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North Texas PC News

2ND SATURDAY
Microsoft Las Colinas
7000 Highway 161
Irving, Texas

3RD SATURDAY
King of Glory Lutheran Church
6411 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway
Dallas, Texas

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2008 Elections, Again?

Doug Gorrie

NTPCUG members should have received a special e-mail on or about January 24th, advising of the need to hold new elections for the 2008 Board. Please bear with us – going this route was not an easy decision, but seemed necessary in order to be completely fair and “in the open”. (The full text of that e-mail is included below.)

The January 24th e-mail opened up the ballot for any additional nominations for Board and president-elect positions. Anyone who submitted their name by February 4th will appear on the updated ballot, which will be sent out very soon (or may have arrived before this newsletter!!). Rules for voting will be similar to last time, except that lines will be available for write-in candidates if you need them. We also have a candidate for president-elect – *thank you Chuck Fiedler!*

As before, please vote. No one is a “shoo-in” until the ballots are counted.

———— Jan 24th E-mail —————

At the Board of Directors meeting on January 21st, we had a long discussion about the election on Saturday and how to handle a problem that arose. As you know, we were not able to secure a candidate to run for the office of president elect, even though the bylaws of our group state that we should elect one at the annual meeting. Although we didn't have the position of president elect on the ballot, there were still some write-in votes for this position.

Unfortunately, the bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order don't help us in this very unusual case. So, to be fair and give all members the same opportunity to write-in a president elect, as well as directors, the board voted to not certify the results of the election and to hold another election as soon as possible.

What we want to do is the following. First, we are asking again for candidates for the positions open on the ballot, namely director at large and president elect. We now have at least one person who has stepped forward to run for the office of president elect. So, in the brief time we have before the new balloting takes place, we are opening the door for anyone else who is interested in running to submit their name for either position.

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Second, any names we receive prior to February 4th will be placed on the ballot, and an email containing a list of candidates will be sent out to everyone.

Third, soon after that, we will send out ballots again, similar in form to the last ballot. The two key differences will be that (1) there will be one or more candidates offered for the president elect position and (2) there will be spots for you to offer write-in alternatives for either position.

We apologize for the necessity to redo the election, but the board voted unanimously that this was our best course of action to comply with our bylaws and be as fair as possible to all members. Please bear with us as we carry out this bit of business, after which we will get on with what looks like an exciting year in the life of NTPCUG.

Your Board of Directors

Prez Sez

This month, NTPCUG is starting a new initiative to boost our membership — we are embarking on an advertising campaign in the Dallas Morning News. Our ad will appear in the Metro section of the News on Thursday through Sunday before our 3rd Saturday meeting.

We're trying to get people to visit us with a "trial" membership offer. It is, in essence, a free ticket to visit us for three months. We've tried various initiatives over the years, and we hope this one will be successful. In the meantime, you are the best advertisers for our group. Invite someone to the next meeting.

This month, we also start two new SIGs, both led by Larry Copeland. The first of these is the IT Professional SIG. It is geared towards professionals with responsibilities for managing large networks of computers at their place of business.

The second SIG is aimed at a relatively new area of computing — mobile devices. As computers and cell phones and palm pilots converge, we are seeing a lot more power in smaller and smaller devices. Learn more about these two SIGs elsewhere in this newsletter.

Last month, Microsoft conducted a very interesting event, with the help of a lot of local talent. While

we were having our annual membership meeting, a group of about 70 developers convened that weekend to create software for 18 charitable organizations. Chris Koenig of Microsoft and Toi B. Wright of the local ASP.NET Developers group began planning this event last summer. Over the fall, they sent out requests to a number of local charities who had a need for software to help run their organizations. Then, they sent out requests to developers and companies in the area asking for teams of programmers to create these applications.

I had a chance to visit the event and watch the action. There was a real sense of enthusiasm among all concerned. It was just the right mix of talent, planning, and vision. I had a chance to talk with some of the local "evangelists" from Microsoft, and they are intent on making a difference in the community.

To visit the web site for the event, go to www.wearemicrosoft.com. I'm looking forward to seeing these guys some more and see what they come up with next. Congratulations to Toi (a former SIG leader of NTPCUG) and Chris K. (who was our November guest speaker) for putting on what turned out to be a highly successful event.

Happy computing!

Chris

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) ...

2nd Saturday

Visual Basic .NET — 9:00 am

Tuc Goodwin
tgoodwin@ntpcug.org

Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD SIG) — 10:00 am

Tom Perkins
tomperki@gmail.com

We will not be meeting this month. Join us in March as we wrap up chapter 10 of the O'Reilly Head-First OOAD book and walk through a complete OOAD cycle development project.

SharePoint — 11:30 am

Ram Yadav
ram_yadav@hotmail.com

We will be discussing the “sptest.ntpcug.org website features”

MOSS-WCM Web Sites

Ram Yadav has 12+ years of experience in the IT industry (*10+ Microsoft Env*). He has been working on Sharepoint for 5+ years (*including Frontpage server extension and Sharepoint team services, WSS v2, SPS 2003, WSS v3 and MOSS 2007*).

Microsoft Certification SIG — 2:00 pm Saturday at Nerdbooks

Tom Perkins
tomperki@gmail.com

Meets at Nerdbooks, 1681 Firman Dr, in Richardson. Continuing examination of XML: XPath, DOM, XML methods available on the Dataset object; review of XML, real-world example, and exam-type questions, discussion regarding 2008 certification.

3rd Saturday

Alphabetically

Adobe Photoshop — 12:30 pm

presented by Hillary Morgan Ferrer
Chris Morgan, SIG Leader
chris.morgan@ntpcug.org

We will talk about tips on giving your photograph some of that “old school” flair. Add grain. Create a

border. Learn a few ways for black and white conversions.

Building Web Sites — 8:00 am

Bill Parker, SIG Leader
bill.parker@ntpcug.org

We will examine several content management software applications and what they may bring to the needs of the new site vs static HTML.

Digital Photography — 11:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE
harold.smith@ntpcug.org

Before We Snap the Shutter...

What we need to do before snapping the shutter while our goal is to capture that near-perfect image that does not require photo editing.

Goal — to capture better pictures.

Whatever the task is, we remind ourselves that better pictures are the **product of the photographer**. As well as knowing the limitations of our camera – we make ourselves aware of framing, working with existing light and modifiers, environment, and having people show their best attributes.

Digital Photo Editing Software — 10:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE
harold.smith@ntpcug.org

After We Snap the Shutter....

What do we do with our image editor that will enhance our otherwise near-perfect image?

Excel— 8:00 am

Frank Tubbs
ftubbs@sbcglobal.net

Excel is rich with functions but many do not know what to do with them. We will cover these, stressing comparisons of functions and methods to search data.

Our Priorities

First, to learn the common tools within Excel to become broadly skillful in the use of the application. It seems like imagination always provides more opportunity to employ the basics, and so foundation building is always underway.

Second, to become more efficient at using the product. We are at work learning to accomplish more work with fewer keystrokes, or to design our spreadsheets to get the job done faster.

Third, to employ significant tools provided by Excel to do more sophisticated analysis. These tools require little or no development by the user. Filtering, sorting, validation, all come to mind.

Fourth, to employ Visual Basic for Applications (VBA). This powerful subset of MSVisualBasic can be used to further the power built into Excel, as well as allow the spreadsheet to integrate with the rest of the MS Office suite for even further functionality.

Internet — 10:00 am

*Glynn Brooks
glynn.brooks@ntpcug.org*

See what it's like to use inexpensive web services to store all your data in secure off-site storage for your PC backups.

