

Southwest Fox 2015

Southwest Xbase++ 2015

October 15 – 18, 2015,

SanTan Elegante Conference & Reception Center Gilbert, AZ



VFPX.Edition("2015")

Multi-Tier Applications

From Developer
To Manager

Performance
Optimization

with Xbase++

Visual FoxPro
Reports

Working with Xbase++

Web applications
development

Alternative to
Office Automation

Thor

SQL Server
reporting services

Two

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Visual FoxPro Developers

Computer Sensors

in Business Applications



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Geek Gatherings LLC is putting on two conferences simultaneously this October in Phoenix. Attendees may attend sessions of both conferences for the price of one! The two conferences will be held in the same conference center and will share meals and exhibitor space.

Southwest Fox

The twelfth annual Southwest Fox Conference presents the latest in Microsoft Visual FoxPro development techniques and interoperability with other technologies. This highly acclaimed and popular conference is the perfect venue for VFP developers interested in learning more about VFP, further refining their software development skills, and learning what options are available for moving forward.

Southwest Fox is recognized around the world as a leading source of information and resource sharing in the Fox community. This is not only a place to learn new techniques; Southwest Fox is a great place to network with fellow developers.

Testimonials

Previous years' attendees had this to say about the conferences:

"Southwest Fox was one of the best (if not THE best) conferences I've been to! I walked away with a ton of ideas and a sense of excitement, and that hasn't happened for me at a conference in years. The speaker selection was excellent."

"The presentations were all excellent, and I learned very much about the current and future directions of the software. However what was even better was the interaction in the evenings with other developers who had achieved considerable commercial success with their Xbase++ products. The tips and ideas I picked up from them were invaluable."

See <http://www.swfox.net/testimonials.aspx> or scan the QR code for more testimonials.



Southwest Xbase++

The fourth annual Southwest Xbase++ is the only North American conference exclusively covering Alaska Software's Xbase++. This is the place to be if you want to leverage the full potential of your favorite development platform and language: Xbase++.

Meet the people behind Xbase++, get your questions answered and learn to use the great features delivered with 2.0. Of course, Southwest Xbase++ follows the tradition of Xbase++ developer conferences, so meeting your peers, finding new business opportunities, and having fun are included for free.



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Pre-Conference Sessions

An Introduction to SQL Server Reporting Services (morning session)

Presenter: Toni M. Feltman

Level: Intermediate

SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS) is the Microsoft answer to reporting tools like Crystal Reports. The really nice thing about SSRS is that a version is now included with SQL Server Express which is FREE. Free is good, right? SQL Server Reporting Services is a quick and inexpensive way for developers to create and deploy reports when using SQL Server as the database engine. It is not difficult to use and is similar to other reporting tools that may already be in your toolbox. There are benefits to having a language-agnostic reporting tool such as the ability to share reports between different applications and platforms. It also makes really good sense to have a reporting tool tightly coupled with the data used for reporting.

Desktop applications need reporting. These applications are being extended through other technologies such as the web and mobile. Even if your development environment has its own reporting engine, SQL Server Reporting Services is a great way to get query and reporting capabilities that are available on the desktop, web and mobile device all from one code base.

GemBox: An Alternative to Microsoft Office Automation (afternoon session)

Presenter: Christof Wollenhaupt

Level: All levels

GemBox.Document and GemBox.Spreadsheet are two commercial .NET libraries to programmatically create Microsoft Word documents and Microsoft Excel spreadsheets without Word or Excel having to be installed on the computer. Not only does this save your customer a lot of license fees, but it also saves us from a lot of hassle. You don't need to deal with different Office versions, incompatible add-ons, or misconfigured templates. This pre-con covers how you control the .NET libraries from Visual FoxPro.

We will cover reading and writing documents in a variety of formats including PDF and images for use in previews. We will look into various approaches to creating reports and mail-merge letters including using the built-in mail merge features, bookmarks, and FoxPro's text merge capabilities. Additionally we will cover the various features for document manipulation including creating paragraphs, tables, sections, headers and footers, shapes, pictures, text boxes, and styles. We will also see a number of limitations and possible work arounds.

For GemBox.Spreadsheet we will look into importing and exporting data in various formats. We will cover the generation of Excel spreadsheets using templates and programmatically. GemBox supports many features of Excel-like styles and formatting, formulas, comments, hyperlinks, images, header and footers, and more. There are unsupported features, as well.

Finally, we will take a look at competing libraries giving you a few alternatives with different licensing models. While we won't cover them in the same detail as GemBox, you can still apply many of the .NET interoperability aspects as well as the higher level approaches.

