Sybase and PowerBuilder User Group Switzerland

21 October 1999 Annual meeting at the Inter-Continental, Zurich

This was already the 5th anniversary meeting of the SPBUG!
The meeting started with the president's report of the year as well as a look back at the years 1994 - 1998. Arthur Hefti, the president, was presented a gift for his many contributions to the group as he has decided to retire from the steering committee.

Arthur was followed by the treasurer's report (Martin Rothenberger). A profit of CHF 3'360.- was reported, due to the merger with the Swiss Sybase User Group (SSUG). Most expenses concerned the conference in Fürigen in May. Martin Zellweger and Hans Peter Oechslin were thanked for their work as revisers and the support over the past years. The new revisers are: Andreas Flückiger and Jean de Bosset.

- President: Rolf André Klaedtke
- Vice president: Andreas Theis
- Secretary: Celia Hegarty
- Treasurer: Martin Rothenberger
- Member-at-large for special tasks: Werner Warger

All suggested members of the steering committee were elected with no negative votes. Congratulations and thanks for accepting the task. Mark Lansing for his work to bring the SPBUG to live and Bill Heys for his many contributions were voted honorary members. Thanks to both and congratulations from all the members of the SPBUG.

After discussion it was decided that there is not enough interest for a newsgroup on the internet for the user group.Finally the technical presentations started. For the first time we had two tracks to serve the needs of both the PowerBuilder and the former SSUG members. For the organising team and the speaker (Ludek Svozil from Sybase Switzerland) it was very disappointing to notice that only a few former SSUG members attended the meeting. Nevertheless, his presentation "An introduction to Sybase Replication Server Technology" was interesting and well received.

Bill Heys gave the following presentations:
- "Using EAS 3.0 (Jaguar) components to Leverage your PowerBuilder Business Components",
- "Using UML to Design Components for Distributed Applications" and
- "Moving Distributed PB Applications to Enterprise Application Server 3.0".

We also had a technical introduction of CAST Workbench, an interesting product and Sybase presented some news. A big "Thank You" to all presenters and attendees for

attending and supporting the user group. Thanks to Sybase for sponsoring an interesting an successful meeting.

5-6 May 1999 SPBUG Conference, Fürigen

The Swiss PowerBuilder User Group and the Swiss Sybase User Group have organized their first joint conference at the Convention Center Fürigen in Central Switzerland. Based on the evaluation form it was a huge success: Out of 43 returned forms, only one gave the conference a "poor" overall rating, all others were very positive!

Some took the time to write comments such as "Excellent", "Interesting & useful", "Very good event, thanks to all the people making it possible". Once again we would like to thank all speakers for their coming and a job well done. Our thanks also go to Sybase Switzerland (especially Gaby Dobenecker and Claudia Ramseier) for their work and support, as well as to our sponsors.

4 March 1999 Hotel Kreuz, Bern

Arthur Hefti, the president of the SPBUG, welcomed about 32 attendees to this full day meeting at the Hotel Kreuz in Bern, a nice location. Rolf André Klaedtke started with some information about the joint SPBUG/SSUG Conference in May 1999 including a short presentation of every speaker and their topics. Most members showed their interest in attending this event, that promises to be a highlight in the story of the SPBUG.

After a break, during which the last printed issue of PowerTimes was distributed, Bill Heys from the Waterfield Technology Group in Boston (USA) gave the following presentations (morning and afternoon):- Overview on jBridge and the Web Deployment Kit (thank you, Bill, for preparing this topic on a very short notice, of only 15 mins!)
- "The New Millenium is Bugging me" on PowerBuilder and Y2K-related issues
- "Using COM to Leverage Your PowerBuilder Business Components" (PowerBuilder and OLE), preceeded by an "Introduction to Business Objects".

As always, the presentations by Bill were excellent and very interesting. Bill started off with the history of the calendar(s) and showed that the Y2K problem is not something that will have gone after January 1st, 2000 if one is not aware of date-related issues.

While the Coffee breaks were sponsored by CATsoft Development GmbH, lunch was offered by Sybase (Switzerland) AG. Due to a communication problem, there was some confusion with the distribution of the meal, but in the end, everybody was served well. Our thanks go to these two companies.

The meeting was rounded up with information regarding the recent reorganisation that took place at Sybase and product information provided by Gabriele Dobenecker from Sybase Switzerland and an interesting, live demo of PowerBuilder 7 given by Bruno Freschi, consultant with Sybase Switzerland. We thank both of them, especially Bruno, who certainly contributed to awake some excitement about the next release of PowerBuilder and who left a much better impression than the last speaker invited on the same topic.

All in all, the meeting was judged very informative and interesting by all attendees.