IT Professional — 9:00 am

*Doug Gorrie
doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org*

We will review common sense and Microsoft best practices for administering enterprise Windows server systems.

Making Money on the Internet — 9:00 am

*presented by Alan Lummus
Bill Parker, SIG Leader
bill.parker@ntpcug.org*

We will set up a PayPal account, examine the interface options, and create an HTML page that links directly to the PayPal account for payment.

Microsoft Access SIG — 11:00 am

*Larry Linson
larry.linson2@ntpcug.org*

Agenda for This Month

February 16, 2008:

- Topics for future presentations: All attendees (see the Look Ahead section)
- Drawing for door prizes: Co-SIG Leader **Jim Wehe** (see the Valuable Prizes section)
- Presentation: Co-SIG Leader **Larry Linson** (see immediately below)

Co-SIG Leader **Larry Linson** will cover multiple ways to "**Search Multiple Fields in Your Database**".

Microsoft Access is very flexible in this area: we'll discuss searching in datasheet view, creating *ad hoc* and saved queries, and querying data displayed in Forms in a "developed application." This is a user-requested topic that has been on our list for some time.

Last Month

In January, 2008: SIG Co-Leader **Jim Wehe** conducted our drawing for the full, retail copy of Microsoft Office 2007 Ultimate, which was won by **Chrystin Pleasants**, we discussed potential topics for 2008 meetings, and dismissed a few minutes early to expedite attendees getting to the Annual Members Meeting.

Look Ahead

We strive to be a user-driven SIG when it comes to subjects to cover. At each meeting, we now, we will address this topic early (with our enhanced "Valuable Prizes" program, it has been convenient to begin this discussion while Jim is getting set up for the drawing). We want to make sure we don't "short-change" this vital part of our meeting.

Please continue to think ahead, and be ready to express your preferences, about other topics that will be of interest and useful. In January, we identified an interest in these topics. Caveat: not necessarily listed in the order they will be presented, nor in order of importance, nor necessarily is presentation guaranteed – for some, we have to obtain guest speakers.

- Event Management Template (Access 2003, Access 2007)
- Templates, in general
- Searching multiple fields (being presented today, February 16, 2008)
- Calendar Forms and Reports in Access
- Review and make available the Address Book and Information Keeper database
- Other database software: Alpha 5 (NTPCUG Alpha 5 Sig Leader **Bill Parker**)
- Server databases you can use with Access: Oracle

Valuable Prizes

A little history may be in order. From its beginning (until a recent "dry spell" on the prize front), we have always tried to have a door prize drawing at every meeting, for **valuable prizes**, which we have always qualified with the comment that "value, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder". Those have ranged from software contributed by presenters that

retailed for several hundred dollars a copy all the way down to copies of past presentations and sample databases on freebie diskettes (Remember the days when free-after-rebate bundles of diskettes were a popular come-on for the computer superstores? Now, when they do a similar promotion it is CD-Rs. I wonder what product will be used next.)

It's, like, back to the old days! Our "dry spell" ended, in large part due to the generosity of Microsoft, creators and vendors of our favorite database and office software. In October 2007, we began accumulating attendees names, so that frequent attendance would increase your chance of winning some really valuable prizes.

In January, we gave away the second of our two full retail copies of **Microsoft Office 2007 Ultimate Edition** (Congratulations to **Mike Boley**, who won the first one in December, and **Chrystin Pleasants**, who won the second in January). And, we had a copy of **MSDN Magazine** for every attendee. (If you didn't get one, there are copies left and you can pick one up at the SIG meeting in February.)

As of January, we started over with accumulating the names of attendees so that regular attendance gives you additional chances.

In February, we will hold a drawing for a copy of **Microsoft Expression Web**, the enhanced successor to **Microsoft Front Page**, and for a **Microsoft Wireless Keyboard and Mouse Set**. And, we will draw (separately, for just the current day's attendees) for several lesser but not necessarily inconsequential prizes, too.

Larry extends his thanks for the software to **Microsoft**, who provided support for user groups, locating appropriate user groups, and door prizes through their Code Zone operation, <http://www.codezone.net>, and especially to **Chris Koenig**, South Central District Developer Evangelist, and sponsor of the South Central Developer Guidance Council, of which Larry is privileged to be a member.

More valuable prize news! To promote user groups who help their software customers, Microsoft has established CodeZone, and among other benefits for the group, we receive our choice of some prizes for our giveaways on a regular basis. We received a very nice assortment of software (**Microsoft Expression Web**, **Vista Ultimate**, and **Office 2007 Ultimate**), hardware (**Microsoft Wireless Keyboard and Mouse**), books, and a good many more that are very nice, if a little less impres-

sive. So, you can plan on having valuable prize drawings in the future, too.

Remember Our Access SIG SharePoint Site

Go to <http://sp.ntpcug.org/accesssig/default.aspx> to visit the Access SIG Sharepoint site. You will find an announcement containing the information that's in this newsletter article, often published before the newsletter, and any last-minute changes, corrections, or adjustments. You will also find a list of links to some very valuable resource sites, announcements, and other information pertinent to Access and our SIG.

Breaking news! The SharePoint team is in the final stages of testing and tuning, and the new SharePoint 3.0... **Tuc Goodwin**, NTPCUG SIG Leader of the DotNet Development SIG that meets on Second Saturday and a mainstay of the SharePoint team since its beginning explained "The new site is using Windows SharePoint Server v3.0 (aka SharePoint 2007, or WSS v3.0), not to be confused with the Server version known as Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 (or MOSS, etc.*)" That is, this is the *Big Kahuna* of Share Points, with features and functions galore. It should look better, work better, and be significantly more flexible than the earlier implementation.

Final Reminder

The NTPCUG Election is in-progress, as you read this, after experiencing technical difficulties in January. Members should have received a ballot via e-mail or postal mail. If you didn't, or if you forgot to bring it, pick up a ballot at the Info Desk. This is your opportunity to choose the people who will set the policies and direction for the North Texas PC Users Group in the near-term and long-term future (and who, every one, are involved in other volunteer duties to keep the User Group functioning, and functioning smoothly). We have had an exciting year, with really nice new quarters, new and revived SIGs, and the "cadre" of long-time SIGs that never faltered. Participate and keep it going!

See You Real Soon!

We're looking forward to seeing you at the **Microsoft Access SIG**, 11:00AM (check the Info Desk for room assignment and any last-minute changes) on Third Saturday, February 16, 2007 at the **King of Glory Lutheran Church**, 6411 LBJ Freeway, Dallas.

Thanks for reading!

Jim Wehe and Larry Linson, SIG Leaders

Microsoft Certification — 2:15 pm at Nerdbooks

*Tom Perkins
tomperki@gmail.com*

Yet more XML, focusing on the XMLData Document and synchronizing with the Dataset; exam-type questions

Microsoft Expression Studio — 10:00 am

*Chris Morgan
Interim SIG Leader
chris.morgan@ntpcug.org*

We will continue to build the Web site started last month. Use CSS to change the site's look. Add links to other sites. Forms to collect information. Drawing for a copy of Expression Web (must be a member to win).

Mobile Computing — 11:00 am

Clinton Fitch

Clinton Fitch, Microsoft Mobile MVP, will talk about Personal Security, including password protection, data card encryption, wallet applications and "remote detonation."

Visual Basic for Applications — 9:00 am

*Dave MacKenzie
bigmack9@verizon.net*

In the last few meetings, I have had some questions that indicate I need to cover some very basic programming concepts.