Southwest Fox/Southwest Xbase++

Pre-Conference Sessions

SQL Workshop (afternoon session)

Presenter: Steffen F. Pirsig

Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Learn how to use SQL in your daily work. If you are using dbf/ntx/cdx tables as your data storage, this workshop is a great starting point into becoming more productive and less error prone when dealing with xbase data files. We will use the Xbase++ Workbench as our primary working environment to introduce SQL in a step-by-step manner. After that we will go into typical navigational coding patterns and will analyze how they can be optimized and made easier using the SQL SELECT statement. Of course we will also have a look into real world SQL statements which are so complex that using navigational commands and user defined functions makes more sense there. We will learn how SQL can help us become more productive and make our code more readable, but we will also learn about the boundaries of SQL. Finally we will use the PostgreSQL dbms as our new datastorage by migrating an existing dbf/cdx application and extending it using SQL.

Xbase++ Programming for Visual FoxPro Developers (full-day session)

Presenters: Roger Donnay and Spyros Bobby Drakos

Level: All levels

Xbase++ has extended the capabilities of the language beyond what is available in Visual FoxPro. For Visual FoxPro developers who are new to Xbase++, there are new variable types and language concepts that can enhance the programmer's ability to create more powerful and more supportable applications.

The flexibility of the Xbase++ language is what makes it possible to create libraries of functions that can be used dynamically across multiple applications. The preprocessor, code blocks, ragged arrays and objects combine to give the programmer the ability to create their own language of commands and functions and all the advantages of a 4th generation language.

This session will also show how these language concepts can be employed to use 3rd party add-on products to Xbase++ that will integrate seamlessly into Xbase++ applications.

The Xbase++ language is incredibly robust and it can take years to understand most of its capabilities. However, when migrating Visual FoxPro applications, it is not necessary to know all of this. We have aided many Clipper and FoxPro developers with the migration process over the years and we have found that only a basic introduction to a few concepts is necessary to get off to a great start.

If you are a Visual FoxPro programmer then the structure of the Xbase language, the FOXCDX database and the SQL language will be very familiar. This kind of compatibility is the reason that Xbase++ is the most natural migration path for Visual FoxPro developers. The methods employed to create GUI windows will be new to you, yet there are a variety of techniques available to ease this process.

This pre-conference session will introduce the Visual FoxPro programmer to the world of Xbase++ by using methods that will help attendees become quickly productive. Attendees will receive free software and libraries to aid in developing Xbase++ applications.

Southwest Fox/Southwest Xbase++

Main Conference Sessions

👉 50 Shades of Grey: Whipping Your Application's UI into Shape

Presenter: Doug Hennig

Level: All levels

There's no excuse for creating a boring-looking VFP application. Using some of the controls available today, you can create a new, modern user interface for your forms that'll add years to the life of your applications. With a few days of effort, your apps can be as pretty as anything out there. This session looks at several new controls that allow you to freshen your user interface and wash out the grey.

👉 Can't This Application go any Faster?

Presenter: Tamar E. Granor

Level: Intermediate

What do you do when your customer says that your application is too slow? How can you figure out what's slowing things down? How can you make it faster? Optimization of a VFP application is more than just applying Rushmore correctly, though that's an important step. In this session, we'll explore techniques for measuring performance of a VFP application and look at things you can do to speed it up.

👉 Computer Sensors in Business Applications

Presenter: Christof Wollenhaupt

Level: Intermediate

Most notebooks have a variety of sensors that were uncommon when Visual FoxPro 9 was released. In this session we cover a variety of modern sensors and devices and how to access them from Visual FoxPro by using some .NET helper code. These devices include the camera to take pictures and the microphone for audio recording, the touch screen to respond to finger input and multi-touch gestures, the GPS receiver to determine the current location, the compass to obtain directions, and the accelerometer to measure device movements.

Sensors are useful in many mobile business applications. For instance, you can automatically track time and route of mobile workers. The camera takes pictures that are directly added to the VFP application when entering orders at a client site.

👉 Consuming and Creating Web Services with Visual FoxPro and .NET

Presenter: Rick Strahl

Level: Intermediate

Web Services continue to be important technology to interface Visual FoxPro with other systems. SOAP Web Services — although falling out of favor — continue to be the most popular interface for remote services to enterprise systems. Unfortunately Windows discontinued support for SOAP-based services for COM when .NET came in the early 2000's out so there aren't any still supported and valid tools to directly access Web Services from Visual FoxPro. However, you can take advantage of .NET to consume Web Services using either WCF or .NET Web Service clients and you can also create .NET Web Services that interface with Visual FoxPro via COM. In this session we'll look at different use cases for consuming and creating Web Services and demonstrate how you can leverage .NET to build to interface with Web Services effectively.



