

Spring 2008

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**MICA News**

## Up And Coming In OpenSwitchGate

The first quarter of 2008 brought the GA Release of OpenSwitchGate 5.0. This GA Release has many new and exciting features. A few of the more notable features are: a new application for configuring network elements, a pilot device for auto-discovery and the capability to script connections to network elements. To begin taking full advantage of all of the great new features in OpenSwitchGate 5.0, download it today from the SaskTel International website. (<http://www.sasktelinternational.com>)

With OSG Release 5.0 complete, the OpenSwitchGate Team has shifted its focus to Release 6.0. For the next version, OpenSwitchGate will build on some of the new capabilities of Release 5.0 and add even more new functionality. Let's look at a few of the bigger changes coming in OSG Release 6.0.

OpenSwitchGate's current configuration scheme involves using a collection of applications each created individually with a slightly different style and operation from the next. Due to the unique idiosyncrasies between the different applications, configuring the system can sometimes be confusing and somewhat complex. The new network element configuration application from Release 5.0 was implemented for two reasons: first, to enhance the capabilities of the interface to allow it to support the addition of new delegates without a new release of the application, and second, to form the basis of a unified configuration application for OpenSwitchGate. In Release 6.0 this application will be extended to allow for configuration of many more elements of the system such as clients, mediation devices and system properties. This will provide a more consistent and easier to understand approach to configuring OpenSwitchGate.

Another part of OpenSwitchGate Release 5.0 that was meant to be the beginning of bigger and better things was the pilot device for auto-discovery, specifically discovery of the Adtran TotalAccess Element Management System. Building on the infrastructure created for this implementation, OpenSwitchGate Release 6.0 will extend auto discovery to the Alcatel AMS Element Management System. From here, we hope to continue to expand the range of supported auto discovery devices in future Releases.

Not all of Release 6.0 is just extensions to existing functionality; there are many new features, enhancements and tools as well. One of the exciting new tools being developed is an automated update process. Keeping up to date with the latest bug fixes and system enhancements is always a lot of work. The OpenSwitchGate Team is creating a tool that will analyze the currently available Release and compare it to your currently installed Release. It will then generate a list of the steps necessary to bring your OpenSwitchGate installation up to date, including everything from which Java JAR files need to be replaced, to what SQL needs to be run to keep the database in line. To make the process even simpler, it will even give you the option to let it update your domain for you!

These are just a few of the new changes coming in the next Release of OpenSwitchGate, there are many more as well: internationalization, enhanced troubleshooting logging, and performance/stability improvements just to name a few. Watch for more information on these in the coming months.

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# 2008 MICA Conference - Executive Forum

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SaskTel International is pleased to once again offer the Executive Discussion Forum at the annual MICA Conference to be held in Banff, Alberta from May 31 to June 2, 2008. This session is scheduled for Monday, June 1 and offers MICA member Executives the opportunity to join with peer Executives to share knowledge, experiences, and insights relative to the business trends within the Telecom industry.

The Forum will allow for open dialogue regarding common business challenges and opportunities facing business and industry today. Suggested topics for discussion include:

- 1) Industry trends and initiatives
- 2) Core business strategies and direction
- 3) Improving the customer experience, attracting, retaining and growing customer relationships
- 4) Controlling enterprise-wide operating costs

Please join SaskTel International Vice President, Steve Sousa and Industry Executives which include SaskTel Chief Technology Officer, Kym Wittal in an open forum discussion on current communications industry matters.

SI welcomes the participation of all MICA executives and their suggestions for discussion topics. Please contact Valerie Decorby by email at [valerie.decorby@sasktel.com](mailto:valerie.decorby@sasktel.com) or by telephone at (306) 777-3794 with any suggestions, comments, or questions.

Please note that Kym Wittal, SaskTel's Chief Technology Officer, will further be sharing his presentation on SaskTel's Converged Trouble Management Strategy with conference attendees - a topic you won't want to miss!

