

## 2026 Speaker Biographies



**Liam Allan**  
**IBM**  
**Software Advocate**  
**X: @notesofbarry**

Liam Allan, an IBM Champion, helps IBM i development teams modernize their applications and bridge the gap between traditional and modern development practices. Founder of Works of Barry, he specializes in DevOps, RPG, ILE, Node.js, PHP, PASE and open source. He also supports the community by creating open source tools — such as the ILEditor — that make IBM i development more intuitive for the next generation. His passion is to bring IBM i and the world of open-source closer together.



**Patrick Behr**  
**Seiden Group & imPower Technologies**  
**LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/patrick-behr](https://www.linkedin.com/in/patrick-behr)**  
**X: [@P\\_Behr](#)**

With top-notch programming, database, and analysis skills, IBM Champion Patrick Behr has worked on IBM i (and its predecessors) for the entirety of his 20-year IT career. Initially focusing on RPG and Db2, he then expanded his skillset to include application and database modernization as well as web development for IBM i. His technical specialties span RPGLE, SQL, APIs, Node.js, PHP, HTML, CSS, Javascript, IWS, VS Code, and more. As a COMMON Speaker of Merit and Bronze medal winner, Patrick speaks at conferences and user groups across the country. He also serves as Vice President Programs for the [OCEAN User Group](#).



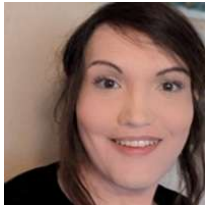
**Mike Beneschan**

**ALEKS**

Email: [beneschan@gmail.com](mailto:beneschan@gmail.com)

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikebeneschan/>

Mike Beneschan has been a Quality Assurance Specialist at ALEKS since 2020. His main areas of expertise include automation, accessibility testing, and front-end JavaScript.



**Steph Beneschan**

**Cambro**

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Steph Beneschan is a Junior Applications Developer at Cambro Manufacturing, where she has worked since 2023. Her work focuses on RPGLE and SQL, with occasional Python.



**Jeff Boleman**

**IBM**

**Principal Engineer for IBM Power and IBM Cloud Solutions**

Jeff Boleman is a Principal Engineer for IBM Power and IBM Cloud solutions for West Horizon Market, specializing in IBM i, AIX, and Linux. With over 30 years of experience, his expertise spans systems architecture, HPC, operating systems, networking, high-performance storage, IaaS, and HADR. Jeff also shares his knowledge as an adjunct professor at Concordia University Irvine, where he teaches networking, operating systems, and senior software development.



**Charles Guarino**  
**Central Park Data Systems**  
**CEO & IBM Champion**  
**Website:** [www.centralparkdata.com](http://www.centralparkdata.com)

Charles Guarino believes in the “power” of IBM Power Systems. His career reflects his dedication and interest in bringing the platform and its solutions to others and as a result has been recognized as an IBM Champion.

He is a member of COMMON’s Speaker Excellence Hall of Fame and a proud recipient of the Al Barsa Memorial Scholarship Award. Additionally, he participates on COMMON’s Strategic Education Team. Other professional endeavors have included the roles of President and monthly Q&A host for many years of the Long Island System User’s Group LISUG ([www.lisug.org](http://www.lisug.org))

In the spring of 2020 Charles created the monthly virtual IBMi iChime community. Each meeting features a “No PowerPoint” discussion with an industry expert. To learn more visit <https://www.centralparkdata.com/ichime-dates.html>

Today, along with the team at Central Park Data Systems, he is serving individuals and companies on a worldwide basis through his consulting work and award-winning speaking engagements. Charles is a true people person and can often be found at conferences sharing his expertise on RDi and other IBM i topics.

