

TeraTech News

Tools for programmers

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July/August 1999

This month we cover:

- CF conference report
- Web Site Garage
- Printing Road Work
- Riddle for the information age
- Quote of the month

ColdFusion User Conference 1999



On far right, Michael Smith, President of TeraTech speaks to crowd.

On June 26, 1999 over 500 people attended the first ColdFusion User Conference in Bethesda, Maryland. It was held in the Masur Auditorium at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Both Beginner and Advanced web site developers spent the day listening to experts and industry gurus share ColdFusion development techniques, as well as networking with each other. For the benefit of developers that were



TeraTech staff, Lucy Mwinamo and Judy Schramm happily sign-in attendees.

not able to attend, there are PowerPoint presentations from the conference that have been posted at the conference web site at: <http://www.teratech.com/cfconf/> .

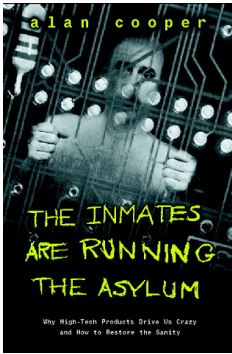
Web Site Garage Site

<http://websitgarage.netscape.com/> Web Site Garage can help you improve your web site by using some of the tools which are displayed at Web site garage such examples such as the hitometer, a traffic analysis tool that tracks visitors to your site. It tells you which Web page or search engine visitors came from to get to your site and, if they used a search engine, which keywords they used to get there. Also it tracks how many people visit and when. Or a mailing list program that will make direct e-mail marketers very interested in it and a useful tune-up feature to get your site running on cylinders. For more information contact the above e-mail address.

Helpful Tip For Printing Road Work

If you travel frequently, the time you spend at the office is of prime value. You might not find the time or you might be too frazzled to remember to print documents you created on the road. Let Win95 print the job and save it to your hard disk. Click on Start/Settings/Printers. This will open the Printers folder. Choose the printer you use when you're in the office, then click on File/Work Offline. So, the next time you're in the office connect to the network. Win95 will prompt you to print your work.

The Inmates Are Running the Asylum



(Riddle For The Information Age)

by: Alan Cooper

What Do You Get When You Cross a Computer with an Airplane?
In December 1995, American Airlines Flight 965 departed from Miami

on a regularly scheduled trip to Cali, Columbia. On the landing approach, the pilot of the 757 needed to select the next radio navigation fix, named "ROZO." He entered an "R" into his navigation computer. The computer returned a list of nearby navigation fixes starting with "R" and the pilot selected the first of these, whose latitude and longitude appeared to be correct. Unfortunately, instead of "ROZO," the pilot selected "ROMEO," 132 miles to the northeast. The jet was southbound, descending into a valley that runs north-south, and any lateral deviation was dangerous. Following indications on the flight computer, the pilots began an easterly turn and slammed into a granite peak at 10,000 feet. One hundred and fifty two passengers and all eight crewmembers aboard perished. Four passengers survived with serious injuries. The National Transportation Safety Board investigated, and as usual declared the problem human error. The navigational aid the pilots were

following was valid but not for the landing procedure at Cali. In the literal definition of the phrase, this was indeed human error, because the pilot selected the wrong fix. However, in the larger picture, it wasn't the pilot's fault at all. The front panel of the airplane's navigation computer showed the currently selected navigation fix and a course deviation indicator. When the plane is on course, the needle is centered, but the needle gives no indication whatsoever about the correctness of the selected radio beacon. The gauge looks pretty much the same just before landing as it does just before crashing. The computer told the pilot he was tracking precisely to the beacon he had selected. Unfortunately, it neglected to tell him the beacon he selected was a fatal choice.

Communications can be precise and exacting while still being tragically wrong. This happens all too frequently when we communicate with computers, and computers are invading every aspect of our modern lives. From the planes we fly to just about every consumer product and service, computers are ubiquitous, and so is their characteristically poor way of communicating and behaving.

Quote of the Month

" The secret of life isn't what happens to you, but what you do with what happens to you."

-Norman Vincent Peale

TERATECH CUSTOM PROGRAMMING

- ◆ Visual Basic, Quick Basic, C/CC++, ASM
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