## **Steve Sousa, Vice-President, Network & Software Solutions, SaskTel International**

As Vice-President of SaskTel International, Steve is responsible for Software Solutions as well as marketing SaskTel International's vast knowledge and strong technical expertise in the telecom industry internationally.

Prior to joining SI nine years ago, Steve was the Senior Trade Finance Specialist for the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP). Steve also spent time working in Washington, DC at the office of Liaison with the International Financial Institution at the Canadian Embassy prior to his term at STEP. Steve's outstanding career achievements and contributions to the province earned him a nomination for the Ontario Premier's Award in 2000.



With his vast telecom knowledge and extensive international experience, Steve is a great asset to SaskTel International.

## **Kym Wittal, Chief Technology Officer, SaskTel**



As Chief Technology Officer, Kym Wittal is responsible for the planning, development, engineering and support off SaskTel's advanced 100% digital telecommunications network, as well as its corporate information systems, Project Management Office and Corporate process transition groups. He also directs SaskTel's Research and Development activities and is responsible for SaskTel's Carrier Relations which provides competitive wholesale communications services for SaskTel.

Kym brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position of SaskTel's Chief Technology Officer (CTO). Prior to this appointment, he was SaskTel's General Manager -Technology, Performance, and Operations, accountable for all aspects of the installation and operation of SaskTel's telecommunications network including voice, data, transmission and internet systems.

In the field of information technology, Kym spent eight years as the Manager of Application Development (Engineering and Operations) which was later expanded to Manager of IT (Business Solutions). During this time, he was accountable for the development and maintenance of all of SaskTel's computer-based enterprise systems and responsible for maintaining SaskTel's Corporate Data Models.

Highlights in his career include: responsibility for the provisioning of the electronics for the SaskTel Broadband fiber optic network; providing technical guidance for Telecom Canada's first transcontinental fiber route; presenting seminars on fiber technology in the People's Republic of China; and being an on-site technical engineering consultant for the English Channel Tunnel transmission network.

# SI Welcomes Curtis Adair

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## Curtis Adair, Assistant Vice-President Of Marketing & Sales, SaskTel International



As the AVP of Marketing and Sales for SaskTel International, Curtis is responsible for the worldwide marketing and sales of SaskTel International's products, services, and expertise.

Curtis joins the SaskTel International Team with over 15 years of experience in the communications industry. Most recently, Curtis served as SaskTel's Sales Manager for National, Federal Government, Provincial Government, and Major accounts. During this time, his primary focus was the introduction of SaskTel's Centrex IP solution. Prior to that, Curtis provided consulting services, including operational reviews and business process

reengineering engagements, to SaskTel's business clients. Curtis has held a variety of additional positions within SaskTel, working within the Operations, Customer Finance, and Project Management Departments.

Please feel free to contact Curtis with any questions that you may have about SaskTel International.

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## Calendar of Events

### *2008 promises to be a busy and exciting year for the SI Sales and Marketing Team!*

The SI Sales and Marketing Team will be in attendance at several trade shows during the upcoming months.

These include:

- ~ **B/OSS World Conference and Expo** - April 29 - May 1, 2008 in Chicago, IL. - **Booth #419**
- ~ **NXTcomm08** - June 16 - 19, 2008 in Las Vegas, NV. - **Booth #SL7312**

The SI Sales and Marketing Team looks forward to marketing the business benefits of our products to prospective clients, as well as having the opportunity to visit with our current clients at the various venues. If you or any of your co-workers are attending one or more of the trade shows listed above, we encourage you to stop by and say hello, we'd love to see you!

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SaskTel International is always looking for articles about our clients that we can print in our newsletter. If you have an event or article you would like to have printed in our newsletter please don't hesitate to contact Lynn Fradette at [lynn.fradette@sasktel.com](mailto:lynn.fradette@sasktel.com) or (306) 777-5536.