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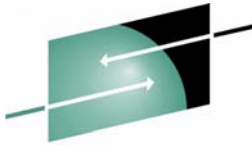
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zNextGen, SHARE and the IBM Academic Initiative System z present:

zConnections:

zNextGen member profiles



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Version 1.1: Last updated September 12, 2008

The IBM Academic Initiative System z is providing this document to help students make valuable connections with current mainframe professionals. All of the profiles contained herein were submitted by members of the zNextGen community. These zNextGen members have volunteered to offer perspectives, advice and guidance on careers in the mainframe industry and the technology sector.

What is zNextGen?

zNextGen is a user-driven community that aims to connect peers and facilitate shared experiences among emerging mainframe professionals. The name zNextGen references IBM's System z, the world-class mainframe computing system.

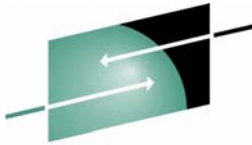
Members of zNextGen are connected through SHARE, the world's largest mainframe users' group. SHARE's general membership includes more than 20,000 enterprise IT professionals, representing the world's most sophisticated corporations, institutes of higher learning, government agencies and consultancies.

Where can I find out more?

You can visit zNextGen's homepage here: **<http://znextgen.org>**

If you have any questions about zNextGen, SHARE or how you can connect with the mainframe community, please contact the IBM Academic Initiative System z at **zskills@us.ibm.com**.

The profiles below are organized alphabetically by employer. An index is included at the end of the document to help you locate zNextGen members by state, country and alma mater. Happy connecting!



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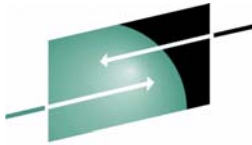
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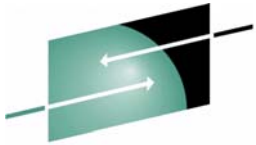
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Brocade



David Lytle

Location: Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Contact preference: dlytle@brocade.com, 770-329-1378 (c)

Graduated from: Jones College, B.S. Business Administration

Job description: Currently a member of a select team at Brocade where I am focused on FICON and System z technologies. A member of our worldwide marketing group, I provide seminars, education and sales assistance for our customers and prospects who are using the FICON I/O protocol.

Mainframe background and interests: Began my career at a vocational computer school in 1968 and now have over thirty-eight working years in the computer industry. Started as a COBOL, RPG and Assembler programmer and then worked into an MVT/SVS/MVS systems programmer position throughout the 1970s. Since 1979, have spent twenty-eight years in the vendor world with positions at Amdahl, Storage Technology Corp., an IBM Business Partner, McDATA and now at Brocade.

Hobbies: Outside of work I enjoy photographing the worldwide locations I visit, golfing with friends, SCUBA diving in exotic places, poking around in the ancient cities of Europe/Asia and snow skiing.

Anything else: Currently, I also sit as Deputy Project Manager for the SHARE storage networking/FICON project.

California State University, Fresno



Jim Michael

Location: Fresno, California

Contact preference: jim_michael@csufresno.edu

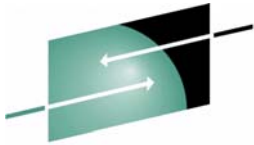
Graduated from: University of California, Davis. BS Psychology

Job description: I'm the Associate Director of Systems for our Information Technology department. I've spend 28 years working in IT from computer operator on an IBM OS/VS1 system, to an applications programmer writing in 370 assembler to a systems programmer, systems programming supervisor and now manager.

Mainframe background and interests: See above. I taught myself to program in 370 assembler which lead to my first programming job. We don't have a mainframe now, much to my chagrin, but I can still provide some assistance to those pursuing a career in this area.

Hobbies: I play guitar and sing in local Irish bands, I volunteer in Yosemite National Park doing living history (blacksmith, barn dance band, etc.) and enjoy woodworking.

Anything else: I'm very happy to be zNextGen's liaison to the SHARE Board of Directors.



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Cat Herder Software



M. Ray Mullins

Location: Roseville, California

Contact preference: zarchasmpgmr@gmail.com, catherdersoftware@gmail.com;
+1 916 412 3982

Graduated from: AA from Sierra College, Rocklin, CA, Dec. 2007; working towards BS in International Business from California State University, Sacramento.

Attended Los Angeles Valley College from 1979 through 1986, and taught 1986-1987.

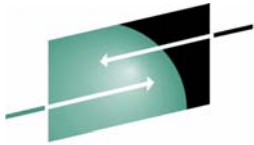
Job description: I am an z/Architecture assembler and C software engineer with a small company that specializes in data replication software (currently on z/OS). I have been a systems-level software developer with assembler, C/C++, and other languages for over 12 years. I also have my own consulting and “basement tinkerer” business, Cat Herder Software.

Mainframe background and interests: I have been working on the technical side of things for over 20 years, including systems programming and customer technical support. I have worked on z/OS and predecessors, z/VSE and predecessors, z/VM and predecessors, Fujitsu-Siemens’ BS2000/OSD, and Fujitsu’s MVS clones. Even my application days (starting in 1983) consisted of assembler, as well as COBOL. I also know PL/I, REXX, CLIST, FORTRAN, RPG and even APL (although that is really, really rusty).

Hobbies: Traveling, foreign languages (français, deutsch, español, português) and European cultures, programming

Anything else: I have taught assembler and COBOL at the community college level with an emergency credential. I love teaching; I love passing on my information to others.

As I am a “basement tinkerer”, I have a couple of product ideas, if anyone is interested. ☺ I wish I had the money and the time to work on them.



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Charles Schwab & Co. Inc.



Jonathan McLaughlin

Location: Phoenix, Arizona

Contact preference: Jonathan.McLaughlin@schwab.com
602-977-4566

Graduated from: Arizona State University (2008)
BS Computer Science

Job description: Systems Programmer Intern

Mainframe background and interests: Started as an intern for Charles Schwab, knowing nothing about the Mainframe, then becoming hooked.