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X - @charlieguarino



**Birgitta Hauser**  
**Independent Consultant**  
**Database and Software Architect, IBM Champion**  
**Website:** <https://modedcon.com>  
**X:** @BirgittaHauser

Birgitta Hauser worked on the IBM i and its predecessors since 1992. She graduated with a business economics diploma, and started programming on the AS/400 in 1992. She worked and works as traditional RPG Programmer but also as Database and Software Engineer, focusing on IBM i application and database modernization. Currently she is an independent consultant and works in Consulting, Application Modernization on IBM i and especially Database Modernization on Db2 for i. She also provides individual programming on IBM i to her customers.

Additionally, she also works in education as a trainer for RPG and SQL developers. Since 2002 she has frequently spoken at the COMMON User Groups and other IBM i and Power Conferences in Germany, other European Countries, USA and Canada. In addition, she is co-author of two IBM Redbooks and also the author of several articles and papers focusing on RPG and SQL for the ITP Verlag (a German publisher), IT Jungle Guru and IBM DeveloperWorks. In 2015 she received the John Earl Speaker Scholarship Award. In 2018 she received the Al Barsa Memorial Scholarship Award. IBM Champion since 2020.



**Simon Hutchinson**

**RPGPGM.COM**

**Founder & Author**

**X: @RPGPGM**

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/simonhutchinson3/>

Simon Hutchinson has worked with IBM midrange servers and the RPG programming language since 1988—starting in the U.K. and continuing in the U.S. for over 35 years. He is best known for his long-running blog, **RPGPGM.COM**, where for more than 12 years he has shared practical insights and examples in RPG, SQL, and CL.

An IBM Champion for Power for six consecutive years and an IBM i Community Advocate, Simon is recognized by COMMON Americas as an SME in RPG, CL, and SQL. His contributions have earned honors including the John Earle Speaker Scholarship (2023) and Gold and Bronze PowerUp speaker pins.

Simon frequently presents at conferences and user groups worldwide—both in person and virtually—and serves as president of the Central Texas IBM i User Group (CTXiUG).



**Aaron Magid**  
**Eradani**  
**Chief Architect**

Aaron Magid, Chief Architect at Eradani, has over a decade of experience in software development and technology. He specializes in modernizing legacy systems like IBM i/AS400 using Python, Node.js, and Java. Aaron excels in bridging old and new technologies together for clients, helping them connect modern solutions to existing systems. His previous roles include Lead Cloud Systems Engineer at CTI Smart Systems and Co-Owner and Director of Product Development at BigPie, Inc.



**Dan Magid**  
**Eradani**  
**CEO**  
**Website:** <https://eradani.com>  
**Email:** [dan@eradani.com](mailto:dan@eradani.com)

Eradani extends modernization by transforming the people, tooling, and development languages used in IBM i businesses. Eradani "Connect" serves as a Enterprise Integration Hub for IBM i organizations, providing developers and operators exception volume, performance, and security when connecting RPG & COBOL with modern technologies like REST & SOAP APIs, Open Source, JSON, XML, and legacy EDI. With powerful low-code generators, data transformation engines and connection management tooling, Eradani Connect supports Inbound and Outbound API connectivity, Kafka, data streaming, event-driven architecture, FTP & SFTP, and DevOps change management. Eradani bridges the black-box IBM i with the modern world.



**Dawn May**  
**Dawn May Consulting, LLC**  
**Owner**  
**Website: <https://dawnmayi.com>**

Dawn has been involved with COMMON for over 20 years and has been a consistent volunteer since 2008. She's been a member of the strategic education team, a subject matter expert, and a speaker. As Immediate Past President of COMMON, she's focused on leading COMMON as the industry leader of IBM i education, networking, and community. Dawn is a leading authority on IBM i performance management, work management, systems management, and general system diagnostics. She has in-depth knowledge of the IBM i operating system developed through her distinguished career with IBM.

A former IBMer, Dawn is now an independent consultant, assisting companies with system performance reviews and recommendations. She also teaches clients on the latest IBM i tools to enable them to get the most out of their IBM i systems. Dawn is the author of the "i Can" blog published by TechChannel and a frequent speaker at local user group meetings and IBM i conferences around the world.

