

Record Turnout at Bulgarian Oracle User Group Conference



The Bulgarian Oracle User Group (BGOUG) autumn conference took place from 19th to 21st of November 2010 at a pleasant resort hotel in Pravets situated near the capital Sofia.

The conference drew over 300 participants from Bulgaria, Finland, Ireland, Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia, Turkey and the United States.

“We had record attendance,” said Milena Gerova, BGOUG President (center). “It was a great success, with a strong agenda and lots of very good speakers.” Gerova, also an active participant of the EOUC and the global user group community, told EMEA News that having an Oracle user group in the country is a fantastic plus:

“It is wonderful to have a community of people with common issues and ideas, always willing to share,” she says. “Our members are always enthusiastic about this event, they meet peers, network and listen to great speakers from Oracle and from the Oracle ACE program.”



Indeed the BGOUG Conferences always feature a strong showing of Oracle Certified Masters, Oracle ACES, Oracle ACE Directors and senior product people.

In this picture (left to right) we see Oracle ACE Marcin Przepiorowski, ACE Directors Jože Senegačnik, Daniel Morgan and Ronald Bradford, along with Tom Kyte, Senior Technical Architect, Oracle.

Oracle ACEs and Oracle ACE Directors are known for their strong credentials as Oracle community enthusiasts and advocates, with candidates nominated by anyone in the Oracle Technology and Applications communities.

“We love having the ACEs and Oracle Certified Masters at our conference,” says Gerova. “Participants know the person is enthusiastic in speaking about Oracle, goes deeply into matters, are open, encourage questions and all round good company.”

This year the conference covered:

- Server Technology
- Design and Development
- Business Intelligence
- Applications
- Business and Strategy

Tom Kyte, whose Ask Tom column in Oracle Magazine is read by half a million monthly, gave two presentations: What's New in Oracle Database Application Development? *and* All about Metadata; why Telling the Database about your Schema Matters?

Kuassi Mensah (picture), Group Product Manager, Oracle Net Services presented on Performance, Scalability, HA, and Security Best Practices.

Owen Hughes, recently appointed to manage the launch and business development for Exalogic Elastic Cloud in EMEA, introduced that new Middleware offering to the conference.

Meanwhile Barry McGillin, Senior Development Manager, gave an SQL Developer presentation.



Naturally the integration with Sun was on everyone's minds. A few weeks before the conference the Bulgarian Solaris User Group officially joined the BGOUG as a special interest group. Solaris users are interested in the future of the operating system.

At the conference there were separate tracks for Java, MySQL and Solaris presentations, which were well attended. According to Milena Gerova, Robert Bradford, one of the first MySQL ACE Directors, had very good scores in the feedback.

Here are all of the presentation abstracts.

The primary goal of the Bulgarian Oracle User Group is the creation of a medium for exchange of information, knowledge and skills about the products of the Oracle.

"By achieving this goal we hope that every group member's specialist skills will increase," says Gerova, who is Project Manager for Oracle Platinum Level Partner TechnoLogica.

TechnoLogica, established in 1990, was the first representative for Oracle in Bulgaria before it set up an office in Sofia.



Asked her opinion of Oracle's transformation into an engineered systems company, Gerova said:
"I think it should. It's a great idea. After all, as Owen Hughes said, you don't buy your car by parts!"

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