

Greater Charlotte Region - ACL User Group

WHY is the user group being started now and who is leading the effort?

Given the increased focus around technology within today's business environment, companies are beginning to realize the benefits that data analytics can provide across the various functions of an organization. As ERP systems become more prevalent and increasingly robust, the volume of data within the typical enterprise continues to grow at a rapid rate. Companies that are able to effectively analyze the wealth of information at their disposal and quickly adapt to meet changing business needs and new opportunities will have a significant competitive advantage in the future.

Matthew Pock and Joe Williams are data specialists located in Charlotte, North Carolina with nearly ten years of combined experience in support of both recurring audit engagements and non-audit consulting projects. Establishing an ACL user community in the region will help promote best practices, exchange ideas and methodologies, and connect local practitioners with one another for networking and professional development.

WHAT are the main objectives of the user community?

The user community is being established to provide ACL practitioners of all experience levels located around the greater Charlotte area with opportunities to:

- (1) Network with other professionals who use ACL to perform data analytics;
- (2) Learn about best practices and current trends within the market;
- (3) Discuss general issues and/or concerns they are facing with other ACL users; and
- (4) Present specific ACL-related questions to the group in an open forum

WHO has the ability to join the user group and **WHEN/WHERE** will meetings take place?

The user group is open to all ACL practitioners located around the greater Charlotte region, including the western portions of North Carolina (e.g. Asheville) and north/central/western portions of South Carolina (e.g. Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg).

The majority of meetings will most likely be hosted in or around Uptown Charlotte, however based on the responses received from the survey a portion of meetings may be held in high interest regions outside of the greater Charlotte area. The frequency of meetings is also being considered and will largely be based on the survey responses that are received. In reviewing the feedback received thus far it appears that the consensus is to hold meetings on a quarterly basis although these details will be a point of discussion at the first user group meeting.

HOW do I sign up and/or get more involved?

First, go take the online survey and join the LinkedIn group both referenced at the bottom of this document. We need feedback from ACL users in the area to make this group a success so please take a few minutes and answer the questionnaire. In addition the LinkedIn group will be an easy way to connect with other user group members and will be updated as new events are scheduled in the area. Once a determination is made around the initial meeting date/location an email communication will be sent to survey respondents and posted on the LinkedIn page. The first user group meeting is intended to be a casual meet-and-greet atmosphere held sometime in early November 2009 where users will have an opportunity to express ideas and provide input on future group meetings.

Please take the [User Group Survey](#) and join the [LinkedIn Group](#) so that we can learn about you & your interests!