Hobbies: Basketball, Computer Games

Anything else: I love the Phoenix Suns.



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CIGNA HealthCare



Keith Shaffer

Location: Windsor, Connecticut

Contact preference: keith.shaffer@cigna.com, (860) 298-2889

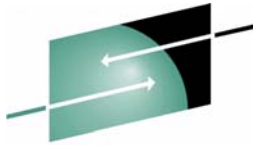
Graduated from: Syracuse University, Computer Engineering (2003)

Job description: I am a z/OS system programmer. My responsibilities include installing new base products, applying PTF/APARs to all of our SMP/E zones, and configuring parms for our Initial Program Loads (IPLs) and Power-on-Resets (PORs). More recently, I have been exposed to z/VM.

Mainframe background and interests: Out of school, I took a job as a DB2 database administrator and got thrown into the world of z/OS. After two years, I wanted to learn more about the mainframe and so I moved to the z/OS & z/VM system programming team. In the future, I would like to learn more about the individual products running on the mainframe (MQ Series, WAS, etc.).

Hobbies: Soccer, running, tennis, golf, photography, Nintendo Wii

Anything else: I would like to see a more gender balanced workplace in the IT industry.



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Computer Associates



Reg Harbeck

Location: Calgary, Alberta, Canada (when not traveling – otherwise, anywhere in the world that there are mainframes)

Contact preference: Reg@ca.com preferred, +1-403-605-7986 available.

Graduated from: University of Calgary, Computer Science

Job description: I'm currently CA's Directory of Product Management for Mainframe Strategy. I've been with CA for 10 years as of October, 2007, and I've filled a number of mostly mainframe-related roles. Before that, I worked as a Systems Programmer and EDP Security Specialist on MVS and OS/390 for 10 years.

Mainframe background and interests: I got started when the Provincial Government in Alberta, Canada was looking to hire and train new mainframers with a bit of experience in the late 1980's. I began as a CICS Systems Programmer, and as I moved to my next employer I also moved into MVS Systems Programming, as well as Network Systems Programming and Computing Security specialist activities.

During all this time, I became very aware that I was always at least half a generation younger (often more) than most of my mainframe colleagues, which led me to feel some concern about the future of the mainframe workforce due to retirement and dwindling staffing levels. I put this all into a whitepaper, article (in zJournal) and SHARE presentation in early 2005. Since then, I've continued to "carry the banner" about this issue within my employer (CA) and be very vocal about it in the rest of the mainframe world as well.

That has also led to my becoming the Deputy Project Leader for zNextGen at SHARE.

Hobbies: Reading, writing computer programs, going for walks, traveling, and any excuse to spend time doing things with my family.

Anything else: I'm pleased to say that the members of my next generation (i.e. my teenaged kids) have a great appreciation for computing and mainframes. I don't know whether they'll become mainframers, but they definitely see the value of the platform, and are very computer savvy. My wife is very patient with us "geeks and nerds" (my words, not hers) ☺



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Computer Associates

No photo available

Vincent Scovetta

Location: Islandia, New York

Contact preference: Vincent.scovetta@ca.com

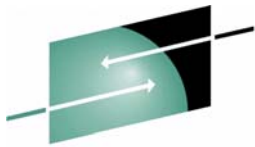
Graduated from: BS/CS, MS/CS, Ph.D/CIS (ip)

Job description: Director, Product Management for Mainframe Innovation. I have evolved from a MF 360 assembler coder, online transaction processing systems, network and security systems, through management, up to my current position as Director. I am also listed as holder of a number of U.S. patents.

Mainframe background and interests: I have always been engaged with MF technology except for a brief hiatus that took me to the world of network communications and software licensing.

Hobbies: Reading and woodworking as time permits

Anything else: If I could do it all again... I'd choose the same path but would seek my Ph.D. earlier in life.



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Cornerstone Systems, Inc.



*Illustration 1:
Shock Factor -
1980's*



*Illustration 2:
Recent - 2008*



*Illustration
3: My future*

Kenneth E. Tomiak

Location: Where are you now? In my dining room. Boise, Idaho, United States of America.

Contact preference: Email – ZNG_Helper@KTomiak.org

Graduated from: Rockland Community College, AAS in Data Processing

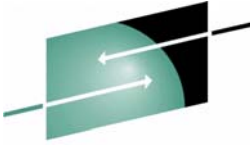
Job description: What do you do now? Contract System Programming, currently supporting CICS, DB2, and Websphere Replication Server.

Where has your career path taken you so far? See Location.

I started in the traditional role as computer operator, then application developer, and into system programming, some management, and back to work I love, system programming. I have worked in many industries, they all claim to have special needs, but they really are all alike. I prefer being an employee of a company who sells me as a service than being an employee of a normal company.

Mainframe background and interests:

Describe your role with mainframes. The real role is installing, implementing, and maintaining system software. The challenge is keeping up with all the add-ons (what we call feature bloat in PC based software). Along with the work comes helping the developers adjust to changes, help them resolve issues (we called them problems when I



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started), and every once in awhile getting to stick my nose into a project before they locked in the platform and start looking for an application to put on it. That really means listening to the business need and suggesting good alternatives they were not aware of. No one platform is right for every need. Long ago I learned you put down the business needs, then you find the application that can handle them which leads to what operating systems the application runs on, and finally what hardware platform runs the application.

What draws you to the platform? Computers caught my interest while I was in the Navy playing space invaders, I mean learning how to track radar objects on a computer assisted display with a track ball and in the late 1970's the mainframe was the key player if you wanted a higher salary in a computer field. Nowadays it is a fascination with what I can do on it and still get paid to do it. I learn so much as I take a new feature and figure out how to test it so I know it works before I deploy a new release or some maintenance. Sometimes I write code to do things to get around artificial blockades, which are eventually removed anyway. Simply put, working as a system programmer is fun.