In Feb. I will spend the first 15 minutes with basics and the rest of the hour will be spent on developing the requirements for an appointment calendar. If we get far enough, we will decide if we want to continue with the program design.

Windows Tips & Tricks — 8:00 - 9:00 am

*Gil Brand — gb1@ntpcug.org
Chuck Stark — chuck.stark@ntpcug.org*

David Martin will present GetDataBack, a free hard drive clone tool which can recover data from NTFS and FAT32 drives even when the drive isn't recognized by Windows.

Windows Vista Inside Out — 12:30 pm

*Glynn Brooks
glynn.brooks@ntpcug.org*

We will examine all that has happened to Windows Home Server since it was introduced last November and see what is planned for the future.

Wireless Communications — 11:00 am

*Birl Smith
birl.smith@ntpcug.org*

Unwanted e-mail represents about 90% of all e-mail. We will talk about MailWasher an effective spam fighter and e-mail preview program.

Word — 9:00 - 11:00 am

*Diane Bentley
diane.bentley@ntpcug.org*

February 16, 2008

Randy's Calendar

Long-time member Randy Durham will demonstrate how to create and use a 4-month calendar he developed in Word.

March 15, 2008

Mail Merge Straight to E-Mail

Long-time member Dick Guckel will demonstrate how to mail merge direct to e-mail.

WordPerfect — 11:00 am

*Diane Bentley
diane.bentley@ntpcug.org*

Take a Shortcut!

Take the challenge! Learn three keyboard shortcuts this month, three more next month, continuing to learn three each month until you've learned about all you think you need.

In February, we will examine even more shortcuts than we did last month.

You can increase your productivity at the computer with even a few keyboard shortcuts. You don't have to acquire a huge assortment right away.

WANTED:

Tips, articles, product reviews and special web sites for our next newsletter. Please think about what you would like to see that hasn't been included yet, and send it to us now, at:

newsletter@ntpcug.org

*Let us know if you win a drawing, and we'll put it into next month's newsletter. **Your input counts.***

This Month in Our History

by Chuck Fiedler

Well, here we are in 2008 and it's time to review the happenings reported in the February 1988 and '93 issues of *PC News*. And a happy Valentine's Day to all.

In previous months, I have led off with a discussion of the archives. I had planned to let that go this month. But at the January Annual Meeting, member **Emily Seay** brought in copies from April, 1987 through February, 2002. As we previously did not have April through October, '87, this was a net addition to our archives. "Well, sure," you say, "but all the rest were *just duplicates*."

Actually, as we begin the process of scanning approximately fifteen years of *PC News*, I see that some of the copies we currently have are either marked on, soiled or had clearly been mishandled by the post office. So maybe Emily's "duplicates" (and your submitted copies) are better than what we already have for scanning.

And, since we are doing both the front and back covers, you might think "Gee, Mabel, there's the one I donated!" Or maybe you say, "I don't want my personal information from the mailing labels displayed on the web." Not to worry, the address labels are old enough that they nearly fall off by themselves and those that don't, we will obscure the details. So if you want to clean out your archives, don't worry about their condition. You might have something unique, or at least better than what we already have (especially if it's early '87 or before.)

Now, on to the February '88 and '93 issues. In both these years we were still meeting at the Infomart at Stemmons and Oak Lawn.

February 1988's issue began with the *Prez Sez* column written by then President, **Reagan Andrews** where he recounted an experience of the Users Group when they purchased a laser printer from a large, local discount vendor. The printer was delivered missing a part and with a flawed print drum. Back to the vendor who promptly disavowed any responsibility or willingness to assist. "Go to the manufacturer," they said. Rather than argue with the sales staff, that's what finally happened. The manufacturer, also not named, was very helpful in replacing the missing part and the bad drum.

Some good advice, both then and now:

"Use your Users Group. If you are considering buying a major component or piece of software, ask

around at the next NTPCUG meeting. Go to the associated SIG Leader and ask. Check out the Club [web discussion forums] to see what other users know about your planned acquisition.

"If you have an unhappy experience with local or mailorder vendors/dealers, let other Club members know about it. Refuse to recommend vendors you know to be either unwilling to stand behind warranties and otherwise unresponsive toward their customers."

In February, '93, there were three special presentations. At 9:00 it was Hi-Tech Humor by St. Silicon, in which Jeffrey Armstrong, President of St. Silicon, founder of CHIP (Church of Heuristic Information Processing) presented puns and satires regarding the high seriousness of computing. "He will offer the 'Keyboard Prayer,' the 'Ten Commands,' the 'Hail Memory,' and introduce you to the 'Binary Bible.' I don't know how I missed this.

Presentations were also made by the Area Manager of WordPerfect on version 5.2 for Windows, and by a representative of Lotus Corporation on Lotus Notes and Improv for Windows. It was noted that Improv was "the 'first truly dynamic spreadsheet on the market,' which allows users to rearrange spreadsheet data instantly and to spot trends and gain insights without having to rebuild the spreadsheet, re-enter data or copy formulas." Two years later, Lotus was acquired by IBM.

According to Wikipedia, although Lotus SmartSuite (a rival to Microsoft Office) was bundled cheaply with many PCs and may initially have been more popular than Microsoft Office, Lotus quickly lost its dominance in the desktop applications market with the transition to 32 bit applications running on Windows 95. Lotus was late in delivering its suite of 32 bit products and failed to capitalize on the transition to the new version of Windows. And so the demise of a significant and interesting software company.

Then President **Doug Gorrie** had some words as true now as they were 15 years ago:

"How useful is your NTPCUG membership? A local UTD (University of Texas at Dallas) professor requires his students to attend at least one Infomart meeting, and to write a paper on what was observed. He recognizes the contribution that Users Groups play in providing continuing education to PC users."

In *The Variety Store*, **Reagan Andrews**, (for those who have read my previous columns, you will recall that Reagan was my favorite columnist) had three pages of fascinating information beginning with the Novell purchase of UNIX. [UNIX was a product initially developed by a group of employees at AT&T Bell Labs. It went through a series of enhancements and, at one point, it was expected that UNIX was likely to become the industry standard operating system. Today, UNIX has been transported to the Intel PC platform and is available in a number of flavors, including LINUX, and is a favorite amongst "Propeller heads" as an operating system. Interestingly, Apple based the Apple operating system on a UNIX base.] But I digress.

Reagan went on to chronicle the ascendancy of Microsoft over Novell. In retrospect, it seems that Novell's president, Ray Noorda's really blind hatred (sorry, no other words are appropriate for Noorda's obsession) for Bill Gates and Microsoft led to a number of strategic blunders by Novell and, ultimately, the dominance of Microsoft over the software industry.

Neal Berkowitz had a two page review of Ami Pro version 3.0, then part of Lotus' SmartSuite product. In case you didn't know, Word Pro by Lotus was based upon Ami Pro, a rival to Word and Excel by Microsoft, but was substantially rewritten (including a new native document format). The predecessor to Ami Pro, Amí, was the first fully-functional Windows word processor. Shortly after the release of Amí, Lotus added support for tables and renamed the product Ami Pro.

Berkowitz based his column on his experience writing and mail merging his 1992 Christmas letter. He concluded by saying: "What is the real test of a great program is the ability to do simple things, but not hinder the user who desires to perform the more complex functions. Lotus does this with Ami. At least for now, Ami is my personal recommended word processor."

