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ACCESS USER GROUP

NATIONAL SEMINAR Tuesday 21st May 2019

To be held at: Shendish Manor, London Road, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 0AA. www.shendish-manor.com

AGENDA

- 08.45 – 09.15 **Registration, Tea/Coffee & Biscuits**
- 09.15 – 09.30 **Introduction** – by Rod Gordon, Chairman of the Access User Group
- 09.30 – 10.25 **Building a CRM-like Dashboard With Access (And The New Graphing System!)**
presented by Peter Bryant, Corylus Business Systems
A manufacturing client with an off the shelf MRP system didn't like the CRM that came with it. Crystal reports couldn't cut it either. So "something" else was needed. After a quick Excel mock up from them we came up with a plan. In a short space of time the client now has a dashboard they love which exposes the important information upon which account managers can act. The project presented some interesting challenges in that there was a SQL Server database with some of the data but extra information needed to be created and presented as if it were not separate. This presentation will show how that information was blended to present a single UI enabling the user to get on with their job and have all the relevant information to hand when a customer calls.
- 10.25 – 10.45 **Break for Tea/Coffee & Biscuits**
- 10.45 – 11.15 **MAPS: A "Medication Adherence Message Scheduling" MS Access Database**
presented by James Brimicombe, University of Cambridge
Many (red/super) moons ago a requirement came up to build a system to deliver daily 'tailored' (personalised) phone messages giving advice and reminders on medication taking through an automatic phoning system known as an "Interactive Voice Response" system, or IVR. James previously gave a talk to the UKAUG on how he created an Access database to marshal scheduled message delivery to this telephone system. And then.....
A "new" study wanted to combine this automated phone call delivery alongside SMS texts that served as pill-taking reminders for trial participants. Once again James eschewed the easy option – to resign – and beefed up the Access application himself. He will briefly recap the original (revoltingly pink) database and talk about how he added SMS texting API calls to a third party texting service in the new Access app (a blinding blue).
- 11.15 – 12.00 **SQL Server Management System: An Introduction For Access Developers**
presented by Peter Cole, Theme My Database
Included in this presentation at the following topics;
- SQL Management Studio
- Introduction To The GUI
- Using Scripts To Modify And Create Objects Or Complete Databases
- Adding Simple Triggers

This discussion session will also provide a useful recap for people who are already using SQL Server and Peter will welcome input from existing practitioners in the form of best practice discussions.

12.00 – 13.15

Break for Lunch

13.15 – 14.00

Case Study: Moving Rows On A Continuous Form Like A Spreadsheet

presented by Tony Bayliss, Senator System Consultants
I'm sure we have all had to replace customers' own spreadsheet applications many times. Each row is usually a record but the user happily types what he wants where he wants and it has to be explained they can't do that anymore with properly structured tables. This customer had a spreadsheet for setting out his daily production schedules in the order he wanted the jobs done. He could insert a row, copy and paste to move things around not based on a column that could be sorted. He got the idea of rules within each record and no blank rows but wanted to be able to move the rows around to get them in the order he wanted – just like his beloved spreadsheet. My solution is quite simple but hopefully interesting and most importantly, the customer is happy and I was paid.

14.00 – 14.15

Break for Tea/Coffee & Biscuits

14.15 – 15.00

Eight Code Tools That I Couldn't Do Without In Access Development

presented by Andrew Richards, The IT Service
In this session Andrew will talk you through a number of code tools without which he feels his development work would be.... well, if not impossible then a lot harder. Some of these are simple but essential tools that Andrew created himself because he's lazy and didn't want to re-invent the wheel with each project. Others are cleverer, more powerful and obviously created by other people. Create database documentation on the fly, automatically name all your form controls and check your code for Brexit-compliance – One of these tools may have been invented.