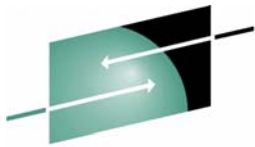
Hobbies: If I told you then you might move to Boise and increase the population here. I like to ride my bicycle the 3 or 4 miles to work. Then longer rides along the Boise River on the weekends. I dabble with writing Perl programs to generate html pages, working on a web based Sudoku puzzle solver, way too much time with SHARE volunteer activities that pays off when I am at a SHARE Conference Meeting. I still use Rexx on my PC and just upgraded to ooRexx so I can start learning lots of non-mainframe features. Picked up a Learning Java in 21 Days book. Once it gets cold I can start hiking again.

<http://www.tomiakclan.com/Hiking/index.html> . And Tuesday lunch time a horde of us go to the park and play Disc Golf. I have a slide negative scanner and have been slowly digitizing my early work. Still searching for an inexpensive connection from my phonograph player to the non-Mac PC so I can rip vinyl (45's and 33 1/3's) into stereo mp3 files. I have a bunch of photos to upload to findagrave.com as I think this is great for people trying to search back through their family tree.

Anything else: Shoe size: 12 wide for the Monty Python fans.

Music: Oldies (when that meant late 1950's and early 1960's), to ballads, to Emerson, Lake, and Palmer, Black Sabbath, Mike Oldfield, and so many other styles.

Favorite color: Purple



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Credit Suisse

No photo available

Stephen Bielskie

Location: Princeton, New Jersey (95%) and Manhattan, NYC, New York (5%)

Contact preference: stephen.bielskie@credit-suisse.com
(609) 243-0711

Graduated from: St. Francis College, Loretto, PA
B.S. Computer Science
Minor Biology

Job description: I currently work in the fast paced financial services industry as a Sr. Systems Programmer maintaining z/OS software, OEM software, I/O gens, and physical hardware.

Mainframe background and interests: I started working with mainframes as an Entry Level Systems Programmer immediately after college graduation. I worked in several different data center areas as part of my training, including print operations, tape library, production control, mainframe and midrange operations, and data security. After completing training in the different areas, I worked my way up to Jr. Systems Programmer, then to Sr. Systems Programmer. My mainframe career spans nearly 10 years.

Hobbies: Golf, fishing, carpentry



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G. C. I.

No photo available

Matthew V. Stitt

Location: Birmingham, Alabama

Contact preference: mathwstitt@bellsouth.net, 205-664-1281

Graduated from: A.A.S. Business Data Processing, Illinois Valley Community College

Job description: MVS Systems Programmer, and all other things related.

Mainframe background and interests: Learned programming on a 370-138. Met up with MVS 10 years later. Like to install and configure systems, and watch them run. Currently contractor/consultant. Current client is IBM Watson Research.

Hobbies: Chase Trains. Know enough to repair Locomotives and rail cars. Read Science Fiction books. Build and repair Personal Computers.

Anything else: Active on IBM-MAIN and several other related discussion groups. Good public speaker.



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IBM



Anna Clayton

Location: Poughkeepsie, New York

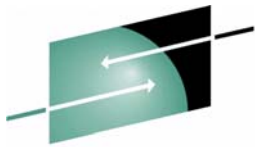
Contact preference: annamc@us.ibm.com; (845)-435-8494

Graduated from: St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA, 2006
Computer Science (Minors in French and Computer/Network Security)

Job description: Function test for the XES/XCF component of z/OS (Parallel Sysplex)

Mainframe background and interests: Some COBOL programming on a mainframe for a course I took in college led to participation in the first annual Master the Mainframe contest (Wahoo!). My experience there led to a career at IBM.

Hobbies: Reading, playing with my new kitten, knitting, playing piano, spending too much time on Facebook.



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IBM



Ashwin (Ash) Venkatraman

Location: Poughkeepsie, New York

Contact preference: Email: venkatas@us.ibm.com, Phone: 845-435-9748

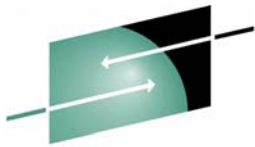
Graduated from: Clarkson University, B.S. Software Engineering, 2003
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, M.S. Information Technology, 2007

Job description: I test on the z/OS operating system, but using high level products and concepts. My focus area is application server security. This means I get to develop J2EE applications and workload scripts, perform z/OS system programming tasks, and do cross-platform testing. I get to learn how products work at all levels of the software stack. I also need to exercise many different enterprise concepts, such as high availability, disaster recovery, reliability and security.

Mainframe background and interests: The products/concepts I work with include WebSphere Application Server, many IBM Tivoli security products, some z/OS security products such as LDAP and RACF, and products on other platforms like Linux. I am interested in “system thinking” – or understanding the big picture and how things fit into that picture.

Hobbies: Tennis, Football, Softball, Volleyball, Sailing, Bowling, Skiing – all things sporty!

Anything else: I just got engaged and I'm going crazy with all the wedding planning ☺



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IBM



Cesar A. Ulloa

Location: Tampa, Florida

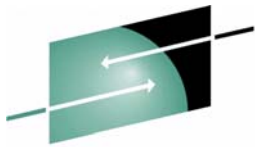
Contact preference: Email: culloa@us.ibm.com Phone: 305.979.3821

Graduated from: Florida International University, BS Computer Engineer. (2004)

Job description: For the past two years, I've been working as a System z FTSS. My job function is to support the sales team and my customers with any technical questions they might have. This includes giving presentations, writing documents, and connecting subject experts with my customers.

Mainframe background and interests: Before IBM, I did not know anything about mainframes except for the fact that they existed. I went thru a year of training, thanks to IBM, where I learned about the platform, z/OS, z/VM, and the many applications that run on it. This has helped me with my daily activities, and after learning about the mainframe's unique features, I am most interested in further developing my skills on this platform. It is very impressive to walk into customer accounts and see what they do with their mainframes. They run their whole businesses on these machines.

