

2007 Meeting Notes

User Demos

- Steve Hagan demoed his XAP app that allows his customers to do credit checks on their customers
- Grant showed his progress on converting Solutions to Windows
- Jon demoed his XAP app for viewing traffic cams
- Greg showed us his latest version of the Locis app. More than 90% of the package has now been converted to Windows.

New Lookup Program (CmtHelpD)

- Steve pointed out that the sample implementation code in CmtHelpD.inc is using incorrect IB variable names.
- It was requested that the implementation include a parameter for the caller to define the size of the dialog.
- Since the 1024-byte limitation of the # buffer it was suggested that we might look in to some version of the SetGlobal / GetGlobal instruction for passing information to/from CmtHelpD
- Jon requested that we remember the user's display preferences (sort order, window location, etc)
- Steve requested that we develop other such widgets such as date pickers, drop-down lists, etc

Decompiler

John Gleason discussed decompilers for both Qantel and Comet object files. The general consensus was that this was a valuable tool and all people present at the meeting had no qualms about its release. John indicated he expected to offer the products as freeware but exactly how it will be distributed had not yet been determined.

XAP

- Jon pointed out that the method for using the CGI file to communicate between CGI2XML and Db2XML could interfere with the user's entries in that file. So, instead of using keys prefixed with "Q." we will change to "X.". This prefix will be reserved for system use.
- Jon requested that an "append" cookie function be added to the cookie library.
- A tutorial demonstrating the use of AJAX techniques with XAP is under development.
- It has not yet been determined what the best way is to release the AJAX files. This will consist of non-Comet files as well as at least one IB program (CGI2XML). Jim is considering releasing an XAP directory.

CometConnect

In addition to its initial intended use as an application server for small businesses, this was presented as a possible solution for customers seeking a secure archive for their software and data. In the event of loss of use of their on-site system, cc could either provide them their complete backup to restore or serve as a temporary host until they recover from their loss. Steve Hagan said he had requests from some of his users for this service. Greg requested we setup a test account on cc for him to do some testing.

Server Products

- The CometConnect disaster recovery discussion led to a request by Jon that CometServe provide an option for transaction backup to an external drive.
- Stan requested a way to specify that a Comet file is open for read-only access.
- There was much interest in making delimited text files easier to deal with under Comet. Louisa would like to be able to specify the delimiter and then have I/O calls to read/write the records using a FORMAT. Comet would use the delimiter info to automatically separate the record into the fields in the FORMAT. This would also satisfy Jon's request for the ability to load all the fields in a delimited record into individual elements of an array. Jim suggested using the FILE CTL= to specify the delimiter rather than introducing a new file type.
- We were reminded that there are still a few functions that are not going through the file server and thus require the client to have Windows access to the file. We suspect the pseudo DOS calls are one culprit. The FileInfo function is also a problem. It is used by SNOVA.
- Stan requested a quick way to search a file for a record set where a particular field "contains" (or doesn't contain) a value. The client should be able to specify either case-sensitive or not. Jim envisions the file server collecting a set of records meeting the criteria then returning one at a time to the client.
- Several persons expressed interest in being able to restart the CometServices from the console/tray.
- It was decided that administrator privileges will be required to change any of the configuration settings in the file server.
- Greg and Frank reminded us that we had not yet fulfilled their request for the Security Server to be able to select the proper license.txt from a group of certificates. This would allow them to deliver all the certificates to every user rather than make a unique installation package for each user. It was decided that we will change the Security Server to look first for the license in a .txt file named with the plug number, i.e. 00010152.txt. If not found, it will continue with the normal license.txt logic.
- Greg is having problems with the connection to the server disconnecting if the IP address changes out from under him. This happens frequently at some of his accounts.

Fax Driver

- The consensus was that FaxMan Jr. is still the way to go.
- Brian recommended use of the AUTOIT scripting freeware for satisfying inputs to prompts so faxing applications could run unattended.
- Joe recommended use of Universal Document Converter for generating .tiff files.

Forum

- There were requests to have links to the "Site Contents" and IB documentation pages added to the forum page.
- There was some general frustration expressed with the difficulty of searching the forum for answers.

Reporter

- Back-end requests:

- Ability to specify that the value for a SELECT field is the result of prompting the user at runtime.
- New SELECT operators such as “CONTAINS”, “STARTSWITH”, “ENDSWITH”, etc.
- Comments on the front-end prototype:
 - Tree structure should be used for selection of files to be included in the report
 - Link **names** should not be displayed – just source, destination, link field, and secondary key field
 - Would like to be able to specify the editmask to be used on a field that overrides any defined in the dictionary.
 - Proposed a new numeric system variable which can be used to indicate the security level of the user. This can be used to restrict a user's access to reports on particular directories or even to reports with a particular naming convention, such as a leading character.
 - Once a field has been selected for use in the report a mouse-over or double-click option to indicate which file it is from would be helpful.
 - As new prototypes of the front-end become available, it will be put up on the cc machine for public evaluation and comment.

Miscellaneous

- Grant requested a way to specify in the project file setting for UltraEdit whether a program is to be compiled for Comet16 or Comet32.
- Jeff is looking for suggestions for load balancing his system.
- Suggestions for the location of the next meeting were Kauai or a cruise.