Southwest Fox 2019

October 24 – 27, 2019
SanTan Elegante Conference & Reception Center
Gilbert, AZ

Conference Guide

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Welcome to Southwest Fox 2019!

The sixteenth annual Southwest Fox conference is the only Visual FoxPro conference in North America. This guide provides logistical information for the conference. See the conference web site, www.swfox.net, for speaker biographies, session abstracts, the conference schedule, and other information.

Although we've worked hard to put this conference together, it wouldn't have happened without the efforts of quite a few others. First, our thanks to our speakers, without whom there would be no conference. We've been giving presentations for many years, so we know what's involved in preparing a high-quality conference session. Our thanks to Rick Borup, Jody Meyer, Tracy Pearson, Cathy Pountney, Kevin Ragsdale, Eric Selje, Rick Strahl, Tuvia Vinitsky, and Christof Wollenhaupt, who made the time to prepare materials and be here, despite busy work and family schedules.

Our sponsors help keep conference costs down by providing funds and goodies for us to give away. Our exhibitors took the time to come to the conferences to show you the latest tools to help you get the most out of your development efforts.

Rick's wife Therese and Tamar's husband Marshal left their usual responsibilities at home to come along and serve as staff, taking on whatever odds and ends needed to be done and errands needed running. Conference Geeks provided projectors. Frank Perez Sr., who lives in the area, accepted shipments for us, saving us time and shipping charges.

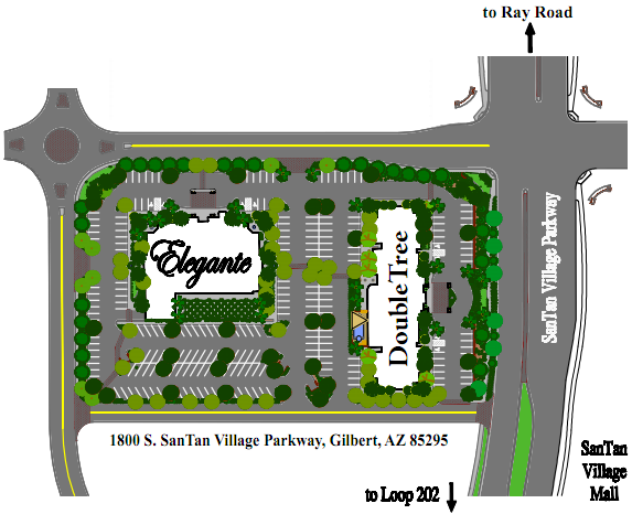
We hope Southwest Fox is everything you were expecting and more. Please be sure to fill out the conference evaluation to let us know how we did, and what we can improve. If there's a problem we can fix right away, please let us or one of our staff know.

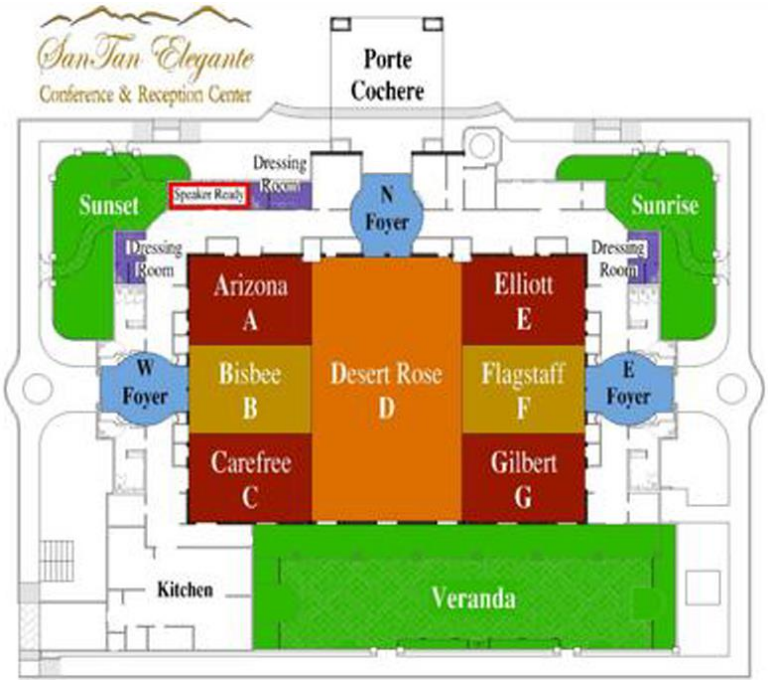
Conference Information

In this guide, you should find everything you need to get the most from the conference. But don't hesitate to ask us or a staff member (look for the red Geek Gatherings shirts) if there's anything you need.

