



TeraTech News

Software connections to your information

405 East Gude Drive Ste 207
Rockville, MD 20850
<http://www.teratech.com>

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Michael Smith, Editor

(800) 447-9120 • (301) 424-3903
Fax (301) 762-8185
michael@teratech.com

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TeraTech Development Approach

The following is continued from last month's newsletter....

Last month we looked at three important details of FLiP (Fusebox LifeCycle Process). Personas – system user's goals, Wireframing – allowing users to view a skeletal model of the application, and Prototyping – the largest step in the FLiP Cycle allowing users to view a clickable model of the finished application with dummy data and no backend. This month we continue to discuss more details of FLiP.

4. Application Architecting

Once the prototype is finished and approved by the system owners, the application architect constructs the application design or schema, identifying fuseactions and organizing them into circuits. Each fuseaction's behavior is broken down into a set of fuses, and the architect writes a Fusedoc and a test harness for each fuse to be produced. Once the design has been constructed, coding can begin.

5. FuseCoding

Each coder employed on the project is sent one or more fuses and their corresponding test harnesses. The coder writes each fuse according to its Fusedoc. By using the Fusebox framework, the coder's work does not rely on the rest of the application. Each fuse can be coded and tested on its own, and can be plugged into the rest of the application. This step can be accomplished by one coder or many coders.

6. Unit Testing

As each fuse is coded, it is unit tested against its test harness. This gives the coder a way to ensure the

correct behavior is produced by the fuse, without being in constant contact with the architect.

7. Application Integration/Final Testing

As the fuses are completed, they are returned to the architect, who integrates them into the final application. Daily builds are employed, gradually transforming the prototype into a working application.

After developer system integration testing, the new release is deployed to the NJ Sullivan center for final user acceptance testing following standard NJ Sullivan testing procedures.

8. Deployment

Deployment is the least exciting phase of a FLiP project. Thanks to the high degree of communication between the client and architect, and the architect and coders, deployment should hold no surprises for anyone.

To be continued in next month's newsletter....

CFUnited 2008 Registration by 11/30/07

Registration for CFUnited '08 is now open. Register before **November 30th** and receive a price that's even lower than last year's early bird!



CFUnited Europe Reduced Price for Groups

CFUnited Europe is announcing today a new price for groups of 3 or more. **"BUY 2 tickets, GET 1 FREE!"** That means each per person is about 33% off the ticket price. You must be a group of 3 or more to receive these benefits. If you have already registered and want to send more attendees, please contact us so we can help you. Contact [info\(at\)cfunited.com](mailto:info(at)cfunited.com)

Register today at <http://europe.cfunited.com/>

Is Mahalo manual search engine web 3.0 or -1.0?

I read about a new search engine called Mahalo ("thank you" in Hawaiian <http://www.mahalo.com/>) in Fast Company.

Is it using some fancy algorithm to beat Google? Or more powerful servers to power the search? No. Mahalo uses people to do the searching. At first it seems kind of web -1.0 but perhaps there is something to it. After all people are much harder to be fooled by spammers. And people are still better at computers figuring out what search results are really useful. Does getting 100,000,000 search results really help me or do I want just one page of personally honed results?

Mahalo staff pre-write responses to the most popular search terms. They only target the top 30%, or about 15,000 terms. The rest get referred back to Google. Mahalo will be a search engine for people who don't like to search. Maybe this is Web 3.0. Hmm.

<http://www.fastcompany.com/magazine/118/man-vs-machine.html>

Web 2.0 mindmapping tools

You have been mindmapping for a while, perhaps using a Windows based tool such as MindMapper. But you want to share you maps online with others and simultaneous edit. Like you can documents with Google Document. What to do? Check out one of these online mindmapping tools that my friend Jim Collins alerted me to below. Many are in beta so be sure to backup any live maps you create!

<http://www.mindmeister.com/>

<http://mindomo.com/>

<http://cmap.ihmc.us/>

<http://www.skrbl.com/>

<http://vyew.com/>

<http://thinkature.com/>

<http://www.cumulatelabs.com/cumulatedraw/>

Recruiting and retention go back to the future

Remember the bubble years when labor was tight, startups appeared like mushrooms on a rainy day, benefits multiplied like rabbits and companies advertised them with all the verve and pizzazz normally saved for their paying customers? Well, to some extent they're back.



Labor is once again tight—driven by bedrock demographics as opposed to fairy dust—and companies want to retain their people. Although still far behind Europe, Corporate America is finally realizing that offering their employees benefits that lower everyday living stress will go a long way to increasing productivity. Long the poster child for excessive perks, Goggle's

success has done much to prove that there's a giant payoff to be had from happy employees.

Perhaps no company pampers its employees as much as Internet search leader Google Inc. The Mountain View, California-based company offers a diverse menu of perquisites that include three free meals a day, plus other on-site conveniences like car washes, oil changes, massages, haircuts, dry cleaning, child care and medical care. The employees have to pay for some services while Google subsidizes others.

It's not just tech and consulting companies doing it, either.

"It helps the employee not to have to burn up all their personal time doing all these chores," said Wayne Wallace, director of the Career Resource Center at the University of Florida. And while Wallace doesn't dispute that many people wouldn't mind a bump in their paycheck, "it isn't all about the money," he said. "The extras are nice."

Erin Dunn, corporate services director for General Mills, said of the cereal company's largesse for staff at its Minneapolis headquarters: "Anything we can do to make life easier (for employees) is something we're interested in doing."

Helping our people isn't rocket science, it doesn't have to be expensive and in bootstrapped companies can even be used as a bonus. For example An engineering manager who each week takes his most productive employee's car to the carwash, with the productivity voted on by the entire organization. The CEO of 15-person company gives four hours of babysitting away each week for the best customer service improvement suggestion. (Winners without children use the value on something else.)

If you want to do something similar, but aren't sure what, start by asking your people what they'd really like to have, be honest about the budget and go from there.

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

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