

# On the Road Again

## Technical Education at NetWare Conferences

Laura Chappell

When I got spring fever this year, I decided to pack my bags and follow the neon lights to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend the Las Vegas NetWare Conference, which was held on April 1-5 in conjunction with NetWorld+Interop. I enjoyed this conference so much that I couldn't resist hopping on a plane for Orlando, Florida to attend the Orlando NetWare Conference, which was held on April 23-24. These conferences, which were hosted by NetWare Users International (NUI), gave me a chance to get the latest information about NetWare and networking while enjoying different climates and meeting new people.

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

NetWare Conferences provide NetWare users with solutions to networking problems and up-to-date information about new technologies. The classes offered at the Las Vegas and Orlando NetWare Conferences covered a range of topics and provided users of all skill levels with practical technical knowledge. For example, at a class entitled "InterNetWare: Remote Connectivity and the Internet," Eric Burkholder, corporate integration specialist for Novell Corporate Systems Engineering, presented statistics that detail network administrators' highest priorities (such as improving security) and their biggest obstacles (such as working within a tight budget). He then described how you can solve networking problems by using the components of AT&T NetWare Connect Services—NetWare 4.1, NetWare Directory Services (NDS), NetWare Connect, NetWare Mobile, NetWare Multiprotocol Router, TUXEDO, and GroupWise.

In "Designing Your NetWare Directory Services Tree," Blair Thomas, senior consultant for Novell Consulting Services, displayed several types of NDS tree designs. For instance, Blair provided examples of effective NDS tree designs for campus networks, metropolitan area networks, LANs, meshed networks, and hub-and-spoke networks. He also defined guidelines for partitioning the NDS tree and outlined the steps involved in creating an NDS tree for your company. (For more information about NDS tree design, see the related article on pp. 32-40.)

In "Optimizing Your NetWare Infrastructure," J.D. Marymee, corporate integration manager for Novell Corporate Systems Engineering, discussed various tools that you can use to enhance the performance of your NetWare file server. These tools include ManageWise, LANalyzer for Windows, and the MONITOR, SERVMAN, and INETCFG utilities. J.D. described how you can optimize file compression by modifying several SET parameters such as Days Untouched Before Compression. He also explained how to maximize a file server's I/O by monitoring and adjusting the maximum number of packet receive buffers.

Ed Liebing, senior editor and research engineer for *Novell Application Notes*, discussed the NetWare Client 32 for DOS/Windows in "Client Management: Client 32." He examined the client's architecture and defined each of the entries in the client's STARTNET.BAT file. In addition, he provided information about the client's memory usage by showing the DOS MEM screen before and after loading the client on a workstation. This screen displays the amount of conventional memory and the number of upper memory blocks used by a workstation.

Ed also explained how to create better login scripts in "Effective Use of Login Scripts." He suggested using asterisks (\*), semicolons (;), or the REMARK command to add nonexecutable text (such as a note to your users) to a login script, and he recommended allowing only 78 characters per line so that users can easily read this text. (For more information about login scripts, see "NetWare 4 Login Scripts: New Ways to Set Up Users' Desktops," *NetWare Connection*, May 1996, pp. 38-48. You can also download this article from <http://www.nwconnection.com/may.96/login56/>.)

Finally, Ed provided a detailed, behind-the-scenes look at the NetWare printing architecture in "Printing Dynamics on NetWare 3 and 4." He described Novell's SPX-related patches (STRTL3.EXE and 312PT6.EXE) and discussed the most common causes of losing an RPRINTER connection (communication delays on bridges and routers, faulty hardware, and old versions of IPX and the NetWare shell). Ed also gave step-by-step instructions for adjusting the NET.CFG parameters to improve RPRINTER performance.

### CONCLUSION

After the Las Vegas and Orlando NetWare Conferences, I was ready to start making changes on my own network. Now I'm looking forward to learning new tips at the Boston and Baltimore NetWare Conferences (even though I can't possibly implement all of the suggestions I received in Las Vegas and Orlando before heading to the Boston conference on June 4-5). For a schedule of the 1996 NetWare Conferences, see page 52.

Laura Chappell is a product manager for *ImagiTech, Inc.*, which develops interactive multimedia educational products. Laura can be reached on *CompuServe* at 72000,3333. ●

