

Message from Ross Mauri



It's been a real pleasure in recent months to get to know many members of the worldwide IBM® System i™ community. Your energy and enthusiasm are awesome and unique. I'm looking forward to meeting many more of you at the COMMON Annual Meeting and Exposition in Nashville and other gatherings throughout 2008.

This is an exciting time for all of us working with System i. The release of i5/OS® V6R1 marks another major milestone in the 20-year progression of this platform. With many new options for storage virtualization, disk clustering, encryption for backups, breakthrough Java™ performance, and support for POWER6™ processors and IBM BladeCenter®; i5/OS V6R1 throws the doors wide open to further innovation, and can help you achieve maximum return on your IT investments.

Recommendations and guidance from your representatives on the COMMON Americas and Europe Advisory Councils were very important in helping us get this latest release of i5/OS just right. I'd like to thank the members of the advisory councils for their commitment, their expertise, and for the time they spent volunteering on this project. It's that kind of collaboration, I believe, that makes for success—not just in terms of developing new products—but in finding imaginative new ways to apply advanced technology to your business requirements.

The agenda for the COMMON meeting in Nashville promises another great opportunity for sharing ideas and insights across the community. For those of you who plan to attend, I invite you to join **Mark Shearer** and I at a special IBM town hall meeting on Wednesday April 2, where we will make a special announcement of an important initiative, "The New Power Equation." I hope to see you there.

All of us at IBM appreciate your business and your confidence in System i. We will continue to do our best to earn them every day.

Ross A. Mauri

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross".

General Manager, IBM Power Systems