According to the column *The Adventures of PC Tech* written by the fictitious **Ben Thar**, NTPCUG dues in 1993 were \$24 per year. That's fifteen years ago and, after all that time, we now pay \$36 to belong to the Group. I rather doubt inflation would permit a better deal today by comparison.

The DOM (Disk of the Month) Squad had five new disks for February. There was a handy cut-out order sheet where you could get the disks in either 5 ¼ or 3 ½ format.

Disk 785, Melody Master 2.1, was a shareware program to make music on the PC. It was noted that "This is also a useful program if you are studying a

musical instrument. When practicing the Bass Clarinet, I input the score into Melody Master and the program plays the piece with the correct rhythms... a big help."

Disk 787, which I purchased at the time for a whole \$2.00, was SLMR (Silly Little Mail Reader), a shareware offline mail reader, "one of the most common off-line mail readers in the DOS world... very easy to use." The author, Greg Hewgill took a real job and no longer asked a share-ware fee.

Disk 788 was Off-Line Express 2.1, another shareware product, a replacement for SLMR, having a share-ware fee of \$40 payable to Mustang Software, the then employer of Greg Hewgill.

Also offered in February were two other offline mail readers, one operable under DOS and one requiring Windows. By then, many of us were using Windows 3.1, a vast improvement over previous issues of Windows. Given high speed Internet access, off-line mail reading is pretty much a thing of the past, but it made sense in the days of dial-up.

I hope you have found this information of interest. If you have reflections to offer, contact chuck.fiedler@ntpcug.org, and we will consider them for future issues.



"You've been on hold for an hour. Would you like to speak to a phone rage specialist?"

Access *noun*; a means of entry

by Justin Tocci

Microsoft Office Access™ and email

Your life is about to get easier! Access is a great solution for automating email tasks. We're going to put together a bare minimum email application to illustrate how the code works. I hope you get a chance to use it soon. We'll start with the tables.

We need four tables. The first two, **email_to** and **email_subject** will have one column each, then we need **email_body** with body and body_title columns, and finally **email_signature** with sig and sig_title columns.

Next we'll need an unbound form like this:

NOTE: Download the finished application from: http://www.unirev.com/_Media/emailmdb.zip

Set up the "Save" buttons to add the content of your text box (or boxes) to the appropriate table, like this:

```
Private Sub SaveSubjectButton_Click()  
    Dim dbs As Database  
    Set dbs = CurrentDb()  
    dbs.Execute "INSERT INTO  
unirev_email_subject " & _  
        (email_subject) SELECT "" & _  
        Me!email_subject & "";"  
    Me.email_subject.Requery  
    dbs.Close  
End Sub
```

We'll need AfterUpdate events on the body_title and sig_title combo boxes so that when you choose a body or signature by title, the appropriate text is added to the box below.

```
Private Sub email_body_title_AfterUpdate()  
    Dim dbs As Database  
    Dim qdf As dao.QueryDef  
    Dim rst As dao.Recordset  
    Set dbs = CurrentDb  
    Set qdf = dbs.CreateQueryDef("", _  
        "SELECT email_body as a1 " & _  
        "FROM unirev_email_body " & _  
        "WHERE email_body_title=" & _  
        Me!email_body_title & """)  
    Set rst = qdf.OpenRecordset()  
    rst.MoveFirst  
    Me!email_body = rst!a1  
    rst.Close  
    qdf.Close  
    dbs.Close  
Exit Sub
```

The code for sending or displaying the email is very straightforward:

```
Private Sub SendEmailButton_Click()  
    Dim strEmail As String  
    Dim strMsg As String  
    Dim objOL As Object  
    Dim objMail As Object  
    Set objOL =  
CreateObject("Outlook.Application")  
    Set objMail = objOL.createitem(0)  
    With objMail  
        .to = Me!email_to  
        .body = Me!email_body & _  
            Chr(13) & Chr(10) & _  
            Chr(13) & Chr(10) &  
Me!email_sig  
        .Subject = Me!email_subject  
        .Attachments.Add  
(strAttachmentPath)  
        .display ' or .send  
    End With  
    Set objMail = Nothing  
    Set objOL = Nothing  
End Sub
```

Now we're ready to generate an email. Fill out a few of the fields and click display.

Options

Having data in an existing application for our subject and body text would be a great way to increase the usefulness of our little application.

Note that with this code, you can display or send an email by clicking the button. But, beware of trying to generate multiple emails using just one click.

Double Duty

If you attempt to send more than one email at a time, you'll get a security error. Now there are solutions to this problem, but I've found it is more appropriate to send multiple emails from one click by going through a back-end database system. This has the advantage of not overriding an important security check.

Another option is to just display more than one email at once and have the user send them

individually. I've had customers request this functionality when they need to customize each email slightly before they send it. It works very nicely and without a security error.

We've also got the ability to add an attachment in the code provided. We just need to get a valid file path and the email will appear with the attachment in tow.

Justin Tocci is vice president of UNIREV, a Mid-Cities, TX based consulting company offering businesses custom-designed automation, database and paper reduction solutions. Visit www.unirev.com for more info.

Microsoft Office Access™ and Microsoft Office Excel™ are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

Related Tip: The signature function in your favorite email application can be used to provide boilerplate body text as well as a signature.

NTPCUG Public Service Project – Needs Old Equipment

Chuck Fiedler

Are you aware that the North Texas PC Users Group has several members who refurbish computers for the Texas Center for the Physically Impaired (TCPI)? This project prepares computers for blind persons and loads them with properly licensed copies of Windows and various applications.

Are you in the position of having old equipment around the house and wondering what to do with it? How about donating it to TCPI and getting a tax deduction in the process? Old desktops, laptops and components are all very welcome. And don't worry about drive data – we completely kill everything on the drive before loading the new system and applications. No one will ever see your old data. We can even install add-in cards for certain features not found on older equipment.

In rebuilding these machines, we generally find we have to upgrade the RAM to 512MB, since almost all donated machines have less than this minimum requirement. So we specifically need PC-133 RAM 256MB sticks as well as "small" hard drives (20 – 40GB).

So, go through those closets and gather up all those doorstops, then contact gbrand@ntpcug.org or chuck.fiedler@ntpcug.org to find out how to make a donation and get a 2008 tax deduction to boot.

Have an Idea for a New SIG?

If you have an interest in a specific topic, most likely others will too.

If you have a potential SIG topic in mind and would like to be the SIG leader, send a six-month outline of meeting topics to Glynn Brooks.

A specific explanation will make it easier to ascertain a need, as well as target an audience, for a SIG.

Contact Glynn Brooks:
glynn.brooks@ntpcug.org
or any Board Member

Microsoft ArcReady

Service Lifecycle Management

Addressing the Challenges of the Provider/Consumer Relationship



Member Larry Linson continues to strive to find the more interesting training events in the Dallas area. Larry gets information regularly from Chris Koenig, Microsoft Evangelist, who has been kind enough to visit and speak at NTPCUG events, and is the sponsor for the Second Saturday meetings at Microsoft. Below is one of those events.

While many organizations are starting to benefit from Service Oriented Architecture (SOA), many are now challenged with efficiently scaling the number of services provided and the number of consumers supported through their current approach and implementations. These organizations are starting to recognize the profound need for capabilities provided through service lifecycle management to help them

address these challenges. The Enterprise SOA Solutions team together with the Central Region Architect Evangelists will take a look at how organizations can attain a higher level of value from SOA through the development of a service lifecycle management strategy. We will look at the end-to-end service lifecycle, from service design, development, and deployment to versioning and retirement as well as the significance of infrastructure elements, such as repositories, registries, and intermediaries to facilitate and coordinate those stages. This talk will also expose the impact this paradigm has on the culture and organizational makeup of IT departments.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Architects and Senior Developers who are interested in becoming an architect.