Hobbies: I am very into sports (soccer, football, basketball), enjoy extreme sports (white water rafting, rock climbing, snowboarding, surfing, biking), love to travel, also enjoy to read.



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IBM

No photo available

Chris Giannini

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Contact preference: cqg@us.ibm.com

Graduated from: Purdue University, Business Management (MIS minor) 2003

Job description: I began with IBM 3yrs ago as a System z Sales Specialist working on the Wall Street territory. At the beginning of 2007, I decided to move back to the Chicago area to continue as a System z Sales Specialist covering the telecom industry and more specifically AT&T.

Mainframe background and interests: I began with mainframes when I started with IBM 3yrs ago. I do not have a deep technical background and had honestly not even heard of mainframes prior to graduating. Since beginning my role, I have been able to learn and communicate the value of the mainframe to our customers and feel very fortunate to be in this position as server implementations appear to be coming full circle and momentum continues to grow behind mainframes.

Hobbies: Attempting to golf, running, and sports in general.



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IBM



Christina Jhong

Location: Los Angeles, California

Contact preference: cjhong@us.ibm.com, 818-539-3467

Graduated from: University of California, Los Angeles -- B.S. Computer Science

Job description: IBM System z Sales Specialist for Southern California & Arizona. Worked as a System z Technical Sales Specialist for 2 years prior to this current job role.

Mainframe background and interests: I had no prior background with mainframes until I came to work for IBM as an FTSS. I was educated through a year-long sales training program which included sales and technical training, and now continue to learn on the job. I work closely with customers who use mainframes and try to answer their business and technical questions about the platform.

Hobbies: I enjoy making handmade greeting cards, cooking, believe it or not – cleaning, enjoying the California sun, eating out, working out, going to the beach, and reality TV shows. ☺



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IBM



Cindy Chang

Location: Chicago, Illinois

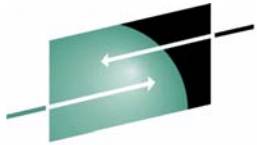
Contact preference: cindy.chang@us.ibm.com, (312) 529-2830

Graduated from: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
Electrical Engineering (2005)

Job description: I am a System z Technical Sales Specialist. My responsibilities include understanding the basic hardware design and features of the mainframe and being able to relate that information to the customers. I also need to understand many of the technologies related to the mainframe HW (Parallel Sysplex, Linux, WAS, etc.) to help customers do proof of concepts.

Mainframe background and interests: I did not have any mainframe education while in school. After starting IBM, we went through a year of training that included 6 months of focused mainframe education.

Hobbies: Golf, cooking, reading, running



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Daniel Acevedo

Location: Poughkeepsie, New York

Contact preference: acevedo@us.ibm.com

Graduated from: University of Puerto Rico – Mayaguez
BS Computer Engineering

Job description: z/OS UNIX System Services development

Mainframe background and interests: I have worked for USS development for the past 4 years. In particular I work on the file system side of USS as well as writing USS health checks.

Hobbies: Football, basketball, snowboarding, golf



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IBM



Greg Walters

Location: Poughkeepsie, New York

Contact preference: Email: gwalters@us.ibm.com. Phone: 845-435-1945

Graduated from: Rutger's University – Management

Job description: User Experience Architect and User Centered Design – My job begins with collecting requirements from customers through interviews and observations. I then integrate those requirements into the product by working with system level designers. I close the loop with customers by verifying with our customers that the implementation satisfies the requirements. Currently my focus is on simplification of problem management tasks in the mainframe environment.

Mainframe background and interests: My first close look at a mainframe was in 1985 when I accepted an assignment as a developer the hardware development lab. After that I tried my hand at technical writing as a member of the User Technologies (UT) hardware writing team. Then I got interested in UNIX and took an assignment as a tester in the UNIX Systems Services organization, which provides UNIX functionality on the mainframe. From there I got more deeply involved with the MVS mainframe operating system by taking a development assignment with the parallel sysplex team. Most recently I moved back to UT and wrote information on several hardware and software topics before joining my current UE/UCD team. My work is a lot of fun. It is also very rewarding because it has a great positive impact on the experience our customers have with the mainframe.

Hobbies: Motorcycling, shooting, hiking, camping, and most other outdoor activities.



zConnections

IBM



Jennifer A. Chiarieri

Location: Poughkeepsie, New York

Contact preference: jwirsch@us.ibm.com

Graduated from:

Dutchess Community College, A.A.S. Computer Information Systems, 2000
Mount Saint Mary College, B.S. Computer Science, 2004

Job description: I just started working as a developer for z/OS Language Environment. I spent many years working for the IBM z/TPF development lab doing a variety of roles. I worked as a technical writer, newsletter editor, graphics illustrator, tools developer, system builder, and tester.

Mainframe background and interests: I have worked in mainframe environments for over 16 years now. I am familiar with z/VM and z/TPF but I am new to z/OS. I am interested in learning anything and everything about the z/OS platform.

Hobbies: Camping, hiking, running, computer graphics, and most importantly spending time with my family.



zConnections

IBM



Jim Hildner

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Contact preference: jphildn@us.ibm.com

Graduated from: Northern Illinois University
B.S. Degree in Math and Computer Science

Job description: I'm currently traveling worldwide training Sales, Technical Sales, Business Partners and Architect about System Z software from IBM. For most of my career I have programmed on the mainframe. Most of my work was to produce applications that helped other programmers be more efficient.

Mainframe background and interests: At NIU I started with COBOL and 370 Assembler and over time I have worked with PLI, C and C++, in CICS and IMS transaction systems. It's been about five years since I written any significant code.

Hobbies: I'm a cyclist and love to find any reason to pedal. I also play what looks like volleyball once a week.

