



TeraTech News

Software connections to your information

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

February 2008
Michael Smith, Editor

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

Read about:

TeraTech Development Approach
Success at Omni Solutions Group
CFUnited Conference 2008 Classes
Your People R You

TeraTech Development Approach

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

Last month we focused on Database Review as part of TeraTech's methodology. This month, we will explain how to make a Web Form Prototype.

1. Web Form Prototype

If all system requirements are encapsulated in the existing model, a prototype can be developed directly from the legacy forms and reports. A model of the system functions is prepared in HTML to illustrate the proposed form flow and processing.

The prototype contains no dynamic data. All data displayed is hard coded on the source forms. All links are to local HTML forms which enables the demo to be executed on any computer with a browser. The following features were implemented in this prototype:

- Develop a "wireframe" (skeleton view) of the system forms
- Select style sheets from the available set of client style sheets that will support a general look and feel and be acceptable to the end users
- For **legacy** systems, copy and imitate the layout of the existing system menu structure and forms.
- Attempt to copy the layout and flow of existing legacy forms where appropriate, recoding for section 508 issues
- Employ common Web navigation patterns when the legacy form flow was inappropriate for a Web site. This results in minor changes in process flow due to the introduction of additional forms to simplify form processing

The Web mockup is presented to the users for comment and correction. Since the Web site has been modeled on the legacy system form flow users are able to quickly understand how the proposed system will work. User request for changes or enhancements are made to the HTML prototype and agreed to before system development begins. The process of review and modification typically requires at least three iterations.

The Prototype becomes the basis for user acceptance of the new system design and function. The client managers can use the prototype as a benchmark for the identification of the formal requirements for the system. Based on the prototype the system architects are able to document the formal requirements artifacts needed to document the planned system, to develop system decision and flow diagrams, and develop accurate schedules for coding and deployment. It is also the model for the development of the formal system test scenarios.

To be continued in next month's newsletter where we discuss Web Site Design in Fusebox and Developing Database Access Components . . .

Success at Omni Solutions Group



Recently, Omni Solutions Group contacted TeraTech for some consulting help. The company provides a network and software services to builders, associations, and businesses. Many of their over 100 reports in several applications were available only as part of OMNI'S core web products and were implemented using Crystal Reports. The problem was that many of these reports were cumbersome to sort through and would slow down the server when they were run, sometimes to the point of hanging up the entire server.

TeraTech helped them migrate to CFMX7 to improve the performance of the reports in their applications. We implemented CFMX reporting modules to replace their previous approach, allowing OMNI's developers to recreate their most complex and critical reports using CFMX7. OMNI had a "test machine" in its facility where it had replicated its production environment, loaded a handful of websites, tested the sites, upgraded to

CFMX7, and retested the site. TeraTech helped them locate and resolve several coding issues in their test system and move the majority of their live websites to the CFMX7 platform. CFMX's reporting services could then be used to deliver reports to their users.

After the migration was complete, OMNI wanted to prepare itself with necessary knowledge to administer their new system. We advised and mentored them on the best practices, tools, and analysis / monitoring / security approaches for using CFMX7. They now report that the server no longer has to be restarted due to errors. Their users are much happier too, as the time it takes to generate critical reports has been reduced to seconds instead of minutes.

CFUnited Conference 2008 Classes

Before this year's conference begins on June 18, there will be classes for non-experts in different aspects:

June 16th

- **Fast Track to Cold Fusion 8** –Chaz Chumley
- **Flex for Developers** – Joe Rinehart and Simon Horwith
- **Introduction to Model Glue** – Doug Hughes
- **OOProgramming with Mach-II** – Matthew Woodard

June 17th

- **Better User Interfaces with jQuery** – Hal Helms
- **CF911: Solving CF Performance and Reliability Problems** – Charlie Arehart
- **ColdFusion's AJAX Advantage** – Jared Rypka-Hauer
- **SQL For Developers: "The Next Step"** – Nate Nelson

All classes will be held at the DC Convention Center and will go from 9am-5pm.

To register and for more information visit <http://cfunited.com/go/classes>

Your People R You

When you started working, whatever your field, your reviews were dependent on your own efforts— until you became a manager, that is. But once you were promoted all that changed. As a manager you're evaluated based on your people's accomplishments instead of your own. Even if you worked hands-on 24-hours a day on your own work, you couldn't offset a poorly performing group.

Building your group—from team to entire company— means that you'll be richly rewarded, but not just with money.

Your greatest reward will be watching average players morph into stars under your guidance.

- You can do this by
 - improving communications;
 - enhancing motivation;
 - strengthening staffing; and
 - increasing and encouraging training.
- Remember never to criticize an employee in the presence of others; always praise in public and criticize in private. When criticism is necessary, keep it on a positive plane, there's always something within the same area to compliment first. Then state the problem area and immediately brainstorm ways to improve it.
- To assure your group's buy-in to the action, you want to encourage their input, listen to what they say, use their ideas as often as possible and give credit where it's due.
- Always honor and respect them.



Lao Tzu said it best,

As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence.

The next best, the people honor and praise.

The next, the people fear; and the next, the people hate...

When the best leader's work is done the people say, "We did it ourselves!"

To lead the people, walk behind them.

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)TM.

<http://www.rampupsolutions.com/index.cfm?p=14>
www.RampUpSolutions.com

© RampUp Solutions, Inc 2008. Please contact [miki@RampUpSolutions](mailto:miki@RampUpSolutions.com) for permission to reprint this article.

If you missed previous articles, you can locate them at www.teratech.com/go/community/newsletters

Copyright TeraTech, Inc 2008

TeraTech, Inc.

405 East Gude Drive, Ste 207

Rockville, MD 20850

TERATECH CUSTOM PROGRAMMING & TRAINING

- ColdFusion, Fusebox
- Flex, Flash, AJAX, VisualBasic
- SQL, Oracle, DB2, Access, FoxPro
- XML, Numeric Analysis

\\filetemp\l-drive\DOCS\MARKET\Newsletters\Fbruary2008Newsletter.doc