You may contact Dawn by email at [DawnMayiCan@outlook.com](mailto:DawnMayiCan@outlook.com), find her on X at [@DawnMayiCan](https://twitter.com/DawnMayiCan), or connect on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dawnmay/>.



**Ryan Moeller**  
**IBM**  
**Software Engineer**  
**LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryan-moeller-390b54160/>**

Ryan Moeller is a software engineer working on Db2 for i, specifically on the SQL Query Engine (SQE) team. He joined the team in the Rochester, MN development lab in 2020. Ryan specializes in SQL, database development, and query performance analysis.



**Matthew Neill**  
**Guild Mortgage**  
**DB2 for i Database Engineer**

35+ years across IBM i application development, database engineering, modernization, and application integrations. Expertise in Db2 for i SQL, SQL/PL, Modern ILE RPG AppDev, Service Programs, and IBM iDoctor performance tuning. Enjoys mentoring teams, teaching modernization practices, and turning complex technical concepts into practical implementation patterns.



**Mike Pavlak**  
**Programmers.io**  
**Solutions Architect**  
**X: @MikeyPEI**  
**LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikepavlak/>**

Mike Pavlak has been working with IBM midrange solutions since 1992 and IBM Mainframes before that. After years of developing applications using RPG, CL and PHP he managed IT development and IT for power protection manufacturer Tripp Lite. Later Mike was instrumental in developing the adoption of PHP as a primary solution for web development on IBM i working with Zend Technologies. Today, as a strategist with Programmers.io, Mike helps companies around the world approach the challenges of modernization and open source technologies. In addition to several roles as a volunteer with COMMON the premier IBM midrange user group, Mike also teaches PHP & Python classes part time at Moraine Valley Community College in Suburban Chicago.



**Brandon Pederson**  
**IBM**  
**IBM i and Power Product Marketing Manager**

Brandon Pederson is the Product Marketing Manager for IBM i and Modernization within the IBM Power business. Prior to this role, Brandon was Content Marketing Manager for IBM WebSphere and Content and Community Manager for IBM Power. He has a degree in Marketing from Concordia University Texas and an MBA from Baylor University. Brandon is an Austin FC season ticket holder.



**Pascal Polverini**  
**Polverini & Partners**  
**Founder and CTO**

With thirty years of professional experience in North America, Europe and Australia Pascal Polverini has a strong experience in digital transformation, strategy roadmap and planning, end-to-end software architectures, with expertise on DB, programming languages, communication protocols and UI with expertise on DB, programming languages, communication protocols and UI he was awarded by IBM Champion nomination in "DATA and AI".

Co-author of the IBM i Modernization Redbooks, he is an expert in cross technologies.

Active member of the IBM i ISV Advisory Council since 2005, he is also an individual associate of the OpenPOWER foundation since 2014, senior speaker on IT events (in english, french and italian) and occasionally writer on IBM Systems Magazine and others.

Pascal is deeply involved in solutions to merge or cross different technologies and innovations, involving as well AI technologies, focusing on project governance and quality result with a particular attention to the added values in a business approach to the client need and market extensions.

Since 2020 Pascal has particularly worked on expertise on testing automation to help the IBM i community and customers to leverage the platform to accelerate development ROI, TTM, DevOps and AI integration. Since 2024 he is working on methodologies to secure code expectation from AI LLM processes.



**Tim Rowe**

**IBM**

**STSM - IBM i Business Architect**

Tim Rowe is a Senior Technical Staff Member within IBM i development and spends most of his time working as the Architect for Application Development and Systems Management. He has been working on the IBM i operating system since 1989. Tim is a frequent author, industry speaker and co-host for the iSee Video blog. Tim is also a certified Soccer Official and an avid hiker, spending time hiking with his wife whenever possible.