Anything else: I used to live in California and miss the mountains.



zConnections

IBM



Kevin McKenzie

Location: Poughkeepsie, New York

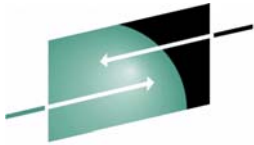
Contact preference: kmckenzi@us.ibm.com

Graduated from: Case Western Reserve University, 1999, B.S. in Computer Science
Walden University, 2005, M.S. in Computer Engineering

Job description: I've been testing OS/390 / z/OS since I graduated from college. I plan to continue doing so as long as possible.

Mainframe background and interests: I system test the operating system before it gets released to clients. This means I do load/stress/recovery/contention testing. I write programs and think of new ways to stress the system.

Hobbies: I play guitar and take photos. I do volunteer work from time to time. I go to as many concerts as I can.



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IBM



Kieron Hinds

Location: Poughkeepsie, New York

Contact preference: Email: kdhinds@us.ibm.com. Phone: 845-435-9353

Graduated from:

Clarkson University, Computer Science, June 2002

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Master of Science, Information Technology, concentration in M.I.S., December 2006

Job description: I am currently on a rotational assignment from my permanent position in the z/OS Integration Test organization. This rotation involves spending 6 months in the z/OS Defect Support organization where I'm currently deployed, followed by 6 months in the z/OS Development & Service organization. I joined IBM's z/OS Integration Test in 2002 where I was first responsible for testing the TCP/IP stack on z/OS, and expanded my repertoire to WebSphere MQ on z/OS where I primarily developed systems administration skills concentrating in Parallel Sysplex functionality, then eventually branched into z/OS system programming with a focus on zSeries hardware integration with z/OS.

Mainframe background and interests: A major part of the z/OS Integration Test mission is to validate that z/OS and zSeries is a robust defect-free platform. We run a realistic enterprise environment much like any major enterprise customer would. Thus my fellow testers and I require a myriad of MVS skills just like our customers would in order to install, configure and manage a mainframe environment. Of course we get the added bonus of pushing the mainframe beyond its limits in order to validate (i.e. break) it. I joined IBM in the z/OS Integration Test organization, which was my first experience with the mainframe. In college, my career intentions were to become an enterprise architect when dot coms were the rage, but these aspirations have transcribed quite nicely to the mainframe world where I have so many options to be involved in systems administration and architecture that I see myself spending the rest of my career in mainframes.

Hobbies: Recreational racquetball. Avid spectator in many sports but only expert at bench warming.



zConnections

IBM



Larry England

Location: San Jose, California

Contact preference: englandl@us.ibm.com, 408-463-3167 (Work), 408-393-4701 (Cell)

Graduated from:

Certificate with Honors in Internet Programming, Certificate OO Programming using Java, University California Santa Cruz

M.S. Degree in Computer Science
Oregon State University

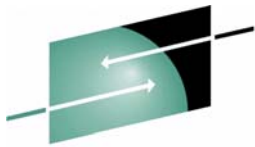
B.S. Degree in Math and Computer Science
University of Illinois, Chicago

Job description: Architect for application development tools for zOS

Mainframe background and interests: At Uof I, I started on S370 learning PL/I, Fortran, BAL, CLISTs, etc. I have worked on and with zOS for many years and have enjoyed the experience. I have worked on MVS, VM, DB2, CICS, Multi-media, Text search and retrieval, Compilers, Language Runtimes, and database management systems.

Hobbies: I like to run marathons and ultras. Beyond running the ultras, I also act as the co-race director for a 50K Trail run. See www.abovethefog.net

Anything else: I am currently working with Syracuse University with the AI.



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IBM



Manoj K. Agrawal

Location: Charlotte, North Carolina

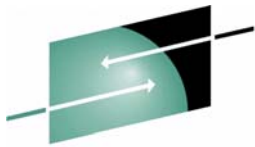
Contact preference: manojagr@in.ibm.com / manojagrawal@hotmail.com

Graduated from: National Institute of Science and Technology, India. B.E Computer Science & Engineering

Job description: Technical Team Lead (Application Development and Maintenance – Mainframes)

Mainframe background and interests: I started as an application developer on Mainframes when I joined IBM. Though I got the opportunity to switch to different technologies, I chose to continue working on Mainframe Application Development. It's been 6 Years now and I still have a lot to learn and would love to share what I know.

Hobbies: Traveling and meeting people of different cultures



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IBM



Mickey Scott

Location: Raleigh, North Carolina (work in Research Triangle Park)

Contact preference: scottmd@us.ibm.com

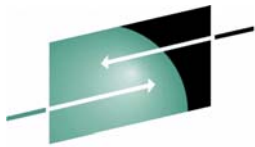
Graduated from: North Carolina State University / BS in Computer Science
University of North Carolina at Wilmington / BS in Biology
University of North Carolina at Wilmington / BA in Chemistry

Job description: I am currently a user experience engineer and the packaging architect for WebSphere. I have been formally working on user experience for just over a year but have been trying to improve my users' experience my whole career. See my previous history below.

Mainframe background and interests: While working on my CS degree I worked as an MVS computer operator. I used to bug the systems programmer with bugs I found and during dead times read a lot of VTAM, JES2 and MVS manuals. This led me into a 22 year career as a systems programmer in which I have gotten to work with almost all aspects of System z hardware and software installation and configuration. I also supported some AIX, Solaris, HP-UX, OS/2, Windows and Linux machines along the way and have been involved in SMP/E packaging and product builds. I was the team lead for System z support before joining the user experience team last year.

Hobbies: coaching soccer, teaching 9th grade Sunday school, camping, fishing, cooking, woodworking, photography, golf and volunteering anywhere my daughters need me (Theater group, youth group, field trips, etc.).

Anything else: I am a zNextGen mentor because I like being helpful where I can and am a teacher at heart.