Visual FoxPro session



Xbase++ session



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Main Conference Sessions

Creating Dynamic Web Applications Without JavaScript

Presenter: Till Warweg

Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Alaska Software's WebUI is a small but capable framework which abstracts us from many of the technical details that the development of dynamic browser-based applications would normally entail. Instead of coding Ajax calls or dealing with JavaScript, the WebUI allows us to define behavior and work with remote data in a simple, declarative fashion. This session will introduce you to the WebUI and will demonstrate its usage with both Compiled Xbase++ Pages (CXP), Alaska's powerful build and execution engine for web applications, and HttpEndpoints implemented using Xbase++ WebHandlers.

Creating Mobile Applications with AngularJS and Web Connection

Presenter: Rick Strahl

Level: All levels

Mobile and rich client applications continue to be in high demand and this session describes how to build mobile applications that can run either on the Web in a Web Browser or on-device using hybrid technology like Cordova. We'll look at a small application that runs both on the Web and from a device and interacts with a Visual FoxPro based JSON service on the server using Web Connection. You'll see what's involved in building rich client-side interactivity using AngularJS and the Bootstrap CSS framework as well how to build service interfaces that can provide the data to provide to the front end application.

Creating a Plug-in Architecture for Your Applications

Presenter: Doug Hennig

Level: Intermediate

Adding support for plug-ins to your applications has a lot of benefits: users can extend or alter the functionality of the application, you can deploy new features without installing a new build, and you can create customer-specific versions of an application without endless sets of CASE statements. This session looks at how adding plug-in support can help your applications and looks at several techniques that can be used independently or together.

Developing Multi-Tier Applications with Xbase++

Presenter: Steffen F. Pirsig

Level: All levels

Application development and maintenance has become a more complex task. One of the driving forces beyond the feature set is the number of different devices an application needs to support. Devices such as workstations on site or laptops of mobile workers, smartphones and tablets, and web-applications with the browsers as the device are more commonly used today. N-Tier or multi-tier applications with their clear architecture and separation of different domains are a solid foundation to catch up with these different demands. In this session, we will apply the concepts of n-tier application design to Xbase++, see how they match with specific language features, and learn to design and write Xbase++ applications for testability, code-reuse and scalability.

Xbase++ 2.0 comes with all the necessary features to create multi-tier applications right out of the box, and in this session we will put those features together to create useful modern applications. You will get all the relevant details to adapt n-tier application concepts for your next project or to use the principles when writing new code for an existing application.



Visual FoxPro session



Xbase++ session



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Main Conference Sessions

Extending VFP Reports with XFRX

Presenter: Cathy Pountney

Level: All levels

XFRX by Egeus is a third-party tool which extends the native VFP Report capabilities. With XFRX, you can easily output your VFP reports to numerous formats such as PDF, DOC, RTF, XLS, HTML, XML, multipage TIFF, and many more. It has its own Drawing API which allows you to modify the VFP report to add graphics, shapes, new pages, and watermarks. You can swap out the native FoxPro Previewer and substitute the XFRX Previewer which supports hyperlinks, drilldowns, and has search capabilities. And best of all, it's royalty-free so you can add it to your applications without any additional costs. In this session you'll learn how to do all these things and more. Come see how you can improve the reporting experience of your users by taking advantage of the features in XFRX.

Extending Your Desktop User Interfaces with the WebUI

Presenter: Till Warweg

Level: Beginner, Intermediate

With Alaska's WebUI, desktop applications get access to a flexible HTML/CSS rendering engine for creating beautiful and dynamic UI elements. This session explains in great detail the two core technologies for using HTML and CSS in desktop applications.

The XbpHTMLStyle class allows you to enhance the appearance of your existing Xbase Parts with beautiful content easily created using HTML and CSS. With the XbpHTMLStyleClass, it is possible for the first time to create individual visual styles for your Xbase Parts without writing a single line of code. This also includes the different visual states. All of that is managed automatically for you via the styling Information in the CSS!

Creating your own forms and controls with the XbpHTMLWindow class is also discussed in this session. Reacting to events triggered by the user interacting with the visual presentation created using HTML and CSS, and synchronizing the display with the inner state of the form or control, are examples of topics that will be dealt with in this part of the session.

From Developer to Manager

Presenter: Toni M. Feltman

Level: All levels

It is no surprise that as seniority increases, the draw on experiences over abilities tends to also increase. There is a natural progression in any career to move from a full-time doer to a manager over time. When working in the technical fields, how do you best handle this progression? It is very unlikely that any one of us will go to sleep one night as a full-time coder and wake up the next morning as a manager with no programming duties. There are so many facets to management from the basic HR duties to motivating employees to work above and beyond their capabilities. It is an extremely difficult and rewarding role to fill.

This session is intended to be a fully interactive session led by the speaker but controlled by the feedback of the audience. Be sure to bring your best ideas and stories to this session.

