



TeraTech News

Creating excellent software since 1989

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TeraTech growing

TeraTech is growing and has hired a new senior developer Oğuz Demirkapı. Oğuz has been programming in ColdFusion for 10 years and used to run the Turkish ColdFusion User Group.

Employee survey and load testing

We helped a large organization to send an online survey to 300,000 employees and families recently. The last time they did this the webserver crashed and was not available 100% of the time. This time TeraTech helped them to load test the application and we fixed issues with the ColdFusion code and the MySQL database ahead of time. We hosted on a cluster of six ColdFusion servers with a hardware load balancer. This time the survey ran flawlessly with 100% uptime.

Insurance e-commerce

We recently help union insurance company Ullico to create their first ecommerce site for selling insurance online. The site was personalized depending on which union a client belongs to and quotes differed depending on age, gender and other factors. We involved the Ullico development team in our development process and were able to hand over the fully commented code to them for maintenance.

PowerPoint-to-go!

TeraTech recently got the chance to turn around a challenging project for a large governmental organization. A contractor had tried unsuccessfully for a year to automate a series of PowerPoint-generation

routines based on extremely large, unwieldy sets of survey data. The survey data changes frequently, and it needs to be aggregated in various ways including state and national versions. By applying our experience from similar projects, TeraTech created the solution our client was looking for. Now, the client uses a simple web interface to upload a large flat text file of raw data, which our automated system parses and loads into a relational database, runs data transformations and calculates the needed statistics. Next, through a series of steps utilizing ColdFusion, XML, and Java, it generates full-color charts and graphs, combines them with text into a finished PowerPoint presentation, and delivers it minutes later by email to the client. The client was so happy with the result; we have now completed three more of these PowerPoint automations for them and looking forward to the fifth!

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Oğuz Demirkapı

Where's That Bus?

As a result of our past work on WMATA's successful Trip Planner application (www.wmata.com/), TeraTech is currently working on another major transit project. The client is a major transit authority, and the ultimate result will be real-time bus data for its customers, available via web browser, cell phone or PDA. Two separate sources of internal bus routing and schedule data must be combined and converted into a proprietary XML format to be used by another application. It's a huge batch process that runs only occasionally, when anything changes in the routes or schedules, and it must be 100% accurate and reliable. The client uploads nearly 300 MB of data, some in a database and the rest as flat text files, and our system performs complex data transformations including merging, validation, and interpretation. We load the data into a relational database, and then use complex queries to generate the XML. Although the

processing is done in parts and combined at the end, the sheer size of the finished output file makes optimization of code and memory performance a critical factor. After performing this “magic” our automated system notifies the client that their XML data is ready to download and sent to the customer-facing application.

CFUNITED-06 report

CFUNITED-06 was our most successful event to date with over 900 attendees and sponsors including Adobe, Microsoft, HostMysite and New Atlanta. All the sessions were recorded on video and are available via the web on demand via Flash video.



For more information, go to:
http://www.cfunitied.com/video_recordings.cfm

TeraTech Training News

We just held full classes on ColdFusion, Fusebox and Flex. More classes coming in January. Or request a custom class at your location.

For more information and registration please visit
<http://www.teratech.com/training/>

Ask Miki

“MAP and QF”

(questioning fundamentals)

Looking for a good way to make your company more innovative? Or to move it from where it is to where you want it to be?



A good place to start is by encouraging your people to question the fundamentals (QF) of the company. This is one of the best ways to overcome the “...but we’ve always done it that way.” school of thought. QF can also help overcome “not invented here” syndrome. Both are major stumbling blocks to innovation, productivity and a host of other positives moves.

Start by identifying your company’s fundamentals, not so much the official ones (although they can also be problematic) as the unwritten/unspoken ones your employees deal with every day. It’s easy to find them, just ask—but ask knowing that you may not like the answers. (One client found that, contrary to its stated policy, their people believed that quality wasn’t as important as shoving the product out the door.)

Depending on your current culture the identification process can be anything from a public brainstorming session with a whiteboard to some kind of “suggestion box” that is truly anonymous. You may be very surprised at some of the perceptions that turn up.

Once you have a start on a list of fundamentals you want to open them up to debate—the more passionate the better—using a combination of technology (forum, wiki, etc.) and in person discussions. The object being to decide whether to modify/jettison/keep each one, as well as what to add.

Unless your MAP dictates a company that functions in Dilbertland it’s an ongoing, proactive management task to encourage employees to question/rethink/revamp the company’s fundamentals.

Even when it’s deeply embedded in your culture you can’t assume they’ll do so, since new people coming from other cultures will need assurance that QF is indeed part of your company’s DNA.

Miki Saxon is President of RampUp Solutions, Inc. and provides products and coaching based on [MAP \(mindset, attitude, philosophy\)](#)™.
<http://www.rampupsolutions.com/new/index.cfm?p=14>
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TERATECH CUSTOM PROGRAMMING

- ColdFusion
- VisualBasic
- SQL, Oracle, Access, FoxPro
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Happy Halloween!