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IBM



Mike Todd

Location: Poughkeepsie, New York

Contact preference: Email: todd@us.ibm.com. Phone: 845-435-9189

Graduated from: Pennsylvania State University, Computer Science (English minor),
2001
Marist College, Master of Business Administration, 2007

Job description: For the past three and a half years, I've worked on the IBM Academic Initiative System z, a program that seeks to support and energize the educational ecosystem around the mainframe platform. I hired on with IBM in 2001 as a technical writer, working for three years on the library of documentation that supports z/OS and WebSphere Application Server for z/OS.

Mainframe background and interests: Most of my first-hand knowledge of the mainframe comes from leading the team that designs and implements the U.S./Canada Master the Mainframe contests. These contests provide students with a fun, hands-on opportunity to pick up some mainframe skills and win prizes as they go. I feel fortunate to work in an area that helps students to learn the skills they'll need to land some excellent jobs, and it's very gratifying to see the momentum growing around mainframe skills.

Hobbies: Hiking, tennis, writing a weekly newspaper column, chasing our puppy around the yard, playing guitar badly.

IBM



Sandhya Prabhakaran

Location: Bangalore, India

Contact preference: sandhya_prabhakaran@yahoo.com

Graduated from: College of Engineering, Chengannur, Kerala (Bachelor of Technology in Computer Engineering, 2001)

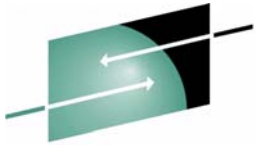
Job description: Into Mainframe system-side programming i.e. development of zOS. Coding in assembler and PL/X (IBM proprietary).

Mainframe background and interests: Started working from 2001. Was into mainframe application programming for clients like Safeway, Ahold, and AAA. Worked in Cobol, REXX, DB2, IDMS, and Ezytrieve. Switched over to system-side programming at IBM Labs, Bangalore from 2004 onwards.

IBM DB2 version 8 Certified
Professional - 2004

IBM z/OS System Programmer Mastery
Test – 2007 (First Asian to write this
test)

Hobbies: Technical / Fiction Writing (freelancer for newspaper, authored a mini-fiction), singing Indian classical music , [Converting z/OS assembler code to COBOL](#)



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IBM



Sukumar Subburaj

Location: Bangalore, India (IBM India Software Labs)

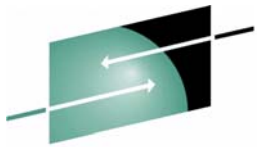
Contact preference: Email suksubbu@in.ibm.com, sukumarbe@gmail.com
+91 9900333688

Graduated from: Anna University, India

Job description: IT Specialist, (Software Technical Sales for z Software)

Mainframe background and interests: IT Specialist, Handled WDz, WAS, and CICS

Hobbies: Listening to music



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IBM



Willie Favero

Contact preference: wfavero@us.ibm.com
713-940-1025

Graduated from: Buffalo State College (SUNY)
BS Information Management Science

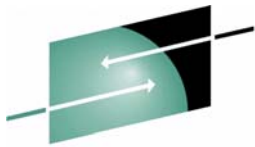
Employer: IBM

Location: Houston, Texas

Job description: DB2 for z/OS Specialty Software Rep
IBM Senior Certified IT Software Specialist
IBM zChampion
IBM DBA Certification for DB2 for z/OS Version 8 and DB2 9 for z/OS

Mainframe background and interests: Start as an assembler language programmer on an IBM 360/60 in 1970

Hobbies: Daughters, grandchildren, music, fast cars, motorcycles



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John Deere



Tom Stewart

Location: Moline, Illinois

Contact preference: StewartThomasJ@JohnDeere.com

Graduated from: Augustana College, B.A. Major in Computer Science and Mathematics

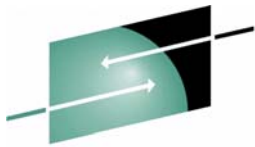
Job description: Started in mainframe computing as a college freshman doing 24x7 Operations support as a computer operator, slowly increasing in duties to become a leader of the group and doing most of the training. Graduated into our z/OS support area in 2000 as a z/OS and JES3 systems programmer. Since joining that team I've also supported Unix System Services, Java, and WebSphere for z/OS. Most recently I also acquired responsibilities for Communications Server for z/OS, supporting the TCP/IP networking components. I am also our z/VM systems programmer in support of Linux for System z.

Mainframe background and interests: I have always been drawn to mainframes as a connoisseur of the finest things in life. The hardware and software advancements have just kept coming and offered me tremendous challenges and skill growth. I've been lucky to be involved as the mainframe has morphed into a cool hybrid of old and new technologies, and those are mainframe areas that interest me most. I loved telling all of my non-mainframe friends how the mainframe will soon have a Cell processor just like my PS3!

Hobbies: I enjoy programming, video games, shopping for new tech toys, and live bands. My favorite pastime is home theater, and I boast the largest DVD collection of anyone I know, nearly 900 titles.

Anything else: We partner with Illinois State University in their mainframe program which is just getting started, and I like to be a guest speaker for their courses and give them tours of our computer center. I also do recruiting at Purdue University for prospective Information Technology students. I run a program for high school students called IS Explorers (www.isexplorers.com) where the students get sessions on some of the many career options for them in computer technology.

My license plates are even zStew!



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NEON Enterprise Software, Inc.



Kristine Harper

Location: Sugar Land, Texas

Contact preference: Kristine.harper@neonesoft.com; 281-207-4978

Graduated from: University of Arizona, Computer Science Degree, August 2005

Job description: I am an Assembler Developer working on several of our IMS products here in the R&D department. I've been working for just over 2 years after moving back here from Tucson. I love coding in Assembler and am really lucky to have the opportunity to work with such smart people! I have hopes of one day becoming a product author.