WHERE ARE THE EVENTS? Events are held in 14 cities across Central Region. To register for this event, please visit www.arcready.com.

Feb 4	Columbus, OH	Feb 5	Cleveland, OH	Feb 6	Southfield, MI
Feb 18	Kansas City, MO	Feb 18	Austin, TX	Feb 19	Milwaukee, WI
Feb 20	St. Louis, MO	Feb 20	Chicago, IL	Feb 21	Minneapolis, MN
Feb 21	Indianapolis, IN	Feb 22	Houston, TX	Mar 3	Dallas, TX
Mar 3	Cincinnati, OH	Mar 4	Nashville, TN		

WHAT TIME ARE THESE EVENTS? 9:00am – 11:45am (Continental Breakfast will be provided)

Ballot Write-Ins

by Doug Gorrie

As we go into our 2nd round of elections on February 16th, we have received a couple of requests to clarify names that are NOT write-in candidates.

Many of our long-time members and SIG Leaders find themselves well liked and in high demand. So when the User Group offers the ability to “write-in” a candidate’s name for an elected position, it’s not unusual for such members to find that “they won” even if they were not actually running.

Member Gil Brand has been a Director previously, but feels that his present volunteer efforts are all that he can support at this time. Gil prefers to keep his eye on certain tasks that are already in progress, and may consider joining the Board at a later time. So, at least for now, don’t write-in Gil.

Similarly, Larry Linson also advised that he is “neither a candidate for any office or position in the current election, nor has he authorized anyone to write in his name for any office or position”. Larry appreciates the trust and confidence shown by a few members who wrote in his name during the January election, and understands that those few write-in votes may have brought the problem [Ed. of write-ins for a position that has no declared candidate] to the attention of the Board so that it could be addressed. But, if these write-in votes in any way contributed to the Board having to invalidate the election and repeat it, Larry sincerely regrets that. In short, don’t write Larry in either.

Moral: Before doing a write-in, it is appropriate to ensure that the candidate would actually accept the position. 😊

Volunteering

Every board member, officer, chairman, and SIG leader is a volunteer. No one in this organization receives any payment for their work. Without our volunteers, NTPCUG would not exist.

Please consider volunteering for one of these important jobs:

Mentoring — Tom Sweet

tom.sweet@ntpcug.org

Communicate with new members to ensure they are aware of the benefits, SIG opportunities and help them in numerous ways to feel welcome and to know that we care about them.

Program Director

Identify and arrange program topics for our vendor presentations.

Discount Coordinator

Communicate with vendors offering discounts on their products.

Volunteer Coordinator

Coordinate permanent and temporary volunteer participation.

Information Desk — Charles Rem

crem@ntpcug.org

Assist with check-in process at 3rd Saturday. One or more hours will make a difference.

Newsletter — Doug Gorrie, Chuck Fiedler and Diane Bentley

*doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org
chuck.fiedler@ntpcug.org
diane.bentley@ntpcug.org*

Prepare, contribute to and distribute the monthly newsletter.

Membership

Individual — \$36 per year

Family — \$60 per year

New Member Signup Incentive – The Contest Continues

We are now entering our 2nd month of our six-month contest, trying our best to give you **free software** of your choice!! As noted last month, the contest is simple, has an increasing reward for every participant, and a Grand Prize for the top two finishers.

In a nutshell, the contest is to see who can sign up the most new NTPCUG members. Included in the “new” category are previous members whose membership has been expired for six months or more.

We have always found that word of mouth is the most effective marketing tool that we have, so we want to give all current members an incentive to help us help ourselves. Remember, the more participants we have at meetings, the better the information exchange is for all of us. More members will also translate into more and different SIG opportunities.

Want to know what you are playing for? For each new member that you sponsor, two free months will be added to your membership. The more mem-

bers you sponsor, the more free months are added to your membership! But wait! There is more! The two members recruiting the most new members will be able to “purchase” a software product of their choice at an unbelievable price. For example, the last time the club was able to do this, Microsoft Windows XP was \$7.00 and Microsoft Office Professional was \$20. There should be about six titles to choose from. The titles are not finalized yet, but will be announced as soon as we know – and well before the end of the contest. While it is great to win a free prize at one of our meetings, it is even better to get something that you really need and will use!

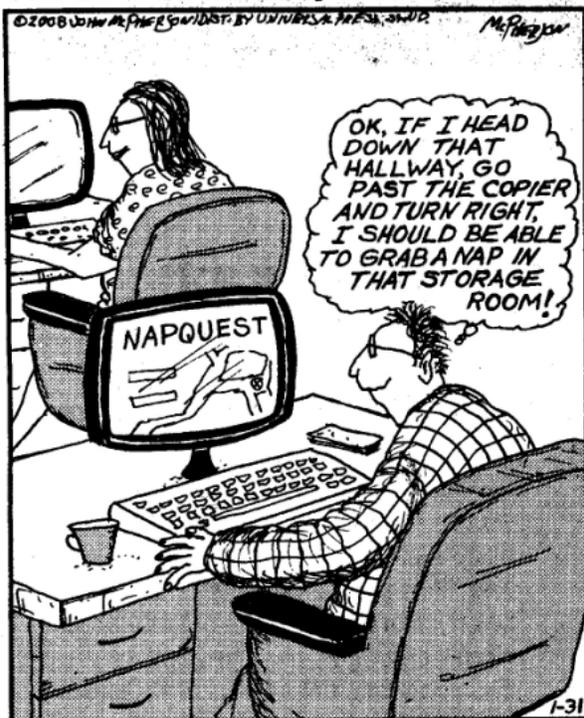
Don't feel that some go-getter will sign up a boat load of people, so there is no way you have a chance for the Grand Prize. With two Grand Prizes, everyone should have a realistic chance.

The contest goes for six months, starting in January. However, the Grand Prizes will be awarded around month three. (Details are still being worked out.)

NOTE: When the new member signs up, they must give the name or member number of the current member that is sponsoring them. The membership desk will ask this question, to make sure that credit is given where due, but be sure that you get the credit you deserve.

So to recap – you get a great incentive for each new member that you sign up – everybody is a winner. And you have a good chance at a Grand Prize that you get to choose yourself. Help us grow the club, and help yourself at the same time.

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



For workers who are in need of a discreet spot to catch some Z's comes Napquest.

Wireless Router

If you have a laptop computer with wireless capabilities, feel free to bring it along with you to our 3rd Saturday meetings at King of Glory.

Our wireless routers allow seamless roaming. Users do not have to disconnect from one access point and reconnect to another as they roam from room to room — moving around should be “transparent to the user.”

Monthly NTPCUG Meeting Flyer – Can You Help Distribute?

Board member, Chuck Fiedler, along with Chris Morgan, has implemented a monthly flyer that members can distribute to friends, family members, colleagues, etc.

The flyer will contain as much information as possible regarding the topics to be covered in each month's SIG meetings. With your help, we hope to generate interest in User Group activities, thereby helping us grow.

Chuck Fiedler will repeat the process each month, soliciting input from SIG Leaders, formatting the information into something easily read by others, then getting the final product out to all members well before the subsequent meeting.

The result of Chuck's initial effort has already been forwarded to our members by e-mail. However, the project is far from over, because getting the flyer to our members is only half the battle. Chuck is relying

on members, SIG Leaders, Board members and volunteers to share the information with others. We also need to you to consider new options beyond the obvious – bulletin boards, etc.

