



# Visual FoxPro™ DevCon 99

## A Decade of DevCon

**June 6-10, 1999**  
**Palm Springs**  
**California**

Sponsored by

**FOXPRO**  
ADVISOR MAGAZINE

**Microsoft**  
**msdn**

Microsoft Developer Network





# Greetings

## Microsoft®

What do Palm Springs, Orlando, Scottsdale, San Diego, and Toledo have in common? They have all been host to DevCon. This year's DevCon is special because it marks a Decade of DevCon. Ten years as the premier FoxPro event for learning about the product and hanging out with fellow Fox folk!

Of course, whether this is your tenth DevCon, or your first, this is the place to be in June if you're a Visual FoxPro developer. With its broad array of sessions and topics covered, its impressive roster of speakers, and the excitement that is generated from over 1000 attendees, DevCon is a can't miss conference.

What do you want to learn about? How to build client/server applications with Visual FoxPro and SQL Server? How to use the new object-oriented framework in your applications? How to build Web database applications with Visual FoxPro? How to get the most use from the new Coverage Profiler? How to build middle-tier components in Visual FoxPro and manage them with Microsoft Transaction Server? How to build and manage class libraries? Whether you are a beginner or an advanced developer or somewhere in between, we're sure you'll find the sessions you are looking for at DevCon.

We have made some improvements to DevCon this year. We have made the Pre-Conference seminars more focused. For those of you who are new to Visual FoxPro we have a full day Introduction to Visual FoxPro and then three additional sessions on Monday morning to get you up to speed fast. If you are new to client/server or the Web we offer half day Pre-Conference seminars to get you familiar with SQL Server and Web technologies.

This year we have a somewhat different approach to offering sessions. We created tracks and defined up front what you can expect to learn in each track. We then chose sessions that would deliver on this. This approach will give DevCon more of a training feel and allow you to learn a given topic such as building client-server or Web database applications from start to a reasonable finish. Of course, you can always pick and choose the sessions you are most interested in rather than following any particular track.

Finally, we have added an additional half day so you can learn more than ever. This all adds up to another great DevCon that we are sure you won't want to miss. So come join us in Palm Springs and celebrate a Decade of DevCon.

Sincerely,

The Microsoft Visual FoxPro team

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# DevCon Summary



**V**isual FoxPro DevCon 99 celebrates a decade of FoxPro developers gathering from around the world. This is where you can join the best in the industry, members of the Microsoft product team, and Visual FoxPro developers to learn how to solve your programming puzzles. DevCon puts you face-to-face with the leading FoxPro experts. You'll learn what's new and exciting, how it works with other key tools and technologies, and how Visual FoxPro can take you into the next millennium.

## Learn exactly what you want to know

With several topic concentrations and dozens of sessions to choose from, you can design your own technical education program and emphasis.

## Boost your wisdom and productivity

In just a few days, you'll gain knowledge and insight that might otherwise require months of experimentation, or go unnoticed. If you're developing in FoxPro and want to keep up, you can't miss this conference.

## Discover the important features of Visual FoxPro

There's never been a tool like Visual FoxPro. Once you understand it, you can solve so many types of problems. But knowing how to move forward can be daunting. DevCon is your key. You'll learn exactly what's important—and what's not—and how to make it all work for you right now. And you'll find out how Visual FoxPro can take you even farther.

## Learn from the leading experts

The DevCon sessions you attend will be taught by members of the Microsoft Visual FoxPro development team, and by the leading FoxPro professionals. DevCon gives you a unique opportunity to meet and discuss your current development challenges with the leading trainers, consultants, and authors of Visual FoxPro, and with the people who create exciting commercial applications and add-on products.

## Explore hot solutions and services

DevCon Trade Show is where you'll discover what innovative independent developers and Microsoft have created to help you work with Visual FoxPro, including productivity tools, commercial applications, training, and more. To exhibit, contact ADVISOR MEDIA at 1-800-336-6060, (619) 278-5600, or DevCon Expo@ advisor.com.

## Network with your colleagues

DevCon brings together FoxPro professionals from around the world. At the conference sessions and social events you'll develop a valuable network of peers you can consult for technical and business advice. And you'll make friends you'll enjoy seeing at future DevCons.

## Who is DevCon for?

DevCon is a technical education conference for people who want to understand and use the power of Microsoft Visual FoxPro and related tools and technologies to create superior business solutions. DevCon is also the place to join the worldwide community of FoxPro professionals.

DevCon technical sessions are designed for many needs and emphasis, including IT/IS staff and management, independent consultants, professional developers, corporate and government programmers, solution providers, trainers, and anyone who wants to understand how to make the best use of Microsoft Visual FoxPro.

## Learn Hands-On in the DevCon Lab

You can take your DevCon learning one step further in the DevCon Lab. You'll find an array of development resources, including key products, class presentations, sample code, product demos, and expert advice. Take advantage of this opportunity to experiment with the latest development technology and consult with Microsoft and other experts.

