



TERATECH NEWS

Tools for Programmers

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This month we cover:

- CF101
- CF_Underground
- Fusebox Fun 2000
- CF Coding Style Guide

CF101-CF101 was held on Saturday September 9, 2000 in Lipsett Auditorium, NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. The main coordinators of this free class for beginners in CF were TeraTech, Charlie Arehart, and Allaire.

Charlie Arehart presented Just the Basics. As President of SysteManage, Charlie teaches Fast Track to ColdFusion and Advanced ColdFusion courses. He is a frequent contributor to the ColdFusion Journal and ColdFusion Advisor Magazine as well as a regular speaker at ColdFusion User Groups throughout the country.



Michael Smith and Charlie Arehart at CF101 on September 9, 2000.

This special meeting was the direct result of the success of the Maryland CFUG, CPCUG and TeraTech's recently hosted CFUN-2K ColdFusion event. The surveys from these events indicated that there was a group of people who attended to check out the excitement about ColdFusion but were interested in hearing more basic information. Included in the agenda for CF101 were the following: What is a ColdFusion User Group?, Introduction to ColdFusion, Samples of sites currently using ColdFusion, When to/when not to use ColdFusion, Basic coding samples, How ColdFusion interacts with databases, and a Q&A Session. For more photos and quotes: <http://www.cfconf.org/cf101.cfm>



Folks hard at learning, at CF101 in the Lipsett Auditorium, NIH.

CF_Underground-Scheduled for Sunday November 5th, 2000

The three CF community leaders announced today a mini-event, called the CF_Underground, to be run the day before the Allaire Conference in November. Games, CF events and fun networking will be the focus of this 4-hour extravaganza, to run from 11am - 3pm on Sunday, November 5. Here is the tentative schedule of events:

- **Michael Smith** on "Why CF is so successful"
- CF Charades: Two teams act out a CF tags in mime. Funny and educational too.
- **Michael Dinowitz** on "How we can become better CF programmers"
- **CF expert's panel** - answer your CF questions.
- **Hal Helms** on "How to solve the CF programmer shortage"
- **CF Brain Trust** -- where you help answer important CF questions of the day. We will pose 3 or 4 questions, split the audience into groups to answer these questions. Groups split up, and come up with answers. Then they come back and we see what they came up with. It will be lots of fun

"The idea is to get together as a community, but most of all, to have fun," said Judith Dinowitz, editor of Fusion Authority. "It's like a big, warmup party

before the bigger one. Like the pre-game show at the NFL Superbowl." She promises that this "break-the-ice" event will have no serious "break your head" ColdFusion lectures, but that people will find themselves learning something about the language through events like the CF game show that is being planned for the Underground.

Fusebox Fun 2000

Saturday September 16, 2000 marked the date of the first Fusebox conference-ever! Held in Charlottesville, VA at the Cavalier Inn, and hosted by Steve Nelson of SecretAgents.com and TeraTech, the conference was a great success. The list of speakers included Steve Nelson who gave several presentations, Michael Smith who talked about why Fusebox is great, Fred Sanders with an introduction to Fusebox, Hal Helms discussing FuseDocs, Nat Popovich talking about Fusebox and frames, and Gabe Roffman talking about scaling a ColdFusion application. About 130 people attended the conference altogether.

After the conference, Steve Nelson held a gathering at Awful Arthur's, a bar and restaurant in historic Charlottesville. Besides enjoying food and drinks, people could play darts, pool, foosball, or if they preferred, get a chance to meet new people and discuss the conference. For photos and info: http://www.cfconf.org/fusebox_fun.cfm

Here's what some people had to say about the Fusebox Conference:

"This has been one of the best seminars I've been to in a long time. Thanks"- Cam Wilson

"I learned more at the Fusebox conference than I have in the past 6 months of coding on my own." - Kevin Bridges



Hal Helms, one of the most dynamic speakers at the conference

CF Coding Style Guide

At the Maryland Cold Fusion Users Group meeting on September 12, 2000, a group discussion was



Douglas Smith and Steve Nelson in Charlottesville at the Fusebox Conference

held on important style implementations. The idea was how to reduce the number of bugs and to make code maintenance easier. A side-benefit is that in programming teams the code is faster understood by new coders. A lot of the ideas are to do with making the code look a certain way so that if there is an error it will stand out from the clean pattern of "correct" code. Here is a small summary of what's in the guide Please email us if you have any more of your own.

- **Indentation-** Use indentation to make your code easier to read.
- **Codesweeper-** This feature is very useful because it uses standards settings to allow you to homogenize all of your code.
- **Commenting-** Use commenting to make it easier to understand what you've done at a later time
- **Variable Naming-** Name your variables consistently with capitalization or lower case letters.
- **File Naming-** Name your files descriptively.
- **Scope all of your files**
- **Use as few # signs as possible**
- **Keep your pages of code short**
- **Keep your code simple**

For a full version of the guide go to:

http://www.cfugmd.org/articles/mdcfug_styleguide.cfm

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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