



# NEWS

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## **National IT Executives to Visit Toledo for Major Panel Discussion**

TOLEDO, Ohio – Would you be willing to bet your career by choosing Open Source? Many CIO's are confronted with this decision as this upstart trend collides with standard commercial applications.

Now, the CIO Forum of Northwest Ohio will host one of the most exciting and ambitious events locally, and perhaps nationally, to discuss this issue, featuring some of the most prominent industry leaders nationwide.

“Betting Your Career: a Panel Discussion on Open Source”, will be held Thursday, May 19, from 4-7:15 p.m. at University of Toledo College of Engineering's Nitschke Hall.

“The controversy over Open Source has generated some highly charged rhetoric from zealots on both sides of the debate, which sometimes obscures the fundamental issues,” said John Zarb, CIO of Libbey Glass.

Microsoft, IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Dell and Novell have committed key executives to participate in this unique and informative panel discussion. In addition, the panel will include

(More)

two CIO's on opposing sides of the issue who have bet their careers on their respective platform decisions.

Top-notch panelists who have already committed to the event include:

- **Dr. Robert Sutor - IBM, Vice President of Standards**
- **Ron Eller - Hewlett-Packard, Vice President & General Manager, Enterprise Solutions Alliances**
- **Bill Hilf - Microsoft, Director Platform Strategy Organization**
- **Judy Chavis - Dell, Director Business Development and Global Alliances**
- **Jerry Mayfield - Novell, Senior Corporate Business Strategist**

“We are extremely fortunate to host such a powerful lineup of industry leaders who will surely provide a lively and informative discussion,” said Bill McCreary, an organizer for the event and CIO of Pilkington.

McCreary will also emcee the event, and local CIO's will introduce and moderate each of the topics. The six major topics for the panel discussion include:

- *The Economics of Open Source*
- *Is Open Source a Culture War?*
- *Security: Perception vs. Reality*
- *Migration to/from Open Source*
- *Application Software: Availability & Scalability*
- *Summary – Total Cost of Ownership*

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“The question posed to our local CIO group is whether the Open Source movement has reached a ‘tipping point’ where that technology is considered in competition with mainstream commercial applications,” commented Keith Fournier, CIO of Lucas County, Toledo, Ohio, and a member of the organizing committee.

The event is being organized with significant assistance from the Regional Growth Partnership, the University of Toledo College of Engineering, and the Columbus Technology Council.

Seating is limited for this special event. Online registration is available by going to [www.nwo-cio.org](http://www.nwo-cio.org). This Web site will also provide more information on the event, as well as speaker biographies, parking information, and sponsors.

The CIO Forum of Northwest Ohio is a loosely organized group of the top IT executives from Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan representing mid-size and larger companies from a variety of industries, including manufacturing, banks, hospitals, government, and universities.

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