Conference Center

Southwest Fox is held at the SanTan Elegante Conference & Reception Center (next to the DoubleTree by Hilton), 1800 S. San Tan Village Parkway, Gilbert, Arizona, 85296, 800-445-8667, 480-809-4100, http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/P/PHXSTDT-SWF-20191020/index.jhtml. Maps of the complex and the conference center are shown below.





Registration and Information

Registration is at the Geek Gatherings table in the Desert Rose room, Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is also where you can find conference staff for information.

Badges

Be sure to wear your name badge to all conference sessions, meals, and breaks. Your badge is coded to tell us what you're eligible for. For example, only those attending two pre-conference sessions or who paid for it in advance get lunch on Thursday.

Watch for the "New to Southwest" image on badges. This is for people who haven't attended Southwest Fox before; in some cases, this is their first conference of any kind. Please take some extra time to introduce yourself and make all our new attendees feel welcome.

Sessions

Pre-conference sessions are held in the Flagstaff room. Regular sessions are in Elliott, Flagstaff, and Gilbert and exhibitor sessions are in Gilbert.

Trade Show and Exhibitor Track

The trade show is held in Desert Rose, the same room where meals and refreshments are served. Trade show hours are 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Thursday night following the keynote presentation (a reception), 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sunday. Be sure to spend time talking to the exhibitors and learn how their products and services can enhance your development efforts and your business.

To learn more about the products being offered by the exhibitors, be sure to attend the sessions in the exhibitor track (see the schedule for times).

Keynote Presentation and Trade Show Reception

The conference keynote will be presented on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in a combined Elliott/Flagstaff room. It includes a welcome to the conference followed by the keynote presentation by Kevin Ragsdale titled "The Fox Family: A Whimsical Celebration of FoxPro and the FoxPro Community."

A reception immediately follows in Desert Rose as part of the trade show. Come have a drink and meet your fellow attendees!

Free Wireless Internet Access

Free wireless Internet access is provided throughout the conference area. Please share nicely with other people accessing the Internet. For example, please limit unnecessary streaming video, and streaming music would not be very cool.

Evaluations

Evaluations are very important to the success of the conference. They help us plan for next year's conference by letting us know what we did right and what we could do better. They help speakers improve and fine-tune their sessions.

Session and conference evaluations are done online. When you check in, you are provided a user ID and password. Navigate your browser to https://geekgatherings.com/Evaluation, login using the credentials on the back of your

name badge, and fill out evaluations for each session and at the end of the conference for the conference as a whole. As an incentive, we're doing a drawing at the closing session: those who submit evaluations are eligible for a **free registration to a future Geek Gatherings event** at the closing session.

Closing Session

The closing session formally ends the conference. It begins Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in a combined Elliott/Flagstaff room. Be sure to finish your evaluation of the conference and to submit at least one session evaluation before the closing session to be eligible for the drawings.

Giveaway Drawings

Drawings for door prizes will occur at the dinner party Friday night and at the closing session on Sunday. We have lots of software and other prizes to give away. For drawings on Friday, you must claim your prize before the closing session. For drawings at the closing session, you have to be present to win any physical items (we'll contact winners of items for download), so be sure to attend that session.

Meals and Breaks

Breakfast is provided Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings. Lunch on Thursday is provided only for those attending two pre-conference sessions or who pre-purchased lunch during registration. Lunch is provided on Friday and Saturday for all attendees. Dinner is provided Friday night (see the next section, "Dinner Party"). All meals are served in Desert Rose. Refreshment breaks are provided Friday and Saturday afternoon from 4:45 to 5:15 in Desert Rose.

Dinner Party

The conference dinner party is Friday night, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., on the Veranda outside Desert Rose. It's a great opportunity to relax after a long day of learning and meeting and chatting with fellow developers and speakers.

