



## DEBRA LILLEY

### USER GROUP EVANGELIST OF THE YEAR

Evangelist works to help members succeed and groups flourish.

Ask Debra Lilley, *Oracle Magazine's* User Group Evangelist of the Year, what she thinks about the U.K. Oracle User Group (UKOUG). She'll tell you.

"It's the best in the world," says Lilley, a principal business consultant for Fujitsu Services and deputy chair of the UKOUG. "We serve the entire Oracle community, not just individual products or technology."

She's also worked to enrich others. For example, she's helped the International Oracle Users Group Community (IOUC) create initiatives that have brought together volunteers representing groups around the world to work together for the good of all the community.

"While user groups should be independent, I also think they should support each other and share information whenever possible," says Lilley. "And interacting with Oracle at this level means we get more of their collective time."

Lilley is proud of her award, and she specifically thanks Fujitsu for its support. Still, the real benefit from her efforts comes from member feedback.

"I love it when someone says to me, 'I heard you say this, and I went back and tried it,' or, 'It really helped us in what we were doing,'" says Lilley. "I get a big kick out of being able to help people make decisions and use their Oracle solutions better."

Lilley admits that one of the attributes that makes her a good evangelist is her tendency to be straight-talking.

"I'm not afraid to give the independent comment even when controversial," says Lilley, "but I'm also good at motivating other people to come together and do things in a coordinated fashion. Throughout the years, we've been able to encourage and motivate volunteers to take part in small and large initiatives that they can accomplish with others in the group."

Being so involved in the user group community takes up a substantial portion of Lilley's time, but she feels that it's time well-spent—what else is there to do in the evenings when she's on the road with her 'day job'?

"Through UKOUG and the wider user group community, I have found a lot of like-minded people willing to help and support, and not just when related to Oracle," says Lilley. "I have made many true friends."

#### winnerSPECS

<b>Name:</b> Debra Lilley
<b>Job title/description:</b> Principal Business Consultant
<b>Company:</b> Fujitsu Services
<b>Location:</b> Belfast, Ireland
<b>Award:</b> User Group Evangelist of the Year 2008