

# The Top Ten Tahoe Enhancement Requests

*Whil Hentzen*

I'm pretty sure I'm going to be persona non-grata after this list becomes public, but as a tough, investigative reporter, my first duty is to the public – you – and you have a right to the news. And the new features that will be showing up in Tahoe - the next version of Visual FoxPro – are certainly news. So, without any further ado (except when I have to bid you adieu <groan>), here's what you're going to be seeing in a few months:

1. The **GOTO** command. Other languages have it. And they're wildly popular. Why shouldn't Visual FoxPro?
2. A new keyword: **BRPW**. The complete syntax will look like this:

BRPWSE

```
[FIELDS FieldList]
[FPNT cFpntName [, nFpntSize]]
[STYLE cFpntStyle]
[FPR lExpression1 [REST]]
[FPRMAT]
[FREEZE fieldName]
[KEY eExpression1 [, eExpression2]]
[LAST | NPINIT]
[LPCK nNumberPfFields]
[LPARTITIPN]
[NAME PjectName]
[NPAPPEND]
[NPDELETE]
[NPEDIT | NPMPDIFY]
[NPLGRID] [NPRGRID]
[NPLINK]
[NPMENU]
[NPPPTIMIZE]
[NPREFRESH]
[NPRMAL]
[NPWAIT]
[PARTITION nCplumnNumber [LEDIT] [REDIT]]
[PREFERENCE PreferenceName]
[SAVE]
[TIMEPUT nSecpnds]
[TITLE cTitleText]
[VALID [:F] lExpression2 [ERRPR cMessageText]]
[WHEN lExpression3]
[WIDTH nFieldWidth]
[WINDPW WindpwName1]
[IN [WINDPW] WindpwName2 | IN SCREEN]
[CPLPR SCHEME nSchemeNumber]
```

I personally know I will use this command often, and if you take a look at the keyboard, you'll undoubtedly agree.

3. **SYS(666)**. The results of this function are obvious, wouldn't you say? By the way, do you know what will happen when you install the next version of Visual Studio by playing the CD backwards? Try it.

4. A non-visual form designer. This designer will work by typing words and short phrases into a file using a simple text editor, and running the result through a compiler to produce a program that would look and feel much like the output of the VFP Form Designer. You wouldn't even need a mouse to do this if you didn't want to use one. You'll be able to do anything you could do with the Form Designer, and probably more. And best of all, the hardware requirements are going to be minimal – odds in Vegas have the line at a 386 with 1 MB of RAM.

5. A new book from Microsoft Press exclusively for Visual FoxPro. Capitalizing on the success of such books as Learn Visual C++ in 14 days and Learn to Write Your Own Multi-Tasking, Multi-User Pre-emptive, Multi-Kernal Cross Platform Operating System in 7 Days, you'll soon be able to master Tahoe in just a few days. And remember that the "Days" that these books refer aren't really that long, now are they? 9-666-010101-0 is the ISBN Number for "Learn Visual FoxPro in 15 Trips to the Bathroom."

6. Probably the single most desired feature, ever since Dr. Dave announced that you no longer needed to surround AND with periods, is a new SET function.

```
SET ("BUGS") = "ON", "OFF"
```

Yes, that's right – no more kludges in your AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.FPW files. Simply check the Bugs check box in the General tab of the Options dialog.

7. I don't want to promise anything, but we might also see the ",1" parameter provided as an extension to SET("BUGS"). As I understand, you'll be able to specify a number of choices, such as VFP 5.0a, VFP 5.0, VFP 3.0b, and so on, in order to maintain backwards compatibility.

8. Wait states. Need I say more? You'll be able to specify a number from 1 to 65,535. Is it just coincidence that this is exactly twice the number of work areas available in any data session? I think not, and I bet you don't think so either!

9. Tahoe, along with the entire Visual Studio package, will now come in five editions. Visual Studio Professional and Visual Studio Enterprise will be constructed much like VS97. Visual Studio Seven of Nine will include the necessary hardware for you to become one with your machine, including a neuro-cranial implant, a pair of 3D gloves that instantly melds to your arms, and a form-fitting cat suit that will take your customer's eyes off of the computer screen permanently.

Visual Studio Bubba allows you to substitute various components of Visual Studio with much simpler equivalents. Visual FoxPro can be replaced by Access, Internet Explorer can be replaced by PC Anywhere, Visual InterDev can be replaced by Notepad, Visual C++ can be replaced by Borland C++, and, of course, Visual Basic can be replaced by Visual Basic.

And soon to be released, Visual Studio CrystalBall will be guaranteed to run perfectly on all hardware in the solar system – including hardware that won't be invented for five years, such as the sexy new 1900 MHz processors from Intel.

10. Intellitone. Don't you hate it when you're cooking away at 2 in the morning, working on that new module, and the CD you're playing finishes up. Sometimes you don't notice, but often you do. When this does happen, it breaks your concentration. And once your concentration is interrupted, boom!, you're hosed. A new registry that recognizes all current music CDs and plays them automatically according to what you're working on. "Intellitype" in VB is now superseded by "Intellitone" in VFP.

11. And of course, Tip of the Day will be back. Obviously I can't list every tip, but I can tell you this much. When you install VFP, the first tip of the day reads "Some people say you shouldn't believe everything you read. Others say you shouldn't believe anything you read."

Think about it. See you next month, around May 1<sup>st</sup>.