If you want to bring a guest to the Dinner Party, tickets are $55 (which almost covers our cost), available at the registration table.

Airport Transportation

If you want to share a ride with someone back to the airport, sign up on the airport ride sheet on the bulletin board in Desert Rose.

Hotel Checkout

Checkout time for the DoubleTree is 12:00, so if you are leaving on Sunday, be sure to check out in the morning before sessions start or during a break and leave your luggage with the bell staff.

Conference Materials

The conference download site, ftp://www.swfox.net (you will be provided a user name and password by email), contains white papers and sample code (if provided) for every session.

Bulletin Board

A bulletin board is available to post job openings, notices, meeting messages, etc. Also, if you want to share a ride back to the airport, sign up on the airport ride sheet on the bulletin board in Desert Rose.

Spouse/Significant Other Program

Spouses and significant others have informally found each other at prior conferences, and many of them have formed strong friendships over the years. Spouses/SOs will meet at the While Light Computing table inside the trade show reception after the keynote so they can plan activities to do during the conference while their special geeks are immersed in the conference.

Mobile Devices and Laptops

To avoid interruptions for speakers and other attendees, please set your mobile phone to silent or vibrate mode during sessions. If you need to take a call during a session, please leave the session room. Also, please mute your laptop or tablet if you plan on using it during sessions.

Photography, Video, and Audio Recording

You are welcome to take photos of sessions (please ask the speaker's permission first) but audio and video recordings are prohibited.

Polo Shirts, Sweatshirts, and Fleeces

If you ordered a conference polo shirt, sweatshirt, or fleece before the conference, it will be available for pickup at registration.

Please note that we have additional fleeces available for sale at the White Light Computing booth in the trade show area. There aren't a lot so be sure to pick yours up early!

Meet 'n' Greet

Veteran conference attendees will tell you that one of the major benefits of attending a conference is the opportunity to meet and get to know other developers. While the Internet has certainly made the world a much smaller place, there's nothing like chatting with someone face-to-face between sessions or over a beverage or meal. The people you meet this year may be next year's co-workers, employers, employees, clients or trusted resources. Make it your goal to meet at least one new person at this conference.

If you're a first-time attendee, don't feel intimidated because some attendees know each other well. Join a conversation! That applies to speakers, too; we have no unapproachable rock stars in our community, only really nice people. Feel free to engage any speaker in a conversation on any topic, not just programming. See the Tips for Attendees page (http://www.swfox.net/tips.aspx) on the conference Web site for more ideas.

One of the best places to meet other people is in the bar. You don't have to drink to have great conversations with fellow developers.

Assistance

If you have any questions or problems, please see one of the conference staff: Rick Schummer, Therese Schummer, Doug Hennig, Tamar Granor, and Marshal Granor. We'll be wearing red Geek Gatherings shirts (except when Rick, Doug, and Tamar are wearing their speaker shirts).

Local Restaurants

There are lots of restaurants at the SanTan Village, just down the street from the hotel, including Famous Dave's BBQ, Cantina Laredo, Brio Tuscan Grille, Red Robin, and many others. Also, right across the street from the hotel is Main Event, a sports bar with bowling, games, and video games.

