

2026 Session Abstracts

OAuth: What It Is, How It Works, and Why You Want to Use It – Patrick Behr

OAuth is a critical security framework for modern web and mobile applications, enabling secure access to resources without sharing user credentials. We will start with the history, foundational concepts and terminology of OAuth. We then describe the different types of OAuth clients and the appropriate authorization flows, grant types, and scopes. We will explore the different types of tokens, explain JWTs, and introduce OpenID Connect. Whether you're a developer, security professional, or someone looking to understand OAuth in more depth, this session will provide a solid introduction to one of the most essential standards in the world of secure authentication and authorization.

Learning Objectives:

1. The need/history of OAuth
2. Terminology
3. Client types
4. Authorization flows
5. Tokens

Demystifying DCM – Patrick Behr

In this session we will explain what digital certificates are, how they work, and how to manage them on IBM i with Digital Certificate Manager (DCM). We will cover the basics of cryptography, hashing, signatures, SSL/TLS, PKI, Certificate Authorities, and more.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the basics of public-key cryptography
2. Understand the purpose for digital certificates
3. Understand how to store and manage certificates in DCM

Tips, Tricks, Shortcuts, and other Secrets of VS Code – Mike Benesch

VS Code is one of the most popular text editors for developers, and for good reason! Learn how to supercharge your development and coding skills with this session on the ins and outs of VS Code, including several tips and tricks you might not have heard of before.

Upgrade Your Reports with Python on IBM i – Steph Benesch

Need to create professional-looking documents from the data on your IBM i? Generate PDFs automatically and for no cost, using RPG, SQL, and Python's open-source ReportLab library. This session comes with sample code that you can tailor to your reporting needs.

AI Ready Hybrid Infrastructure with IBM i on Power11 – Jeff Boleman

Join us for a strategic session on building an infrastructure foundation capable of handling the demands of modern AI, Machine Learning (ML), and agentic AI workloads.

Key discussions will cover:

Power11 Roadmap: Get a look at the next-generation IBM Power processor and hear client success stories driving enterprise modernization.

- **AI Integration & IBM i Use Cases:** Discover how to unlock new business value by integrating generative AI and ML models directly with your core IBM i applications and data. We'll define clear modernization pathways for your critical workloads and highlight advanced IBM Code Assist capabilities—including **IBM Bob**—to accelerate your software development lifecycle and streamline legacy code refactoring.
- **Hybrid Cloud & Red Hat:** Explore how IBM Power integrates with Red Hat OpenShift to deliver a scalable, consistent Hybrid Cloud environment optimized for robust ML enablement, intelligent automation, and high-performance **inferencing with ML** right where your enterprise data resides.

Discover how the IBM Power platform provides the resilient, high-performance architecture required for today's data-intensive, AI-assisted business transformation.

Let's Build an RPG Service Program – Charles Guarino

Service programs have been around for quite some time. Perhaps you've even bumped into one in your professional travels. You will certainly find them on the road to application modernization. This session focuses on what they are, how to implement them and making them a regularly used asset during your application development. In this session we will discuss service programs, program signatures and using binder language.

Learning Objectives:

We will go step by step to the creation of an RPG service program.

Rest APIs on IBM i in Motion – Charles Guarino

In this session we will discuss the various ways to implement using REST APIs in your existing applications. What they are, why they exist, and how companies are using them to communicate with each other.

Learning Objectives:

We will take an RPG service program and deploy it as an API using the IBM Integrated Web Services tool (IWS).

PANEL DISCUSSION: It's a New Era for IBM i: The Year Ahead

Moderator: Charles Guarino

Panelists: Tim Rowe, Brandon Pederson, and Jeff Boleman

Explore the future of software development and infrastructure on IBM Power Systems and IBM i. Experts will discuss essential skills, AI integration, and leading-edge technologies, highlighted by real-world customer success stories. Bring your questions!

SYSTOOLS Services – Birgitta Hauser

With the last releases and technology refreshes IBM provided a bunch of new IBM i and Db2 Services. A lot of these Services provide functionalities that are not directly available in RPG or can only be implemented in RPG by calling complex System APIs and/or by using pointer handling for accessing the data. However, IBM provides new SQL services mostly located in the SYSTOOLS schema that can write data into the IFS, delete old spool files and even transform a spool file into a PDF document. With other services the SQL queries can be executed and the result saved as Excel-Sheets or *.csv files. Even eMails can be easily sent with the aid of an IBM i service. And the best, we can put all this together. This session will show a sub-set of SQL and IBM Services which can easily be embedded in any programming language that supports SQL and, in this way, can make live much easier.

Learning Objectives:

In this session you'll learn how specific SQL Services can be implemented with embedded SQL in RPG or Cobol and how the formerly complex source code can be reduced.

RPG: New Features You Might Have Missed – Simon Hutchinson

Over the past decade, RPG has evolved into a fully modern, free-form programming language. Yet, many developers haven't explored the powerful enhancements delivered in versions 7.4 through 7.6. In this session, Simon will demonstrate his favorite additions, showing how they can make your RPG code cleaner, faster, and more versatile. The session will be updated to include any new RPG features introduced in Technology Refreshes released prior to the conference.

