

## Position Statement

As a member of the Board of Directors for COMMON I would look to leverage my experience and formal education for the benefit of COMMON and the membership in three (3) primary areas: traditional education, hands-on training, and further embracement of Open Source Solutions and related training for the IBM i community.

I see education as key to successful implementation and use of Information Technology. Nothing can make an IT initiative go wrong faster than inadequately educated/skilled implementers and users. Throughout my career I have tended to, in some form, wrap education into the task at hand. During my time in IBM Lab Services I was responsible for the development of numerous "traditional" education offerings including in the areas of virtualization, Linux and PHP. Additionally, implementation services always had an emphasis on education to ensure that customers would be proficient with the implemented solution/technology by the end of the engagement.

As a member of the COMMON Board of Directors I would be looking to use my extensive experience in education and IT training to help both in guiding COMMON and its membership with existing education offerings as well as to help develop new offerings. While there are many different models for education and there is not a single "best-fit", many, especially within the IT community learn best by doing. With that in mind I would look to leverage my experience with hands-on training to assist COMMON in the development of an education model that would emphasize hands-on experience both in instructor guided as well as self-paced offerings.

The emergence of Open Source Solutions on IBM i is both an exciting development for the platform and one that will bring significant change to both the platform and the user community as well as provide significant opportunity to both the user community, solution providers, and implementers/integrators. Since my days of leading IBM's test team for the initial enablement of Linux on POWER systems and my thesis research on the differences between open source and traditional development paradigms I have been a passionate proponent of Open Source and the opportunities it brings to the platform and will bring that passion to this position in working tirelessly with the board and COMMON membership to expand education and training efforts into this new frontier on the platform.