2006 was the first year of the IBM Technical Leadership Exchange (TLE). The TLE replaces a number of other conferences for professionals in IBM that had more than a ten year history. Previous conferences were—

- Consultant Leadership Exchange (CLE)
- Project Executive Leadership Forum (PELF)
- Project Management Leadership Exchange (PMLE)
- Professional Technical Leadership Exchange (PLTE)

About 1,500 IBM professionals were nominated as delegates to the conference. I attended as a delegate and presented a poster session called the Enterprise Architecture Tools Project. My materials included—

- 12 pages for the poster board in the form of a presentation
- A handout called—A Quick Introduction to Enterprise Architecture

The materials are available on the my DISS 792 course Website—

http://scis.nova.edu/~gulla/DISS792_DISS892_Spring2006.htm

During the evening of the poster session, I spoke directly to about 20 individuals and gave them copies of my handout.

During the conference I attend the main tent sessions where IBM executives were the main speakers including the Chairman of the IBM Board and CEO Sam Palmisano. For the elective sessions, I either attended presentations or labs. The most challenging were the lab sessions where I was exposed to complex software environments including—

**LAB-008 An Architectural Thinking and Operational Modeling Session with AWB**

AWB is an architect’s workbench developed by IBM Research.

**LAB-033 High Availability with WAS/MQ/DB2 using Tivoli System Automation**

The high-availability environment simulated a retail server environment with paired laptops in a primary/secondary pairing. Middleware and database software was also used in the recovery scenarios.

**LAB-043 Deploying Secure Web Services in Websphere Application Server V6**

This lab was focused entirely on application security using a variety of software implementations including Microsoft .net applications.