The St. Louis CMG chapter (STLCMG) held its third quarterly meeting of 2012 on August 21 at our regular meeting location at the MetLife facilities south of downtown St. Louis, Missouri. We had a very good turn out with 24 people in attendance from 13 companies from Missouri and Illinois. Our speakers came from Arkansas, North Carolina, New York, and Nebraska, in which three of them were Mullen Award winners from CMG ’10 and CMG ’11. We also want to give a big thank you to TeamQuest for being our meeting sponsor.

**Morning Sessions**

Our morning sessions contained dual tracks for both sessions.

**Session 1**

**Track 1: Enabling Software Developers To Finally Help Locate Their Own Performance Defects**

*Presenter:* Erik Ostermueller, FIS Global (*2011 Mullen Award Winner*)

Erik presented his award winning paper from the CMG 2011 conference. He shared that his presentation is a “call to action” to get developers to “finally” understand the importance of fixing / cleaning up defects in their code. Erik stressed that one of the keys is testing earlier in the development cycle, which will positively impact code performance, budget and time to market. Erik also shared that the best way to start is to just sit down face to face with developers and together come up with “just one” technique or “trick” for developers to use to help them start finding and fixing defects earlier.

**Track 2: Weird Tales of WebSphere: Secret of the Lost (SMF) Records**

*Presenter:* Dave Follis, IBM

Dave Follis, of IBM WebSphere Development in Poughkeepsie, gave us valuable information in decoding the new Subtype 9 and 10 SMF records for WebSphere statistics. It is not often that you have the opportunity to talk to the actual architect at IBM! Too bad we only had him for a day!

**Session 2**

**Track 1: z/OS System Performance Metrics**

*Presenter:* Terry Gill, Mainline Information Systems (*2011 Mullen Award Winner*)

Terry gave us a set of gems – the thresholds that he uses to analyze a site’s SMF data. How often have you asked if this value is good or too low or high? Terry helped us better answer these questions for a lot of common metrics so that we would be able to better measure the performance of our systems.

**Track 2: An Introduction to Web Analytics for Performance Analysts and Capacity Planners**

*Presenter:* Anna Long, Web Analytica (*2010 Mullen Award Winner*)

Anna showed us how to use Web Analytics to help both IT and business professionals to better understand how users and systems are impacted by website usage. Anna shared how to get by the limitations of the huge amounts of data contained in web logs in order to receive what we need to better understand and determine how to maintain the performance desired from our systems. Regardless of the limitations, Anna stressed the importance of the information that can be gained from Web Analytics, no matter if you are a capacity planner, system performance analyst or a business marketer for your company.

**Sponsor Infomercial by TeamQuest – “TeamQuest and the Value We Bring to Our Customers”**

*Presenter:* Rey Rios, TeamQuest

Rey showed what and how TeamQuest can provide tools as well as how they can interface with various other tools to provide the system performance analysis and capacity management their customers need. He reviewed three of the products TeamQuest offers - Surveyor, Analyzer, and Predictor.
Afternoon Sessions
Following lunch our afternoon sessions consisted of two presentations.

Capacity Planning and the Cloud – Why You Need It
Presenter: Jim Smith, TeamQuest
Jim provided a very good explanation of what is “the cloud” and provided a persuasive and animated description of why and how each of our organizations need and use the cloud. He also gave great examples and got the audience involved in discussing the major concerns of a cloud, especially security and privacy. Jim also helped answer the question companies often ask, “Do you need capacity planning in the cloud?” The answer is, “Yes!”

Accelerate You IT Maturity
Presenter: Rey Rios, TeamQuest
Rey offered his experience of 15 years in ITSM/Capacity Management to help us understand what agility is and how we can apply it to help our organizations move up the maturity model. Many organizations are looking for how to handle change and implement efficiencies. Rey’s presentation helped us better understand this, as well as the three keys of agility - rationalization, standardization, and virtualization.

Next Meeting & Contact Information
Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at the MetLife facilities. Our sponsor will be Metron-Athene.

Please contact our chairman Chris Althen or me if you have any questions or comments, or wish to obtain the contact information for the speakers that presented at this meeting.

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