



Date: April 27, 2010

Time: 5:30(Deli snack)  
6:30 - 8:00(Presentation)

Location: Bloomfield Township Public Library  
1099 Lone Pine Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-2410  
(S.E. corner of Lone Pine and Telegraph Road)

Speaker: Jim Martin

### **RPG Free**

Coding free format RPG IV is an option - a style option. In creating this new style option, IBM has done something of significance: Many old op-codes are no longer supported! For the first time in RPG's lengthy history, a major break has been made with the past. In free format there are 55 operations supported, compared to 112 in fixed format. Most "lost" operations are insignificant, such as ADD, SUB, DIV, Z-ADD, and similar. They are replaced by Eval expression operators. Many operations are replaced by built-in functions: SCAN is replaced with %scan, LOOKUP is replaced with either %tlookup or %lookup, and SUBST becomes %subst. A few popular operations are sorely missed, such as MOVE and MOVEA. However, even these have a counterpart (in some way) in free format. Also among the missing, and a big departure from the past, is our old friend GOTO. This means we are coerced into coding programs in a structured way.

So, what have we got here: A new and modern (like other contemporary languages) style of programming using most of our familiar RPG op-codes. Most maintenance programmers have said that if properly done, free format code is easier to read and understand. This is important from an efficiency viewpoint. "Easier" translates into time saved, or less time to fix or modify a program. Less time means less money spent. My conclusion is that this new style of RPG, while still in its infancy, provides a significant opportunity for us in the RPG programming community to improve the quality and maintainability of our work.

## About the Speaker:



Jim Martin has a BS degree in mathematics and an MS in computer science. He was employed by IBM for 26 years, where he wrote RPG applications for customers and also worked in the programming laboratory as a programmer of portions of CPF and OS/400. After leaving IBM, he took post-graduate work in computer science and performed RPG training. He is an IBM-certified RPG IV developer.

Jim is a speaker at Common and has written several books including Free-Format RPG IV: How to Bring Your RPG Programs Into the 21st Century and Functions in Free Format RPG IV. Jim's books can be found at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or MC Press.

## Membership Renewal:

Pop Quiz: Where can send you your entire IT staff to get 9 iSeries related seminars and contact with other iSeries professions for only \$75 per year.

Answer: Your Local User Group.

Please send in your membership renewal as soon as possible and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

## From the President:

Dear Members:

You don't want to miss Jim Martin. RPG Free has become commonplace in recent years. If you haven't already started working with Free you should be considering doing so. Many of you likely have seen some of Jim's RPG books. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your RPG skills and learn current techniques and enjoy a great presentation.

Plans for MITEC 2010 are well under way. We are very excited about the power packed day of education. We have an All Star line up of presentations. See the conference web site for details at [www.gomitec.com](http://www.gomitec.com) The event will again include a vendor expo and raffle. The conference will be held at the the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Michigan. The food for the event will be provided through the culinary institute. The State of the Art facility is located centrally. We will be giving away a MITEC 2010 conference registration at the April and May user group meeting. So come

enjoy the presentations "RPG Free" in April and "System i Updates" in May and don't miss out on your chance for a free registration.

If you haven't done so already please renew your membership to SEMIUG. You will find information on the group site at [wee.semiug.org](http://wee.semiug.org) membership tab.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Regards,

Laura



Southeast Michigan iSeries User Group  
P.O. Box 99284, Troy, Michigan 48099-9284  
Membership Renewal  
January - December  
**2010**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Web Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

(Voting Member)

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Other Contacts:	Name	Email
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The primary contact will have the responsibility for member voting as stipulated in the constitution. The primary contact name can be changed at will by the member company.

Paper copies of the newsletter are no longer being mailed. The newsletter will be distributed through email (usually in PDF format). Feel free to forward the email on to others.

**Annual dues per member company - \$75.00.** Memberships are for the calendar year, January through December. Dues are not prorated for a partial year. Please make check payable to: **Southeast Michigan iSeries User Group.**