

So You've Inherited an Application – Now What? 51 Tips to Help You Survive

Whil Hentzen



About moi

- 5'7-1/2", 135 lbs, grey hair, blue eyes
- B.S.M.E. Rose-Hulman Inst. Of Tech.
- Enjoy long walks on the beach, snuggling, Neil, Ted, Aerosmith
- MVP, LTA, books, sessions, cert exam
- 22,000 billable hours since 1990



Agenda

1. Before you take on the job
2. Sizing up the customer
3. Sizing up the system
4. Meeting of agreement
5. Working with the system

Before you take on the job

- Inherit
- Diversity
- One little change
- Mission: Objectivity

Sizing up the customer

- Before the kiss
- Quarter-inch holes
- Purpose
- Remorse
- Leafe
- Surrealism

Sizing up the customer

- Difficulties
- No assumptions
- One assumption
- Clueless
- !Slam

Sizing up the system

- Education
- Analogy
- May you?
- Can you?
- MAIN2.PRG
- Ancestor knowledge
- Ancestor developers

Sizing up the system

- Inventory
- Audit
- Stack the deck
- WTF?
- Attention span
- Standards

Meeting of agreement

- Set Expectations
- Rewrite
- Wisdom
- Compassion

Working with the system

- Backup
- Cruft
- Making copies...
- Delicious Fox Wraps
- Write Once, Forget Often
- Rental Cars

Working with the system

- Instant Recall
- debugo is your friend
- debugo context
- debugo context redux
- Instrumenting
- Debugging scaffold

Working with the system

- debugox
- HC
- Permanent debugox
- Data, Schmata
- Error conditions

Working with the system

- Spinning Wheels
- Refactoring
- Bug reporting
- Another beer

Thank-you-good-night

- Compassion Redux

Remember to fill out your evaluation.
Session slides, white paper, and code
samples will not be updated.