

Contents

- Editorial
- Note from the Chair
- SIR Users Conference July 2-4 2003
- SIR2002 revision 20.23
- Silly Section
- Committee Members

Editorial

BOOK NOW FOR THE CONFERENCE AND TRAINING

By the time you read this, the Department For Education's 16 -18 Performance Tables should be published and I should be enjoying a well-earned break in Greece!

Getting away from your desk once in a while is good for the soul and the SIR conference and training offers an excellent opportunity to get away without taking annual leave! This year's conference offers the same mix of training and user papers that proved so popular in Aberdeen last year. Whether you are a new or experienced SIR user, we have training to match your needs; and the conference is a great chance to meet other SIR users and exchange problems and ideas.

There is a booking form on the last page of this issue of Reporter- so please book now. We hope to see you all in Manchester.

Kathy Brooks
Kathy.brooks@forvus.co.uk

SIR is at <http://www.sir.com.au>
UK SIR Users Group is at <http://www.soton.ac.uk/~sug>

Note from the Chair

Welcome to another year of SIR Reporter, we have plenty to look forward to from SIR as usual. New releases with fixed bugs are available through the web. See details of the latest in this issue.

I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to sign up to the sir-users mailing list. This could be used by SIR to notify new releases and for users to ask for help from other users and for SIR to notify all with details of any new bugs. If there are only a few on the list then none of this is worth the effort. Details of the list can be found at

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk>

where you can find previous postings by putting sir-users in the *find lists by listname* box and pressing GO. You can sign up to the list after having registered a password - follow the instructions on the *Subscriber's corner* web page to add yourself to the list. Here's hoping to see many of you on the list.

On another point of users helping each other we are short of members of the UK User Group Committee, the people who put on the conferences and produce Reporter. If you feel you could afford some time to help please let me know. We have committee meetings about every 2 months usually in London.

Dave Doulton

SIR Users Conference July 2-4 2003

The next UK conference and training will be in Manchester from 2-4 July 2003.

After the success of last year's conference and training in Aberdeen, we decided to repeat the format and again offer a conference with a full training programme with parallel introductory and advanced courses. This year's event is at the Jarvis Piccadilly Hotel in Manchester.

Our course tutors are experienced both as trainers and long-term users and developers of SIR.

The introductory sessions will be run by John Lemon of Aberdeen University. John has been a SIR user for over 16 years, has trained students and members of staff in SIR for 16 years and has also worked for SIR as a converter.

The advanced sessions will be run jointly by Tony Reardon and Dave Doulton. Tony is head of product development at SIR in Australia and Dave is chair of the SIR UK Users and has used SIR for longer than he cares to remember.

Details of costs and a booking form are on the back page of this issue of Reporter.

Draft programme:

Wednesday 2 nd July		
	Introductory Course Tutor: John Lemon	Advanced Course Tutors: Tony Reardon and Dave Doulton
14.00	Overview: History Concepts SiR command language SiR files SiR modules	Introduction to Client/Server Computing what is it pros and cons SIR client and server software
14.30	Database & Record Schema definition: Need to understand structure to retrieve data Create structure diagram Convert to Database and Record Schema Practical exercise	
15.30	Tea	

Wednesday 2 nd July (Cntd)		
16.00	Data Entry: Forms 'Old' style vPQLForms Batch Data Input Update programs Demonstration	Concurrency and Control using SIR/Master concurrency support and development strategies how Master works managing Master transaction processing under SIR
18.00	Close	
19.30	Dinner	
Thursday 3 rd July		
	Introductory Course continued	Advanced Course continued
08.30	Basic retrieval programmes: Introduction Basic retrieval Processing cases and records Practical exercise	Application Independent Access via ODBC and SIR/SQL Server what is ODBC defining ODBC data sources managing SIR SQL Server Using PQL as ODBC client
10.30	Coffee	
11.00	The 'right' and 'wrong' way to extract data Record Control phrases Practical exercises	
13:00	Lunch	
14.00	Further retrievals including procedures: Condescriptives Frequencies SPSS SAVE file Tabulate One level Two level Three level Statistics Formatting (% etc.) Quick Report	Dynamic Web Pages with SIR/CGI HTML forms the CGI standard applications development with SIR/CGI
15.30	Tea	
16.00	Utility functions / Database Maintenance: Verify file / List stats Export / Import Unload / Reload Subset / Merge File dump Re-structure	Review and Q&A
18.00	Close	
19.30	Dinner	

Friday 4 th July – SIR Conference		
09.00	Coffee and registration	
10.00	Keynote address	Tony Reardon
10.45	User Paper	
11.15	Coffee	
11.45	User Paper	
12.15	User Paper	
12.45	AGM	
13.00	Lunch and close	

SIR Introductory Course

This course is suitable for complete beginners, and will also be useful for occasional users who are rusty on some of the basics. At the end of the course you will be able to create and run retrievals, you will have an understanding of how to create a schema and therefore how to interpret an existing one, how to input data and will have an appreciation of the administrative functions used to maintain a database.

