Philadelphia CMG held its latest meeting on Friday, September 16. The agenda this time was an all-mainframe one, with recognized experts in every session. Laura Knapp of Applied Expert Systems (AES) started the day with zEnterprise Best Practices, where she detailed the benefits of the z platform and highlighted 9 best practices along the way. Laura also pointed out that, according to Gartner, organizations with more than 200 servers will waste hundreds of thousands of dollars annually supporting underutilized application/server combinations, and added that budget constraints, green factors, globalization and other issues complicate the scenario.

Laura continued as speaker for AES, the day's Featured Vendor. She gave an overview of the AES performance management products, which extend from the mainframe to the server.

Next, Gary King of IBM presented To MIPS or Not to MIPS, That is the CP Question! The basics of this session were: 'Just what are MIPS and where do they come from?' and 'How much trouble can using MIPS get us into?'. Gary explained that many factors can affect MIPS, such as system design, workload characteristics, CPU utilization, LPAR configurations, coupling technology, etc., displaying lists and graphs that all mainframers love to see and use to confuse management. Gary concluded that MIPS are all right to use over the long term, and in the short term if there are only minor changes in the sensitive areas, but when there's a major change additional analysis may be required. He also recommended IBM's zPCR tool.

After lunch, Kathy Walsh of IBM presented both sessions. Her first presentation was Better Batch: Exploiting New Functions to Improve Batch Processing. She covered many enhancements to batch processing, including new parameters, new information in RMF reports, batch-related improvements in JES and WLM-managed initiators, new fields in SMF type 30 records, etc. This was a comprehensive session packed with useful information.

Kathy's second session was z/OS Performance Hot Topics. As always, just the session title perks up the ears of mainframers everywhere, and if you happened to be in Philly that day you were in for more good information as Kathy discussed the z114, CPU Measurement Facility, Power Save Mode, a z/OS 1.13 preview, performance and capacity topics for WLM, Websphere, DB2 and zIIPS, and much, much more.

Experts like the ones on this agenda provide a fantastic training opportunity which, after all, is what CMG is here for. Support CMG and support your local regional groups!

Dave Thorn