## Jam Session

The DevCon Jam Session is a popular after-hours gathering. Variety is encouraged, so bring your instruments, bring your music, bring your enthusiasm, join the jam, and have fun!

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*Visual FoxPro DevCon is sponsored by Microsoft, and by ADVISOR MEDIA, Inc., publisher of the leading technical magazines for IT professionals on Visual FoxPro, e-business, security, database development, Visual Studio and Internet technology.*



# General Information

## Schedule At-A-Glance

### Sunday, June 6

Conference Registration	7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Pre-Conference Seminars	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Opening Keynote	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Welcome Reception	8:30 pm - 10:00 pm
DevCon Trade Show Open	8:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Jam Session	9:30 pm - 12:00 am

### Monday, June 7

Conference Registration	7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Continental Breakfast	7:00 am - 8:00 am
Conference Sessions	8:00 am - 9:15 am
Morning Refreshment Break	9:15 am - 9:45 am
Conference Sessions	9:45 am - 12:30 pm
DevCon Trade Show Open	10:30 am - 6:00 pm
Lunch	12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Conference Sessions	2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Afternoon Refreshment Break	3:15 pm - 3:45 pm
Conference Sessions	3:45 pm - 6:30 pm
DevCon 99 Party	7:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Jam Session	9:30 pm - 12:00 am

### Tuesday, June 8

Continental Breakfast	7:00 am - 8:00 am
Conference Sessions	8:00 am - 9:15 am
Morning Refreshment Break	9:15 am - 9:45 am
Conference Sessions	9:45 am - 12:30 pm
DevCon Trade Show Open	10:30 am - 6:00 pm
Lunch	12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Conference Sessions	2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Afternoon Refreshment Break	3:15 pm - 3:45 pm
Conference Sessions	3:45 pm - 6:30 pm
Bonus Session	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Jam Session	9:30 pm - 12:00 am

### Wednesday, June 9

Continental Breakfast	7:00 am - 8:00 am
Conference Sessions	8:00 am - 9:15 am
Morning Refreshment Break	9:15 am - 9:45 am
Conference Sessions	9:45 am - 12:30 pm
DevCon Trade Show Open	10:30 am - 2:00 pm
Lunch	12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Conference Sessions	2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Afternoon Refreshment Break	3:15 pm - 3:45 pm
Conference Sessions	3:45 pm - 6:30 pm

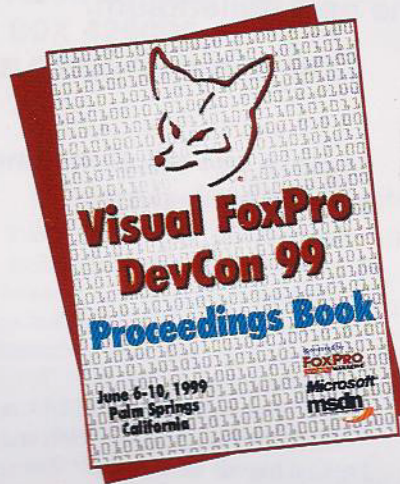
### Thursday, June 10

Continental Breakfast	7:00 am - 8:00 am
Conference Sessions	8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Tentative schedule subject to change.  
Check [www.advisor.com](http://www.advisor.com) for updates.

## Bonus Resources

**FREE**  
with  
DevCon  
Registration



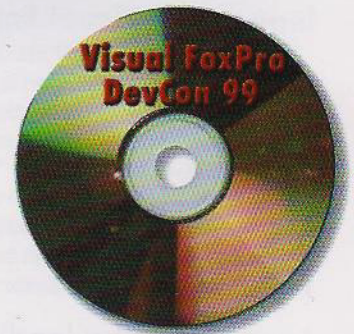
### Visual FoxPro DevCon 99 Proceedings Book

When you check in you'll get the DevCon Proceedings Book—hundreds of pages of technical session presentation. You'll use the Proceedings Book to plan your personal DevCon learning program. When you attend a session, the Proceedings Book helps you follow along with the

speaker, and lets you add your personal notes to the speaker's materials. The Proceedings Book will become your personalized DevCon 99 technical reference.

### Visual FoxPro DevCon 99 Resource CD

You'll go home with a special CD that is packed with hundreds of pages of conference technical papers, examples, databases, programs, and source code—enough expert advice to keep you going at top speed for many months! The exclusive DevCon CD contains all the goodies provided by the experts, plus valuable extras. You can't buy this unique resource at any price—it's not sold separately—but the CD is FREE to all DevCon attendees.



**PLUS**

- DevCon Bag
- DevCon T-Shirt
- Continental Breakfasts
- Lunches
- Welcome Dessert Reception
- DevCon 99 Party

# Pre-Conference Seminars



**Y**ou can extend your DevCon experience and gain valuable knowledge by attending one or more optional Pre-Conference Seminars. You will learn new skills that you will use time and time again.