Mainframe background and interests: In college, people always told me I was nuts for wanting to have a career on the mainframe, but I guess I was doomed (I mean, um, blessed) to get into this business. Both my parents work on the mainframe, so it's in my blood. I guess I just fell in love with the power and reliability that the mainframe offers. I enjoy coding up Assembler programs that utilize resources to the max that can do things beyond what I imagined. Plus, the fact that there's always something to learn in this business makes it an exciting career!

Being a part of zNextGen has really been a great experience for me and I'm looking forward to many more years of this project's success. We have an awesome team and wonderful mentors – SHARE just hasn't been the same since!

Hobbies: In my free time, I enjoy going to the gym, running and hiking. I was a gymnast my whole life, and after competing in college, it was time to get a real job. But I still enjoy staying fit and making trips back to Tucson. I also love doing crossword puzzles (if you do too, you should really watch that movie Wordplay!), spending time with my family and friends, cooking, antique shopping, and dreaming of buying my first home next year!

Anything else (optional): I am a HUGE U2 fan! ☺



zConnections

Northwestern Mutual

No photo available

Chase Manz

Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact preference: chasemanz@northwesternmutual.com

Graduated from: I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a BBA in IT Infrastructure and I am currently pursuing an MBA in IT Management and International Business

Job description: I work on the team of System Programmers in charge of installation and upkeep of the mainframe, I spent a lot of my time learning, as I am still very inexperienced on the mainframe

Mainframe background and interests: I was brought into the company with no background knowledge of the mainframe, but I was willing to learn about. I have spent the past 3 months reading a lot of materials on it. I have started to do a few things, but overall still spend a majority of my time learning. I will be working with TCP/IP, Networking, and z/VM primarily.

Hobbies: I enjoy a wide variety of hobbies from DDR to Weightlifting to Computer Games to Road Biking

Anything else: I have limited experience currently, but I am willing to share as much as I can.

Pershing LLC (Bank of New York Mellon)



John Jones

Location: Jersey City, New Jersey (live in Manhattan).

Contact preference: johnjones@pershing.com or 201 413-2447 at work

Education: MBA, Management, New York University; BA Psych Georgetown University

Job description: Recently became an employee of a previous long term consulting client, Pershing LLC, a stock brokerage subsidiary of Bank of New York Mellon. Titles of Asst. VP and architect but currently a super developer in COBOL CICS DB2. Learning about the architecture part.

Mainframe background and interests: Started doing COBOL in 1974. Have added IMS, then DB2, then CICS in time not to become obsolete. Most of my career was in consulting (contract development). Was an independent consultant for 22 years.

Have colleagues in Chennai whom I get along well with. Will get a business trip there eventually.

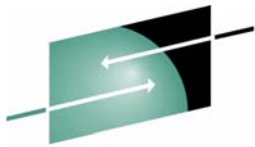
Learned programming on the job and have kept up mostly in night and weekend classes. Want to keep similar opportunities open for other high IQ liberal arts majors rather than focusing on college instruction. Would like to see:

1. More books published. Look at all the mainframe titles on Amazon from the early 90's that need updating.
2. Local mainframe user groups with lectures on new features and socializing.

Hobbies: culture; consciousness.

Anything else: Favorite software book is **Facts and Fallacies of Software Engineering** by Robert Glass. Fabulous correction to all the bs floating around. You can even see the facts and fallacies in the index in Amazon's look inside feature. Examples:

1. The most important factor is the quality of the programmers.
2. The best programmers are 28 times better than the worst programmer.
3. The common causes of runaway projects are poor estimation and unstable requirements.



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ProTech Professional Technical Services, Inc.



Scott McFall

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Contact preference: smcfall@protechtraining.com
800-373-9188x113 (w)
412-445-8070 (c)

Graduated from: Eberly College, B.S. Computer Science, M.S. Business Administration

Job description: Responsible for corporate development and strategy of a mainframe oriented IBM Business Partner that offers training, consulting and IT staffing services. Function as the General Manager of our IT Training Division.

Mainframe background and interests: Started coding COBOL by originally learning on a punched card time-share system at a vocational school in the late 70s. Programmed in a wide variety of languages and platforms until finally moving over into sales and management and eventually becoming an entrepreneur.

Hobbies: Professionally, I am currently volunteering with the International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA) and the Project Management Institute,(PMI). Two professional organizations I would recommend for IT professionals working in application/systems development. Personally I enjoy spending time with my family, motorcycling and playing ice hockey in a local adult league.

Anything else: To complement our traditional classroom training workshops, our company is doing some interesting things with the use of virtual classroom technology to deliver live elearning events with hands-on lab exercises into our mainframe servers. We are also developing a line of short online streaming video series for introductory mainframe topics.

“Question I wish you had asked?”: no I never did play professional hockey but yes Dave Hanson does occasionally play in our league!



zConnections

SAS Institute, Inc.



Dan Squillace

Location: Cary, North Carolina

Contact preference: Dan.Squillace@sas.com 919 531-7611

Graduated from: University of Florida, BA Statistics, 1970

Job description: Sr. IT Manager, Mainframe Support. Responsibilities include providing mainframe services for the company, working with R&D and on product architectural issues involving the mainframe, and consulting with Tech Support and Marketing on customer situations.

Mainframe background and interests: Prior experience includes applications development, systems programming, systems consultant, applications and system capacity planning and tuning, and R&D product management. I've worked in university, corporate, and software development environments. Current interests include applications "Enterprise Readiness" attributes including manageability, maintainability, extensibility, operability, and scalability.

Hobbies: Aviation, music (founder of the Triangle Wind Ensemble).



zConnections

SunTrust Banks, Inc.

No photo available

Glenn Schneck

Location: Orlando, Florida

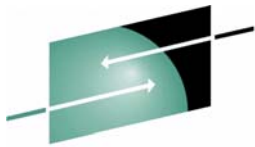
Contact preference: gaschneck@gmail.com, 321-439-4531

Graduated from: Attending University of Central Florida

Job description: AVP, Technical Team Lead, CICS/MQSeries.

