

FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

Tuesday February 25, 2003

Wide Area Networking - An Overview
Chas Birkett, International Financial Data Services

Today's networks are a critical component of virtually every application available. If the network is broken, chances are your application is not fully functional. Furthermore, the cost of a network interruption may be multiplied, as it will usually be relied upon for many different applications.

This session will provide an overview of the history of network technologies and the evolution of newer developments such as VPN and how these new developments are providing greater IT architecture options. Highlights will include the need for quality assurance, which is encompassed in reliability, availability and security. Reliance on data networks is high, and quality assurance throughout properly configuring and testing network implementations is critical to the success of the applications that require it. Focus will be on the following issues as related to the network technologies available today:

- Assessing the requirements.
Gathering pertinent information.
How many users? Locations?
- Knowing the applications that will be running on the network.
Is their frequent communication between client and server?
Is this communication "light" in terms of amount of data?
Is the application impacted by latency?
- Architecting the right solution.
Using the information to design the right solution.
Selecting a technology.
Choosing a carrier.

Following a standardized quality assurance process will help to achieve the solution that will best fit the need and ensure the successful ongoing operation of the network.

Chas Birkett is currently Manager, Network Services at International Financial Data Services. For the past seven years he has been with the company as it evolved from a small local provider of mutual fund shareholder record keeping systems to an international player in the shareholder and workflow services business. Chas works with partners and clients to implement network technologies that meet today's stringent cost, reliability and security requirements. Prior to his role with International Financial, Chas managed a general contracting business where his interest in business systems led him to move to an IT organization.

**Presentations are on the last Tuesday of the month at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel,
123 Queen Street West, across from New City Hall**

If taking the subway, exit at Osgoode station (Queen and University), walk one block east along Queen to York.
If driving, you can park at New City Hall, which is accessible underground to the Sheraton Centre.

Dinner and Presentation: \$30 Members, \$40 Non-Members
Cash and Cheques are accepted at the door.

Please RSVP by noon on Thursday February 20, 2003

5:30 P.M. Networking 6:00 P.M. Dinner 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. Presentation

**For reservations, information and membership inquiries,
visit our web site at www.tassq.org or phone TASSQ at (416) 444-4168**