

## Small Business Author Karl Palachuk Nominated as “SMB 150” Influencer

Small business technology author Karl Palachuk has been nominated for the 2012 SMB (Small and Medium Business) 150 awards. The SMB 150, a collaboration between SMB Nation and SMB Technology Network, recognizes the top 150 influencers within the worldwide small business IT channel.

Sacramento, CA, March 24 – Small business technology author Karl Palachuk has been nominated for the 2012 SMB (Small and Medium Business) 150 awards. The SMB 150, a collaboration between SMB Nation and SMB Technology Network, recognizes the top 150 influencers within the worldwide small business IT channel.

This is the second year SMB Nation and SMBTN have worked together on the SMB 150 Influencer awards. This year’s award contest and gala dinner are sponsored by Research in Motion, makers of the Blackberry.

Palachuk is the author of nine books, including *Managed Services in a Month*, *The Network Migration Workbook*, and *Relax Focus Succeed*. He focuses exclusively on small business IT consultants and the channel vendors who support them. He is a popular speaker, author, and blogger in the SMB community. His “Small Biz Thoughts” blog has more than 40,000 visitors a month. See <http://blog.smallbizthoughts.com>.

Palachuk is a past winner of the “SBSer of the Year” award, now named the “Jim Locke Memorial Community Award.” He has also been honored several times in the managed services community, being named to the MSP 250 list every year that it has been published.



The first phase of the award's selection process has already begun and consists of online community voting, open to anyone at [www.smb150.com](http://www.smb150.com). Open voting lasts until April 6, 2012, at which point a panel of industry experts will certify the online ballots and cast their own votes for nominees. Community voting counts for 40% of each nominee's score, with the remainder determined by the expert panel's votes.

Harry Brelsford, founder and chairman of SMB Nation, congratulated Palachuk, along with the other SMB 150 nominees. "I'm excited for all of our SMB 150 nominees. Karl has been a consistent contributor to the SMB IT channel for many years. He has

worked tirelessly to improve the SMB IT channel – and, by extension, the small business sector as a whole."

In addition to inclusion on the SMB 150 list in SMB Nation magazine, each SMB 150 winner will receive a free BlackBerry PlayBook (64GB) and an invitation to the SMB 150 Awards Gala in Los Angeles, CA, on May 16, 2012.

"I am honored to be nominated again this year," Palachuk said. "I'm having a lot of fun campaigning on Facebook. I love the SMB community. It's where I work and where I play."

Palachuk wrote a blog post about the event, recommending 80 of the other candidates in the competition. See <http://tinyurl.com/7gpvcjs> for that article.

### **About Research In Motion**

Research In Motion (RIM), a global leader in wireless innovation, revolutionized the mobile industry with the introduction of the BlackBerry® solution in 1999. Today, BlackBerry products and services are used by millions of customers around the world to stay connected to the people and content that matter most throughout their day. Founded in 1984 and based in Waterloo, Ontario, RIM operates offices in North America, Europe, Asia Pacific and Latin America. RIM is listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market (NASDAQ: RIMM) and the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: RIM). For more information, visit [www.rim.com](http://www.rim.com) or [www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com).

### **About SMB Nation**

SMB Nation is a publishing and events company, targeted at the small and medium business (SMB) channel partner/reseller/consulting/VAR community. SMB Nation spreads the knowledge of SMB technology trends through its conferences, books, SMB Nation Magazine, online services, and world-wide seminars, and workshops. As an active participant in the technology community, SMB Nation has a long history of enthusiastic advocacy and evangelism. The SMB Nation tribe exceeds 45,000 followers worldwide. For more information, visit [www.smbnation.com](http://www.smbnation.com).

### **About SMBTN**

The SMB Technology Network (SMBTN) has its roots in partner groups focused on IT solutions & services for the SMB (Small Medium Business) space. Their focus includes Windows platforms including SBS (Small Business Server). In 2005 they combined a series of independent IT Professional groups in Southern California and around the U.S. into a single umbrella group, consolidated as SMBTN. Each group holds monthly meetings to discuss the latest IT business trends. In addition, the group has partnered

with Microsoft at various events, further penetrating the SMB space. The SMBTN group continues to expand into new regions, chapters and members across the U.S. For more information, visit [www.smbtn.org](http://www.smbtn.org).

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