

The Nashville Chapter  
of  
The Association of Information  
Technology Professionals

January 2011  
Chapter Newsletter

## Nissan Supply Chain IT

We are starting the New Year with a great program about the IT processes that help make the Nissan North America Smyrna automobile plant one of the best in the world. Our speaker is Chris Curtis who is IS Section Manager, Supply Chain & Manufacturing, for Nissan North America, Inc. Chris is accountable for all aspects of application development and maintenance for over 30 supply chain and manufacturing applications.

Chris Curtis has 15 years experience in developing manufacturing systems for Nissan North America as a Senior IT Specialist, Application Architect, and presently Applications Manager. Chris leads a team of 11 Business Analysts and 25 contract software developers to maintain the current set of applications and deliver new value to business. The supply chain systems are utilized at the three Nissan US manufacturing facilities and the three facilities located in Mexico.

Chris is responsible for managing the Supply Chain IT budget and ensuring that work being done has been prioritized and justified by business. During his 15 years in IT at Nissan, Chris has completed many projects including the successful development of web services/service oriented architecture to allow disparate systems to communicate in a real-time manner.

Chris will discuss the scope of Supply Chain applications, what the Supply Chain means to Nissan, and how the systems help Nissan achieve business goals.

He will give a breakdown of supply chain systems, how it's done at a high level, and the technologies that make it possible. He will also outline future directions at Nissan from a technology standpoint.

Prior to joining Nissan, Chris worked for HealthStream in Nashville as a Lead Systems Developer where he designed a new Learning Management



System. Chris also worked for ARINC in Annapolis, MD, as a Lead Software Developer for an aviation flight and fault computer automation application. Chris started his IT career as a Software Engineer for CEDAR in Amherst, NY.

Chris has B.A. and M.S. degrees in Computer Science from the State University of New York. He is a Microsoft Certified Professional and has an extensive background in various computer languages and software.

Chris is married and has two sons. They live in Murfreesboro where Chris enjoys playing and coaching both hockey and soccer. They have vacationed in Malaysia several times.

This should be an interesting discussion of supply chain IT systems and how they are applied at Nissan.

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AITP  
P. O. Box 22038  
Nashville TN 37202

## Dinner Reservation and Cancellation Policy

AITP members will be notified by electronic mail one week prior to the Chapter meeting. Reservations can be made by responding to the electronic notice or by calling *Mary Simpson at 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775* Dinner reservations can be canceled up to 24-hours prior to the meeting without cost.

**Since the Chapter pays for reserved meals, No Shows will be billed at the reservation price of \$20.00 for Members, and \$30.00 for Guests.**

Members are responsible for their guests' reservations. *If you are a member and have not been receiving this notification, please contact Mary Simpson at:*

*615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775*  
[msimpson@genesco.com](mailto:msimpson@genesco.com).

### January Chapter Meeting

**Holiday Inn Vanderbilt**  
**2613 West End Ave.**  
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Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068

## President's Message



In our December meeting we were entertained by Jim Bar-  
too, Marketing and Public Relations Director of the Nash-  
ville Zoo. I must admit my expectations were uncertain.  
The Nashville Zoo didn't sound like a very interesting thing  
to talk about, certainly to visit, but as a speaking engage-  
ment I wasn't so sure. I am pleased to report that the pres-  
entation was excellent, Jim was a consummate speaker  
and had just the right balance of interesting stories, humor  
and information to keep us all engaged. Jim shared with us  
that initially the Nashville Zoo had 2 locations and has  
more recently consolidated at its current Grassmere loca-



tion. The house at Grassmere which dates back to 1810 sits on 188 Acres. The family that owned it fell on hard times and could not make the property taxes each year, so they agreed with the city of Nashville to donate the property to the City if they could live tax free until they passed away, which is what has occurred and the city made part of the estate available to the Zoo. Currently the Zoo occupies 80 acres of the estate. It was interesting to listen to Jim as he explained how the zoo has been growing and developing one zoo attraction at a time and is still very much a work in progress as funds for further expansion become available. Nashville Zoo has more acreage potentially available than many of the world famous zoos such as San Diego and is on course to becoming one of if not the best Zoo in the US. The list of attractions is long and growing, they include a 66,000 Sq Ft community playground, the largest in the nation, a petting Zoo, Gibbon Island, A Macaw Habitat, Merkat Habitat, Bamboo trail with 6 attractions, African Elephant habitat, Aviary, Giraffe Savannah, Alligator exhibit, Ant Eater habitat, Zebra's, Leopard Cats, Tapir and a Flamingo Lagoon. Most recently the Zoo has added a White Faced Gibbon.



The Zoos mission is to introduce the public to the animal kingdom. The zoo also provides conservation programs to save endangered species and work closely with other zoos, swapping animals to ensure the gene pool remains viable and avoid inbreeding.

All in all, this was a great program that everyone enjoyed; Paul had to temper our enthusiasm in asking what appeared to be endless questions of the speaker.

We had a very successful food drive for the Second Harvest Food bank. This is the second year we have run this program. We collected 119 pounds of food, an increase of 71 pounds over last year. By my reckoning that's a 248% increase, way to go AITP members and visitors!! Thanks to Walker Morrow for initiating the program last year and this and carrying all that food down to the food bank.

**I look forward to seeing you all at our January meeting.**

**JP White**  
**President, AITP Nashville Chapter**  
<http://www.aitpnashville.org>

## **Jeff Steele**

Our New Member Profile this month is about Jeff Steele. Jeff is a Network Support Technician with over fifteen years experience with a wide variety of wired and wireless networks.