## Introduction to Microsoft Visual FoxPro 6.0

**Sunday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

New to Visual FoxPro? Learn what all the excitement's about. This full-day jumpstart will introduce you to the Database Container, Relational Integrity, the Power of Views, using the new Form Designer and, of course, Object-Oriented Programming - what it means to developers, and how to take advantage of it. This session will help you to become productive quickly with the best version of Visual FoxPro yet and help you get the most from the rest of DevCon. Whether you are a FoxPro 2.x developer or entirely new to the FoxPro family, this session is for you.



## Introduction to Web Technology

**Sunday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

This session is intended for the Web-challenged. It will cover the fundamentals of Web technologies, including the alphabet soup made up by HTTP, TCP/IP, FTP, etc., as well as Web page construction using HTML and recently available technologies such as scripting languages which can be used to liven up a Web site. It will briefly discuss server-side technology in the Microsoft active platform which provide additional functionality to Web authors. Along the way, you'll learn how to include Java applets and ActiveX controls in a Web page, and discuss emerging technologies such XML.



## Introduction to Microsoft SQL Server

**Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

SQL Server 7.0 is here! This half-day session provides a primer for those new to SQL Server. We'll look at the architecture and components that make up SQL Server. We'll examine the different database objects such as tables, stored procedures, indexes, and more to learn what they are, how they work, and how they interact. Along the way we'll look at the tools used to implement and maintain our databases, and to troubleshoot query and connection problems.



Pre-Conference seminars require separate registration. Space is limited.



# DevCon Speakers

**D**evCon speakers are chosen for their expertise, professional stature, ability to present technical material in an understandable and useful manner, and desire to help you learn. You'll get face-to-face instruction from the authors of numerous popular articles, books, presentations, applications, and utilities, people who are intimately involved in shaping the products you use.

## Menachem Bazian

Menachem is Director of Client Services for LNW Consulting Services, LLC, a consulting firm located in New York. He is a Certified Public Accountant and expert business/technology consultant. He has been a speaker at FoxPro DevCons since 1990 and has authored many timely articles and books. Among his writing credits are *Using Visual FoxPro 6 Special Edition* (Que), *Visual FoxPro 3 Unleashed* (Sams), *Visual FoxPro Codebook* (Sybex), and *FoxPro 2 Printer Management* (Pros Talk Fox, Vol. V, Pinnacle Publishing). Menachem has written many articles for such publications as FOXPRO ADVISOR, DATABASED ADVISOR, *FoxTalk* and New Accountant.

## Steven Black

Steven has been a Fox developer since 1986. He markets Steven Black's INTL Toolkit, a multi-lingual framework for FoxPro and Visual FoxPro, which he created in 1993 and continues to refine. He has been a featured speaker at FoxPro DevCons and regional conferences, and his contributions occasionally darken the pages of VFP books and magazines.

## Jim Booth

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## Randy Brown

Randy is a Program Manager on the Visual FoxPro team at Microsoft. Prior to joining Microsoft in 1995, Randy worked as an independent FoxPro consultant for Sierra Systems in California after a consulting career in the National Energy Group at Ernst and Young. Randy has spoken at numerous Fox conferences. He has written numerous white papers and technical articles for various publications and has authored several books on FoxPro including *FoxPro Machete: Hacking FoxPro for Macintosh* (Hayden Books).

## Jim Duffy

Jim is the founder and President of TakeNote Computer Consulting. He has a BS degree in Computer and Information Systems and over 15 years of programming and training experience. He is a skilled developer, trainer, and has been published in leading publications such as FOXPRO ADVISOR

and *FoxTalk*. Jim is a popular speaker at regional user groups and at DevCon '97 and '98.

## Markus Egger

Markus is the owner of EPS Software, a software development firm located in Houston, Texas. EPS has worked on numerous software projects for Fortune 500 companies including Philip Morris, Qualcomm and Microsoft. Markus is an international speaker having presented sessions at numerous Visual FoxPro conferences including DevCon 97, DevCon 98, FoxTeach 1996, and several FoxExpress conferences in Las Vegas. Markus has written numerous articles for publications including Fuchs, *FoxTalk* and Microsoft Office & Database Journal.

## Toni M. Feltman

Toni is a partner in F1 Technologies and one of the principal developers in the FoxExpress product line. She has spoken at all of the FoxExpress Developers Conferences along with the German FoxPro Developers Conference, FoxTeach, Great Lakes Great Database Workshop and various user groups throughout North America. Toni was a judge of the 1998 and 1999 Visual FoxPro Excellence Awards. Prior to F1 Technologies, she worked for Fox Software, the company that originated FoxPro. Toni is also a contract instructor for the University of Toledo.

## Denise Forbes

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## Tamar E. Granor

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# DevCon Topics

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION - DevCon: Ten Years and Counting

**J**oin the Visual FoxPro team as they celebrate a Decade of DevCon. Take a look back at past DevCons and how the FoxPro product line has evolved over time to keep pace with the changing software industry. See what is happening at this year's DevCon. Find out what the next few years have in store for software development. And then hold onto your seat during a special sneak preview of the next version of Visual FoxPro.

