

# CODI/UUGI Conference Update 2009

Lincoln Trail Libraries System  
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Pat Boze



The CODI/UUGI Joint Conference was the first-ever combined conference of CODI (Customers of Dynix Inc.) and UUGI (Unicorn Users Group Inc). It will also be the last with that name as the two SirsiDynix users groups will officially combine and change their name to the COSUGI Users Group on June 1, 2009.

The keynote speaker for the opening session, Patricia Martin (<http://www.patricia-martin.com>) has done marketing research on the concept of a RenGen (Renaissance Generation) and believes that we as a society are poised for a new outburst of creativity and change. First comes 'death' (the global economic crisis) followed by an outpouring of innovation. The main elements of this change will incorporate creation, collaboration, and connection, with connection being accomplished by the power of online global communication.

Following the keynote were several presentations by SirsiDynix corporate staff that focused on the stability of the organization and a commitment to meeting deadlines when software releases are announced. In the last year, all 19 software release deadlines were met. Additionally, a change in the company philosophy is that the development group now devotes 10% of its time to innovation and as a result is working on new apps for iPhone and other mobile technology. The mobile computing theme ran through several of the sessions as well – it's becoming the communication preference for more and more people although the infrastructure to support mobile computing will need further development to support this growth.

For the Horizon user, there was a bit of a 'second-class citizen' feel to the conference. There were very few sessions for the Horizon customer; instead, the Unicorn/Symphony platform was featured in most of the SirsiDynix sessions.

I did attend a session for Horizon where there was one more announced major upgrade for Horizon, version 7.5, which will happen sometime in 2009. Also, there is a suite of products that will work with both the Unicorn and Horizon systems. If a move were made to Unicorn, the license for these products would carry forward. Those carry-over products currently owned by LTLS include WebReporter, SIP2, and RPA.

After realizing that most of the normal cataloging, circulation, acquisitions, and serials sessions were geared to the Unicorn software, I concentrated on sessions related to the new Enterprise add-on PAC product. The Enterprise add-on PAC interface brings social networking and faceted searching components to both the Horizon HIP and the Unicorn e-Library PAC products. It is only being sold as a hosted service and new titles must be 'exported' daily to the site for index management.

I also attended an informational session on 'software as a service' or SAAS. SAAS is gaining interest with over 540 customers utilizing 3 major co-location services to house their Horizon/Unicorn databases on 'leased' hardware. SD staff performs all upgrades and maintenance and uptime service is currently running at 99.99%. San Diego Public and Los Angeles Public have recently moved to this service.

I gave a presentation on the Illinois WorldCat Local project and received several comments from other out-of-state participants who are interested in the product. I also talked to the Horizon product head, Ed Ridings, at length about the project.