CL2026 – What's New and Useful – Simon Hutchinson

Control Language (CL) remains a core tool for IBM i system operations, and recent releases have added features that make scripting faster, cleaner, and more powerful. In this 20-minute session, Simon Hutchinson will provide a hands-on look at the most useful new CL commands, built-in functions, and SQL integration techniques. Attendees will learn how to modernize legacy scripts, automate system tasks, and streamline everyday operations using the latest CL features.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this session, attendees will be able to: - Identify and use the most important new CL commands and functions. - Integrate SQL statements into CL scripts for database operations. - Modernize legacy CL code with practical tips for efficiency and readability. - Apply CL features to automate routine system tasks.

Simon's Top 10 SQL Favorites – Updated for TechCon26 – Simon Hutchinson

IBM Champion Simon Hutchinson has written a lot about modern Db2 for i and SQL on his blog. In this session he will take you through his top 10 favorites. You will have to attend to learn what these cool SQL tricks and tips are! He always keeps this up to date with his favorites from every new release and Technology Refresh.

Building Your AI-Powered IBM i Knowledge Base: Preserving Expertise Before It Retires – Aaron Magid

Your senior developers hold decades of business logic in their heads. When they retire, that knowledge walks out the door. But what if you could capture that expertise in an AI system that new developers could query? In this session, we'll show you how to build intelligent documentation systems that preserve institutional knowledge. You'll see how AI can analyze existing applications to extract business rules, generate comprehensive documentation from code, and create interactive knowledge bases that answer questions about your systems. We'll demonstrate techniques for documenting legacy applications automatically, capturing tribal knowledge through AI-assisted interviews, and building searchable knowledge bases that understand context. You'll learn practical approaches for knowledge preservation, see real examples of companies that successfully captured expertise before retirement, and understand the tools and processes required. Whether you're facing imminent retirements or want to preserve knowledge proactively, you'll leave with actionable strategies for protecting your organization's most valuable asset: expertise.

Learning Objectives:

Attendees will learn strategies for using AI to preserve institutional knowledge before experts retire. They'll understand automated documentation techniques, knowledge capture processes, and implementation approaches for AI-powered knowledge bases that make expertise accessible.

Modern DevOps for IBM i: Building the Foundation for AI and Beyond – Dan Magid

Generating code with AI is impressive, but it's only half the story. How does it find the source it needs? How do you create the objects? How do you deploy it? How do you manage dependencies? This session explores why the right DevOps foundation is what makes all of it possible, and why, without it, AI-assisted development on IBM i is extraordinarily difficult (and expensive to do).

You'll see how modern DevOps platforms automatically identify dependencies, determine build requirements, and handle deployments across environments. We'll demonstrate how non-IBM i developers can use AI to create RPG programs without understanding compilation processes or deployment procedures, because the DevOps infrastructure takes

care of it. Agentic coding becomes genuinely manageable when the right foundation is in place.

We'll also cover the broader case for moving to true Git-based DevOps: increased productivity through parallel development, better auditability, cleaner visibility into code changes, and a development workflow that connects IBM i to the tools the rest of your organization already uses. You'll learn strategies for integrating AI-generated code into existing workflows and see real examples of what this looks like in practice. This isn't just about writing code faster. It's about creating a complete, integrated development environment where AI and automation work together to make your team more productive.

Case Study on Subsystem Configuration for HTTP Server Instances and QSQRVR Server Jobs – Dawn May and Matthew Neill

As applications are modernized, it is common to move from green screen interfaces to browser-based applications. In many cases, the associated HTTP server runs on the IBM i in the QHTTPSVR subsystem. These web applications access the database, perhaps directly, but also by using SQL CLI, which results in the database access running in an QSQRVR jobs in the QSYSWRK subsystem. As environments become more complex, one may see several web instances using a large number of QSQRVR jobs. This default configuration can make it difficult to understand system resources used by the application, as well as related challenges in troubleshooting problems. This session is a case study of using subsystems to isolate web applications to their own subsystem; the HTTP server instance and related QSQRVR jobs running in the same subsystem.

Learning Objectives:

In this session you will learn how to: - Configure HTTP instances to run in their own subsystem - Set up the system so QSQRVR jobs run in the subsystem of the requester - How to use the Performance Data Investigator to review performance by subsystem after the configuration changes are made.

What's New in Db2 for i – Ryan Moeller

In the tradition of previous Technology Refreshes (TR), the database team is delivering enhancements on the same cadence. Attend this session to hear about the many enhancements to SQL on i, SQL Query Engine, IBM i Services and more. This session will cover the new and enhanced Db2 for i capabilities added to IBM i 7.5 and IBM i 7.6 over the most recent IBM i Technology Refreshes.

Build a Quick Website on IBM i with Python – Mike Pavlak

There are many tools for building basic web content on IBM I and Python has a few options. We'll explore Flask briefly and then do a deep dive on Flask and FastAPI.