### ESSENTIAL FUNDAMENTALS

#### Beyond SCATTER and GATHER:

#### The differences between FoxPro 2.6 and VFP

Moving from FoxPro 2.x to Visual FoxPro involves a significant amount of re-education. This session looks at the major differences between the two products, both at a mechanical level (SCATTER/GATHER) and, more importantly, at the application level. Not only has FoxPro become object-oriented, but there are many other differences that are important to understand as you start learning about developing in Visual FoxPro. Data handling, event handling, scoping, object management and referencing, and code structure are all discussed as part of this session. The session is designed for people with no experience in VFP as well as those who have already started learning VFP but are still having problems—wrapping their arms—around the product.

#### Life Beyond the TextBox

To assist the developer in building data entry forms, FoxPro gives us controls like the textbox, radio buttons, drop downs and the ever popular browse. In FoxPro 2.x they were good but in Visual FoxPro they have been extended to give us the power and versatility to build a first class, rock solid data entry form. Some of the controls closely parallel what FoxPro 2.x offered but the others only appear to be the same. Visual FoxPro gives the developer some real power under the hood. Those "complex" controls - the grid, dropdown combo box and list box - are only as complex as we make them. Once you understand how to use them and deploy them, they become allies in your battle to make the great application. This session's objective is to equip the programmer with the knowledge to harness the power and versatility of these controls. We will cover some of the basics as well as some tips and tricks.

#### VFP Data: The Works!

Data. It's all about Data. All the slick GUI features in the world won't make your application a success unless you handle the data correctly. This session will focus on the data-handling mechanisms in Visual FoxPro. Attendees will learn about setting up database containers, associated tables, table properties, local views, referential integrity, rules, triggers and more. Once the data is set up, it must be integrated with forms. Included in this session are topics such as the data environment, row and table buffering, validating data entry, TABLEUPDATE(), TABLEREVERT(), and a host of other data-related functions. If you're new to Visual FoxPro or if you don't yet have a solid grip on all of the data related features in Visual FoxPro, then this session is for you.

### ENHANCING APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

#### Using ActiveX Controls in VFP

Visual FoxPro offers such a rich class and form design environment that many programmers have never been motivated to look outside VFP for form-building tools. However, ActiveX controls offer a potentially vast collection of specialized controls that provide functionality that isn't and shouldn't be intrinsic in VFP because it isn't required in most VFP applications. This session outlines the basic techniques for working with ActiveX controls in VFP, surveys the potential pitfalls, and provides an overview of some controls shipped with VFP and a glimpse of one or two third-party controls.

#### Making the Most of SQL-SELECT

VFP's SQL-SELECT command lets you look at data in many ways, but getting the results you want can be difficult. This session looks at queries beyond the basics and shows you how to make sure that what you see is what you mean. It also covers performance and optimization issues, including a look at the VFP function that reports on query optimization. This session assumes some familiarity with the SQL-SELECT command. It addresses queries in VFP, and does not touch on client-server issues.

#### Pest Control for the Y2K Bug

This session will focus on the methods provided to avoid Y2K issues in your Visual FoxPro applications. Attendees will learn strategies for building Y2K-compliant applications, how to trap potential Y2K date-sensitive problems in current applications and how to correct them.

#### The "Just Push a Button" Application

Everybody wants it easy. Visual FoxPro developers are no different and Visual FoxPro's new Application Builder is the right tool to take off some of the pressure of everyday programming. Though a name like "Application Builder" may send cringes up the spine of a true blue developer, don't be misled. This is not just an aid for "programmer-wanna-bees" but also a tool for any professional developer who wants to be more productive. This session provides an overview, and covers use, reuse and extension of the new Application Builder and the Application Framework.

#### Extending a Framework in VFP 6.0

Everyone tells you that you should use a framework for your applications. What happens when the framework doesn't provide the exact functionality that your application requires? How should you approach making modifications to the framework? In this session the

framework included with Visual FoxPro 6.0 will be used as an example to investigate various methods of extending its functionality. To begin extending any framework, it is necessary to understand how that framework is constructed, therefore there will be a very brief discussion of the structure of the VFP 6.0 framework. After being introduced to the VFP 6.0 framework, the session will present a number of different methods of extending, or modifying, the framework. These methods will be demonstrated to show the pros and cons of each approach.

#### Pushing the Limits with the FoxPro Foundation Classes

One of the most important new parts of Visual FoxPro 6.0 is the FoxPro Foundation Classes (FFC). Unlike generally believed, these classes are not meant to be used by beginners only. Quite the contrary! Many of the classes are very advanced and meant to be used by the professional developer. This session teaches how to use and extend the FoxPro Foundation Classes. It demonstrates how the professional developer can use these classes in his own framework and applications. Learn how to make the FFC work as a professional component library rather than a framework for quick-and-dirty jobs. Many of the classes are introduced in great detail. This session also tries to compensate for the fact that the FoxPro Foundation Classes aren't documented very well. Learn how to use classes and what all the properties and methods stand for, as well as how to subclass those components and modify them for your own use.

#### Error Handling

No rational developer ever programs errors into his or her applications, but they still seem to happen. There are many different types of errors that can occur in a Visual FoxPro application from file contention errors to program errors. There are also many different ways to trap and handle errors. This session will focus on techniques to effectively trap and handle the different types of errors that can occur in an application.

