Position Statement

I attended my first Spring COMMON in 1987 in Reno, NV. Since then, I have attended many COMMON Conferences both as an attendee & speaker in the Americas and Europe. I have a full understanding of the IBM i ecosystem and its unique challenges.

I started my career in 1987 on the System 38 at Advanced Systems Concepts (ASC), an ISV. Innovation was the driving factor for my 17 years there. They were the first company to introduce SQL syntax to the IBM midrange market with SEQUEL, an SQL-based Reporting & Business Intelligence tool. In 1997, ASC developed Y2K tooling to facilitate an automated approach to the field expansion refactoring and DB2 database conversion effort. I was involved with IBM Toronto to bring the first plug-ins to RDi, f/k/a WDSc. My interest and history of promoting the early adoption of new and innovative tooling and processes are well documented in areas like Freeform RPG refactoring, DevOps, hybrid development and version control with GIT.

COVID-19 has altered the landscape of conferences and events now and in the future. The question is how can we best serve this community's needs moving forward and still provide value, understanding, focus and strategy to business leaders and IT professionals?

As a COMMON board member, I will continue my commitment to introducing the latest and greatest technologies and how they involve and integrate into the IBM i platform. I will encourage open-minded and purposeful discussions amongst our membership about these new innovative technologies. If elected, this will be a primary initiative for my two-year tenure.

I want to meet this challenge by expanding the range of topics presented at COMMON sessions and educational webinars. I will do this by inviting industry leaders from disparate technologies to share their expertise on subject matter that will promote interest from both the seasoned and new generation of IT professionals. I believe this will help to expand both our audience and membership enrollment. The ultimate goal is to provide current and relevant information that educates our members by providing a clear vision of what is available and how it might affect their jobs or their business.

This idea may raise questions and will certainly stimulate discussions that need to be had. This vision is to be more inclusive in terms of content, concepts and audience appeal. It is not to discontinue COMMON's core educational initiatives to IBM i competencies. Instead, we need to think about integrating them with technologies that are prevalent in the business landscape today both in terms of spend and adoption.

I have a love and loyalty to this platform that will not cease as long as the IBM i exists and I promise to make that the foundation of my COMMON commitment. I am a true supporter of education with a tireless commitment to the COMMON community at large.

I appreciate your consideration and hope that we will have the opportunity to work together to keep COMMON current and relevant for years to come.