



TeraTech News

Tools for Programmers

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Save time on network admin

By Michael Smith

How many times have you walked up to a system in your office and needed to click through several diagnostic windows to remind yourself of important aspects of its configuration, such as its name, IP address, operating system version (including service packs), ram or free disk space? If you manage multiple computers then check out the freeware program *BGInfo*. It automatically displays relevant information about a Windows computer on the desktop's background. Because *BGInfo* simply writes a new desktop bitmap and exits you don't have to worry about it consuming system resources or interfering with other applications.



For more info see:

<http://www.sysinternals.com/ntw2k/freeware/bginfo.shtml>

MDCFUG List Q&A

Q: Are Fusebox 4 and Mach II the same thing? If not, how are they different?

A: No, they're different.



Fusebox 4 is an update to FB3, a framework for developing procedural code. Mach-II is a new product, a framework for developing object-oriented code. The only relationship between the 2 products is that both were co-developed by Hal Helms.

-Mosh Teitelbaum www.evoch.com

Q: Is Mach-II going to replace Fusebox or just be another tool to choose from when developing code?

A: Mach-ii is a totally different mind set. Mach-ii is not going to replace Fusebox, which is one of the reasons it is no longer called Fusebox MX.

It really depends on what you want to do.

If you want to go totally oo, then go Mach-ii.

If you want to leverage your existing work and take advantage of the new features of Fusebox (content variables, the ability to call fuseactions from other fuseactions) and still have the ability to code in the procedural manner then use Fusebox 4
-Sandy Clark, www.shayna.com

If would like to join the MDCFUG mailing list go to <http://www.cfug-md.org/>



Ask The Coach

Q: My job is so demanding that I don't have time for my family, friends and hobbies anymore. How do I regain my balance?



A: The first step in "balancing" is awareness. You've recognized the part of your work/life formula is out of whack - too much work, not enough life. Next, identify your current (and maybe neglected priority) - is it family, health, sleep? Now, envision yourself in the "balanced zone". What does that look like - more sleep, 40-hour workweek, and nightly dinner with family? Make a list of 20-30 possible ways to make it happen, everything from outlandish (move to Fiji) to realistic (delegate more work to your employees). Select 5 strategies and implement them this week (no kidding!).

Lastly, reward yourself - balance takes nerve, you deserve it!

Visit www.ofessence.com, www.yescircle.org or call 703-989-8016 for more information.

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Monkey See, Monkey Don't

By Miki Saxon

In case you don't know, I mentor managers; so I tend to collect articles that will help drive home a critical point. Obvious as it may seem, fair treatment of employees is one of those things to which managers constantly make exceptions. So you can imagine my glee when I picked up my newspaper a few days ago and read an article by Laura Beil (<http://www.oudaily.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2003/09/18/3f69288889d31>) about a new study by Sarah Brosnan (a graduate student at Emory University in Atlanta) published in the October issue of Nature.

Briefly, what Sarah did using capuchin monkeys working in pairs was to start by rewarding them equally with a slice of cucumber for performing a specific task, then rewarding one of the working pair with a grape instead. The results? The performance went from 95% success to 60%, but at least they still did the same amount of work. However, when one received the grape for doing *less* work, i.e., not performing the task at all, the success level dropped like a stone—all the way down to 20% for the cucumber crowd. You can read the full study at

<http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~sbrosna/>

OK, back to the managers. When I ask about a discrepancy in treatment, compensation, promotion, etc., what I often hear from them is along the lines of, "X and Y are equal with similar experience attitude, and duties but..." (In grammar "but" is a conjunction used to indicate an exception to whatever was said previously.) and they finish the sentence with comments such as:

- "X should earn more because he's supporting a family."
- "X needs the promotion because her husband walked out on her."
- "X just moved here and the housing is expensive!"
- "X is too short to be a manager."
- "X and I went to the same school."
- "X is cute."
- "X reminds me of _____ so I will/won't..."
- "I don't like X."

Enough! This list could go on all day, and it just gets sillier.

(continued next month)

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Miki Saxon, founder and CEO of six-year-old retention firm RampUp Solutions, mentors managers via phone and email on issues of retention, culture, motivation and hiring, offering outside-the-box solutions that aren't money based.

Be sure to read ASK MIKI, The Manager's Mentor, online at www.oaklandtribune.com/managersmentor and send your questions and comments to AskMiki@RampupSolutions.com Chat *live* with the experts every Wednesday evening @ 6 PM Pacific time. Just click www.rampupsolutions.com/talkback/index.cfm



So, How Is Windows REALLY Doing?

By Michael Smith

Here are some interesting numbers that came out of Redmond I thought you'd be interested in.

- 350 million PC's still run Windows NT or Windows 9x
- 130 million XP client licenses shipped to date (70% is XP Pro)
- 100,000 Web sites are now using Windows Server 2003
- Windows Server 2003 is selling at 3x the rate of Windows 2000 and will hit 1 million installed within 9 months
- Windows owns 53.1% of server market (2004 projected at 53.7%, and Server sales grew 7.7% in FY03)
- Linux owns 16.7% of server market (2004 projected at 19.2% and their Server sales grew 19.2% in FY03)
- UNIX/Other owns 30.2% of server market (2004 projected at 27.1% and these sales decreased 2.6% in FY03)

Source <http://www.w2knews.com/>

Search Backwards

By Michael Smith

Ever found Internet

searches to be mixed up

and backwards? Then try this mirror version of Google.

All the text (including search results) is backwards. You have to type the search words backwards too.

Pretty funny - and would be easy to implement using CFHTTP in ColdFusion.

www.alltooflat.com/geeky/elgoog/



Have a Happy Halloween!

If you missed previous articles, you can locate them at <http://www.teratech.com/news.cfm>

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