

# We Be *Jammin'*



**D**uring my academic career, I was lucky enough to be a member of a small rock group. We never made the “Top 40”, but we had our share of gigs. Although my fingers have long ago forgotten how to trace the riffs and runs on the fretboard, I can still remember the degree of commitment and discipline that was required to coax excellent music from a disparate group of independent-minded musicians. In this issue, we hear from a group with a higher degree of commitment and discipline, those wizards who make the PowerPC™ chip play in concert with other PowerPCs in the new Symmetric Multiprocessor (SMP) products announced in October.

We have two articles to help you understand the issues behind the design of an SMP. “SMP Overview” discusses the types of multiprocessor design and looks at the specific issues of designing to an SMP architecture. “AIX® SMP Performance” takes that discussion to a deeper level to illustrate how AIX wrings the best performance out of an SMP design.

OK, it's hot! So how do you use it? If you're just getting your feet wet in the MP pond, be sure to check out “Introduction to Multithreaded Programming”. Skillful management of threads is key to designing an efficient MP-enabled application. If you already have an application and are wondering what it will be like in an MP environment, read the article “Porting to an SMP Environment”. And if you are thinking of adding an extension to the new SMP-enabled AIX kernel, don't miss “AIX Version 4 Kernel Changes for SMP”.

Moving away from SMP, we have an excellent case study on DCE performance in a heterogeneous environment. If you are running DCE, or plan to in the future, this article provides many valuable insights and conclusions. Administrators

will also be interested in the print spooling article that explains the many improvements to the printer subsystem that have been made for AIX 4.1. And, if you are about to begin a new programming project and are considering taking the leap to Object-Oriented Programming (OOP), be sure to read the report from a recent OOP effort at IBM's Rochester laboratory.

## Requalification

Some of you have received your magazine with a request that you update the information that we have on file for you. We must reduce our costs by eliminating addresses that end up with the magazine in the dead letter office. Please take a few minutes to fill out that form and return it. We do not want you to miss a single issue of *AIXpert!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Noren".

George Noren

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**George Noren**, IBM Corporation, Internal Zip 2830, 11400 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78758. Internet: [geo@austin.ibm.com](mailto: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