

## ***Message From the President's Desk – Michael Olin***

### **Spring 2011**

#### ***More bad weather, but still some good news!***

The weather in New York has done little to lift my mood. While the rain has managed to wash away the abundant snow in the city, the suburbs are now seeing ponds emerge in saturated yards that were snow covered just a week or two ago. Although it is gloomy outside, we do seem to have it easy. Friends in the Midwest are still shoveling the white stuff and at a midtown reception last week, many of the guests who had travelled down from Albany commented on how remarkable it was to see green on the sides of the road while upstate is still encased in frozen white. So where am I finding good news? Finally, there appears to be some growth in the job market, especially for Oracle professionals.

The annual 2010-11 Tech Salary Survey published by Dice.com notes that although tech salaries are flat overall, “Average salaries in New York (\$87,298) ... inched higher year/year.” More encouragingly, the introduction to their survey results comments that “Currently, Oracle experience is requested in more than 15,000 job postings on any given day or nearly a quarter of all job postings on Dice. Demand for that top requested skill is up 57% year/year. The national average salary for technology professionals with experience in Oracle Database is \$90,914 and for Oracle Application Server is \$88,063.” A quick check of other job posting sites confirms that there are more Oracle-related job postings than we have seen in a while. While a combination of a sluggish economy, the availability of remote DBA services, and large numbers of offshore providers limited opportunities for the past several years, the jobs picture for experienced Oracle DBAs is improving. While employers are no longer facing an acute shortage of experienced DBAs as they did in the early years of the millennium, they do appear to be hiring again. Job postings for DBAs with specific Oracle Application experience are also appearing more frequently than in the recent past. For developers, I am seeing opportunities for not only the most up-to-date skill sets, but also a surprising number of listings for developers with experience working with Oracle’s “legacy” development tools, Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports. Not everyone has made the switch to whichever of the web-based technologies is the current state of the art. The installed base of Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports based applications is still huge, and these are not exactly the kind of skills that new developers are picking up. Just like veteran COBOL programmers were able to find lucrative work on Y2K remediation, the opportunity is there for those of us who still remember a thing or two about Oracle Developer.

Although we have been including it in all of our email blasts, I’ll also mention it here. If you use the professional networking service LinkedIn, please join the NYOUG group on that site (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=1127257>). This is the only location where NYOUG allows job postings to the group. If you are on the NYOUG mailing list, your membership in this group has probably been pre-approved. If not, simply make a request to join and give me a few days to respond.

### ***SIGs Online and Training***

By the time this column is published, the NYOUG DBA SIG will have completed its first virtual meeting via webcast. We have arranged for Arup Nanda to present “Deferred Statistics and SQL Plan Management for Performance in Oracle 11g” as an online webinar during lunchtime on March 11, 2011. The webinar was recorded and will be available on the NYOUG website for those who could not attend in real-time. Going forward, we plan on having both live and virtual SIG meetings, hopefully recording both and making them available online on the website. While the number of online real-time participants will be limited for now (don’t you just love those “concurrent user” licensing models?), we can adjust that number upwards if there is sufficient demand. Finding a vendor to sponsor our webinars wouldn’t hurt either (hint, hint).

If the webinar with Arup was just not enough Arup for you, you can sign up for our day-long “RAC for Beginners” training session on April 28th at St. John’s University in Lower Manhattan

[http://www.nyoug.org/upcoming\\_events.htm#NYOUG\\_Training\\_Days](http://www.nyoug.org/upcoming_events.htm#NYOUG_Training_Days)).

We will also be bringing Jonathan Lewis back for another training session later in the year.

### ***For Members Only***

Finally, we have come up with a plan to replace our year-end NYC Metro Area Oracle Users Group Day. The details are still being worked out, but tentative plans call for a three track meeting at the New Yorker Hotel in December. We are working on getting a top-tier keynote speaker and will also be looking into upgrading the food options. I know that the boxed lunches are the highlight of many attendees’ day, so the Steering Committee will make every effort to ensure that our alternative is viewed as an improvement. We expect to continue with our vendor hall and hope to revive the end-of-day cocktail reception during the vendor raffles. While the specifics of our plans are subject to change, one detail is certain. Free admission to this event will only be available to paid NYOUG members. Non-members will be admitted as space allows and will be charged an admission fee that will most likely be comparable to the cost of an NYOUG membership.

We have been fortunate to be able to maintain both our membership base and our level of programming during difficult economic times. Let’s hope that things have finally turned the corner.

## ***Upcoming Meeting Dates***

### **NYOUG Spring Training Session – for Members Only!**

**DATE:** Thursday April 28, 2011

**TOPIC:** RAC for Beginners

**PRESENTER:** Arup Nanda

**REGISTRATION:** [http://www.nyoug.org/info/training-hold/htm/NYOUG\\_Training\\_Session.htm](http://www.nyoug.org/info/training-hold/htm/NYOUG_Training_Session.htm)

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### **IOUG - OAUG - QUEST - Collaborate 2011**

**DATES:** April 10-14, 2011

**LOCATION:** Orlando, FL

**REGISTRATION:** <http://collaborate11.ioug.org/Home/Registration/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

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### **ODTUG Kaleidoscope 2011**

**DATES:** June 26-30, 2011

**LOCATION:** Long Beach, CA

<http://kscope11.com/registration>

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### **SAVE THE DATE: NYOUG Summer General Meeting**

**DATE:** Tuesday June 7, 2011

**LOCATION:** St. John's University – 101 Murray Street