



Online Virtual Training Schedule

z/OS Fundamentals

2-days

Jan 19th & 20th, 2011

\$1,195

"The z/OS Fundamentals class is definitely the starting point for a person new to z/OS."

Deborah Roulette, Instructor

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Tel: 410 891-1707, Option #2

SMP/E Workshop Guaranteed To Run!

5-days

Dec 13th – 17th 2010

\$2,180

Hunt Valley, MD

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All courses are available as a private class. Whether at your facility or our facilities in Maryland, TechKnowledge private classes offer flexible, cost effective training options to meet your needs. TechKnowledge will engage first-rate resources to provide instruction in Web Sphere, Linux, Solaris, even Advanced Function Printing (to name a few). A subject matter expert can help you hone in on what you need, and offer course customization options if needed.

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Instructor's Corner

SMP/E and Me

By Eileen McClintock

After returning home from giving an SMP/E presentation at SHARE, I was amused to see the message on my home computer. Once again, Windows had downloaded and installed an update that required the system to be restarted. I could see myself screaming "YOU DID WHAT?" at the console if I ever saw that message on a "z/OS system".

We do have to be more involved in maintaining software in the z/OS environment. SMP/E is the tool extraordinaire. When vendors package a product in SMP/E format they distribute elements (mostly object modules but possibly source, macros, procs, parmlib members, etc.) and the instructions on how to put them together (JCL). They maintain the products by distributing replacements of or updates to the elements – no instructions included! Not only does SMP/E invoke the appropriate utilities to install the products and maintenance, it also keeps track of each and every element in its Consolidated Software Inventory. When you call the support center and they ask what version of a module you are running, a simple SMP/E query can provide the answer.

Many installations have been using JCL for a long time to invoke SMP/E, and the person who originally wrote it and really knew what it does, has long since retired. As long as everything works, it's not a problem. But it helps to know what is going on under the covers when something doesn't go quite right.

Some folks say SMP/E isn't user friendly. I say, it's a lot friendlier than its predecessor, and besides, if you're using SMP/E, you're not a user... you're a system programmer!