Southwest Fox/Southwest Xbase++

Main Conference Sessions

Front-End Web Development for the Programmer: If I Can Do It, So Can You

Presenter: Phil Sherwood

Level: All levels

Almost all of us can write code. That's a given. What do we do when we need to work on the web? Usually we switch to creating static brochure-type sites. It doesn't have to be this way! Creating a dynamic eye-appealing web site is within your grasp. In this session we'll look at web design, specifically the client-side, to see how good looking sites are created. We'll look at the tools and techniques used in front-end design. We'll also explore how you can get up to speed fairly quickly by looking at the training options available.

Going OVER and Above with SQL

Presenter: Tamar E. Granor

Level: Intermediate, Advanced

The SQL 99 standard introduced the OVER keyword that lets you apply a function to a set of records. Introduced in SQL Server 2005, this capability was extended in SQL Server 2008 and again in SQL Server 2012. The functions you can apply allow you to rank records, aggregate them in a variety of ways, put data from multiple records into a single result records, and compute and use percentiles.

In this session, we'll look at the OVER operator and the many functions you can use with it. We'll look at a variety of problems that can be solved using OVER.

How do I get to "Hello World?"

Presenters: Roger Donnay and Spyros Bobby Drakos

Level: All levels

In this session, Roger Donnay and Bobby Drakos will host a joint tutorial on an alternate methodology for developing large and small applications much faster using linear programming techniques.

This 2-part series is especially targeted toward Xbase++ programmers who are coming from FoxPro or Clipper and are interested in a faster methodology for getting started with Xbase++.

Bobby will explain the issues and problems he encountered trying to understand the new paradigm of object oriented programming, event processing, UI (User Interface) design, screen management, and Xbase parts when attempting to move his application from a text-based, SDI (Single Document Interface) system written in Clipper, to a state-of-the-art MDI (Multi-Document Interface), multi-threaded, GUI application that would rival and eventually out-class his competition in the New York Taxi management industry.

Roger will explain the reasoning behind the development of this SGL (Structured GUI Language) methodology stemming from his encounters with the failed RAD (Rapid Application Development) of the 1990's. He will also cover the reasons for its failure as well as cite a legal case involving RAD in which his testimony as an expert witness led the legal team to winning the case.

Attendees of this session will receive the entire eXpress++ 2.0 package including source code. This is a free license. There are no strings attached.

Southwest Fox/Southwest Xbase++

Main Conference Sessions

I Got To "Hello World", What's Next?

Presenter: Roger Donnay and Spyros Bobby Drakos

Level: All levels

In this joint session, Roger Donnay and Bobby Drakos will present real world code examples as well as walk-throughs. The code examples will involve practical, generic re-usable techniques that can be used immediately. In addition, they will take real-time code requests from attendees.

Reading a book about programming techniques usually falls short trying to acclimate a developer to a new language. However, giving the developer tailor-made code examples concerning their own product induces a greater insight into understanding the language. This session also introduces attendees to xDot, an xBase++ interpreter and database manager.

Internet Technologies in Xbase++ 2.0

Presenter: Roger Donnay

Level: All levels

Xbase++ 2.0 has greatly expanded the product's internet capabilities and has introduced some exciting new technologies as well as improving on older technologies. This session will introduce users to techniques which make it easier than ever to open your existing application data and reports to users via the web.

Compiled Xbase++ Pages (CXP) is a build and execution infrastructure that allows programmers to create powerful dynamic web sites. Xbase++ 2.0 uses a new Socket layer, WebHandler() and HttpEndPoint() classes to provide the functionality for the creation of web servers and HTTP connections.

Pull up Your (Web)Sock(et)s

Presenter: Peter Alderliesten

Level: Intermediate

Last year, with Xbase++ 2.0 just out, I did a session on websockets. The possibility to keep developing Xbase++ applications, even Xbase++ front ends, that access the data over the internet using a full duplex channel was intriguing. It still is.

In that session, I showed a sample application that used the websocket classes and demonstrated the ease of using them. Since then, I started developing a prototype application as preparation for converting my live products to use websockets, upgrading my application to use a multi-tier architecture along the way. This session will be about the prototype and lessons learned.

If you weren't there last year, no problem. There were many things to learn and unlearn; we'll give it a fresh start.



Visual FoxPro session



Xbase++ session



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Main Conference Sessions

The Art of the Screen Interface

Presenter: Spyros Bobby Drakos

Level: All levels

Xbase++ and Visual FoxPro are both powerful languages. They afford developers enough latitude to write complex and visually stimulating screen designs that are most part limited only by their imagination. However, the reasoning behind a complex screen design should not stem from our ability to creatively put objects together or mash color schemes, but rather from the correct usage of data placement within task oriented controls that guide logic flow to an intended goal. So understanding the relationships between controls and their interactivity with the user is well worth exploring. In addition, understanding the relationships between controls and the data they present also bears inspection.