SIR Advanced Course

This course is suitable for more experienced users of SIR and will cover a variety of topics, concentrating on client/server.

A basic knowledge of SIR is assumed.

Dynamic Database Information Retrieval using SIR/CGI

This presentation will describe a general-purpose application that dynamically returns SIR database schema details, as well as database summary and univariate statistics. It has been built using both perl and SIR/CGI, and will be used to demonstrate the pros and cons of a standard browser interface as well as how SIR can be combined with general purpose scripting languages to develop web-based applications.

Randy Banks
ISER, University of Essex

SIR2002 revision 20.23

SIR2002 revision 20.23 is available for download on the following platforms:

Windows (9x / NT / 2000 / ME / XP); Solaris 7 & 8; (more to follow)

Download from SIR's website at:
<http://www.sir.com.au/download/index.stm>

It is strongly recommended that you upgrade to this version, in particular if you use secondary indexes. This revision includes fixes to the following problems:

- Secondary indexes not maintained properly under Master.
- Secondary indexes not maintained properly when large numbers of records deleted from index.
- Secondary indexes took more physical space than necessary.
- Secondary indexes truncated at missing key so could give problems with unique index.
- Tabfile IMPORT (SQL) gave error about disjunct ranges - (now gives warnings).
- Tabfile EXPORT (SQL) did not output quote (") properly in final position.
- Database EXPORT wrote common vars in external format (eg I,10) - (writes internal format (eg I*4)).
- CGI write with / (new line) duplicated earlier lines.
- FREQUENCY procedure output two heading lines.
- Standard output in CGI was double spaced.
- Standard output in CGI did not show tags (but interpreted them).
- SPREADSHEET crashed if record displayed includes TEMP VARS.
- Could not use the UPDATE= option on reload where the update level is over 32,764.
- Could not reload an unload where the update level is over 32,764.
- PQL FORMS Field readonly option put focus to exit button, not next editable field.
- PQL FORMS Field allowed only one error clause.
- UNLOAD unloaded default procfile rather than database procfile.
- PURGE SIR FILE terminated command execution if source was a MEMBER.

- PURGEing a connected database resulted in no default database and SYSPROC the default procfile. Now the next connected database becomes default.
- SQLServer did not process tabfiles in update mode properly.
- Internal Gui Editor crashed on files over 32,768 bytes (windows 9x only).
- KeyHelp crashed in SirForms.

David Baxter
SIR Pty Ltd

Silly Section

The Washington Post publishes a yearly contest in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for various words. The following were some recent winning entries:

1. Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed upon.
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent
6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightie.
7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
8. Gargoyle (n.), an olive-flavoured mouthwash.
9. Flatulence (n.) the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. Testicle (n.), a humorous question on an exam.
12. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified demeanor assumed by a proctologist immediately before he examines you
13. Oyster (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddish expressions.
14. Circumvent (n.), the opening in the front of boxer shorts.
15. Frisbeetarianism (n.), The belief that, when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck there.
16. Pokemon (n), A Jamaican proctologist.
17. Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
18. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
19. Foreploy: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid (e.g.: "I'm a doctor...")
20. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
21. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
22. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
23. Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.
24. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease (this one got extra credit)
25. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
26. Glibido: All talk and no action.
27. Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly
28. Ignoranus: A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

SIR UK User Group Committee Members 2002/2003

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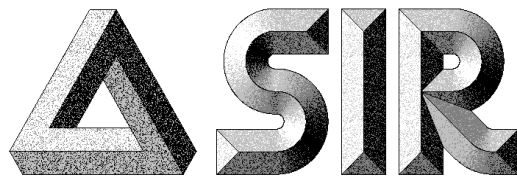
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**SIR Users Conference and Training
July 2 - 4, 2003
Manchester**

Registration Form

You can register online at <http://www.soton.ac.uk/~sug>

	Contact Address	Invoice address (if different)
Organisation	_____	_____
Address	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Contact name	_____	_____
Phone	_____	_____
Fax	_____	_____
Email	_____	_____

Please reserve places for the following people (*Extra nights should be booked direct with the hotel*).

Name	Residential	Day	Introductory training	Advanced training	Special needs (access or diet)
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

The cost is **£480** per residential delegate, **£360** for day delegates (training plus conference). If you book and pay by May 2nd there is a 10% discount (£432 and £324 respectively).
2nd and subsequent delegates on the same booking get a further **25% discount** (£360 and £270 for those paying after 2nd May 2003, £324 and £243 if paying before 2nd May 2003) respectively
The User Group is not registered for VAT and no VAT will be added.

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ /Please invoice me *
delete as appropriate.

Cheques should be made payable to SIR (UK) USER GROUP.
Please send your completed forms to:

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