$5 Guest

**First time guests pay member rates.** Prepayment must be received and cancellations for refunds must be made by Monday before meeting. Credit Cards accepted (MC, Visa, Discover). If there is more than one person in your party, we request that you pre-pay. Note that making a reservation is a promise to pay. "No-Shows" will be billed.

Mail Check Payable to:  
ICCA Delaware Valley  
125 N. Highland Avenue  
Lansdowne, PA 19050



**TOP TOPICS at  
ICCA DeVal  
2004-2005**

by Kathleen Conti, WebSquared, LLC

So the 2005-2006 schedule is coming together slowly. It seems everyone was away on their summer holidays and now that they are back at work I am getting replies via phone calls and emails..... I have finally pinned down a few speakers for our upcoming meetings, the only problem is that I am still in the midst of confirming which presentation will be in which month and finalizing the topics. This is what I know so far:

Our **October** meeting is set and **Fred Kaplan** will be giving us a run down of the latest information pertaining to **Sarbanes Oxley**. This meeting will be held at the Philadelphia Airport Hilton.

For our **November** meeting it looks likely that **ATX Communications** in King of Prussia will be hosting our group and presenting information about **Voice Over IP (VOIP) technologies**.

For **December** I have been in discussions with the **City of Philadelphia** to have them present about the **Wireless Philadelphia** project which is hoping to bring free high-speed public Internet access for the residents, visitors and businesses of Philadelphia.

On January **12th** at the Holiday Inn in Wilmington, **Skip Shuda** from **Team and a Dream** will join us for an exploration of the emerging business phenomena that some are calling The Cheap Revolution. Global access to a vast network of talented professionals and stunning advances in Information Technology is changing the way business is done. A growing pool of free information is just a mouse-click away. Fierce competition among service providers is heating up in all but the most specialized niches. Like it or not, The Cheap Revolution is here

So things are coming along slowly but surely. I will be sure to send finalized information to everyone so you can add the dates to your calendars. As always I am looking for good topics, speakers and locations and would be grateful for any information our members could provide so we can finalize the programs for the rest of our meeting dates. Also, if you are aware of any new technology or something you think our group should know about please let me know:

[kconti@websquared.com](mailto:kconti@websquared.com)

**Join the ICCA!**

**Become a part of the region's premier association for Independent Computer Consultants.**

**Membership rates are:**

- \* \$100 Local Chapter Dues
- \* \$175 National dues for 1 person firm
- \* \$225 National dues for 2-9 person firm
- \* \$275 National dues for 10+ person firm
- \* \$25 National Processing fee  
(1st time only)

This Translates to:

- \* \$300 for a first-time 1 person firm
- \* \$275 subsequent years for 1 person firm

Call **610-394-9090** to request an application, or fill out membership application on line at [www.icca.org](http://www.icca.org)

# SQL Server 2005

by Michael Feuda, Microsoft Corporation

## SQL Server 2005 Launch Information

Microsoft will be launching SQL Server 2005 on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Microsoft is also launching Visual Studio 2005 and BizTalk Server 2006 on the same date. There will be a local Philadelphia launch at the Philadelphia Convention Center on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Details for the launch events can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/events/2005launchevents/default.mspx>.

## SQL Server 2005 Overview

Microsoft SQL Server has become the preferred solution for customers deploying enterprise data and business intelligence applications on the Microsoft Windows platform. With a long history of innovation, SQL Server delivers outstanding dependability, productivity, connectivity, and economic value.

SQL Server 2005 is a comprehensive, integrated data platform. There are four “flavors” to choose from, including SQL Server 2005 Express for the home enthusiast to SQL Server 2005 Enterprise Edition.

SQL Server is the only database to include comprehensive, tightly integrated functionality for data management as well as advanced business intelligence out of the box, for both standard and enterprise editions. Some of the features include:

- **Core Database Engine:** Secure, reliable, highly available relational database engine with support for structured and unstructured data
- **Data Transformation Services (DTS):** Extract, transform, and load functionality for data warehousing and enterprise-wide data integration
- **Replication Services:** Data replication for distributed or mobile data processing applications
- **Notification Services:** Advanced notification for applications that deliver information to connected and mobile devices
- **Analysis Services:** Online analytical processing (OLAP) for analysis of multi-dimensional data sets
- **Reporting Services:** Comprehensive creation, management, and delivery of both traditional and interactive reports
- **Management Tools:** Integrated management tools for advanced database management and tuning
- **Development Tools:** Integrated development tools for ETL and OLAP, as well as tight integration with Visual Studio
- **Flexibility, Extensibility:** Every major subsystem provides an Object Model and set of APIs to extend the data system and meet specific needs

- **Interoperability:** Standard protocols and web service support reduce the time it takes to integrate data and ensures interoperability

## Resources

A great place to start learning more about SQL Server 2005 is the main website <http://www.microsoft.com/sql/default.mspx>. The September Community Technology Preview (CTP) for SQL Server 2005 is also available via that location.

