

# VFP Data on Your Palm

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# 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**