



TERATECH NEWS

Tools for Programmers

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Caitlin Mara, Editor

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This month we cover:

- <CFSOUTH>
- Byte Back Graduation 2001
- Editing Referenced Access MDB
- Prototyping



The <CFSOUTH> conference was held on Saturday February 3, 2001 at the Renaissance World Gate Hotel in Orlando, Florida. 226 people attended the one-day event.



A view of the crowd at CFSOUTH.

Though the weather wasn't sunny or warm, those who attended felt that it was worth their trip, whether it was across town, or all the way from Canada.

Here's what some attendees had to say about the event:

"I was able to get solutions on several CF problems I've had for several weeks." Ron Sherburne, Verizon Data Services.

"Great speakers! I learned something from every one. Wish I could have heard more. This was a great conference! I learned about a lot of nifty tools for use with CF that will make my work easier." Amy Finley, Florida State University.

"Excellent, fun, good location." Nat Papovich, Webthugs Consulting, San Diego, CA.

As Michael Smith said in his presentation, "Why I Like CF," the reason CF is so great is because of the community of people involved. "The CF Community! CFUGs, conferences, speakers, Listserv – CF-talk, and 'Users helping Users.'" Conferences such as <CFSOUTH> help to further the community aspect of the people who are involved with ColdFusion.

Display Access reports from CF

Douglas Smith also gave a presentation about TeraTech's new product, TTWebReportServer. This new product allows one to do formatted reports with page breaks, predictable page margins, predictable columns, and page sizes and be able to merge letters and labels. TTWebReportServer uses the flexibility of Access reports and puts those reports on the web. The system requirements for TTWebReportServer are either Access97 or 2000 installed on the server, ColdFusion 4.01 or above, and Adobe Acrobat 4.0 (for printing in PDF format). The skill requirements are the ability to design and modify Access reports and to be able to use ColdFusion custom tags and modules.

For more information about this product:

<http://www.teratech.com/ttwebreportserver/>

For more information about <CFSOUTH>:

<http://www.cfconf.org/cfsouth>



Lorraine Williams and Douglas Smith at <CFSOUTH>

ByteBack Graduation 2001

TeraTech is proud to be involved with ByteBack, an organization started to help the unemployed or underemployed be able to attend computer-training classes affordably.

ByteBack held its third graduation on January 15, 2001, Martin Luther King Day. Eleven Interns graduated from the program. Several special supporters were recognized for their contributions to the ByteBack programs in 2000. Neal Grunstra accepted the award for from Mindbank, Shelton Jones or Dittus Communications, and Carla Perlo for Dance Place.

Here's what a graduate, who currently works at TeraTech had to say about her experience with ByteBack.

Lorraine Williams: *I feel truly blessed to be a part of such a life-enhancing program. Before attending Byte Back, I never knew I would be creating web pages or using Access or even would have an understanding of ColdFusion. I must say that studying was not an easy task, but you have to work for/earn whatever you want to achieve in life. Interns are to give back hours in working for ByteBack in exchange for 10 hours of classes a week. You have to be determined to do your best in your class and at whatever task you are given.*



Janet Lathan, Director of Byte Back, and others on stage at the graduation.

Our president, Michael Smith is a member of the Board of ByteBack, and Douglas Smith, one of our programmers, teaches ColdFusion to Byte Back students. Douglas also received an award at the January 15th ceremony. We'd like to give big congratulations to everyone who is involved in helping ByteBack to run smoothly and successfully!

For more information visit:
<http://www.byteback.org/>

Tip About Using One Access MDB from Another One

You can reference either an Access MDB or a compiled MDE library from an Access MDB. This is usually done for a library; if you have some code that you want to protect, you can compile that backend MDB into an MDE library, and the modules in it can be used from another database. Usually you would reference the compiled MDE, but for development, you can just reference the MDB and then compile it after development.

When referencing a back-end MDB from a front-end MDB, you can edit modules in the backend, and save, but those changes won't be kept! So, make sure you open the backend MDB directly when editing!

Prototyping

Some of you may not have tried prototyping on your projects but we would like to suggest you give it a try on your next one. Prototyping means writing mock up programs that show what screens and reports there will be and how they are linked together. Often end-users will notice missing or confusing features in a prototype and thereby save expensive change requests after a project is delivered.

TeraTech uses prototyping on ColdFusion projects together with Hal Helm's dev notes method to annotate a prototype screen directly from the customer's browser.

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

- ColdFusion
- VisualBasic
- SQL, Oracle, Access, FoxPro,
- Numeric Analysis

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