Lastly, it should be said that the screen interface is an integral part of the user interface; some will argue that it is one and the same. However, there are times when a screen design will not follow the guidelines of UI design. How far should you stretch or ignore UI design guidelines is what we will cover in this session through real world examples of control design, task orientation, data presentation, and UI personalization.

The New Rules of Marketing and Sales

Presenter: Phil Sherwood

Level: All levels

What does it take to market and sell your software? Do the old methods still work? Yes...and, NO! The landscape has changed in marketing and sales. You used to be the gate-keeper of the information; now the potential customer is in charge. You used to have to sell your application to a potential client; now they usually know what they want when they contact you. We'll look at what you need to be doing to attract potential customers and how to provide them with useful information that tilts the discussion in your favor.

The Xbase++ Postman

Presenter: Peter Alderliesten

Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Part of the Xbase++ 2.0 installation are classes for sending and receiving mail. They weren't new, because they had already been present in the Asinet library. They still are, but the Asinet library is now part of the default installation of the professional subscription. The good news is that with Xbase++ 2.0, these classes support SSL without any special coding, tricks or installation of additional tools.

It's time to check out the library and see if there's (still) a need for a third party tool. Besides that, emailing doesn't need to be just about mailing and reading fancy text ...

Southwest Fox/Southwest Xbase++

Main Conference Sessions

The Xbase++ Workbench: Your Best Friend!

Presenter: Andreas Herdt

Level: Beginner, Intermediate

The Xbase++ Workbench is the central place from which all aspects of the software development cycle with Xbase++ are managed. This session gives an overview of the central elements of the Workbench including project management, the source code editor, and the debugger. Hands-on examples will introduce you to the basic aspects of application development with the Workbench, including loading and compiling your project, getting help, and debugging your executable.

The second part of the session focuses on advanced features for increasing your daily productivity and for tailoring the Workbench to your individual workflow. Here, we'll see how external tools such as version control systems like CVS or Subversion can be integrated into the Workbench so they can be used directly from within your development environment. Topics such as using macros, templates and the Intellisense and XmlDoc features will also be discussed in this part of the session.

Tips & Tools for Developers

Presenter: Andreas Herdt

Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Having information about your application's current state and that of the environment it runs in often determines success or failure. Which DLLs are being loaded from where into your application's process? Which drives are currently plugged into the computer? The answers to questions such as these often are the key to analyzing application startup, stability and performance.

In this session, we'll take a close look at third-party performance tools such as the Process Monitor and the Dependency Walker which provide you with a host of information about your application and the resources it uses. In addition, the Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) is also introduced as a technology for getting detailed information from the operating system's own internal databases.

VFP Reports: A Potpourri of Cool Ideas

Presenter: Cathy Pountney

Level: All levels

Most people already know I love VFP Reports and I enjoy pushing them to extremes. In this session, I'll show you some of the concepts I've used to solve sticky reporting situations. For example, customers are always asking us to recreate a report that looks just like their pre-printed form. That's fine ... until the form contains a small area in which you have to print the contents of a memo field. What do you do when the text won't fit? Just cut it off? Nope! I'll show you two solutions to this problem. The first solution shrinks the font until the text fits. The second solution sends the overflow text to a supplemental page at the end of the report. Or have you ever faced this dilemma? The customer wants to print the first copy of the report in blue, the second in red, and the third in green. But wait, we only want the line work and captions in color. All the data has to print in black. Do you create 3 copies of the report? Nope! I'll show you a creative solution to this problem. Come to this session and learn some cool ideas to overcome a variety of sticky reporting situations.

Southwest Fox/Southwest Xbase++

Main Conference Sessions

👉 VFPX.Edition("2015")

Presenter: Rick Schummer

Level: All levels

VFPX, one of many active open source projects hosted on CodePlex, has some terrific tools to enhance the Visual FoxPro Interactive Development Environment (IDE) and components to impress your customers in the applications you write for them. This session covers some of the updates and additions to VFPX in 2015.

We are going to cover as many of these tools as time allows. We'll:

- Explore the Data Explorer enhancements.
- Determine how FoxBin2PRG fits in the binary source code flattening space.
- Show how to spruce up application user interfaces with the ThemedTitleBars.
- Get a quick overview of changes to the mighty Thor!
- Check out advances in the Thor Repository.
- ...and more as the year progresses.

📅 Xbase++ Roadmap: What's Next!

