Always look forward to Novell BrainShare. Not only does it coincide with the beginning of spring in Utah, but it also launches a plethora of product and technology announcements from Novell. Where else can you get answers to questions such as the following: What have Novell engineers been up to this past year? What is Novell planning for NetWare this year? How can you secure your company’s GroupWise system? How can you detect and prevent cyber crime? How do you perform an eDirectory health check? How can you use ZENworks for Desktops to deploy support packs? How can you implement eProvisioning solutions that save you time and your company money?

This year you can find the answers to these questions and more at Novell BrainShare 2002, which will be held March 17–22. Novell BrainShare 2002 features more than 200 new technical solutions sessions. To peruse the growing list of sessions, visit www.novellbrainshare.com.

Of course, you won’t want to miss Laura Chappell, one of our favorite authors, as she presents Onsite Analysis (featuring case studies such as Death by Application, the Open Door Policy, and Dodging the Firewall), Hot Tools for Analyzing Networks, and Defending Against and Preventing Cyber Crime (which Laura claims will make your skin crawl!). No one understands protocol analysis better than Laura (or makes it nearly as entertaining).

TECHNOLOGY ON DISPLAY
In addition to hearing about technology and products, you can actually see them at work in the Novell Technology Lab. You can try out individual products or see how products interact to make solutions. Best of all, the Novell Technology Lab is run by experts, which means you can ask questions and get the answers you’ve been looking for.

Based on feedback from last year’s BrainShare attendees, Novell is extending the hours during which you can visit the Technology Lab and other BrainShare attractions. (For more information, visit www.novellbrainshare.com.) Novell is also putting the Novell Technology Lab and the Sponsor Solutions Showcase in one exhibit hall, called the One Net Solutions Lab. You will be able to find all of the solutions you need in one place. This year’s sponsors and exhibitors include Compaq Corp., XIOtech Corp., Portlock Software, EM C², Brooktrout Technology, Motient Corp., NetVision, Computhink Inc., Avocent, Protocolom, NetPro, A dvansys, Stoneware Inc., Omni Technology Solutions, The Essential Talk Network, McAfee (a division of Network Associates), and Dell Computer.

LEARNING IS FUNDAMENTAL TO BRAINSHARE
If you want to expand your IT credentials while you are attending Novell BrainShare, you can take advantage of the Novell Learning Zone. Boasting nearly 200 computers and a host of servers, the Learning Zone gives you access to self-study course, online mentoring, self-assessment tests, and more than 20 manual sets. How much does it cost? When you attend Novell BrainShare 2002, the Learning Zone is free.

IT’S A DATE
If you have attended Novell BrainShare before, you know that you have to conserve enough energy each day to attend the evening events Novell has planned. For example, Monday night you can enjoy TechNight at the Salt Palace. In addition to providing enough food to wade in, Novell promises that you will do “all the things you thought you didn’t have time for.” For more information about TechNight, stay tuned to the Novell BrainShare web site (www.novellbrainshare.com).

A s we go to press, Novell is still keeping details about the annual party for Novell BrainShare under wraps. However, Novell did give us one hint: You will want to “Come Sail A way” with Novell at this “incredible event.”

Finally, Thursday evening Novell hosts Meet the Experts, which allows you to mingle with Novell’s top engineering, product, and consulting experts as you eat dinner. Save up all your tough questions, and give the experts feedback on the products that are running your company’s business.

THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE DISCOUNT
If your company is like most, budgets are particularly tight this year. Although you may not be planning to attend many conferences this year, you shouldn’t miss Novell BrainShare 2002. This conference is unique: In addition to providing in-depth information on how to use products and implement solutions, Novell BrainShare 2002 gives you access to the people who are developing and marketing those products and solutions. You can also network with the best minds in the IT industry. Besides, where else can you see the venue for the 2002 Winter Olympics?