Jeff has worked for the past three years on health care systems and successfully completed many network projects. He has performed many wireless site surveys to design and implement 802.11 networks. Jeff configured and installed Cisco Aironet Access Points and Cisco Wireless LAN Controllers to build and manage these 802.11 networks.

He also has experience in the design and implementation of new LAN infrastructures using Cisco Routers and Cisco Catalyst switches. Jeff performs network management analysis and monitoring for optimization, troubleshooting, and repair of network connectivity and application related issues. In addition he has worked as Server Administrator which ranged from Windows Server NT4 to Windows Server 2008R2 as well as some Virtual Server environments.

Jeff holds several certifications including: Microsoft Windows XP Certified, Cisco Wireless LAN Solution Engine (WLSE) certified, Certified Wireless Network Administrator (CWNA), CompTIA Network + Certified, and CompTIA A+ Certified.

Jeff is married to Caroline and they have two children.. Jeff and his family like to fish. Jeff and his family are into martial arts and he and his family are working toward becoming Black Belts in Jiu Jitsu. His family practices every day to stay in shape both in techniques and diet. They vacation to historical Civil War sites when possible.

Say hello to Jeff Steele when you see him at the next AITP meeting.

# Calendar of Upcoming Events 2011

## AITP Calendar of Upcoming Events - 2011

Date	Event	Location	Information
January 13	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Vanderbilt	Nissan Supply Chain IT, Chris Curtis, Application Manager
January 27	Folding party	Saunders House	Come Network with Other AITP'ers
February 10	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Vanderbilt	TBA
February 14	Valentine's Day	Your Place	Bring Flowers

### SPEAKERS

We are always interested in good speakers to make presentations at our AITP Chapter Meetings. If you know someone who is interested in making a presentation on a topic, on their company, or company's products, please contact Paul Saunders at (615) 367-1717 or [Paul@SaundersSystems.com](mailto:Paul@SaundersSystems.com).



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**AITP New Members**

**Jeffrey Steele**  
**steelejx@yahoo.com**

**Jessie Wrenn**  
**System Administrator**  
**Adventure Science Center**  
**Jessie.l.wrenn@gmail.com**

**Welcome to our new members!**

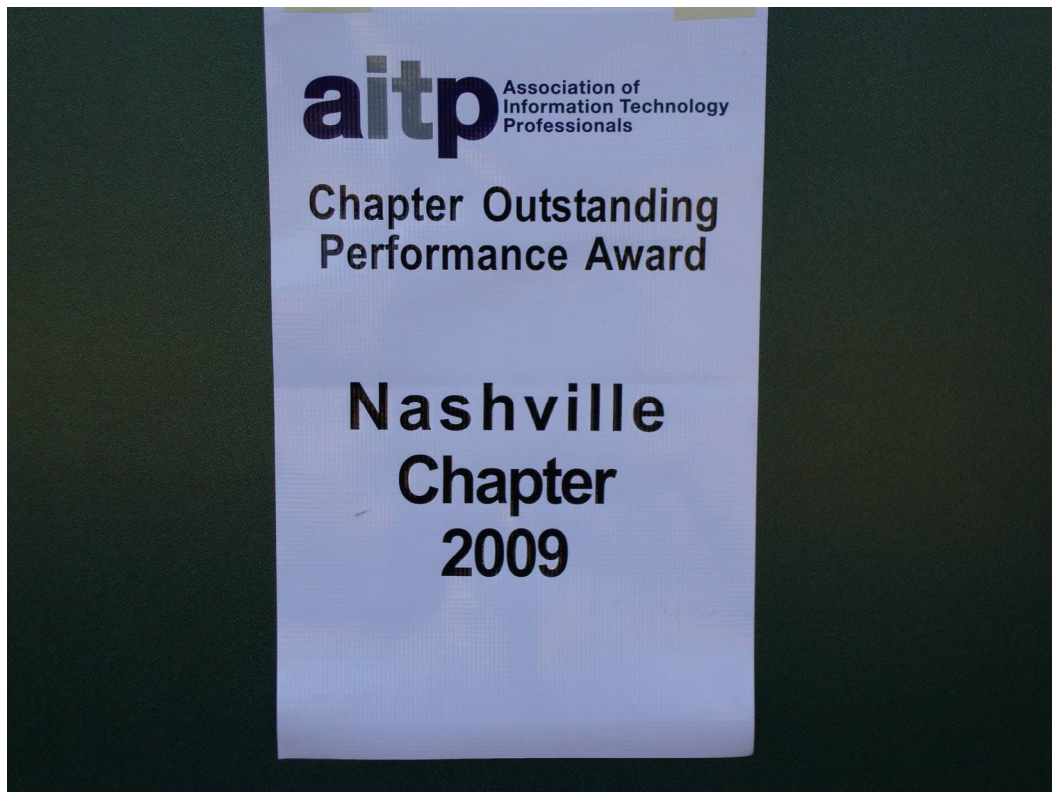
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Please send any changes to include in the 2011 Nashville Chapter Directory before distribution by email. Thank you, Joan Julius, Membership Chair

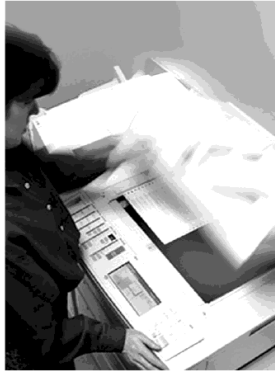
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**Congratulations, Members, you did it again!**



**Photo courtesy of Dr. Gerald Marquis who was responsible for documenting the activities that led to this award.**



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## AITP Nashville is located on



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