NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CMG, November 9, 2010

Compuware hosted this meeting at their great Pleasanton location, offering us a great room, breakfast and lunch AND wireless internet. Though we had wonderful weather, we weren’t able to attract Tom Halinski out from Michigan this time.

Richard Stone, Compuware, presented “Performance in the Cloud.” Richard is responsible for Cloud at Compuware and brings a lot of experience and expertise in this new area. He clarified the major challenges and also how companies are actually beginning to find a way to measure and manage performance across the silos. This was clearly an area of interest based on the questions and engagement from our audience of 20+ people.

CMG VP Frank Bereznay, IBM, made the trip north to present his 2010 CMG paper “How to Build Tabular Dashboards using PROC Report.” He made this process much more understandable and clear by showing how he built it in a step-wise fashion. The end result is a very powerful dashboard that most might have assumed could not be produced in this way, but as you see the process, you can see how expert knowledge of SAS can result in new and very vital capabilities.

Time for lunch and our always-short business meeting. It’s time to finalize plans for CMG 2010; get your request into the budget process before your company stops funding training for the year. Compuware provided an interesting presentation to accompany our networking lunch. We also held elections, electing Shannon Shen to Asst. Chair, Keith McAndrews as Treasurer, Bill Jouris and Mel Boksenbaum as Directors – all were elected unanimously.

Dr. Jozo Dujimovic, SF State University, presented “Automatic Generation of Benchmark and Test Workloads.” Based on his research work, he evaluates various existing benchmarks – their pros and cons – talked about the 6 types of benchmarks – and finally demonstrating the one he felt was the best option in terms of ease of use, adjustable variables, free (or cheap) and accurate. One option offered a way to measure multi-core and hyper-threaded parallelism, which otherwise might be very difficult.

Jaqui Lynch, Forsythe Systems, flew out from Chicago to tell us “How Not to Run a Performance Benchmark.” Sometimes, the best way to learn how to do something is to know how you shouldn’t do it. Let someone else make the mistakes. In her work, she has seen all kinds of problems and, based on her analysis, you should be able to select and manage a successful benchmark with a reasonable estimation of the amount of time you need to allow to make this work.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be February 1, 2011 – location to be determined. Any questions or comments, please contact Cathy Nolan at (cathy.nolan@comcast.net or nccmg@cmg.org).

Denise P. Kalm
Secretary, NCCMG