



# TERATECH NEWS

## Tools for Programmers

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Caitlin Mara, Editor

November 2000

### This month we cover:

- Our Move
- CF\_Scale
- CF\_Underground
- Allaire's DevCon

### TERATECH IS MOVING

TeraTech will be relocating the weekend of November 30th. After December 5, 2000, our new contact information will be:

**Address:** 12221 Parklawn Drive, Suite 200  
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**Phone:** 301-881-1440

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**Email:** (same) [info@teratech.com](mailto:info@teratech.com)

**Web:** (same) <http://www.teratech.com>

**BBS:** No BBS for now.

#### Tech Support:

**Email:** (same) [support@teratech.com](mailto:support@teratech.com)

**Web:** (same)

<http://www.teratech.com/product/SupportRequest.cfm>

**Phone:** 301-881-1440, (800)-447-9120

**NOTE:** Our websites may be interrupted for that weekend. Downloads may be slow for about two or three weeks. We apologize for the inconvenience.



A view of the crowd at CF\_Scale (Dave and Buster's)

### CF\_Scale

Our Scalability conference took place Saturday, November 4, 2000 at Dave and Buster's in Bethesda, MD. Speakers included Doug Nottage, Robi Sen, Jeff Tapper, Matt Liotta, Ben Elmore, and Patrick Brown,

as well as a well-stocked experts panel. The event took place from 11am until 10pm.

The subject of the talks included "Scaling Basics," by Doug Nottage, "Scaling Tips and Tricks," also given by Doug Nottage, "Caching Strategies" by Jeff Tapper, "Scalable, Extensible ColdFusion Application Architecture" by Matt Liotta, and "Application Data Caching," by Robi Sen.

[http://www.cfconf.org/cf\\_scale/](http://www.cfconf.org/cf_scale/)

### CF\_Underground

That same weekend we also had our CF\_Underground conference. It was held at Mr. Henry's in Adams Morgan, from 11am-6pm, and included many presentations as well as an expert's panel. Topics included were Michael Smith's, "Why CF is So Successful," Michael Dinowitz thoughts on "How we can become better programmers," "How we can stop the programmer shortage" by Hal Helms. "Enterprise Messaging with XML and CF" by Robi Sen, and Leon Chalnick with "Where are we going: User Group Survey." This full-day event at Mr. Henry's was jointly sponsored by TeraTech, Fusion Authority and CFTipsPlus. (Other sponsors included Granularity.com, LogViewer, SecretAgents.com and MarketMatrix.)

Along with the talks and expert panel, we had a CF\_Brain Trust, in which groups of people were given one question (ten in all) about the ColdFusion community and then all the answers the groups came up with were shared with the whole group.

Ten questions about ColdFusion development and Allaire's relationship with its developers were posed to ten different focus groups of 4-6 attendees, who then reported their suggestions and recommendations back to the general assembly. The general consensus will be reported back to Allaire. These questions ranged from "What additional services can Allaire offer its developers to help them and their customers?" and "What should Allaire be doing about security holes in CF?" to broader issues, such as "What can be done to address the shortage of CF programmers?" as well as "What direction will web development take next and what skills will we need to take us there?" The answers the focus groups came up with were well

thought out, given the limited time frame, and generated some very useful debate.

Douglas Smith, of TeraTech, Inc, liked the demo that Adam Churvis gave on Commerceblocks' new product, DatabaseBlocks 2. Some of the features of the new version are: the ability to re-generate specified pages, not all the project, easier interface, it generates CF Source code that is easier to read and understand, so you can customize it easier. For more information, including speaker bios, as well as the question and answer portion of the Brain Trust go to: [http://www.cfconf.org/cf\\_underground/](http://www.cfconf.org/cf_underground/)

The final event of a very long, stimulating day was a presentation by Judith Dinowitz, who gave a rundown on the many new CF books that have recently or will soon come out, introducing those authors who were present and allowing them a few words about their work. Many of those books had been on display throughout the event and were raffled off.

In fact, the very latest book, hot of the presses, was launched at CF\_Underground: Fusebox: Methodology and Techniques, ColdFusion® Edition. This is Fusion Authority's first print project, and everyone involved in its production was there to enjoy the fun. Principal authors Steve Nelson and Craig Girard were there with bells on. Hal Helms, who provided the Foreword and a wonderful appendix on Fusedocs, addressed the Fusebox concept in his talk. Nat Papovich, technical editor and contributor on many levels, hardly stopped grinning the whole day. Judith and Michael, our publishers, were almost as proud of the production as they are of their soon-to-arrive third child.



The tight squeeze at Mr. Henry's (CF\_Underground)

## DevCon

The Allaire Developer Conference 2000 was held November 5 - 8, 2000 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. Here's an overview of the conference highlights:

- In-depth technical workshops on Web application development and deployment topics.

- Product demonstrations and sneak previews of new Allaire technologies.
- Hands-on technology labs staffed by Allaire experts.
- A partner solutions exhibit area featuring key complementary technologies.
- ColdFusion Developer Certification Testing Center.
- The conference also provided opportunities to learn directly from industry experts:
- Jeremy Allaire spoke on industry trends and Allaire's direction.
- Dialog with the Allaire Engineering and Product Management teams.
- Learn best practices from the Allaire Technical and Training staff and Team Allaire members.
- Attend networking events to meet your colleagues and exchange information.

Four of us from TeraTech went to DevCon and came up with the most useful information that we got from the conference. Some of these were:

- Learning more about how to use the inactive debugger in studio.
- Basic XML: terminology, how to use. Using CF with Microsoft technologies (ActiveX, COM, etc.).
- Use of COM from CF, writing COM in Windows Script language and VB and MS Office automation. Project management ideas - client relations and expectations, requirements analysis etc.
- Importance of a programming methodology (it really does not matter what it is, as long as it's consistent).
- As well as much more we couldn't fit here!

As you can see we all had a lot of fun, as well as learning a whole lot. For more info visit either our site: <http://www.cfconf.org/devcon2000/> or Allaire's site: <http://www.allaire.com/conferences/>

## MD ColdFusion Users Group

We host the MDCFUG meeting every second Tuesday of the month. For more information on past meetings and next meetings topics visit:

<http://www.cfug-md.org/>

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