Learning Objectives:

1. Consider complete solutions vs back end & front end models.
2. See Flask in action with jinja templates.
3. Explore FastAPI and how it can be used to hydrate JavaScript front ends.

What's New with Open Source & IBM i – Mike Pavlak

Open source solutions have been on the IBM i platform for many years but recently the number of solutions deployed here has blossomed. Join Mike as he explores the latest news regarding packages and solution features available in IBM i Open Source Package Management and beyond.

Learning Objectives:

1. Review updates to the popular languages like PHP, Python and Node.js.
2. Explore new(er) packages available via the ACS: Open Source Package Management.
3. See examples of how the community is contributing to IBM i open source.

Advanced Python on IBM i – Mike Pavlak

So, you've been learning about Python and maybe even playing a bit. Building upon the introductory session, this session will address the object oriented world of Python programming and introduce several topics for those considering Python for development. Some of these include Exception processing, Pathing, GUI use ODBC and NoSQL(Mongo), Web Services and much more. Many examples are taken from my college course on Advanced Python.

From AI Uncertainty to Business Value: How to Govern, Control, and Validate AI-Driven Code Modernization – Pascal Polverini

Artificial Intelligence introduces a fundamental shift from deterministic to probabilistic systems: the same input can produce different outputs—not due to defects, but by design. While this enables powerful automation, it also introduces uncertainty that becomes a critical risk in production environments. When using tools like Project BOB or other LLMs for code modernization, organizations may face hidden defects, subtle bugs, and hallucinations—often difficult to detect and costly to fix.

This session demonstrates how to safely operationalize AI through robust governance, control, and validation frameworks. From a technical perspective, we will explore practical approaches such as automated test generation, regression validation, output consistency checks, and techniques to guide and constrain AI behavior. From a

business perspective, we will show how these practices reduce risk, limit rework, and create a measurable ROI by accelerating modernization while maintaining quality and compliance.

Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to transform AI from an unpredictable tool into a controlled, reliable, and value-generating asset in their modernization journey.

Next-Generation Entry Infrastructure for IBM i: AI-Ready Performance for Core and Edge Workloads – Brandon Pederson

Discover how the latest generation of IBM Power11 technology is redefining what entry infrastructure can deliver for IBM i environments. In this session, Brandon Pederson, IBM i and Power Product Marketing Manager, will explore a new compact Power11 processor-based server designed to modernize core business workloads while extending enterprise-class reliability, security, and AI capabilities to branch, retail, manufacturing, and edge locations. Learn how organizations can improve application performance, support modern hybrid workloads, and prepare for AI inferencing closer to data, all while maintaining the simplicity, resiliency, and trusted architecture IBM i clients depend on. He will cover key architectural enhancements, virtualization and security innovations, memory and storage advancements, and strategies for expanding IBM i environments alongside Linux and AI workloads on a single system. Whether you are planning a hardware refresh, looking to optimize software licensing efficiency, or exploring practical AI use cases for IBM i environments, this session will provide technical insights and real-world guidance for developers, administrators, and infrastructure architects.

IBM i Licensing 101 – Brandon Pederson

Understanding IBM i licensing doesn't have to be complicated. In this session, Brandon Pederson, IBM i and Power Product Marketing Manager, will break down key concepts, terms, and definitions to help you navigate IBM i licensing with confidence. He will clarify topics such as license transfers, Group SWMA, and the differences between non-expiring and subscription licenses. You will also hear answers to the most common questions received from clients throughout the year. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of how IBM i licensing works and how to make informed decisions for their environment.

IBM Bob: Your AI Development Partner – Latest Info! - Tim Rowe

IBM Bob is an AI-powered development partner for IBM i. Your IBM i runs everything. Bob helps you run faster. Bob accelerates initiatives that traditionally take months like converting fixed-format RPG to free-form, migrating DDS to SQL DDL, refactoring monolithic programs into modular services, and generating comprehensive documentation and tests. Bob bridges the skills gap and ensures the long-term

viability of IBM i investments through intelligent, incremental modernization that preserves decades of business logic. The next era of IBM i development starts now.

IBM i 7.6 and the latest TRs by the Architect - Tim Rowe

The IBM i development team has just delivered a brand new release - IBM i 7.6 along with several Technology Refreshes. These deliveries are just full of new enhancements targeted to help your business applications run more securely. In this session, Tim will detail a number of the new enhancements, helping you understand what's new and be ready to target the sessions throughout the conference that provide a deeper dive. Many of you wait to upgrade, we are going to show you why IBM i 7.6 may be the release to break that trend!!! Attend this session to see the must-have technologies for your IBM i.

Learning Objectives:

Learn about 7.6 and the features deliver in the Technology Refreshes

Using SQL in Everyday Life – Tim Rowe

SQL is great stuff, but that is only for getting stuff out of the database, right? ... NO! Wrong!! On IBM i its way more. Any task you might consider on IBM i SQL should be your first choice. In this session we will explore how to make SQL part of your everyday IBM i activities. We will look at the tools available and practical use case, even if you are an SQL neophyte or a SQL Rock Star. Lots of live demos to show the useful and practical side of using SQL.