VFP Data on Your Palm

Whil Hentzen
Hentzenwerke Corporation

About Me

- Hentzenwerke Corp. (17 yrs)
- Editor, FoxTalk
- Author (6 books), including VFP 6 Fundamentals & 1999 DevGuide
- Publisher, The Essentials for VFP 6

VFP on your Handheld Why?

- How do you define yourself – in terms of your data
- Ultimate goal of computing – your data available all the time, everywhere

WinCE v Palm

- They didn't call it WinCE for nothing
- Marketshare
- WinCE not a single platform
- Reliability: Windows crashes
- Reliability: RAS DLL-based sync
- Track record of WinCE – MSFT keeps changing direction

Tools

- Three paths to Palm development
- Amateur/shareware
- Hardcore/fulltime
- Middle ground

Amateur/Shareware

- Good for simple apps
- Inexpensive
- Easy to use
- Little/no doc
- Structure limited to flat file, flat file with lookups

Amateur/Shareware

- SimpleDB
- ThinkDB
- Jfile Pro

Hardcore/fulltime

- Down to the metal
- Significant resources
- C++
- CodeWarrior Environment
- KVM

Middle ground

- Serious application developers who don’t want to learn C++
- Robust environment for development, deployment
- Full featured
- Cost of tool pales besides investment of time

Middle Ground

- Pendragon Forms
- Satellite Forms

Pendragon Forms

- Full development environment
- Limited functionality
- Limited UI capability

Satellite Forms

- Professional IDE
- PUMA is a major player in wireless
- Consists of several pieces
- $795
- Support on website fairly robust, if somewhat impersonal

Whatchu want?

- App running on desktop/server
- Download stuff to handheld
- Work on handheld for a while
- Back to office and upload handheld data
- Transfers done automatically during hotsync

SF Components

- IDE
- ActiveX control to do hotsync automatically
- SDK
- RDK

Overview of Process

- Install SF on PC
- ActiveX is automatically installed
- Install SDK on handheld
- Develop hh app on PC
- Develop server app on PC
- Deploy hh app to hh
- Deploy server app on PC

Overview of Use

- You have data on PC
- You sync with hh
- You use hh
- You sync with PC

Data Structure Details

- PC app has data in VFP DBC
- PC has intermediate data structure in DBF (dBASE 5)
- hh has proprietary data format (PDB)

Data Transfer Details - I

- PC/Server app is running
- PC/Server app ActiveX detects HotSync
- PC/Server app xfers data to intermediate data DBF
- PC/Server app calls ActiveX method to move DBF to hh

Data Transfer Details - II

- PC/Server app is running
- hh placed in cradle
- PC/Server app ActiveX detects HotSync
- PC/Server app calls ActiveX method to move hh to DBF
- PC/Server app xfers data from intermediate data DBF to app

ActiveX Methods

- You write code in two methods
- You call ActiveX methods for two other transfers

Palm Development

- Minimalist Approach
- Not data-entry intensive
- Not data storage intensive
- Not a robust UI
- Lesson: Don’t push the envelope – develop within it’s means

Table Editor

- Layout tab
- Edit tab
- Edit menu

The SF IDE

- Create tables
- Create form
- Map form to tables
- Download form and tables to hh

Your First SF App

- Define what to build on hh
- Build table
  (Can grab table from hh)
- Build form
- Add controls to form
- Attach form controls to table
- Drop button on form, set action
- Download form/tables to hh

SF Controls

- Title
- Text
- Edit
- Paragraph
- Check
- Radio Button

SF Controls

- Button
- Listbox
- Droplist (Combo)
- Lookup
- Ink Control
- Bitmap

SF Controls

- Graffiti Shift Indicator
- Auto Stamp
- Custom Control

Form Properties

- Number of pages
- Linked table
- User permissions

Control Properties

- Text, Edit, Paragraph, Check, Radio Button
- Listbox, Droplist, Lookup
- Button - Actions
- Button - Filters
- Button - Scripts

Desktop App

- Form with ActiveX control
- HotSyncStatus event
- Sample code

Deploy and Run

- Download app to hh
- Run VFP app
- HotSync
- VFP app detects

Advanced Features

- Multiple Forms
- Notes
- Script

Testing

- POSE
- How it works
- Application

thank-you-good-night