Mainframe background and interests: I have been involved with mainframes since my first job at Equitable Life Assurance in 1975. I started right out of high school and have attended many classes, both IBM and non-IBM. Since 1984 I have supported CICS and in the 1990s began supporting MQSeries

Hobbies: Travel, Golf, Softball, Basketball, Football



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Texas Instruments

No photo available

Derek Baessler

Location: Dallas, Texas

Contact preference: dbaessler@ti.com

Graduated from:

M.S., Computer Science, Northern Illinois University, 2005

B.S., Computer Science, Northern Illinois University, 2004

Job description: Primary responsibility: IMS Systems Programmer; in charge of installing maintenance and fixes, performance tuning, migration to new releases, and responding to customer requests. We have over 100 SMP usermods in IMS, so there is a lot of assembler code to maintain and migrate. These mods require intimate knowledge of the internal workings of IMS and the operating system.

Secondary responsibilities: Mainframe provisioning; in addition to usermods for IMS, there are lots of usermods for MVS, JES3, and DFSMS. I am primarily responsible for IMS, however, everyone in our systems group has experience in most areas. I am also responsible for our disaster recovery procedures. This involves working between unix and the mainframe, and using a variety of languages such as REXX, SAS, assembler, Java, and Perl.

Mainframe background and interests: Northern Illinois University is one of the few schools that have been teaching intensive courses with the mainframe for the past few decades. I followed their IBM systems path, in which involved lots of assembler, data structures in assembler, writing our own version of MVT in assembler, writing channel programs in assembler, and more assembler, along with some COBOL and CICS. And for balance, there was a good deal of Unix programming as well.

I then joined TI about two years ago and have lived happily ever after.

Hobbies: Food, cooking, and running with the TI Track & Field team.



zConnections

The Trainer's Friend, Inc.



Steve Comstock

Contact preference: steve@trainersfriend.com 303-393-8716

Graduated from: MacMurray College (Jacksonville, IL); University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

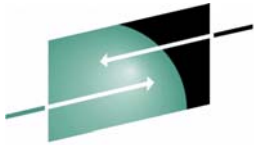
Location: Denver, Colorado

Job description: Develop and present mainframe application programmer training; have taught all over the US and internationally.

<http://www.trainersfriend.com/People/BioSteve.htm>

Mainframe background and interests: IBM, 1968-1975; self-employed training since 1975

Hobbies: Acting; folk music (guitar and banjo); travel



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United Services Automobile Association (USAA)



Adam Johanson

Location: San Antonio, Texas

Contact preference: Adam.Johanson@usaa.com ; (210) 396-1507

Graduated from: B.S. in Computer Science, Angelo State University; San Angelo, TX

Job description: IMS Systems Programmer

Mainframe background and interests: I had 2 semesters of Assembler language in college. When I started at USAA, it was on the DB2 and IMS Database Management Team. After a year and half there, I rotated to the IMS Systems Programming team, which has recently joined forces with the DB2 and CICS Systems Programming teams. Although I'm on a Systems Programming team, my main interest is writing programs. Most of them are written in Assembler (what else?!?!).

Hobbies: Bass fishing. Deer and Dove hunting.



zConnections

Verizon

No photo available

Trever Aders

Location: Tampa, Florida

Contact preference: trever.aders@verizon.com – 813-978-7003

Graduated from: Huntington College (BA degree in communications)

Job description: Install the monthly RSU maintenance for several production systems within Verizon. Support about 105 LPARs within Verizon 24 x 7.

Mainframe background and interests: Started in what we call tape pool, moved to operations, then to the helpdesk, Storage group and onto the MVS group.

Hobbies: Fish, Golf (pretty much any sport), spend time with my lovely wife



zConnections

Zions Bancorp



Toby Wolf

Location: West Valley City, Utah

Contact preference: Toby.Wolf@Zionsbancorp.com

Job description: Currently: Systems Software Support Manager. Previously: Data Center Manager at CALFED Bank (1993 – 2003)

Mainframe background and interests: I started in Mainframe Operations in the 1980s. Initially on the Sperry Univac platform. I have since performed all the technical support functions within a data center/systems support group. I have been an I.T. Manager for the last 15 years.

Hobbies: Motorcycles (Harleys) and Old Muscle Cars ('Vettes)

Anything else: We've seen a lot of things change over the years. But the fundamentals of Information Technology Management have stayed the same and the zSeries (mainframe) platform is and will continue to stay at the heart of any large I.T. operation.

Zurich North America



Mark Zelden

Location: Schaumburg, Illinois (Chicago area)

Contact preference: Email: mark.zelden@zurichna.com Phone: 847-605-6570

Graduated from: N/A (high school, some college)

Job description: Sr. Software and System's Architect (Sr. z/OS System Programmer)

Mainframe background and interests: Started as distribution clerk in 1980 out of high school (decollating, bursting, etc.) and worked my way up through operations to a system programmer in 5 years. I did consulting for 10 years prior to my current employer.

Brief BIO: <http://home.flash.net/~mzelden/mzbio.html>

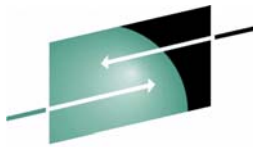
Hobbies: Music, rock band (keyboard player), pool (as in billiards)

Anything else:

Web Site: Mark's MVS Utilities – <http://home.flash.net/~mzelden/mvsutil.html>

Contributor to CBT: CBT file 434 – <http://www.cbttape.org>

Site sysprog expert at search390.com (now <http://Searchdatacenter.com>) and <http://expertanswercenter.techtarget.com/>



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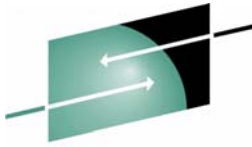
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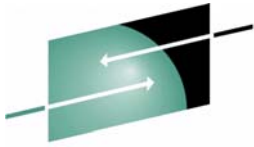
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