

PLM World Midwest Chapter 2007 Fall Conference Overview

The Midwest User Group (MWRUG) had their fall conference Friday, Oct 6, 2006 in Minneapolis, MN. Rollo Cain, MWRUG Chairman, gave the welcome, followed by a UGS Company review from Josh Kass. Roderick Strand from Hewlett Packard was the keynote speaker, who gave an extremely informative talk on the 'Unleashing Engineering Innovation'. Tony Banitt presented the UGS Product Direction overview. Roderick Strand presented information of several CPU architecture enhancements; happening now and in the near future, impacting Windows hardware and operating system options. This information gave the attendees some great metrics on new capabilities and significant cost/performance improvements that can directly impact a user's productivity.

After the "Opening Sessions" ended, the 6 Technical Tracks (36 sessions) started. This included 5 User Presentations, covering 4 of the technical track. Each "User Presenter" receives a Certificate and a gift for their participation. With the 6 technical tracks, Partner/Vendor Fair and the new location, the users had very high comments on. Again this year the vendor response was quite positive and we had to limit it to 12, due to the space we had to allocate. This event was very well received and had many positive comments by both users and vendors. Several very nice door prizes were also made available by the vendor/partners, for the drawing at the end of the conference.

The 2 NX Technical Tracks (NX4 Productivity, NX4 Drafting/PMI) had great attendance & rave reviews. There were several additional Solid Edge attendees this year as we grow our SE Track content. This gives those SE users an opportunity to see more of the larger UGS PLM picture. The Teamcenter Track grew in attendance again and was very well received. The Analysis Track was very well received again, with some great feedback on the information that was presented.

With several companies cutting back, we still had about the same user attendance(165), as the previous year. There were several new companies and user's participating for the first time, so that was encouraging. Having the expanded format featuring six tracks (Teamcenter, NX, Ideas, Analysis, Solid Edge, CMM) to choose from, along with being able to visit the Vendor/Partner Fair during the day, contributed to the great users experience this year.

Here are a few of the user's comments about this conference:

"Everything was great. But since people sign up for different tracks, maybe you could also add that to the name tags so the users could make better contacts with users of like interest

"The Teamcenter presentation was a good overview of what's to come, thanks."

"I thought your group did an excellent job of organizing and presenting the conference. At no time was there evidence of anything but complete organization. Well done!"

"I feel the committee did an excellent job on this year's meeting. Very good noon lunch!"

"I am very impressed in how the Vendor Fair was setup and organized. Thank you. See you next year!"

"Our (MWRUG) mission and goal is to help the user become more knowledgeable of UGS products and at the very least, give them a tidbit that makes them more productive and their job more enjoyable." Based on the above comments, I think we accomplished our mission! For more detail on the conference Agenda and Partners, go to our web site (mw.plmworldgroups.org).

Rollo R. Cain
PLM World MWRUG Chairman