Available 99.999% of the Time

COMMENTARY

In 1992, when HACMP/6000 was still in its planning stages, I was involved in designing and implementing the training for the upcoming product. Working with CLAM Associates and the project leaders in Austin, we assembled a comprehensive four-day training session describing HACMP/6000 and how to set it up. At that time, configuration of HACMP/6000 was done through shell scripts and by editing text files, and it supported only modes 1 and 2 (mode 3 was still coming). What a long way it has come from that beginning! Configuration is done chiefly through SMIT, mode 3 has been operational for some time now, and the new four-way clusters add power and flexibility to the product. So putting together this issue's focus on HACMP/6000 was especially interesting for me.

For readers who haven't been associated with HACMP/6000, we have an overview article to explain the concepts and features. Then we "go to the source" for a talk with George Linscott of CLAM Associates. George has been involved with HACMP/6000 since the beginning. His insight on high availability and clusters for both today and the future is "must" reading. Readers who are concerned only about "what's new" can read about the latest features in Version 2.1 in the article about migrating to the new version.

Since database programs are the main applications that use high-availability environments, we asked the major AIX database providers to write articles from their vantage point. Four such articles give a flavor of what can be done with high availability. To round out the coverage, we have an article about running HACMP/6000 with DCE.

If you don't care about high availability or clusters, perhaps you will be interested in the other articles in this issue. Making backups of mirrored filesystems can be vital to HACMP/6000 administrators, but the rest of us can also find good information in that article. Programmers will be interested in the article on using the Streams interface to produce modular, portable networking programs. And those who travel a lot will find the LANHOP/6000 article intriguing.

The World's a Little Greener

This issue marks the first issue of *AIXpert* to be printed solely on recycled paper with soy-based inks. We think this makes the magazine a little easier to read, knowing that it was produced with as little impact to the environment as possible.

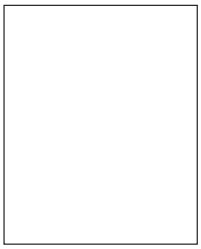
RISC System/6000 Electronic Information

Coming soon, RISC System/6000 information will be available through the Internet. You will be able to connect to a large collection of information and services via the World Wide Web using the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) Mosaic or other available browser program. Check it out using the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of http://www.austin.ibm.com. Features offered include product announcements, press releases, technology white papers, files for anonymous ftp, AIX news collected by the editorial staff of *AIXpert*, and some *AIXpert* articles in PostScript® format.

For more information, send E-mail to webmaster@austin.ibm.com when the system becomes available.

George Noren

***George Noren**, IBM Corporation, Internal Zip 2830, 11400 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78758. Internet: geo@austin.ibm.com. Since joining IBM in September 1979, Mr. Noren has written manuals for System/34, System/36, and AIX on both the RT® and RISC System/6000® platforms, and was a member of the InfoExplorer™ design team. He has also worked as system administrator for several AIX server machines and their clients, and is currently responsible for the Prototype Evaluation Labs in Austin. Mr. Noren studied engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology, holds a BA in English from the University of Minnesota, and an MBA from St. Edwards University in Austin.*



George Noren