But this process will only be effective if we all work together. We're asking SIG Leaders to provide him information about the upcoming month's activities as expeditiously as possible if we are to get the word out early enough to be useful. Then, our membership needs to think of a couple of places they can post it, or e-mail it to anyone who may be interested. In other words, make it a regular thing when it first arrives.

Our thanks to Chuck for taking on the recurring effort of creating our monthly flyer.

***Where have you
sent the February flyer?***

URGENT — Computer Raffle!

We need a volunteer to coordinate the next raffle of this great system.

Will you assist with this project?

Call Gil Brand at 214-282-2581

Hardware

Toshiba Satellite Pro 6100
P4-1700 MHz, 768MB, 38GB.
DVD-ROM / CD-RW
2 USB, network & modem PORTS
PS/2 mouse

Software

WinXP-pro (OEM)
Windows Defender Anti-spyware
AVG Anti-virus & Anti-Rootkit
Open Office v2.0 (free open source alternatives to Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access)
Deep Burner CD-writer
Firefox Browser
Irfanview Graphics Editor
Adobe Flash Player & Acrobat Reader
WinDirStat hard disk usage monitor
CCleaner Registry Cleaner
Belarc System Profiler

Upcoming Microsoft Events – South Central District

Special Event Announcements

Deploying and Managing Microsoft Office 2007 in the Enterprise Workshop – Multiple Dates and Cities

Join the **Deploying and Managing Microsoft Office 2007 in the Enterprise** workshop to learn about new tools and technologies to deploy the 2007 Microsoft® Office system. In this instructor-led, Free 3-day event, you will receive practical technical information and proven techniques necessary to design, customize, and deploy an Office 2007 installation in your environment. You will be given the deep technical assistance required to better plan your organization's deployment, and have the opportunity to work with experienced resources that can help resolve potential deployment blockers and other upgrade related issues.

February 5-7, 2008 (*Houston, TX*) – Event ID 032365107

April 1-3, 2008 (*Dallas, TX*) – Event ID 1032365109

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Windows Vista Desktop Optimization Workshop – Fast Track Training with the Experts – February 19, 2008 (*Houston*)

Do you want to optimize your desktop environment, reduce TCO, accelerate desktop deployment and control and learn what application virtualization is all about? If so, come and see how easy it is to accomplish this and deliver virtualization to the desktop. Join us in Houston on February 19. You will virtualize an application, see the powerful tool set in action and have the rare opportunity to have lunch and ask questions of the experts – Event ID 1032367929.

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Windows Server 2008 – Fast Track Training with the Experts – February 21, 2008 (*Dallas, TX & Live Meeting*)

Want to see what the Windows Server 2008 excitement is all about? Does your day job keep you from evaluating hands on, Server 2008?

If so, come and see what Windows Server 2008 is all about. Microsoft is showing off a Server 2008, inviting customers to experience the excitement firsthand. This is your opportunity to fast track your education on Windows Server 2008 and ask the experts questions. In addition, we will be demonstrating the latest build of Server 2008.

February 21, 2008 (*Dallas, TX*) – Event ID 1032365098

February 21, 2008 (*Live Meeting*) – Click here to attend

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Microsoft IT Showcase - How Microsoft IT Does Security – February 28-29, 2008 (*Dallas, TX*)

Join us at the Microsoft IT Showcase and learn How

Microsoft IT Does Security. You will hear from the team that runs security for the global Microsoft network. The sessions are designed to provide you with an understanding of how Microsoft technologies can be implemented in your organization to solve security problems, and we will showcase best practices and key technology findings at Microsoft.

This IT Showcase, one of our most highly rated events, is typically held only in Redmond and may not be offered in Dallas again - Event ID 1032366867.

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Unified Communications Launch 2007 – Multiple Dates and Cities

Learn firsthand how you can harness the power of software to help streamline communications between employees and organizations—regardless of medium, platform, device, or location.

Designed for technical executives and IT professionals, these events demonstrate how

Microsoft unified communications solutions can integrate smoothly with your existing systems—from e-mail to voice mail, from VoIP to mobile devices—to provide a future-ready communications foundation built on software.

January 29, 2008 (*San Antonio, TX*) – Event ID 1032364392

January 30, 2008 (*Oklahoma City, OK*) – Event ID 1032364393

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Ready for E-Discovery Summit – Multiple Dates and Cities

Effectively responding to legal discovery requests and meeting the demands of regulatory compliance continue to be top priorities for executives across many industries. Failing to produce relevant electronic evidence can lead to severe penalties—so many companies are seeking to expand records management to include any data, and not just data formally identified as a record.

February 19, 2008 (*Dallas, TX*) – Registration Code DALLEDISCO

February 21, 2008 (*Houston, TX*) – Registration Code HOUSEDISCO

<http://microsoft.crgevents.com/ediscoverysummit/>

Heroes Happen Here: Join the Launch – Multiple Dates and Cities

The Heroes Happen Here (Windows Server 2008, Visual Studio 2008 and SQL Server 2008) launch registration is now open! Invite your customers to Microsoft's largest server launch event to date.

March 4, 2008 (*San Antonio, TX*)

March 20, 2008 (*Houston, TX*)

March 27, 2008 (*Tulsa, OK*)

April 8, 2008 (*Dallas, TX*)

Date TBD (*Baton Rouge, LA*)

<http://www.microsoft.com/heroeshappenhere/register/default.aspx>

SQL Server 2005 New Technology Roundtable – Multiple Dates and Cities

Please join HP, Intel and Microsoft for an interactive discussion of the best uses and best practices for systems using Microsoft SQL Server 2005. Data and data management are critical in today's highly competitive marketplace. Organizations must be able to immediately access integrated data in order to support their customers, partners, and internal end users. For further information, click here.

January 29, 2008 –Rockets Game (*Houston, TX*)

February 25, 2008 – Spurs Game (*San Antonio, TX*)

Microsoft BizTalk Server 2006 R2 New Features for Architects and Developers – February 4-5, 2008 (*Dallas, TX*)

This two-day hands-on Lab will provide a quick introduction to BizTalk Server, and also the new RFID, EDI and Windows Communication Foundation(WCF) features in BizTalk Server 2006 R2, ...you'll also learn how to: Work with Schemas, Maps, and Pipelines; Process Flat Files; Create an Orchestration; Implement Transactions and Business Rules; WCF Introduction - Building a WCF Service; Implement and Integrate WCF with BizTalk Server R2; Deploy and Manage BizTalk Server – Event ID 1032365756.
<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Office SharePoint Server 2007 Hands-On Lab – Multiple Dates and Cities

Make better decisions, faster. Share information, search and manage data, documents, and web content across your organization with Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007. Join us for this one-day hands-on lab to learn about: Features Overview, User Experience and Interface Design, Record Management, and Search.
February 5, 2008 (*Houston, TX*) – Event ID 1032350630
May 6, 2008 (*Dallas, TX*) – Event ID 1032349923
<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Improving Business Insight utilizing SQL Server 2005 & the MS Business Intelligence Solution – February 5, 2008 (*Houston*)

Please join us for a free half day seminar that explains the latest Business Intelligence tools and technologies from Microsoft, and how Microsoft is changing the BI landscape. We will introduce and demonstrate the **new Microsoft Business Intelligence technologies**

(**PerformancePoint, SQL Server, and SharePoint**). We will highlight business scenarios that can benefit from these technologies, and why you should be planning to implement similar strategies to enable your company to make better decisions faster, and enable competitive advantage

Windows Server 2008 Hands-On Lab – Multiple Dates and Cities

Windows Server 2008, with built-in Web and virtualization technologies, helps enable you to increase the reliability and flexibility of your server infrastructure. New virtualization tools, Web resources, and security enhancements help you save time, reduce costs, and provide a platform for a dynamic and optimized datacenter. Advanced security and reliability enhancements help to harden the operating system and help protect your server environment to work to ensure you have a solid foundation on which to build your business.

