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APROPOS

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The Advanced Computing Systems Association &
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apropos (cont'd)

Saturday, Sunday, or even later was relatively common. Amazingly, when folks finally did get off the ground, those flights, which had been so hard to get, turned out to be only two-thirds full. Alternative forms of travel, such as Greyhound, Amtrak, and car rentals, were frequently sold out. I did hear several accounts of companies chartering buses to get groups of co-located employees home with good success (I thought that was pretty clever). I heard from one of my tutorial attendees who lives near me in California that he left from Atlanta Friday night and drove 2,800 miles in three days via Oklahoma and Arizona.

Now that we've gotten back and have had the chance to hear how others did the same, Mark, Karl, and I have applied some hindsight to our quickly concocted plan. Mark believes our initial reaction, and subsequent plan, reflects our collective system/network administration background. He maintains successful system administrators are pragmatic. In the face of building moves, application conversions, and OS upgrades, we know our best chance for success lies in having multiple ways to achieve the goal: built-in disaster planning, if you will. Our experience tells us that occasionally the upgrade goes off without a hitch, but if we positively have to have the site up at the end of the availability window, we know we must also plan for the worst case. That way, when things fall apart midway through the migration, our chances for success are much better, since we planned for other options early on. Of course we'll accept it if things work out for the best, but if we *must* be home on Monday, we rent a car first then check the airports along the way.