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## WSTPA News

"Addressing issues that interest technology professionals"

Summer 2003

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**Dear Doña,**

Welcome to our newest association benefit - a quarterly newsletter chock full of hot topics and industry trends, WSTPA initiatives, and member news. Received a new certification, hot new client, or designed innovative software or procedures? We want to hear about it at [info@wstpa.org](mailto:info@wstpa.org)!

• **Catherine McGavin Joins WSTPA Board**

The West Sound Technology Professionals Association (WSTPA) Board of Directors has recently appointed Catherine McGavin as a new At-Large member and Chair of its Program & Events Committee. McGavin, currently with eBid Systems, was previously director of sales and marketing for Northwest Network Services on Bainbridge Island. She has also worked for Noosh.com, PrimeSource/Ennovation, Kodak and Agfa, and is a leader in forging industry change via technology-driven solutions. Catherine also sits on the Olympic College Business Management Advisory Board. Other changes to the WSTPA board include Michael Besselievre, Treasurer, voted as Acting Secretary.



[More at WSTPA News...](#)

• **New Speakers Bureau Provides Tech Talent for Events**

In the Information Technology age one of the challenges faced by industry professionals is finding people both willing and qualified to help spread the word. With the establishment of the region's first technology-focused speakers bureau - there's a new light at the end of the fiber-optic tunnel.

Western Washington Summit on Technology and Economic Development Entrepreneurship, WSTPA's annual conference, delivers business critical development information designed to give you the competitive advantage.

Attended by over 300 leaders in a seven-county region, the WSTPA Western Washington Summit provides cutting-edge knowledge on how to increase productivity by incorporating best practices, quality design, and proven management techniques into your technology and business applications.


The summit will again be held at Sons of Norway, Poulsbo, on October 9, 2003 from 5:30pm - 8:30pm. The event is FREE to WSTPA members; non-members others pay \$10 before 9/19/03, \$15 after 9/19/03, and \$20 at the door. Registration is required at [www.wstpa.org](http://www.wstpa.org).

[More info....](#)

West Sound Technology Professionals Association will make its member base of technology and business experts available to organizations in the West Sound region, and possibly the nation...ensuring that anyone in need of a speaker is matched up with a willing expert for their particular topic.

[Full Story](#)


#### • **Benefitting the Poor Via the Digital Economy**

Dr. Akhtar A. Badshah - Executive Director of Digital Partners in Seattle - will visit WSTPA on Tuesday, September 23, 2003 from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Poulsbo Regional Library's Community Room, and discuss its core international programs. 

Digital Partners provides professional services and financial support to visionary social entrepreneurs interested in effectively utilizing IT to benefit the poor through a portfolio of influential collaborating institutions and individuals. It has also created a new venture capital fund model, a "social venture fund," to invest in and incubate new initiatives designed by IT and social entrepreneurs to trigger solutions to previously intractable problems of poverty.

[More WSTPA Events](#)

#### • **New Benchmarking Study Shows Washington in Bottom Half of Tech States: National Leadership Positions in Jeopardy**

The Technology Alliance, a statewide consortium of business and community leaders, during its annual luncheon today released results from a major study assessing how well Washington is supporting technology-based development. The study compares Washington's performance against that of eight other states with technology-intensive economies and outlined a course of action for improving the state's performance. Washington ranks in the bottom half on almost every one of the indicators used to determine its strength in the three areas that drive technology-based growth: education systems, research capacity and entrepreneurial climate. 

"The results are alarming," said Technology Alliance President Ken Myer. "In only one measure- strong work force-do we rank at the top of the technology states. This isn't good enough. We have to be excellent because we're competing against an elite group of states, who are working hard to attract the best companies, the most highly skilled workers, and the top researchers, facilities and ideas."

[More on this topic](#)

- **Server breach raises Linux code worries**

The GNU Project, which develops many of the components in the Linux operating system, said this week that the system housing its primary download servers has been compromised by an attacker. The project urged those who have downloaded software from the server since March to check that the source code has not been tampered with.



Linux, an open-source operating system that dominates the Web server market, uses the compiler, libraries and other software that was originally developed by the GNU Project. The project warned that the attacker may have inserted malicious code into its software, although it said all the code checked so far appeared to be intact.

[More at CNET](#)

- **Tech Tip - SQL Server Security: Lock the Back Door Too**

An extended stored procedure called xp\_cmdshell causes SQL Server to spawn a command



shell and execute the command given as a parameter. For example, xp\_cmdshell 'dir c:\mssql\backup' would return a listing of the files in the backup directory. In general, this utility is useful for administrators. What you must be aware of is that the command executes with the privileges of the account under which SQL Agent executes. Since this account is typically a member of the administrator group, a user could wreak tremendous havoc ("I didn't realize that format c: would cause any problems! Really!"). To limit this command to administrators, Right click on the SQL Server Agent Icon in Enterprise Manager and choose "properties" from the menu. Choose the job system tab. At the bottom there will be a checkbox next to text that reads "Only users with Sysadmin privileges can execute CmdExec and ActiveScripting jobs here." Make sure the checkbox is filled in.

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phone: 206.338.6554

Have a hot tech tip ? Send it to us at [info@wstpa.org](mailto:info@wstpa.org). Be sure to include a clear explanation of what the technique does and why it's useful. If it includes code, limit it to 20 lines if possible.

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