Presenter: Steffen F. Pirsig

Level: All levels

In this session we will talk about our vision for the years to come in terms of features and technologies we plan to incorporate into future Xbase++ updates/releases. We will have a look at industry trends as well as the technical/physical constraints which largely define our industry's direction and ability to innovate. Of course you will also learn where Alaska Software thinks Xbase++ is not good enough or has its deficiencies. In short, if you are an Xbase++ developer or are considering a move to Xbase++ from other language, this session is your "75 minutes of orientation".

👉 Your Developer Life Improved By Thor

Presenter: Rick Schummer

Level: All levels

It has been nearly a decade since Microsoft has made any improvements to the Visual FoxPro Interactive Development Environment (IDE). The release of Visual FoxPro 9 included some critical extensibility with the addition of Property Editors and MenuHits. Additionally, we have the ability to create and use Builders and extend IntelliSense to meet our needs. Over the past couple of years I have been optimizing my IDE experience to save time via updates and upgrades to IntelliSense, but the most bang for my buck in this regard has been the innovations provided by Thor.

In this session I show a number of things that Thor provides to extend and improve the Visual FoxPro IDE. Not only will you see some of the great things the Fox Community has contributed to the Thor Repository (a treasure trove of cool functionality and features), but I expose you to some of the plumbing, explain how these tools work, and show you how to create your own tools with the hope of inspiring you to write some of your own tools to share with the community.

Southwest Fox/Southwest Xbase++

Speakers



Peter Alderliesten

Peter Alderliesten is owner of Solvention bv, a software development company. He comes from a Clipper background and started developing in Xbase++ in 1999. He develops vertical applications and is advising clients on conversions from Clipper and xHarbour to Xbase++. He was in charge of product development at Emergo Systems bv for over 20 years. The company became a market leader in HRD software targeting sheltered workshops, with installations of 100+ concurrent users.

Peter started speaking on Xbase++ subjects for the Software Developers Group in the Netherlands and later for the Xbase++ eXchange Platform. The XXP is the Dutch Xbase++ user group of which he was a founding member. He currently holds the position of chairman of the Xbase++ user group.



Roger Donnay

Roger Donnay is the owner of Donnay Software Designs, a Boise, Idaho firm specializing in programming and consulting in the Xbase++ language. Roger started using xBase languages in 1982 with dBASE II. His product, dCLIP, was voted "Best Clipper Add-on" by readers of Database Advisor magazine. Roger has 12 years of experience with Xbase++ and developed the product eXpress++, a library designed specifically for Clipper-developers to leverage their knowledge of xBase dialects in a way that eases the transition from text-based to GUI. Xbase++/eXpress++ applications are now in use by thousands of end-users in the USA and Europe. Roger has been speaking at Clipper and Xbase++ Developer Conferences around the world since 1988.



Spyros Bobby Drakos

Spyros Bobby Drakos started programming on an IBM 360/370 Mainframe while in college during which time he took various jobs performing and playing in bands to aid tuition. After graduating with a B.S. in Management Information Systems and a B.S. in pre-medicine from Pace University, he bought an IBM PC while working in one of New York City's first personal computer stores. After a short stint teaching system design case studies at the University, he landed a job in the field of medical diagnostics followed by a job working on projects for the US Department of Defense and consulting for Coopers and Lybrand. From there he went out on his own to design software for video rental, dental laboratory and building management companies.

Today he owns Business Development Micro Systems and consults for the Taxi Limousine Industry of New York City. He currently maintains software for law firms, insurance companies, taxi meter shops and medallion leasing companies, dispatch garages as well as Transportation companies in Puerto Rico.



Toni M. Feltman

Toni Feltman, a Microsoft Certified Professional, is an experienced software developer, project manager, instructor and speaker. Currently Toni serves as the Application Development Manager for CoreLogis, LLC, a Westerville, OH company that specializes in Inventory and Asset management software for local to international government entities. She is also Vice President and a Partner at F1 Technologies and is still an integral part of the company. During her 15 years at F1 Technologies, she has served as both a developer and project manager on numerous projects and as Product Manager for the highly successful FoxExpress product line.

Toni is a well known contributor to the Visual FoxPro development community. She has spoken at most major FoxPro conferences in North America and Europe over the last several years. Although Toni has expertise in a number of areas, she generally focuses her presentations on Team Development, XML, n-Tier Development and new features in Visual FoxPro. In 2011, Toni was honored by the FoxPro community with a lifetime achievement award in recognition of her contributions to the community throughout her career.



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Speakers



Tamar E. Granor

Tamar E. Granor, Ph.D., is the owner of Tomorrow's Solutions, LLC. She has developed and enhanced numerous Visual FoxPro applications for businesses and other organizations.

Tamar is author or co-author of more than a dozen books including the award winning *Hacker's Guide to Visual FoxPro* and *Microsoft Office Automation with Visual FoxPro*. Her most recent books are *VFPX: Open Source Treasure for the VFP Developer* and *Making Sense of Sedna and SP2*.