#### VFP Debugging and Testing Techniques

One of the most important aspects of the development process is debugging and testing. Visual FoxPro provides a number of features that are very effective used in the testing and development process. This session will focus on techniques that you can use to prevent bugs in your applications; make sure your applications have been thoroughly tested; and track bugs using the Anomaly Tracking System.





## Using the Coverage Profiler

VFP 6 includes an important tool called the Coverage Profiler that provides both code coverage and profiling. This session will examine how to use this tool for effective application testing, and will show how simple add-ins can increase its usefulness. This session assumes good working knowledge of OOP principles.

## Distributing VFP Applications

Once you've built and tested your VFP application, the next challenge is how best to package and distribute it. This session guides you through taming the VFP Setup Wizard and making a professional installation. Also covered are strategies for deploying over a network, handling different drives and directories, where components should be installed, automating setup issues, making sure your workstations always have the latest version of your software and issues involved with extras such as ActiveX controls. This session also discusses other software that can be used to produce distribution disks. If you distribute or plan to distribute your applications, this session is a must for you.

## Driving Word and Excel from VFP

Visual FoxPro is a great database product, but it's not a word processor or a spreadsheet. Why try to fit a square peg in a round hole? If you need a word processor or spreadsheet, use one. This session shows you how to create, access and manipulate Word documents and Excel spreadsheets from a Visual FoxPro application. Learn how VFP can use Word to create reports, send data to an Excel workbook, read Word and Excel documents, and much more. This session assumes some familiarity with Word and/or Excel and a basic understanding of object-oriented programming.

## Building and Using VFP Developer Tools

This session will show you how to create simple tools that increase productivity for you and your development team. We will look at using project hooks to add functionality to the Project Manager, subclassing or modifying the VFP wizards and builders to provide additional or customized features, and creating your own builders using the BuilderD technology included with VFP 6. This session assumes good working knowledge of OOP principles.

## OBJECT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

### OOP Fundamentals

"I've avoided it for as long as I can. Now I must move to the Object Oriented world of software development." This session will start at the very beginning of what object orientation is all about. The terms and concepts will be defined with real world analogies. Then a sample problem will be analyzed, a solution designed, and an application built using object oriented methodology.

### Building Classes

At the heart of Object Oriented Programming are classes. They're the building blocks for all object oriented applications. In this session we will explore how to get started designing simple reusable classes that can be used throughout the application development cycle. With the right set of classes, building applications becomes a plug and play job and enhancement becomes a much easier task.

## Managing Class Libraries

The more applications you develop, and the bigger the teams that work on them, and the more often the software is revised, the more class library management skills are important. Face it: you can't ship a large application without good class management. As program size increases, proper structure becomes exponentially more important. This session, for advanced Visual FoxPro developers, is all about being an effective class librarian, and working smart with visual and code class libraries. We'll also talk about the conceptual and physical management of classes and class libraries, how the VFP Class Browser and Component Gallery play complementary roles in class library management, and how libraries structures are related to component architecture. Time permitting, we'll also look at tools to aid in library engineering, documentation, information dissemination, and tactics for version control.

## Design Patterns

Design Patterns are used to enable developers to discuss frameworks and object communication in a more structured manner, with a focus on designs that promote reuse. This double-length session will cover a number of patterns and their use in both standard Visual FoxPro applications and in COM-based component-style applications. This session assumes a thorough knowledge of Visual FoxPro, in particular object instantiation and object referencing. A basic understanding of COM is not necessary, but is helpful.

## Visual FoxPro and Modeling

Would you build a house, a subway or another physical structure without proper planning and blueprints? Of course not. Nor should a developer build software without the same amount of planning and forethought. The world of object modeling and the Unified Modeling Language (UML) promises to change the way software is designed. This two-part session will introduce you to the concept of modeling, Microsoft's Visual Modeler, and the UML, with demonstrations showing how these tools apply to the construction of Visual FoxPro applications.

## CLIENT-SERVER DEVELOPMENT WITH VISUAL FOXPRO

### Build a Client-Server Application with Visual FoxPro

This two-part presentation is more of a workshop than a lecture/discussion. We'll build a working Client-Server application from the ground up, complete with data-entry forms, using a minimum of pre-built code/objects. Attendees should know how to create VFP data-entry forms, understand how a (local) view works, and understand what a SQL-SELECT statement is.

### Scaling VFP and SQL Server Apps from the Desktop to the Enterprise

Take your SQL Server data on the road! This session will show how to build a Visual FoxPro Desktop Application that can pull data from a SQL Server database and take it offline. Topics include remote SQL Server data through offline views and resynchronizing data from VFP back to SQL Server. Comparisons on using SQL Server on the desktop as a mobile database versus VFP local tables will also be presented.