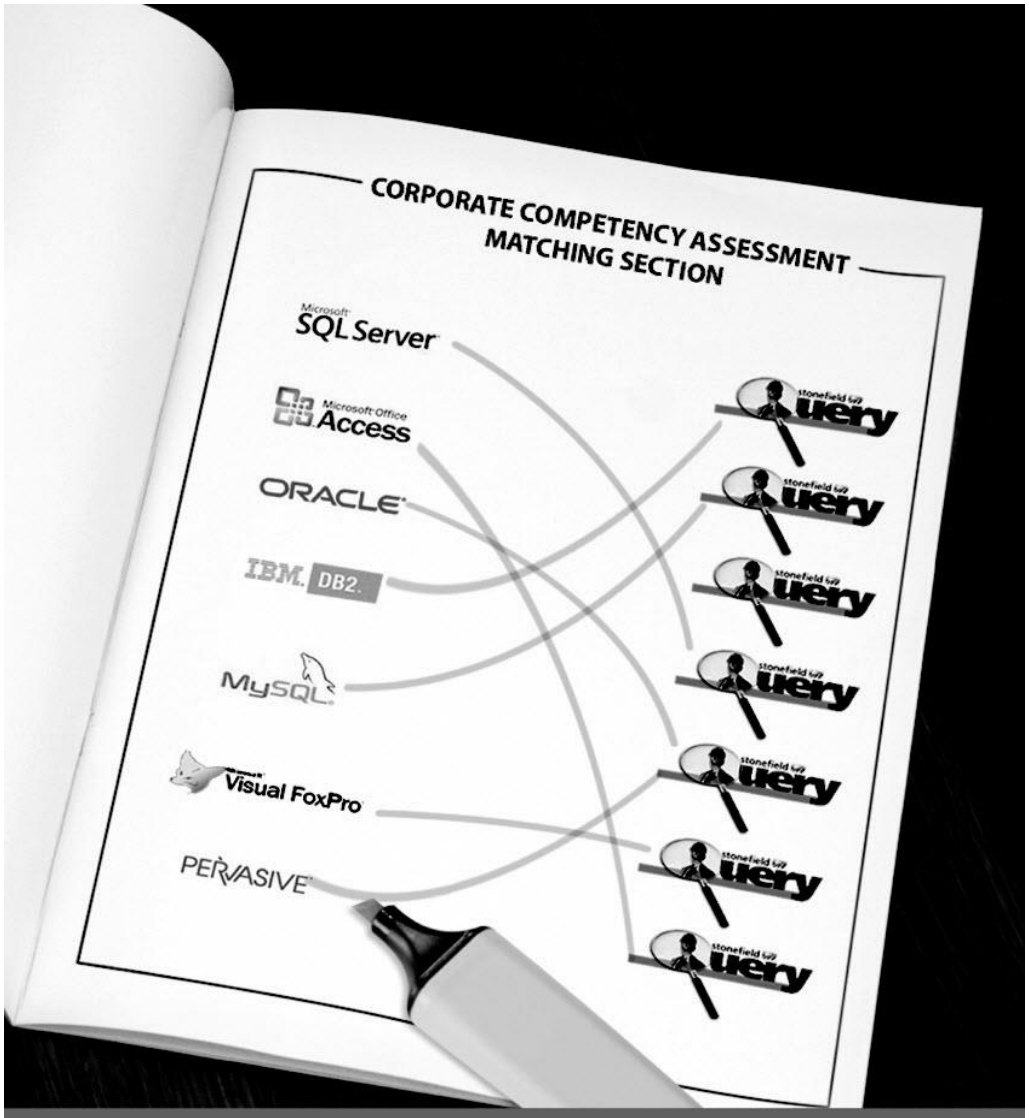
Code of Conduct

Our conference is dedicated to providing a harassment-free conference experience for everyone. Harassment includes offensive verbal comments related to gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion, or technology choices; sexual images in public spaces; deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording; sustained disruption of sessions or other events; inappropriate physical contact; and unwelcome sexual attention. We do not tolerate harassment of conference participants in any form. If a participant engages in harassing behavior, the conference organizers may take any action they deem appropriate, including warning the offender or expelling the offender from the conference with no refund.

Sponsors are also subject to the anti-harassment policy. In particular, sponsors should not use sexualized images, activities, or other material. Booth staff (including volunteers) should not use sexualized clothing/uniforms/costumes, or otherwise create a sexualized environment.

If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of conference staff immediately (look for the red Geek Gatherings shirts) or email us at safety@geekgatherings.com. Conference staff will be happy to help participants contact hotel/venue security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the conference. We value your attendance.

We expect participants to follow these rules at all conference venues and conference-related social events.



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How can White Light Computing help you?

White Light Computing specializes in extending development capabilities, expanding resources on projects, and helping you to come up to speed on technology you need to implement today. We offer tools, one-on-one mentoring, solid and successful project management, strong testing skills, quick debugging, and guide application deployment to production environments. White Light Computing brings professional experience and expertise to your team.