### ICCA Delaware Valley Shirts

**\$25 per shirt. Various colors available.**

Size	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Color	Green	Ecu	White	Navy	

Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form with check payable to:

ICCA  
125 N. Highland Ave  
Lansdowne, PA 19050

Or call/email your VISA/MC/Discover card number, expiration date, and total dollar amount of order to

610-394-9090  
[icca@erols.com](mailto:icca@erols.com)

Shirts/mugs will be ready for pickup by the following meeting.

# ICCA Upcoming Dinner Meetings

## October 6, 2005

**Topic:** The Sarbanes- Oxley “Buck” Stops with IT

**Location:** Philadelphia Airport Hilton

**Speaker:** Fred M. Kaplan - Relevante, Inc.

*Description:* In the wake of the financial debacles that occurred at companies such as Enron and WorldCom, the overarching objective of the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation is to ensure that the financial reports of publicly traded companies are accurate. Because the processes and internal controls for financial reporting are implemented in IT systems, Section 404 of the SOX Act requires detailed, ongoing assessment of these financial applications and systems.

In today’s world, all of the relevant financial reports of a company, such as its balance sheet and cash flow statement, are summary outputs from numerous financial processes that are supported by a variety of enterprise systems and applications. These applications, in turn, run on sophisticated server, database and network infrastructures.

As a result, general IT processes and controls are an integral part of the control framework that organizations must put in place in order to satisfy the broader requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Since the accuracy and timeliness of financial reporting depends on a well-planned and well-controlled IT environment, IT organizations must provide detailed documentation on these controls as well as documentation about the effectiveness of those control processes.

However, many IT organizations don’t yet have these control processes in place – and most don’t have the means to document these controls and their effectiveness on an ongoing basis. In tonight’s program, we will examine specific areas of concern for IT organizations as they seek to comply with the ongoing directives of Sarbanes-Oxley.

## November 10, 2005

**Topic:** Voice Over IP (VOIP) Technologies

**Location:** Doubletree Guest Suites, Plymouth Meeting, PA

**Speaker:** ATX Communications

*Description:* ATX Communications in King of Prussia will be hosting our group and presenting information about **Voice Over IP (VOIP) technologies**.

### Meeting Locations:

(Please call the hotel for directions.)

#### Philadelphia Airport Hilton

215-365-4150  
4509 Island Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA

#### Clairon Hotel

856-428-2300  
Route 70 & I-295  
Cherry Hill, NJ

#### The Towne House Restaurant

610-566-6141  
117 Veterans Square  
Media, PA

#### DoubleTree Guest Suites

610-834-8300  
640 W. Germantown Pike  
Plymouth Meeting, PA

#### Holiday Inn Select

302-792-2700  
630 Naamans Road  
Claymont, DE

# From the President

*Continued from page 1*

So, the lessons learned are not so much focused on the recovery itself, but in the planning that can be done ahead of time.

Many small businesses run back-ups to their data, frequently by burning to CD's, and sometimes taking those CD's offsite in a planned rotation. But is this enough when the entire city/region is wiped out? Might it be safer to use an online service that has redundant storage in different geographical locations?

If your business lives or dies by the availability of your server, have you planned how to get an alternative server up and running soon after the disaster?

What if your data is actually lost or stolen? Has your confidential data been secured or encrypted?

These are just some of the questions that many companies are asking themselves in the wake of Katrina. Is your business prepared for disaster?

**Consulting Matters** always welcomes newsletter article submissions. If you have an article that would be of interest to the computer consulting community, send your article to:

[newsletter@iccadelval.org](mailto:newsletter@iccadelval.org).

MS-Word or plain text is preferred. Article submission deadline for the November Issue of *Consulting Matters* is **October 25rd**.

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## October Is Member Recognition Month

Be sure to join us for our October meeting. In addition to having a scintillating discussion on the repercussions (to IT) of Sarbannes-Oxley, we will spend some time honoring our long-time members. Each year, we honor members whose 5-year ICCA anniversary occurs during the year. This year, we will recognize members who joined in 1995 (10 year members) and in 2000 (5 year members). The following firms will receive a small gift (and a free dinner!) at the October meeting. Be sure to congratulate them.

### 10 Year Members -- Joined in 1995

Leigh Weber  
Weber Consulting Services, L.L.C.

Cynthia Cole  
Computer Concepts and Methods

### 5 Year Members -- Joined in 2000

Keith Mast  
Mast Consulting, LLC

M. Russell Buchanan  
Choice Computing Services

Sangeeta Rashatwar  
Gray Matter Intl.

Chuck Fornarol  
Blue Sky Technology Group, Inc.

James Bischoff  
Bischoff Technical Services, Inc.

Bill Patterson  
Stratford Technologies, Inc.

