1 Real World VFP Application Deployment

Session 36

2 Who Am I?

- President - White Light Computing, Inc.
- Co-author: *What's New in Nine*
- Co-author: *Deploying Visual FoxPro Solutions*
- Co-author: *MegaFox: 1002 Things You Wanted to Know About Extending Visual FoxPro*
- Co-author: *1001 Things You Wanted to Know About Visual FoxPro* (KiloFox)
- VFP MVP and MCP
- Author of WLC HackCX & MenuDesigner
- Shedding Some Light
- raschummer@whitelightcomputing.com

3 What this session covers

- Ideas and concepts to consider
- Planning early in the game
- When is it ready?
- What types of deployment?
- What needs to be shipped to the customer?

4 What this session covers

- Deployment mechanisms
- Installation packages
  (decisions, decisions)
- Implementation issues and ensuring implementation success
- Post implementation

5 Deployment

- Installing something?
- Process included in all phases of development cycle (requirements, design, develop, and test)
  - New executable
  - Enhancement
  - Bug fix
  - Database conversion

6 Plan Early, Plan Often

- Plan for deployments from the very start (requirements and design phases)
- Create a successful strategy for deploying applications
- Learn from your mistakes and the mistakes of others

7 Plan Early, Plan Often

- Executables
- Images
- Data conversion
- Help and training materials
- Tech support

- Duplication
- Hardware

8 ## When is it ready?

- Determining ship readiness (development and testing phases)
  - Engineering
  - Quality Assurance
  - Customer Acceptance
- Delivery dates
- Testing to requirements

9 ## When is it ready?

- Balancing resources
  - People
  - Time
  - Features
- Test, test, test
- Get customer sign-on

10 ## Different Deployment Flavors

- Different application types
  - Desktop
  - Client/Server
  - Distributed
  - Web
- Different environments
  - File server
  - Client/Server

11 ## Deployment Mechanisms

- CD-ROM / DVD
- Zip/Jaz/SuperDisk
- Memory Sticks
- E-mail
- PcAnywhere

12 ## Deployment Mechanisms

- FTP
- Web site download
- Web distribution
- Terminal Services or Citrix
- Floppies (only if I can triple my rates)

13 ## What needs to be shipped?

(and where does it go?)

- EXE, APP, DLL, FXP
- Reports and other excluded files
- ActiveX controls
- VFP Runtimes, GDI+, MsVcR71
- Report runtime APPs
- Data, Metadata, Help
- Environment configuration
- Tools for support

14 Installation Builders

- InstallShield Express - VFP 7/8/9 (very) Limited Edition
- Wise Installation System
- Wise for Windows Installer
- Inno Setup
- InstaFox (Fowler Software Design)

15 Installation Builders

- Tarma Installer
- ActiveDelivery
- Ghost Installer Studio
- Setup Factory
- VFP Setup Wizard
- Build your own

16 Implementation Strategy for Success

- Develop a set of checklists
- Work with customers
- Create test area (validation)
- Backups
- Configuration and Registry

17 Implementation Strategy for Success

- Update structures and indexes
- Conversion
- Test
- Notify the customer
- Technical support

18 Post Implementation

- Customer follow-up
- Bug tracking
- Deployment post-mortems
- Developer reviews

- Bonus Pool
- Deployment celebration events

19 ## Resources

- Real life experience
- Real life experience of others
- Session white paper
- Deploying VFP Solutions book
- MegaFox (has VFP 6 Setup tips)
- Forums
- raschummer@whitelightcomputing.com

20 ## GLGDW Web Update Page

www.hentzenwerke.com

21 ## Thank you!

Please remember to fill out your evaluation.