February 6, 2008 (*Houston, TX*) – Event ID 1032350635

May 7, 2008 (*Dallas, TX*) – Event ID 1032349924

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Windows Vista Hands-On Lab – Multiple Dates and Cities

Windows Vista advancements in security and reliability, along with its cost and operational efficiencies, give you and your users confidence in your company PCs. From the perspective of an IT professional, Windows Vista is easier to deploy and less expensive to maintain than any earlier version of Windows. Join us for this one-day hands-on lab and see the new features for yourself.

February 7, 2008 (*Houston, TX*) – Event ID 1032350636

May 8, 2008 (*Dallas, TX*) – Event ID 1032349925

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Microsoft Power Finance Event – Multiple Dates and Cities

This is the 4th consecutive year of our Power Finance Series and we are bringing back Professor Wayne Winston. This year the Series kicked off early November with the Business Intelligence Launch and it continues with two great sessions in the spring. We bring you fresh topics, an industry expert, and you can earn CPE credits at the same time. Even if you don't need accreditation, you'll learn more about Office Excel 2007 than you ever imagined!

Forecasting

Using the Excel trend curve to predict monthly plant costs, estimate learning curves and estimate sales growth.

Moving average forecasting with the Excel trend curve.

Predicting costs with multiple regression.

Predicting market share with multiple regression.

Predicting 2008 Presidential election with multiple regression.

Forecasting daily customer count with special factors-
IU Credit Union
Estimating trend and seasonality.
And much more!
February 12, 2008 (Houston, TX) - Event ID 1032356915
February 13, 2008 (Dallas, TX) - Event ID 1032356922
<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Upgrade SQL Now Series: Server Reporting Services 2005 & 2008 and Report Builder – February 15, 2008 (Live Meeting)

Reporting Services was released in Jan. 2004 as part of SQL Server 2000. It helps to deliver information to the right people in a variety of formats and channels. SQL Server 2005 has expanded on the usefulness of this feature and has also added a new end-user tool called Report Builder. Join us to learn how SQL Server 2005 Reporting Services along with the Report Builder tool can get the information to the right people faster. Event ID 1032363750

World Wide Microsoft RFID Solution Days – February 18-19, 2008 (Bellevue, WA)

The event will showcase 14+ breakouts of solutions across verticals being built on BizTalk RFID (a 2 day solution extravaganza!), and will be followed by a 2 day instructor led deep drilldown training session on our RFID platform at the Microsoft campus. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to gain a deep understanding of the solutions being developed and deployed across different verticals on the Microsoft RFID platform, meet with industry and product team experts, and appreciate the advances that have made in the RFID field in the areas of price, performance, and reliability improvements through the Partner Expo. If you are interested in getting your teams trained on the Microsoft RFID Platform, we will also be hosting a 2 day instructor led deep-drilldown course following the conference, with content aimed at solution developers and architects. For more information and to register for the event, please visit the event website here.

ArcReady – Service Lifecycle Management – Multiple Dates and Cities

Addressing the Challenges of the Provider/Consumer Relationship! The Enterprise SOA Solutions team together with the Central Region Architect Evangelists will take a look at how organizations can attain a higher level of value from SOA through the development of a service lifecycle management strategy. We will look at the end-to-end service lifecycle, from service design, development, and deployment to versioning and retirement as well as the significance of infrastructure elements, such as repositories, registries, and intermediaries to facilitate and coordinate those stages. This talk will also expose the impact this paradigm has on the culture and

organizational makeup of IT departments. Join Us for This Free Event.
February 18, 2008 (Austin, TX)
February 22, 2008 (Houston, TX)
March 3, 2008 (Dallas, TX)
<http://www.arcready.com>

DevCares – Session1: How Hackers Hack & How to Stop Them/Session2: Bldg Office App w/VS 2008- Multiple Dates & Cities

DevCares is a FREE half-day technical training series created by Developers for Developers! We'll address the needs and issues of developers today and show you how to make a real difference in the way that you work!

Session 1: How Hackers Hack ... and How to Stop Them

Come learn about some of the most common methods hackers use today to attack your web applications and the exploits these attacks target. Some of the exploits we'll cover include insecure communications, cross-site scripting, injection flaws, cross-site request forgery, malicious file execution, and broken authentication and session management, just to name a few. This session will provide you with an understanding of the hacker's tactics and the methods you can take to defend your applications with Visual Studio and the .NET Framework.

Session 2: Building Office Applications with Visual Studio 2008

Take your end users' productivity to a whole new level without locking yourself in your cubicle for weeks at a time. Visual Studio 2008 makes it easier than ever to leverage the power of the Microsoft Office platform within your application. We'll demonstrate the many improvements that have been made to Visual Studio Tools for Office, and provide examples of how easy it is to take advantage of these tools directly within Visual Studio. We'll cover the SharePoint Workflow Tools, custom ribbon development, custom task pane development, and ClickOnce deployment options for Office Business Applications.
February 21, 2008 (San Antonio, TX)
February 29, 2008 (Austin, TX)
February 29, 2008 (Dallas, TX)
<http://www.devcares.com/>

Administering SAP Solutions on Microsoft Windows and SQL Server 2005 – February 26-28, 2008 (Dallas, TX)

This hands-on, 3-day deep technical training course is to provide you with a good understanding of how to install and maintain SAP NetWeaver 7.0 (2004s) on Microsoft SQL Server 2005. The course addresses installation, configuration, high availability scenarios

(including the database mirroring), monitoring, and performance tuning. Course concepts will be reinforced through hands-on lab exercises.

Registration Link

Microsoft Office SharePoint Conference 2008 – March 2-6, 2008 (*Seattle, WA*)

The event will feature keynote addresses by **Bill Gates**, Chairman, Microsoft Corporation; **Kurt DelBene**, Corporate Vice President, Office Business Platform Group; and **Greg LeMond**; the first American to ever win the Tour de France. The Conference is designed to educate you on every aspect of Microsoft's SharePoint Products and Technologies with technical and business-focused educational tracks, an entire track dedicated to customer best practices sessions, the first-ever SharePoint Awards presentation, hands-on labs, peer networking opportunities and much more!

The fee to attend the Conference is \$1100 USD, but if you are one of the first thousand to register, you qualify for the early bird discount rate of \$800. Register today and save over 25%

Upgrade SQL Now Series: Table Partitioning – March 11, 2008 (*Live Meeting*)

Partitioning in the form of partitioned views has been part of SQL Server for years. While this approaches very helpful in solving the problems of separating data, it is not very easy to setup and maintain. True Table Partitioning is now part of SQL Server 2005 and allows better control of data placement on disks as well as enabling new data management scenarios. Join us to discuss this new feature that makes managing large tables easier. Event ID 1032363751 -

Harness the Power of High Performance Computing – March 13-14, 2008 (*Houston, TX*)

We invite you to attend this exclusive deep dive on technology that is used to solve computationally intensive problems. Learn how High Performance Computing with Windows® Compute Cluster Server 2003 (CCS) can create and enable a faster time to insight when executing computational or data-intensive applications. Join us to learn more about how to take advantage of the benefits of deploying a simplified and integrated HPC infrastructure – Event ID 1032363347.

