THE

UNDEAD's GUIDE

TO

NAVUG SUMMIT

2016

Adventures in Accounting
With Microsoft Dynamics NAV

Mark Polino

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Credits

Thank you to everyone who reviewed this work. All of the hideous parts are mine.

The Walking Dead

The upcoming NAVUG Summit 2016 in Tampa is going to be a conference to remember. In addition to all of the living users of Microsoft Dynamics NAV who will attend, we are thrilled to welcome a record number of the undead to this year's conference. Don't worry you'll fit in just fine.

After all, most of the accountants who attend will be coming of off quarter end close and will feel like zombies. Plus, we know that the average person can't tell a vampire from an auditor; all blood suckers look the same to them. A surprising number of technology folks are awfully hairy and smell kind of funny, much like werewolves, and with year-end approaching, everyone will be wound tighter than a ten thousand year old mummy. What could go wrong?

Since many of you have had negative experiences interacting with the living, and would like to avoid a "villagers with pitchforks" scenario, we've prepared this short guide to help you get the most out of your NAVUG Summit 2016 experience.

The Netherworld

As a refresher, NAVUG is the NAV User Group, a group of professionals dedicated to getting more out Microsoft's Dynamics NAV ERP system. The NAV Summit is our annual user conference. Sorry vampires, NAVUG is not some ancient deity come to rebuild the kingdom of Dracula.

Your journey begins with registering for the conference online via the NAVUG Summit link at: http://www.navugsummit.com/home. The team is working to make the registration more zombie friendly. They realize that it's tough to type with your limbs falling off, but for now, we ask you to do the best that you can.

Once on site you'll pass through the netherworld known as "Registration". Here you'll be given your conference badge on a lanyard along with other conference materials. It is truly a badge, not a garlic pouch or a collar so everyone can feel safe. You can however dress up your badge with various pieces of flair highlighting your industry or area of interest. The badges include areas like Manufacturing, Field Service, and Ancient Pyramid Construction, just to name a few.

Once registered, feel free to explore the conference venue. This year's conference location is perfect for the undead. Sessions will be held during the day at Tampa Convention Center, conveniently shielded from the sun for the vampires and with a view of the harbor where the pirate Gaspar is said to have roamed. Pirate ghosts are always up for a good time. Tampa is an old city. Its eclectic mix of Caribbean and Spanish influences ensures that ghosts materialize in the smoke of locally made cigars. Zombies should certainly feel right at home with a little bit of voodoo in the Ybor City district.

Rest in Peace

Some of you may ask where to stay in Tampa. Plenty of old graveyards still dot the landscape, but vampires should book early. The oldest crypts fill up fast. For others, we recommend that you stay at one of the conference hotels. The Embassy Suites and the Marriot are in easy walking distance, but plenty of other resting places are available too. Staying at a conference hotel can provide fantastic opportunities for spontaneous interactions with other attendees. By "spontaneous interactions" I don't mean biting other attendees; I mean having conversations with them about their challenges, triumphs and needs.

Sessions

Sessions will be presented on a host of topics around Microsoft Dynamics NAV. Most of the presenters are users, partners or Microsoft employees with a lot of knowledge in their area. As a courtesy to everyone, please don't bite the presenters. Mark Rhodes is a bit of zombie most of the time, but he'll really be one by the end of the conference. He doesn't need your help.

We do have a few sessions recommended specifically for the undead. Andy Snook will be presenting **Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less**. While the undead often thrive on more, more blood, more brains, more souls, stepping back and deliberately focusing on the important can lead to greater satisfaction. After all, the undead life can be short. A wooden stake or silver bullet can come out of nowhere. Learn to enjoy the undead time you have left.

Nobody understands a rapid start like the undead. After all, one bite and the transformation begins. There's no manual, no training, no easing into the afterlife. It's boom, you get bitten and suddenly you're howling at the moon or hungry for brains. In Kim Congleton's session **RapidStart - a veritable Swiss Army Knife,** you'll see how to save time getting started with NAV and the Rapid Start tool. Not that the undead are worried about time, but we know you'd like to get your work done and get back to haunting the night. Oh, and no, Kim won't be using an actual Swiss army knife. Jeeez you guys are paranoid.

Kim's going to be a zombie herself when the NAVUG Summit is done with sessions like **Stump the Experts: Dev best practices** (zombies love anything with the word "stump" in it), **Power BI: Advanced visualizations 201** (visualizations are charts, not psychic readings. I know, the ghosts are disappointed.) and **Women in the House!,** she's going to be dead to the world when Summit ends. I was happy to see the Women in the House segment. Women are often underrepresented in the modern depictions of the undead. While we know they can eat brains as well as any man, and wolfpacks are often run by alpha females, women still get victimized by vampires. Blood lust isn't just for men!

Many of the sessions are also interactive with panels of speakers tackling tough questions around inventory, payables, fixed assets, you name it. For example, are a mummy's bandages inventory items or assets? It's an age-old question for the experts to wrestle with.

Other sessions are designed to enhance collaboration and networking to get people with similar interests and issues talking to each other. This is where you can build a like-minded pack around compliance, the media industry, or preferred blood types. We use the term "pack" loosely. Please don't introduce yourself by sniffing your neighbor's…well you know. Also, no tooth and claw fights for alpha status. Everyone gets a chance to share!

Expo

A key part of the conference is the Expo. In the Expo, vendors provide an opportunity to learn about ways to extend the value of Dynamics NAV. The Expo is designed to be enjoyed on each individual's terms. Zombies are free to roam from booth to booth gathering information. Werewolves are encouraged to hunt down solutions for their businesses. Vampires will have plenty of time to scare up solutions for their needs, and mummies can wrap up any loose ends face-to-face with vendors.

If you're looking to secure your NAV castle from dangerous villagers, come say hi at the Fastpath booth, where we're all about security, audit and compliance.

Party Animal

Despite all of the great sessions, this conference is not only about work, it's about relationships and there is no better way to build relationships than to have some fun together. The undead will have plenty of chances to let loose and reveal their true inner selves. For mummies, we mean this figuratively. Please don't unwind and show us your inner self. No one wants to see that.

Ybor City is full of haunts where people can both drink a zombie and become one. Plus you can party with Fastpath at the Cuban Club on Thursday. Let down your fur, loosen your cape, and unwind a little. In short, party 'till your legs fall off…er…party 'till the sun comes up. Uh…party like an animal? Let it all hang out? I give up.

Have some fun, meet someone new, and learn about Dynamics NAV at the NAVUG Summit 2016, October 11-14 in Tampa.

About the Author

Mark Polino is a CPA, Dynamics Credentialed Professional, and Microsoft MVP for Business Solutions. He is the author or coauthor of 6 Dynamics GP books including his latest: The Microsoft Dynamics GP 2016 Cookbook coauthored with Ian Grieve. Mark runs the popular Dynamics GP website at www.DynamicAccounting.net and works as the Director of Client Services for Fastpath.

He is also a fiction author. His first novel, Death from Above is available on Amazon and his newest book, Woodbooger, is due in October 2016.

This is his first foray to the dark side that is Dynamics NAV. This work is a personal project.

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