



# TeraTech News

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## CFUN-04 a big success

By Sean Corfield (Macromedia Architect)

CFUN-04 was a big success with 575 people attending (that is more than 50% more than last year).

While the conference proper didn't start until June 26<sup>th</sup> I flew in a day early to catch up with some of the other speakers at the MMUG manager meeting day and the speaker dinner. I spent a lot of the day talking to Matt Liotta about He3 - his company's new ColdFusion editor, based on Eclipse, which debuted in beta form at CFUN.



After lunch, Michael Smith ran Shlomy's session on managing CF projects. The Standish Group were quoted as saying the key factors in successful projects were: user involvement, executive

management support and a clear statement of requirements. These three factors accounted for 50% of the influences! The final session of the day was April Fleming on using XSLT for data transformation. Then it was time for my Mach II talk. That is the ColdFusion OO methodology, not twice the speed of sound! A good percentage of folks in the audience were on CFMX 6.1



and were already using either Fusebox or Mach II so that was quite a change from some of my gigs.

Next up was Ben Forta's keynote on Blackstone! He raced through Flash forms, PDF generation, report generation, sourceless deployment and EAR / WAR file packaging and then gave a CFUN exclusive sneak peak: the event gateway! This is probably the most exciting and radical addition ever to ColdFusion: by writing a small amount of Java, it allows you to connect pretty much anything to ColdFusion and have external, asynchronous events trigger method calls on a CFC.

One of the great things about CFUN for me was the wealth of really good sessions. For every single session slot, there were actually two sessions I wanted to attend (sometimes three!). I also learned a bunch of stuff (especially from April's "XSLT for Data Manipulation" talk and Sandra's "Accessible Web Forms" talk!). Sandra got a well-deserved 'second', behind Charlie and myself - she really is a very good speaker and loves her subject matter! See y'all at CFUN-05?

More detailed review at <http://www.corfield.org/>

## New Mach-II and CSS classes this fall

After many requests at CFUN for follow on classes so that people can learn more details about certain topics we have added a 4-day hands-on CSS class by Sandra Clark and a one-day Mach-II class by Hal Helms to our Fall training schedule. These are in addition on our regular ColdFusion and Fusebox classes.

**FB101 Intro to Fusebox Thursday 9/16/04 \$199**  
**FB201 Intermediate Fusebox Friday 9/17/04 \$349**  
**MT101 Mach-II with Hal Helms Monday 9/20/04 \$349**  
**CS201H CSS Hands On course with Sandra Clark 10/11/04-10/14/04 \$1399**

For details see <http://www.teratech.com/training/>

## Fusebox Conference in September

# FUSEBOX

The fifth national Fusebox conference is September 18-19<sup>th</sup> in Rockville MD and as last year is being organized by TeraTech. Speakers include Fusebox authors Hal Helms, John Quarto-vonTivadar, Jeff Peters, Sandra Clark, Michael Smith, Steve Nelson, Brian Kotek, Rey Muradaz, Matt Liotta and John Paul Ashenfelter. Topics include introductions to Fusebox, advanced topics in the new version of Fusebox (4.1) and real world use of FLIP (the Fusebox Life Cycle methodology).

*Fusebox 4 has embraced the power of ColdFusion MX and in doing so has empowered developers to build even better applications*

- Ben Forta, Senior Product Evangelist, Macromedia, Inc

More details and registration are at:  
<http://www.cfconf.org/fusebox2004/>

## TeraTech to host Yes!Circle PAG CF Tip: Have an Error Handler

By Michael Smith

By default ColdFusion displays detailed error message when there is a problem in your code. Yes I know *your* code has no bugs in it, but what if the hacker deliberately creates an error by manipulating URL parameters or faking out a form submit? If they can make an error and see the error message they may see your datasource and table names to help them create a SQL injection attack (see tip 6 for more on this). To protect your error messages from prying eyes add a CFERROR tag in your application.cfm to catch all errors and display a harmless message to users and hackers alike. I also like to email myself a private copy of the error message so that I can either fix it or be warned that a hacker is on my site.

In your application.cfm use:

```
<cferror type="EXCEPTION"
template="error_exception.cfm"
mailto="michael@teratech.com">
```

And in your error handler file error\_exception.cfm use this code:

```
<CFMAIL to="#error.MailTo#"
from="info@teratech.com"
subject="ColdFusion Error in
#error.Template#">
    Address: #error.RemoteAddress#
    Template: #error.Template#
    Date: #error.DateTime#
    Message: #error.Diagnostics#
</CFMAIL>
```

Dear Miki,

I was a senior manager in a large company for many years. A few years ago I was offered a buyout deal I couldn't refuse, so I left. I started a consulting practice that has been both rewarding and successful even in the face of the worst recession I've seen during my entire career. However, when I can't do everything I've planned, I still find myself just as frustrated now as I used to be..



Sometimes I feel that I'm running out of time—not to achieve greatness, but to just get done the things that need doing. Any suggestions?

-- Jim, Dallas, TX

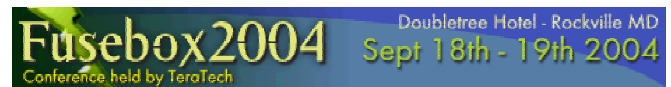
Dear Jim,

Although a bit of frustration can heighten our feelings of success, too much can leave us feeling that "it's" hopeless. I know because I used to feel that way. Then I really got to thinking about what would/did happen when I didn't get something done. Lo, no thunderbolt shot down from the heavens; the sun continued to rise in the east; and the task was still there at the dawn of the new day. When that finally sank in, I found it much easier to prioritize and schedule my work (personal and biz) by applying what I called the thunderbolt theory of importance. I've been a lot happier and rarely stressed since then. I find very few things stand up to the thunderbolt theory so I have very little that falls in the do-or-be-frustrated category. It doesn't always work, but it sure helps!

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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 using out-of-the-box solutions that aren't money based.

Send your questions and comments to [AskMiki@RampupSolutions.com](mailto:AskMiki@RampupSolutions.com)



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