## Using VFP and SQL Server 7.0 Together

Have you been faced with the need to use SQL Server as the data store in a Visual FoxPro Application but were not sure where to start? SQL Server 7.0 sports a number of new features that make it easier than ever to implement. Whether you are a SQL Server veteran who is curious about the new features in Version 7.0 or are brand new to SQL Server, this session is for you.

## Using VFP and SQL Server OLAP Services

Historically, online analytical processing (OLAP) has been characterized by expensive tools, challenging implementation, and rigid deployment. Microsoft has simplified the use of this popular data-analysis technology by introducing SQL Server OLAP Services, a component of SQL Server 7.0. This session shows how to use it with FoxPro and SQL Server data, and how to access OLAP Services from Visual FoxPro.

## USING VISUAL FOXPRO FOR WEB DEVELOPMENT

### Introduction to Visual FoxPro and the Web

This two-part session is designed for developers who are new to working with the Web and Visual FoxPro. The sessions will cover the basics of using static and dynamic HTML and Active Server Pages to publish and interact with Visual FoxPro data on the web. If working with Visual FoxPro data on the Web is in your future, these sessions will give you the leg-up you have needed.

### Building Data Driven Web Sites with Visual InterDev and Visual FoxPro

This session discusses using Visual InterDev 6.0 and Visual FoxPro to build scalable, data driven web sites. The discussions and demonstrations will illustrate how to use the integrated Visual Data Tools to connect to Microsoft SQL Server and FoxPro databases via ADO on the Web. Demonstrations will focus on creating Data Environment objects to access the data and implementing them on the Web with data-bound controls using drag/drop and middle-tier COM components written in Visual FoxPro.

### Building Web Applications with VFP Components

This session shows how to integrate Visual FoxPro COM objects with Active Server Pages. Find out how to build and use VFP COM servers with ASP and how to share information between ASP pages and your COM servers. Find out how to use ASP's built-in components and ADO in VFP and to expose VFP objects to ASP pages. Also discusses architecture of ASP, multi-threading, security and deployment issues.

### Distributed Internet Applications with Visual FoxPro

This session discusses ways to use Visual FoxPro instead of a browser as a front end to build applications that take advantage of the Internet's reach. It discusses a number of ways to reach out over the Internet to access data and logic from VFP client applications to a server across the Internet. Topics cover Accessing data over TCP/IP (SQL and files), remote data access with RDS



# DevCon Topics

and using DCOM and MTS to access remote objects. Finally a detailed discussion of using HTTP to drive distributed applications and data with VFP clients talking to VFP Servers across the Web.

## XML: An Overview

Two quotes should grab your attention. First, "XML is currently recommended by the World Wide Web Consortium as the standard for data interchange over the web". The second quote is from Microsoft: "XML is the universal format for data on the web". This session is designed for people who have heard of XML but really don't have a good idea of what it is, why it is important, and how much they wished that they had heard of it before. While XML will be important to FoxPro developers with interest in web publishing, it will be even more important to the fundamental nature of computing. Office 2000 will use XML for data storage, e-commerce will be done using XML. This session will discuss what XML is, where it came from, how it is put together, and where it is going. If you are interested in the future of computing as well as application development, this session is a must.

## Building XML Based (Web) Applications with VFP

HTML has changed the way we use computers, be it on the Internet or in local applications. Unfortunately, HTML is limited to whatever the creators of HTML wanted it to be. Yet the power of markup languages is way beyond the capabilities of HTML. The XML standard allows the creation of new markup languages and data formats. This session introduces the power of XML and shows you advanced uses you can put to work today. This includes the creation of new markup languages (XML applications) and processors for those languages. It also includes the creation of XML data files. Those files can be used within Visual FoxPro either as a local data source or as data that travels across the Internet. With Visual FoxPro, we can also go the other way around: Publishing XML on the Internet. To create proper XML, you need to understand XML, XSL (covered briefly), DTD (this is the "document type definition" that allows specifying the valid syntax for a new markup language), DOM, XML parsers (and other tools to access XML). This session covers all these topics.

## Using IE5 and Microsoft.XMLDOM with VFP

This session shows how to take advantage of Internet Explorer 5 features, including behaviors, data binding, XML, XSL, and calling VFP COM components using RDS. An introduction to new features to IE5's DOM (Document Object Model) will be discussed. Primary focus will be on the various XML technologies included with MSXML.DLL (the Microsoft.XMLDOM COM object installed with IE5) and how to use the XMLDOM within IE5 using VBScript. This XML parser COM object can be used with any COM client including VFP, VB, and even Word. VFP can be used as both a client (using Microsoft.XMLDOM) and a server (using COM objects with ASP) of XML data, and detailed examples of both will be demonstrated.

## CREATING DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS

### Windows DNA and n-Tier Fundamentals

This session provides an overview of Microsoft's underlying technology that is used to create robust and flexible n-Tier applications. We'll begin with an overview of Microsoft's Distributed InterNet Architecture (DNA) and cover the tools and technologies that make it work, including MTS, MSMQ, IIS, ASP, DHTML, SQL Server and Visual FoxPro. Finally, we'll discuss where and how each of these fit into the mix.

