

GSE Nordics

[David] Hi and welcome to the latest podcast in the series, “Did you say Mainframe”. This is where we talk to technical experts about mainframe hardware and software topics and I am your host David Harris.

Today we are joined by Nick Garrod is who part of the planning team for events and conferences and an active participant on the GSE Nordics steering committee and he is going to tell us about the exciting topics that you can hear about at this year’s GSE Nordic event. Nick thank you for joining us.

[Nick] It’s a pleasure, thank you for asking me

[David] Nick, you’re here to talk to us about the GSE Nordic Conference, can you give a brief description of what it covers?

[Nick] Sure, it is an annual conference that takes place around June in one of the Nordic countries and is focused around the mainframe. This year it is in Gothenburg, Sweden the first week of June. 6 tracks, CICS, DB2 and IMS as product tracks plus Mainframe Infrastructure, App Dev and Gen interest.

[David] So I guess the 3 product tracks speak for themselves but what is covered in the other tracks?

[Nick] Yes that’s right,

- The CICS track covers all things related to the CICS run-time as well as the tools that makes the CICS experience a more compelling proposition.

- The DB2 track – DB2 , analytics and accelerators

- IMS, tools

- App Dev covers tools, techniques that would be of interest to the application developer, be they Java, COBOL, Assembler, PL1. You will see a lot of rational tools in this track

- General interest as name suggests will cover topics that don’t fall in to the other tracks as well mainframe related topics. For example this year there are sessions on using SMF records for business needs, using analysis tools to provide business intelligence as well as sessions on other useful mainframe tools.

- Mainframe Inf. Covers topics more closely aligned to operating system and the plumbing around it like MQ and Integration brokers

[David] What are the key sessions to look out for?

[Nick] Well the Keynote and closing session are always interesting and there are no other sessions running at the same [no excuses for missing them then]. The opening session is z Technology the power of the future by Gene Fuh who is a distinguished engineer in zSystems and Ian Mitchell, Distinguished engineer for zSystem runtimes. Similarly, the closing session is always a little bit different, still related to IT but perhaps in a more off the wall way.

As you probably know Mobile is an important development in the IT industry and you will find sessions in the CICS, DB2 track and IMS of how you can take your existing and new applications in CICS and IMS and expose them to mobile devices. Cloud is also on the lips of everyone and again you will see sessions in every track related to cloud and how you can use and extend existing application, build dashboards connect and setup up different types of clouds.

The CICS track features a futures sessions where attendees can put forward their views to possible ideas for future CICS releases – a chance to shape future CICS. , there's even a real life Hack story from the Swedish Police which I think will be particularly interesting.

[David] So a comprehensive coverage of the mainframe main parts then

[Nick] Yes, and IBM sends some quite senior personnel to present these sessions, they recognise the value of the Conference and send Distinguished Engineers, Chief Technical officers, Senior Technical Staff Members. The planning team agonise over getting the agenda 'just right' to provide the most interesting topics and give the best value for the attendees.

[David] Talking of attendees, who are the sessions most suitable for?

[Nick] That's a really good point. The sessions are very much targeted to a technical community, by the technical community, so peer to peer. There are breaks between sessions where attendees can chat on a more 1-1 basis with technical specialists to discuss a point or challenge they are facing in their own organization, it is definitely not a marketing event. The whole point of GSE is to encourage networking between attendees, as well as attendees and the subject matter experts delivering sessions to maximise the exchange of information.

[David] So when and where is the event this year

[Nick] This year the event will be held in Gothenburg Sweden, at the Gothia Towers hotel and the Conference covers 3 days, Monday June 1st finishing late afternoon on the Wednesday the 3rd. I feel I should also mention that this years the event starts with a really interesting tour of the Volvo truck manufacturing plant located in Gothenburg (attendees will be transferred from the hotel or airport to the plant) along with an explanation on how Volvo depends upon the mainframe.

[David] how should someone go about registering for this event?

[Nick] Now that's an easy one, GSE-Nordic.org takes you to the home page and there is a button to register with a variety of options to include hotel, include trips etc so you can pick the option that is best suited to you. On the middle evening a feature of the Conference is the Gala dinner where the IBM speakers are split up around different tables so you have even more opportunity to speak to them (this dinner is included in the price of registration.

The website has the entire agenda with abstracts that expand on the content of the sessions.

[David] Well, that's very interesting, Nick, thank you very much for joining us today.

[Nick) My pleasure, thank you for giving me time to talk about this.

[David] So that about wraps it up for this podcast, for more details please go to:
www.ibm.com/software/OS/systemz/podcasts/websphereoz.

Join us again for an insight to another interesting topic on the mainframe. For now this is David Harris saying thank you for listening.