

UKCMG Newsletter – December 2007

MARK YOUR DIARY

UKCMG Masterclasses – 4th & 5th March 2008 - Hilton London Olympia Hotel, London
Virtualisation (By Richard Stinton, VM Ware)
Beginner's Capacity Management (By Adam Grummitt, Metron)

UKCMG Annual Conference & Exhibition - 19-21 May 2008 Whittlebury Hall Hotel, Whittlebury, Northampton
Multi-track Agenda, Workshops & Exhibition, HP High Performance Simulation Session

Some exhibition space still available - Early Bird discount available before 31st December!
Main sponsors include: TeamQuest, Metron, VM Ware, Macro 4, Capacitas & CA Wily.
<http://www.ukcmg.org.uk/conference.html>

Call for Papers deadline - 31st December 2007
<http://www.ukcmg.org.uk/acJune2008callforpapers.html>

For more information about these events please email ukcmg@ukcmg.org.uk or alternatively visit www.ukcmg.org.uk

CMG Announcements

Performance Seminar - Colin Butcher, October 2007

Neil Colombage - British Airways – Capacity & Performance Management

Attending a UKCMG was a first for me! My prior CMG seminars and conferences have all been in the USA where the input on Technical and Management focus is awesome.

I would rather fly than take the underground. The underground with its germ warfare and miserable looking people holds no particular charm for me (sic), thus the journey to the Hilton at Olympia, Central London was not welcomed. On the days I attended, it was sunny and this made a big difference. On arrival at the venue, I introduced myself to Colin Butcher who was the presenter for the two day UKCMG Seminar on 'Systems Engineering for Availability and Performance'.

You can tell a lot from that first greeting and it was the same throughout the two days, Colin has an affable and confident approach, always tested the direction of his material and most importantly expanded on the topics of interest that allowed for interactive dialogue.

Colin followed the trusted methodology of engagement – PC for slide projection and a workbook of the slide presentation for each delegate. The workbook as ever is a fundamental requirement and more importantly it could be annotated with the extra knowledge and experience that Colin brought to the session. This was the most valuable part for me, to listen to Colin sharing his experience of problem solving, tactical ideas and concepts. Colin has a knack of breaking down difficult technical topics in chunks that are easily understood, either verbally or with the help of drawing diagrams.

Colin is a first rate presenter who knows his stuff inside out (pardon the expression) and anyone lucky enough to go on his training session is in for a marvellous learning experience.

My opinion on the venue is that the conference room was comfortable and had all the expected facilities, i.e. bottles of water, even sweetie machines (nice touch), Tea and coffee facilities in the foyer. Lunch was provided, which was an excellent buffet that catered for all eating habits (I am a carnivore)!

Lastly thanks to the lovely UKCMG lasses that attended on the first day to see that everything went smoothly with registration, and also to UKCMG for their management and ability to obtain outstanding speakers – well done.

Colin Butcher - XDelta

Some while ago Graham Prentice (then UKCMG Chairman) asked if I would give a “masterclass” for UKCMG. I agreed to do so. Over the past few years I’ve started to enjoy giving seminars and helping people to understand things, although a few years ago I’d have run a mile! I find that it’s a nice counterbalance to the consulting work I do, although to be honest much of consulting is in fact mentoring and teaching to help people solve their own problems in their specific environment.

One of the good things about teaching is that it really does help you to understand things better yourself. It’s all very well knowing your subject, but you have to be able to communicate your ideas – and that takes practice. Seminars like this are an excellent way to both help other people and to improve your own skills at the same time.

I found that this two-day seminar worked pretty well – it was nice to be able to draw together a number of different aspects and build up to a complete picture. We managed to get quite a lot of good discussion going as well, which is always much more fun than having an audience sit back and not participate. One of the things I found very useful was to be able to go through something I’ve recently been designing on behalf of HP – it was good to be able to explain it and cross-check my own thinking in response to good questions from the others in the room.

To others out there who have thought of giving talks, or who have sat in tedious seminars thinking “I could do better than that” – give it a go sometime. You’d be surprised how much fun it can be once you’ve got past the initial sense of terror! It also helps no end if you have a competent and supportive group of people organising the event for you.

My thanks to those who came along and to the UKCMG office for the organisation and logistics. I hope to see you again at future events.

The slides from the seminar are available at: <http://www.xdelta.co.uk/seminars>

VitAL

IT business journal VitAL Magazine is offering UKCMG members a 50% discount on subscriptions. Published by 31 Media on a bi-monthly basis VitAL Magazine is distributed to senior level professionals who are concerned with the impact IT is having on the business.

Each issue of VitAL Magazine is packed with thought leadership articles, opinion pieces, case studies, dynamic news stories, research findings, and witty columns, that cover pressing topics that include helpdesk systems, asset management, ITIL, configuration management database (CMBD), general IT & Business Service management; right the way through to corporate social responsibility. If you would like to subscribe to VitAL Magazine please visit www.vital-mag.net and click on the subscriptions tab.

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Vendor Announcements



“UKCMG 2 for 1 Offer” CAPACITY MANAGEMENT OF VIRTUAL SYSTEMS MASTER CLASS – January 30th, 2008

Metron is giving a one day course to address the performance issues arising from virtualization and how they affect the process of Capacity Management. Please see http://www.metron.co.uk/training/itil/ITIL_cm_for_virtual_systems.html for full details. If you book as a UKCMG member before December 31st you can book two places for the price of one. Just mention the code UKCMGDEC07 to sally.belamy@metron.co.uk when you book.