### Building and Using COM Components with VFP

Yes, you CAN build COM components with Visual FoxPro and this session will show you how. Along with demonstrating how to build COM Components with Visual FoxPro, topics include the types of COM Components and their appropriate use, creating class definitions, properties and methods to be exposed to a client application, and using COM components in VFP, Visual Basic, ASP and Office applications.

### ADO Fundamentals

Microsoft's new "universal" data access strategy is based on ADO (Active Data Objects) for local access and RDS (Remote Data Services) for remote access. This technology offers an object-oriented approach to structured data of all types, not just databases, and the data objects are available to any programming language that supports COM (Component Object Model) objects, including Visual FoxPro. This session outlines the ADO and RDS object models, and demonstrates some basic techniques for working with ADO and RDS data objects in Visual FoxPro programs and forms.

### Using ADO and VFP

You already understand the ADO Object Model and how it can be used to access and update data. Now, you need to go beyond the basics and implement ADO into your Visual FoxPro Applications. How can ADO be incorporated into user interfaces? How can ADO be used in conjunction with VFP COM Components? How can ADO be used in conjunction with ActiveX Automation? These questions and many more will be explored in this action-packed session. Visual FoxPro 6.0 now contains a number of new features that allow for ADO Recordsets to be directly bound to ActiveX Controls such as the Hierarchical FlexGrid and the OLE-DB DataGrid. Coupled with VFP COM Components, these new capabilities make ADO a compelling alternative to native VFP data access. This session will focus on applying ADO, not on ADO basics. Therefore, the ADO Fundamentals session is strongly recommended before attending this session.

### Managing VFP COM Components with Microsoft Transaction Server

Developers use Microsoft Transaction Server (MTS) to deploy scalable server applications built from COM components, focusing on solving business problems instead of on the programming application infrastructure. Microsoft Transaction Server delivers the "plumbing"—including transactions, scalability services,

connection management, security, and point-and-click administration—providing developers with the easiest way to build and deploy scalable server applications for business and the Internet. This session shows how to use MTS to manage Visual FoxPro components.

### Build an App Start to Finish — In One Day!

We're gonna have fun with this one! In one day (six consecutive sessions), we'll be looking at a running n-tier, Windows DNA application that makes use of the base technologies in Windows to provide a real-world solution. The session will begin with a business problem, and go through a review of the various Use Case models, class design, data design, components, script and front ends that make up the solution.

### Converting a Single Tier App into a Multi-Tier Distributed App

You have been hearing quite a bit about multi-tier development. The problem is: What do you do with your current applications to move them into this new application architecture? This session takes a look at the process of taking single tier applications and turning them into multi-tier applications.

### Visual FoxPro COM Servers and Microsoft Message Queue Server

This session discusses Visual FoxPro COM servers focusing on Microsoft Message Queue Server (MSMQ). We'll discuss the background and value of messaging in your multi-tier applications using VFP DLL components in the middle tier. The session moves into practical application design for MSMQ applications. Time permitting, we will explore implementing VFP servers in scenarios involving some of the new COM+ Services.

### Advanced Visual FoxPro Servers

Each release of Visual FoxPro has improved application interoperability. The heart of this capability is COM. We will discuss the implementation and design considerations for some of the ways VFP COM servers can be created. Examples of publishing VFP interfaces to VB, Excel and VC will be demonstrated. Multiple threading will be discussed extensively, from a beginner's perspective. Examples of multi-threading COM servers will be shown, with emphasis on Web deployment. Practical applications of multi-threading will be discussed.

### Programming COM Events with VFP

When hosting an ActiveX control in a VFP container, it's easy to attach VFP code to events of that control. Now, using the new VFP.COM.DLL component for VFP from Microsoft, VFP code can be attached to events of COM servers. This session will describe and show how to attach VFP code to COM events and various advanced solutions. This allows VFP to communicate with other technologies, including working with multi-threaded VFP DLLs. Surfacing events from a VFP DLL is also demonstrated using a VB DLL wrapper COM object around a VFP DLL COM object. COM events is an increasingly integral part of programming VFP in a component based development, and is central to DNA architecture. Heavy emphasis on working examples and real world component based communication with various technologies will comprise the core of this session.

More topics and sessions are planned for DevCon 99, however they could not be listed at press time. Please continue to monitor [www.advisor.com](http://www.advisor.com) for updated information.