Tamar served as Editor of *FoxPro Advisor* magazine from 1994 to 2000 and was Technical Editor from 2000 to 2008. She served as co-author of the popular Advisor Answers column from 1993 to 2008. She has also written for *FoxTalk* and *CoDe*; she currently writes for [FoxRockX](http://www.foxrockx.com).

Tamar is one of the organizers of the annual Southwest Fox conference and founder of the [Philadelphia Visual FoxPro User Group](http://www.philadelphiavisualfoxpro.org). In 2007, she received the Visual FoxPro Community Lifetime Achievement Award. She received Microsoft Support's Most Valuable Professional award annually from the program's inception in 1993 through 2010. Tamar speaks frequently about Visual FoxPro at conferences and user groups in North America and Europe.

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Doug Hennig

Doug Hennig is a partner with Stonefield Software Inc. He is the author of the award-winning Stonefield Database Toolkit (SDT); the award-winning Stonefield Query; the MemberData Editor, Anchor Editor, and CursorAdapter and DataEnvironment builders that come with Microsoft Visual FoxPro; and the My namespace and updated Upsizing Wizard in Sedna.

Doug is co-author of *VFPX: Open Source Treasure for the VFP Developer*, *Making Sense of Sedna and SP2*, *Visual FoxPro Best Practices For The Next Ten Years*, the *What's New in Visual FoxPro* series, and *The Hacker's Guide to Visual FoxPro 7.0*. He was the technical editor of *The Hacker's Guide to Visual FoxPro 6.0* and *The Fundamentals*. These books are from Hentzenwerke Publishing (<http://www.hentzenwerke.com>) and dFPUG. Doug wrote over 100 articles in 10 years for *FoxTalk* and has written numerous articles in *FoxPro Advisor*, *Advisor Guide to Visual FoxPro*, and *CoDe*. He currently writes for *FoxRockX* (<http://www.foxrockx.com>).

Doug spoke at every Microsoft FoxPro Developers Conference (DevCon) starting in 1997 and at user groups and developer conferences all over the world. He is one of the organizers of the annual Southwest Fox and Southwest Xbase++ conferences (<http://www.swfox.net>). He is one of the administrators for the VFPX VFP community extensions Web site (<http://vfp.codeplex.com>). He was a Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP) from 1996 through 2011. Doug was awarded the 2006 FoxPro Community Lifetime Achievement Award (<http://tinyurl.com/6po3pwv>).



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Speakers



Andreas Herdt

Andreas Herdt was born in 1970 and graduated from his academic high school in 1990. His first contact with computer hardware was a Commodore C64 at the age of 15. However, the first contact with software was on an Apple IIe in a training course of information science. A turtle was to be moved in an area strewn with obstacles. After he completed his academic high school diploma, Andreas started as trainee for Air Traffic Control in Frankfurt, Germany. In 1995 he accommodated his passion for hardware and software. He studied Computer Science from the Information Science Polytechnic at Darmstadt where he focused on color electronic page setting and simulation technology. Andreas Herdt graduated in 2000 with a Master's degree. His thesis was about quality assurance for GUI applications. An internship brought him to Alaska Software where he got in touch with the Web Application Adaptor (WAA). Since then he constantly developed his appetite for more, leading finally him to work for Alaska Software.

Today Andreas benefits from the experiences and passion—among other areas—in improving the Xbase++ Runtime environment. He is involved in research on multi-core scalability and transactional memory.



Steffen F. Pirsig

Steffen F. Pirsig holds the position as Chief Architect since having started out with the first design and implementation of Xbase++ in Oct. 1994. He also is a co-founder of Alaska Software and President of Alaska Software, Inc.

As a frequent speaker at various developer conferences as well as at universities, Steffen manages to combine his passion for database management systems, distributed computing and of course Xbase++, with his love for engaging into shop talks and in-depth discussions while presenting his ideas and visions to an interested audience.

Steffen enjoys good wines, hiking, bicycling and music of independent labels. He also likes to fly rc-planes in his spare time.



Cathy Pountney

Cathy Pountney has been developing software for over three decades and is proud to have earned the Visual FoxPro Community Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. She is equally proud to have received the Microsoft Visual FoxPro MVP Award eight years in a row (until Microsoft retired the program). Cathy has also had the dubious honor of working as a subcontractor onsite in Redmond with the Microsoft Fox Team in 2001. Cathy has written articles for various Fox magazines as well as written books. She authored *"The Visual FoxPro Report Writer: Pushing it to the Limit and Beyond"* and co-authored *"Visual FoxPro Best Practices for the Next Ten Years"* and *"Making the Most of Sedna and SP2"*. She has spoken at numerous conferences including GLGDW, Essential Fox, Advisor DevCon, DevTeach, German DevCon, and of course, her favorite, Southwest Fox. In 2014, Cathy moved to North Carolina and now works for SunGard Public Sector. She works on the OneSolution software for the public safety and justice market (police, jails, etc.) which is used by numerous agencies across the U.S. And before you ask, no, she can't expunge that speeding ticket for you (well, technically she can, but she won't!)