15.00 – 15.15

Closing by Rod Gordon

SEMINAR FEES:

£100.00 + VAT (£120.00 inc. VAT) for members

£135.00 + VAT (£162.00 inc. VAT) for non-members

To make a credit card payment please go to: www.gordonassociates.co.uk/matchriverevents

Annual membership of the Access User Group costs £70.00 + VAT (£84.00 including VAT) for an individual membership and £225.00 + VAT (£270.00 including VAT) for corporate membership (up to 5 named employees). Payment for membership should be made to: Access User Group.

For further details on membership and the seminar contact Margaret Chamberlain at: Margaret@gordonassociates.co.uk, telephone: 01242 256549.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Peter Bryant, pbryant@corylus-business.co.uk

Peter has run his own consultancy since 2004 and (after a fashion) specialises in not specialising; he's worked in almost every sector ranging from automotive to hi-fi, from reseller to print, and financial services to charity. He has used Microsoft Access since the early beta program two decades ago and his projects are now more about data analysis, function and business problem solving rather than the most amazing code writing. Projects are nearly always lengthy prototyping/agile projects where the client starts out quite unsure of their expected final outcome. As well as Access/SQL development he gets involved in general IT Management for SME's as well as project management for resellers and enterprise.

James Brimicombe, djb16@medschl.cam.ac.uk

James joined the Cambridgeshire County Council's IT department as a trainee programmer on the IBM mainframe straight after graduating back in the early 90's. He then switched to the booming PC database development team and has been programming database applications ever since – on Dbase IV, Paradox, DataEase, Btrieve, Foxpro, Access, SQL Server, MySQL – either using Access front ends or C# .NET. In 2006 James joined the Primary Care Research Unit within Public Health (University of Cambridge) as a Data Manager where he dustily remains. His work here is varied but the focus is on designing and building database applications that capture and validate study data either with MS Access on internal data servers or online eCRF/Survey platforms/Websites. He is a jack of all trades and master of none but the one constant in his career has been MS Access, a veritable Swiss army knife of data management.

Peter Cole, peter@thememydatabase.co.uk

Peter originally started working with Access developing a timesheet program. He diverted on to CAD/CAM creating a new menu system and automated macro creation tool. When the software supplier closed he developed a system to transfer data to different systems. He learnt how differently people could use flexible software! Returning to Access he developed an interior designers system using an SQL server back end and also a parametric CNC system integrating with a Nesting Package via the COM interface. Having an interest in "look and feel" he turned his attention to the Access desktop GUI when Access 2010 arrived with Themes. He gave a presentation at the AUG of transforming the old Northwind traders demo to a Themed version with colour gradients and Navigation control. He concentrated on developing a system to automate the Theming process including providing a detailed analysis of forms and controls. Since demonstrating the system at the AUG he has been adding features for easily creating new Coloured Themes with intelligent font selection and more recently substituting button images. Peter has spent the last year working on an SQL server database making extensive use of SSMS and scripting.

Tony Balyiss, tbayliss@senatorsys.co.uk

Tony qualified as an accountant way back in 1983 when he began using early DOS PC's. He became self-employed in 1989 providing IT consultancy, support and bespoke software mainly to small businesses and has been trading as Senator System Consultants Limited since 1998. Tony has been a Sage reseller and developer since the early 1990's writing bespoke add-ons to Sage 50, mainly using Access. He also supports the powerful VB.NET/SQL based MyN system from Accounting Office. He learned programming using BASIC but started serious developing with Dataease (for DOS) and its quirky but powerful Data Query Language, moving to Access when it clearly blew the socks of Dataease for Windows and everything else he has tried since. He occasionally finds spreadsheets useful but doesn't like to talk about it.

Andrew Richards, andrew@theitservice.co.uk

Andrew is the Managing Director of The It Service (www.theitservice.co.uk) and has been developing databases and training others on how to develop databases using Microsoft Access for nearly twenty years so he feels that he really ought to be better at it by now. Current and recent database projects include work for Imperial College London, The Royal Marsden Hospital and a London Estate Agent. When not working on databases, Andrew can be found attempting to collect eggs from his sheet and get his chickens to eat the grass.