



# TERATECH NEWS

## Tools for Programmers

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This month we cover:

- CFUnderground II
- CF Form Field Tips
- Access Tips-Auto Number
- Regular and Clustered Indexes
- MDCFUG New Location

### CFUnderground II

CFUnderground II was held Saturday, April 7, 2001 at the Backstreets Café in Rockville, MD. Sponsored by TeraTech, Inc and the MDCFUG, the conference was a fun way to learn new CF tips while having fun and socializing in a relaxed environment.

The speakers included: **Charlie Arehart**, who talked about Comparing CF with JSP as well as a presentation about Hidden Gems in CF, **Shlomy Gantz** who gave a presentation about CF project Management Shiatsu, **Steve Drucker** on CF Futures, **Jeff Peters** on Mind Mapping Your CF Journeys, and **Michael Smith** with a CF Debugging Rap Session.

Here is what some attendees had to say about the CFUnderground II conference:

*"Enjoyed all the talks-learned quite a bit"*-Chitra Mohla, NIH/NCI

*"I learned things today that will help me do a project that has been defeating me until today."*  
Oriole Saah, The National Restaurant Assn.

We would like all the speakers for sharing their time and knowledge, as well as everyone who helped to make the conference run smoothly.

For more information go to:  
[http://www.cfconf.org/cf\\_underground2/](http://www.cfconf.org/cf_underground2/)



The crowd at CFUnderground II held on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at Backstreets Café.

### Three CF form field tips

#### 1. Don't Use Primary Keys as FORM Fields

One thing you don't want to do is use a database primary key in a form field. Primary keys should never be modified by the user: They are only for the system and programmer's use. Besides, most databases won't allow updates to a primary key once it's established. Therefore, the user has no business trying to change them. If you need to display a primary key to the user, display it as you would a regular variable.

#### 2. FORM Field Naming Convention

You may find your programming simpler and faster if you name your form fields the same as your database fields. ColdFusion allows you to use the same name as long as you refer to the form variable as FORM.Variable. Naming your form fields in this manner will help ensure you get the right data into the right table fields.

#### 3. Use Maxlength to get the Most from FORM Fields

For aesthetics, you'll want to size your form fields to fit the form, but you may also want to use MaxLength to give the user as much space as she needs for data entry. MaxLength is an attribute of the <input> tag that expands your form field beyond the displayed width. This means that even though you only have space to display the first 20 characters of a field, you can still allow your user to enter as many characters as necessary. Here's an example:

```
<input type="text" name="name" size="20"
maxlength="30">
```

PS This last one is very important for SQL Server where data that is too long will give you a run time error on INSERT!!

### **Difference Between Regular and Clustered Indexes in SQL or Oracle**

Regular index - the data file stays in the order the records were entered. The index file is in the sorted order and has pointers back to where the records happen to be in the physical data file. To access data in sorted order must first find correct index page and open correct data page.

Clustered index - the data is stored in the index pages. So the data is in sorted order. To access data in sorted order only need to open correct index page. There is less disk access, so it is faster.

Bonus clustered feature - new records are inserted into the page that the sorted field is on instead of always in the last page of the table.

So you are less likely to have record locking collisions when data is clustered on a field that have spread out values for new records.

### **New Location for MDCFUG Meetings**

As you may know, we are moving our meeting to a new location. The new spot will be the:

**Backstreets Café**  
**12352 Wilkins Ave**  
**Rockville, MD 20852**

It is near the Twinbrook metro and where we held the successful CF Underground II event the other week!

Following several members' suggestions we have arranged for the bar to be closed to the public so we will have a quiet and smoke free meeting place.

Enclosed is a map and directions to help you find the new location. Hope to see you there! The date of the next meeting is May 8<sup>th</sup> (second Tuesday of the month as always) at 6:30pm. For details check the website at <http://www.cfug-md.org/>



Backstreets Café, the new meeting place for MDCFUG meetings

### **Maryland 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/>

#### **TERATECH CUSTOM PROGRAMMING**

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