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Speakers



Rick Schummer

Rick Schummer is the president and lead geek at White Light Computing, Inc., headquartered in southeast Michigan, USA where the team guides the customer's Information Technology investment toward success. He enjoys working with top-notch developers, thrives on the mode of continuous learning, has a passion for developing software using best practices, strives to surpass customer expectations, and shares his knowledge with others whenever he can. After hours you might find him creating developer tools that improve developer productivity, or writing articles for his favorite technology journals and his blog.

Rick is a co-author of *VFPX: Open Source Treasure for the VFP Developer*, *Making Sense of Sedna and SP2*, *Visual FoxPro Best Practices for the Next Ten Years*, *What's New In Nine: Visual FoxPro's Latest Hits*, *Deploying Visual FoxPro Solutions*, *MegaFox: 1002 Things You Wanted To Know About Extending Visual FoxPro*, and *1001 Things You Always Wanted to Know About Visual FoxPro*. He is a regular presenter at user groups across North America and is founding member and Secretary of the Detroit Area Fox User Group (DAFUG). Rick is the lead organizer of the Southwest Fox Conference, and is a regular presenter at other conferences in North America, Europe, and Australia. He is an administrator of VFPX, and a Microsoft Visual FoxPro MVP from 2002 to 2011. Rick was awarded the FoxPro Lifetime Achievement Award in October 2010.

You can contact Rick via email at raschummer@whitelightcomputing.com or via his company Web site: [White Light Computing, Inc.](http://WhiteLightComputing.com). Read more of his thoughts on Visual FoxPro and software development in his blog: [Shedding Some Light](http://SheddingSomeLight.com).



Phil Sherwood

Phil Sherwood is the president of SherWare, Inc., a software company founded in 1994, with offices in Wooster, Ohio and Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Since graduating with a BS degree in computer science 32 years ago, he's gone from IBM mainframe computers to today's laptops and tablets. He started SherWare, Inc. 21 years ago and develops and markets oil & gas accounting and investing software.

Today SherWare, Inc. provides accounting software to over 600 oil & gas operating companies around the U.S. and Canada. SherWare can be found on the web at www.sherware.com and www.wellprofits.com.

When Phil is not working he's playing. He enjoys boating, rock climbing, paddle boarding and playing with his 4 grandkids. Phone: 330.262.0200 Email: phil@sherware.com



Rick Strahl

Rick Strahl is the Big Kahuna at West Wind Technologies on Maui, Hawaii. The company specializes in Web and distributed application development, training and tools with focus on ASP.NET, .NET and Visual FoxPro. Among the tools created and sold by Rick's company are West Wind Web Connection, West Wind Internet Client Tools, West Wind WebSurge, West Wind Html Help Builder and Web Monitor. Rick has been working with Microsoft technology close to 25 years, is an ASP.NET MVP and Insider, a frequent contributor to magazines and books and speaks frequently at professional developer conferences all over the world. For more information please visit: www.west-wind.com, contact Rick at rstrahl@west-wind.com or check out his WebLog at weblog.west-wind.com.



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Speakers



Till Warweg

Till graduated with a Master's degree in Computer Science from the Information Science Polytechnic in Frankfurt/Main.

In 1997, Till joined Alaska Software straight from college. His primary project was the development of Xbase++ for the Windows platform. Soon thereafter, he assumed responsibilities in maintaining and enhancing Xbase++'s user interface functionalities. His special interest, and maybe therefore his strong suit, are the Graphics Engine and the component library built into Xbase++ (Xbase Parts). Till is also involved in various other areas of product development at Alaska Software. For example, he is a key member of the "PolarFox" project team.

Till is a frequent speaker at various developer conferences and other events surrounding Xbase++, both in Europe and in the US. Apart from his interest in computing, Till enjoys riding his motorcycle, exercising, and reading a good book.



Christof Wollenhaupt

Christof Wollenhaupt, head of Foxpert, offers FoxPro and .NET development and consulting services to customers who benefit from his nearly 20 years of experience. Christof is a regular speaker at conferences and user groups around the world, organizes the Hamburger Stammtisch für Microsoft Datenbankentwickler (Hamburg user group for Microsoft database developers), has written for various magazines including a regular column in FoxPro Advisor for more than 10 years, and was a Visual FoxPro MVP from 1997 to 2010.



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