✓ Developer Tools and Resources

We have two successful commercial products called HackCX Professional and ViewEditor Professional. HackCX Professional is a safer and better editor than the BROWSE window when hacking your forms and visual class libraries. ViewEditor Professional is a replacement for the VFP View Designer providing support for local views, remote views, remote data stored procedures, and provides the ability to script complex views to a program. Our ***VFP Programming Standards and Guidelines*** document, a set of free developer tools, and our commercial line are in use by companies around the world.

✓ Mentoring and Training

We can provide classroom style training for several of your employees, or perform one-on-one problem solving. Our geeks can help you and your team learn about the various aspects of computing and software development, and different aspects of Visual FoxPro. Our lead geek, Rick Schummer has trained and mentored developers for more than 15 years in programming FoxPro and Visual FoxPro. He has trained end-users for more than 25 years in everything from working with the operating system, backups, using Microsoft Office and other productivity programs. Some of the training is formal, and some is very informal. We can do customizing training for your needs.

✓ Data Conversions

Our team of developers converts data to and from different data sources for custom and vertical market applications. Data conversion is often tedious work with a host of challenges that bog down your development staff when they need to be focusing on delivering the core application. Our data scrubbing techniques, attention to detail, and ability to move large volumes of data between systems have a proven track record of success with end-users who rely on this information to run their business.

✓ Software Testing

The key to successful acceptance of your application by your customers is making sure it meets the documented requirements. A well known problem in the computing industry: developers are not the best people to test the code they create. Small development shops often do not have the resources to test code with a second developer and IT department resources are often stretched doing the development. Our software testing techniques give proven results and lead to less defects reported after deployment.

✓ Software Deployment

Today's Information Technology (IT) professionals are responsible for managing a multitude of different platforms, operating systems, hardware configurations, networks, application development tools, and third party components. Implementing and maintaining custom software and vertical market products you develop in this environment is more complex than ever, despite running in the most advanced environment since the dawn of the personal computing era. A strong understanding of deployment fundamentals can reduce the problems introduced into the process and increase the ability to react to unexpected situations and resolve inevitable problems.

✓ Stonefield Query Implementations

Have you recently purchased the powerful Stonefield Query ad-hoc query and reporting tool? Need assistance in configuring it to work with your database so you can get this important tool into the hands of your customers? Leverage the years of experience our team has implementing this for other vertical market and custom software applications.

We specialize in FoxPro for DOS and FoxPro for Windows conversions too!
Need some help with something not on our list? We still may be able to help, please give us a call!

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Ask for Rick Schummer

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What?

CleverFox Backup is a service for backing up Visual FoxPro data to the cloud. It protects against common PC disasters such as disk failure, power surges, fire, and theft. It also safeguards against viruses and rootkits like CryptoLocker that target DBF files.

How?

CleverFox Backup is installed as a background service, no-user action required. Configuration (what to backup, how often and when) is done using a web-based management system. Backups are compressed and transmitted over a SSL connection to a secure data center where they are stored using AES-256 encryption.

Why?

CleverFox Backup is designed for Visual FoxPro systems. It has a feature set not found in competing services.

- Multiple backup sets (daily, weekly, monthly)
- Backup in-use DBF files
- Email notifications
- Web-based management
- API interface

Cost?

CleverFox Backup has multiple plans to fit almost any budget and need. Get started for as little as $9.95 per month.

- Simple monthly billing
- No long-term contract
- Cancel anytime
- FREE 30-day trial, no credit card

Partner?

Partnership opportunities are available for Vertical Market Application and Custom Application developers. **CleverFox Backup** handles all of the renewal, billing, and credit card processing. Partners get the benefits of:

- Reducing support costs related to corrupt DBF files or no recent backups
- Bundle with your application
- Revenue sharing

Partners have the ability to offer an Emergency Backup Plan to their customers (possibly for FREE) to perform weekly backups for a very low monthly cost. Contact us for more details

Saving your customer's data to the cloud in case of a rainy day!

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Convert your apps from Visual FoxPro to .Net with minimal changes

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XSharp (X#) is an open source compiler for XBase languages, such as Visual FoxPro and Visual Objects, built on top of the source code of the C# compiler (Roslyn).
You can download X# for free from our website.
X# comes with:

- Command line Compiler
- Integration into Visual Studio
- It's own runtime system with all the familiar functions from XBase languages and (in time) VFP forms and reports
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