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007 Ignite Tour – March 17-18, 2008 (*Houston, TX*)

We would like to extend to you an invitation to an Office Communications Server 2007 Ignite event! This 2-day hands-on technical workshop is intended to provide you with key information regarding Office Communications Server 2007. Ignite is the best way for you to

get an early look at Office Communications Server 2007. During the event, you'll have the opportunity to walk through guided hands-on labs with OCS 2007, and to hear about the technical details behind the features and deployment steps for OCS – Event ID 1032363862.

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Exchange Server 2007 Hands-On Lab – April 1, 2008 (*Houston, TX*)

During this hands-on-lab event, students will get to try out the new capabilities and features of Exchange Server 2007. The labs will cover the three investment pillars (Built-in Protection, Anywhere Access and Improved Operational Efficiency) and will show the benefits and how the new technology can help to support and address real problems – Event ID 1032350632.

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

SQL Server 2005 High Availability “Always-On” Technologies Hands-on-Lab – April 1, 2008 (*Houston, TX*)

High availability or “always on” technologies support mission critical applications that demand the highest level of availability. This 1 day hands-on-lab provides an introduction and opportunity for you to “try out” the SQL Server 2005 High Availability Enterprise Features – Event ID

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Business Intelligence Hands-On Lab – April 2, 2008 (*Houston, TX*)

Learn how you can implement a Business Intelligence solution using Microsoft SQL Server 2005, PerformancePoint Server 2007, and the Office suite of products in this one day hands-on lab – Event ID

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Security and Management Hands-On Lab – April 3, 2008 (*Houston, TX*)

This hands-on-lab event will give you a chance to “try out” the Forefront and System Center portfolio of products, designed to maximize productivity, simplify administration, and integrate with existing infrastructure so that you can reduce costs, empower your business, and maintain control. Through Forefront and System Center, companies at all stages of infrastructure maturity can create an IT environment that is more secure and well managed – Event ID 1032350633.

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Microsoft Power Finance Event – Multiple Dates and Cities

This is the 4th consecutive year of our Power Finance Series and we are bringing back Professor Wayne Winston. This year the Series kicked off early November with the Business Intelligence

Launch and it continues with two great sessions in the spring. We bring you fresh topics, an industry expert, and you can earn CPE credits at the same time. Even if you don't need accreditation, you'll learn more about Office Excel 2007 than you ever imagined!

Excel Functions from A-Z

In this course we will cover the most important functions in EXCEL. You can't cook a good meal without knowing a lot about special spices or secret ingredients. Similarly, you will have trouble solving many spreadsheet problems without an extensive knowledge of Excel 2007's wonderful functions.

April 3, 2008 (Houston, TX) - Event ID 1032356920

April 4, 2008 (Dallas, TX) - Event ID 1032356921

<http://msevents.microsoft.com>

Upgrade SQL Now Series: Analysis Services – April 8, 2008 (Live Meeting)

The Unified Data Model (UDM) is a new model used in Analysis Services. This feature combined with proactive caching makes it possible to have timely information available to make better decisions. Join us to discuss the benefits of this new feature set.

Event ID 1032363769

Upgrade SQL Now Series: Overview: OLTP 2005 vs. 2008 – May 13, 2008 (Live Meeting)

How does SQL Server 2008, the next release of SQL Server, compare to SQL Server 2005 for transactional workloads. We'll look at enhancements made in both the optimizer as well as the syntax that can enhance the performance of SQL Server 2008 applications.

Event ID 1032363771

Meet fellow coding enthusiasts at MSDN Events. Free Admittance. Complimentary Resource Kit.

Meet your fellow coding fanatics at MSDN Events. Join us for these free, half-day presentations delivered by some of the most seasoned developers in the business. Explore the latest tools and technologies you need to build cutting-edge applications, with lots of time to network and ask questions. Visit www.msdnevents.com.

Share valuable IT solutions at TechNet Events. Free Admission. Complimentary Resource Kit.

Learn IT solutions that can really save the day at TechNet Events. These free, half-day presentations deliver hands-on technical content, insider tips, and valuable tools you can implement today. Prepare for lively, interactive sessions with lots of time to talk shop and connect with your peers. Register now at www.technetevents.com.

Industry Events

NERC Compliance Webcast for Utilities – January 30, 2008 (Webcast)

Effective preparation and response for reliability readiness audits, legal discovery requests, and regulatory compliance continues to be top of mind for executives in the electric utility industry. With more than a thousand requirements to manage across all functions, the process of accurately documenting business critical reliability compliance information and the related approval processes place additional demands upon employees and executives across these organizations.

Please join us for this webcast to learn about solutions to the challenges of NERC and RRO electric reliability compliance including the capabilities of:

- Automated tracking of the appropriate standards and requirements based on a utility's registered entities and functions

- Securing and assigning data, documents, and processes according to the FERC standards of conduct

- User configurable workflows, roles and task assignments

- Role-based views with user-friendly interfaces

- Managing the complex interdependencies of the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) standards that cover critical assets and

- cyber assets

- Automating the various CIP related processes including Risk Assessment

- Proactive detection of potential violations pertaining to access, training, and electronic and physical security perimeters

- Online, real-time reporting and statistics on all compliance management data

- Audit trails and automated retrieval and packaging of compliance information for audits

- Full lifecycle document management of all artifacts used as evidence of compliance

- Operational risk mitigation through dashboards, KPIs and notification of key personnel

- Ability to integrate with existing ERP systems and document repositories

During this special one-hour webcast, Sierra Energy will examine why time is running out on staying ahead of the curve while the problems

are only becoming more threatening. We will share industry-wide statistics as well as utility commentary addressing issues that companies

have faced recently in coping with reliability standards that are now mandatory and subject to penalties.

Collaborating to Avoid the Perfect Storm – February 28, 2008 (Webcast)

Please join us for the upcoming webcast "Collaborating to avoid the perfect storm" hosted by the Oil and Gas Journal (OGJ) with expert

analysis from CERA, to learn how technology can maximize knowledge sharing with your team and provide valuable insights into retaining

information. REGISTER TO VIEW THE WEBCAST TODAY!

Microsoft Global Energy Forum – March 25, 2008

(Houston, TX)

There is a source of energy on this planet greater than all other. It can be found deep within your people. And if it is intelligently retrieved and utilized, this energy never runs out. Come to Microsoft's 5th Annual Global Energy Forum and discover how the most successful companies are running strong on the power of their people.

Thank you!

from your 2007

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Calendar

February

9 9:00 am—Noon **2nd Saturday**
at Microsoft
2:00 pm **Certification SIG** at
Nerdbooks

16 8:00 am—2:00 pm **3rd Satur-**
day at King of Glory
2:15 pm **Certification SIG** at
Nerdbooks

March

8 9:00 am—Noon **2nd Saturday**
at Microsoft
2:00 pm **Certification SIG** at
Nerdbooks

15 8:00 am—2:00 pm **3rd Satur-**
day at King of Glory
2:15 pm **Certification SIG** at
Nerdbooks

April

12 9:00 am—Noon **2nd Saturday**
at Microsoft
2:00 pm **Certification SIG** at
Nerdbooks

19 8:00 am—2:00 pm **3rd Satur-**
day at King of Glory
2:15 pm **Certification SIG** at
Nerdbooks

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 700055
Dallas, TX 75370-0055

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