June 6-10, 1999 ■ Palm Springs, California

# Destination:



## La Quinta Resort & Club

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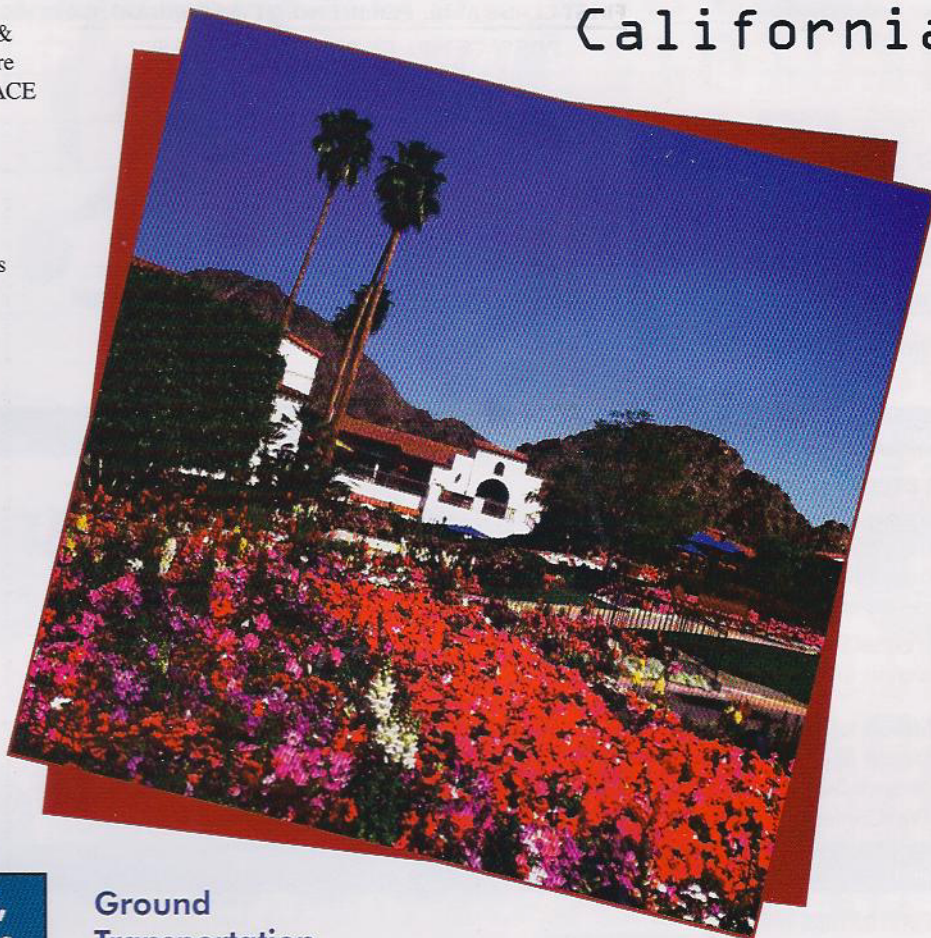
### Accommodations

La Quinta is located east of Palm Springs, California. La Quinta Resort & Club is the conference host hotel, where all sessions and activities are held. **SPACE IS LIMITED** so reserve your room early. Call the Conference Hotline at 800-368-3204 or (203) 268-3204, or the resort at (760) 564-4111, and say you're attending the Visual FoxPro DevCon. Make your hotel reservations as early as possible to avoid having to stay at a less convenient location.

### Air Transportation

La Quinta Resort & Club is located east of Palm Springs, California. The Palm Springs Regional airport is served by six major airlines. For maximum flexibility, use any major airport in Southern California; all are within an easy drive of the Palm Springs area.

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### Ground Transportation

**Hertz** is offering car rental discounts for all attendees. Call the Hertz Meeting Desk at 800-654-2240 and refer to Meeting #010R0001.

**Shuttle Service** from the Palm Springs Airport is provided by Super Shuttle, call (760) 320-6600 for reservations.

### Weather & Dress

Conference dress is casual! Palm Springs weather in June normally ranges from the 90's during the day to the 60's in the evening. Dress for comfort.

### Beyond DevCon: Optional Adventures

If you're ready for more, there's lots to do in the Palm Springs area: Water theme parks, an aerial tramway straight up Mt. San Jacinto, desert jeep rides, hot air ballooning, the amazing rocks of Joshua Tree National Monument, the General George S. Patton Museum, world-class shopping and restaurants, and nightlife that includes jazz, comedy, nostalgia, and blues. Venture a little further to Disneyland, San Diego Zoo, Hollywood, gorgeous Southern California beaches, theme parks, Big Bear Lake, Catalina Island, the unique Yuma sand dunes (you've seen them in many Hollywood movies), and even nearby Mexico. Call the Conference Hotline for details on the many adventures you can take.

# Visual FoxPro DevCon 99

June 6-10, 1999 ■ Palm Springs, California



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## 2 DevCon Registration

### ADVISOR DEVCON (JUNE 6-10, 1999)

Conference registration fee on or before April 30, 1999 \$1095 \_\_\_\_\_

Conference registration fee after April 30, 1999 \$1195 \_\_\_\_\_

Conference registration includes Sunday Evening Keynote & Reception, all conference sessions, meals, and activities Monday through Thursday.

### PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINARS (JUNE 6, 1999)

Introduction to Microsoft Visual FoxPro 6.0 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm) \$199 \_\_\_\_\_  
or

Introduction to Web Technology (9:00 am - 12:00 pm) \$99 \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Microsoft SQL Server (1:00 pm - 4:00 pm) \$99 \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Conference Seminars are optional and must be taken in conjunction with full conference.

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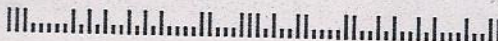
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