Southwest Fox 2012
Call for Speakers

You are invited to submit session proposals for Southwest Fox 2012. This is the sixth year this conference has been organized by long-time Visual FoxPro MVPs Rick Schummer, Doug Hennig and Tamar E. Granor, and it has been a tremendous success.

This year's conference will be held simultaneously with a conference focusing on Alaska Software's Xbase++. Attendees will be able to attend sessions from either conference.

Although Southwest Fox is primarily a Visual FoxPro conference, we welcome sessions on other technologies that can enhance VFP development and that improve development generally. We're also interested in a few sessions that offer Visual FoxPro developers a path forward.

Southwest Fox 2012 will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton (formerly the Hotel Legado) and SanTan Elegante Conference & Reception Center in Gilbert, Arizona on October 18-21. Pre-conference sessions will be held during the day on Thursday, October 18. The main conference will begin with a keynote address that night. Breakout sessions will take place all day Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday morning. The conference will close with a general session midday Sunday. We also anticipate offering some advanced post-conference sessions on Sunday afternoon.

If you are interested in speaking at Southwest Fox 2012, please read this entire document before submitting proposals. Send any questions to speakers@swfox.net.

Tracks

We are particularly interested in topics that fit into one or more of the following tracks:

- **Solidifying VFP development**—This track will appeal to all VFP developers. Sessions should cover either a) VFP fundamentals, aimed at those newer to VFP, whether moving up from FP2.x or coming to VFP from other languages; b) VFP best practices, aimed at helping all VFP developers improve; or c) in-depth looks at aspects of VFP that some developers may not have mastered yet.
- **Taking advantage of VFPX**—The sessions in this track should showcase the projects in VFPX, providing attendees with enough information to put those projects to work for them. These sessions should be deep dives into specific VFPX projects. We will consider offering a single "What's new in VFPX?" session.
- **Extending VFP**—The sessions in this track will look at ways to extend VFP's reach, by using it together with other products or by taking advantage of native extension capabilities.
- **Moving Visual FoxPro Applications Forward**—This track will cover topics related to taking VFP applications beyond the desktop, such as with web applications or mobile technology, as well as alternatives for new platforms and future application development.
- **Technology and Business for the VFP developer**—This track will look at tools, technologies and techniques to make life as a developer easier and more

productive. The simultaneous Xbase++ conference increases the potential audience for these sessions.

Feel free to suggest other topics if they have a connection to VFP and you believe attendees will find them valuable.

We are also looking for half-day and full-day **pre-conference sessions**. These should be designed to bring attendees up to speed on a subject to prepare them to get the most out of the main conference, or to offer an introductory, yet in-depth look at a topic VFP developers may find interesting.

Finally, we are looking for half-day **post-conference sessions**. These should be advanced deep dives into a topic, ideally laced with real-world experience.

A number of last year's attendees specifically asked for more advanced sessions. Please keep that in mind as you consider topics.

Speaker's Responsibilities

Each speaker will present two or three different sessions; most sessions (except pre-conference and post-conference sessions) will be given twice. In other words, each speaker will be presenting three to six times. Sessions will be 75 minutes long.

Speakers must provide a brief bio and a digital photo for publicity purposes. The bio should be included with session proposals (see "Submitting Proposals" below). The photo can be submitted with session proposals, but must be submitted by April 27, 2012.

Speakers must provide session notes (a "white paper") for each session. They may also provide slides. Where appropriate, code examples should be provided as well. It is not acceptable to provide slides and no white paper for any session. All materials are due no later than Monday, September 24, 2012.

Speakers are expected to be available to attendees throughout the conference. While this doesn't mean every minute of each day, for attendees to get full value for the conference, they must have the opportunity to talk to speakers outside of sessions. Speakers are expected to attend conference lunches and be visible during at least some breaks.

Speakers are expected to rehearse their sessions prior to arriving in Gilbert, so that both the first and second presentations run smoothly.

Speaker's Rights

Southwest Fox will provide round-trip economy airfare to Phoenix from your home city, a room at the conference hotel for three nights (four nights for those presenting pre-conference or post-conference sessions) and admission to the main conference and any pre-cons or post-cons you wish to attend.

Submitting Proposals

To be considered, download the Southwest Fox proposal application from http://www.swfox.net/speakers.zip and send your proposals to speakers@swfox.net no later than 8 AM EDT on **Friday, March 23, 2012**. Each session proposal must use the form provided and include:

1) The session title
2) An abstract (100-200 words) describing the session.
3) A list of 4 or 5 bullet points finishing the sentence "Attendees will learn …"
4) The track(s) into which the session fits.
5) The level(s) for the session: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced. This is the level for VFP developers, even if the session is about working with another technology. Think of the level (or levels) as fitting into the sentence "This session is appropriate for people who are <level>s with VFP."
6) Any prerequisites for the session.
7) Anything else you think we should know about this session.

You will receive an acknowledgement within 48 hours of submitting your proposals. If you don't, assume that a spam filter somewhere ate your submission and send a plain text email to speakers@swfox.net to check on it.

The Selection Process

There is no shortage of able speakers in the VFP community. That means that filling the speaker slots for this conference won't be hard, but choosing among all the qualified speakers will be. Among those who have spoken previously, preference will be given to those who have met their past obligations by submitting a full set of materials in a timely fashion.

We consider the cultivation of new talent an important goal. Therefore, we encourage those who have not spoken at VFP conferences before to submit proposals. If you are unsure whether your topics are appropriate, feel free to contact us before the deadline to discuss them. Be aware, of course, that such discussions do not constitute a commitment on our part to choose you, but are meant to help you submit stronger proposals.

Beyond that, the most important consideration will be the topics you propose and how they fit into the conference as a whole. You increase your chance of being selected by submitting at least three good topics. We expect to receive more good proposals than available space, so if you are not chosen, please don't take it personally.

Initial speaker selection will be completed by Friday, April 13, 2012. Selected speakers will be notified by email and asked to confirm their willingness to speak by Friday, April 20, 2012. Once all speaker slots have been filled, those not selected will be notified.

If early registration warrants, we will select additional speakers. If we decide to add speakers, the additional speakers will be invited by Friday, July 6, 2012 and will need to confirm by Friday, July 13, 2012.

Session Materials and Deadlines

While attendees learn a lot at conferences, the materials they take home with them (or download later) provide the lasting impact of a conference. As noted above, session notes are not optional for Southwest Fox as they offer the greatest value to attendees.

In addition, we are providing all submission deadlines now so that you can check them against your personal calendar before submitting proposals. If you cannot meet the deadlines, please do not submit proposals.

We are very serious about speaker obligations. Those who do not fulfill their obligations to Southwest Fox 2012 will not be invited to speak at Southwest Fox 2013.

Summary of Important Dates

March 23, 2012: Session proposals due.
April 13, 2012: Speaker selection completed and selected speakers notified.
April 20, 2012: Acceptance of speaker invitation due.
April 27, 2012: Speaker photos due. Any revisions to bios and abstracts due.
May 1, 2012: Speakers and sessions posted on Southwest Fox website. Registration opens.
July 6, 2012: Any additional speakers will be notified.
July 13, 2012: Acceptance of additional speaker invitations due.
September 24, 2012: All session materials due.
October 18-21, 2012: Southwest Fox 2012.