

Synergistic View of Visual DataFlex

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New Orleans to Orlando

- Two years; two major revisions and four product releases...
 - Visual DataFlex 14.1 was freshly released and 15.0 was in it's development stage.
 - Visual DataFlex 16.1 is on the threshold of release and 17.0 is in it's formative stage.
- Much has changed and it's helpful to take a step back and see the big picture of what we have...



Synergy to Synergy Timeline

- Visual DataFlex 14.1 – January 2009
- **Synergy New Orleans – March 2009**
- Visual DataFlex 15.0 – June 2009
- Visual DataFlex 15.1 – December 2009
- Visual DataFlex 16.0 – August 2010
- **Synergy Orlando – March 2011**
- Visual DataFlex 16.1 – April 2011



Synergy to Synergy Timeline

- Synergy New Orleans – March 2009
- ScanDUC, Sweden – September 2009
- DISD, Dallas – October 2009
- Corroboree, Melbourne – October 2009
- SkiDUC, Austria – March 2010
- ScanDUC, Denmark – September 2010
- Corroboree, Hobart – October 2010
- Synergy Orlando – March 2011



Shameless Promotion

- Corroboree 2011
 - Ether Conference Centre
 - Melbourne, Victoria
 - October 5th – 8th
 - www.DDUG.org
 - This is the 12th annual Corroboree!



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Visual DataFlex 14.1

- Data Modeling in the Studio
- Class Modeling in the Studio and improvements in class templates
- New Error Handling and Debugging
- CodeSense improvements and Quick Info (hover over for table / column / index information)
- Many incremental improvements (suggestions and fixes)



Visual DataFlex 15.0 to 16.0

- AJAX
- Studio
- New Classes and Features
- Connectivity
- Incremental Improvements and Fixes
- Environmental Changes



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AJAX Library 2.x

- Becomes the primary technology for Visual DataFlex Web Applications
- Included in Studio installation
- Changes made in Visual DataFlex to enhance the capabilities of the AJAX Library



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Studio

- Design Time Anchors
- Improved Breakpoints
- Go Back
- Improved Performance
- Improved Tab Window Interface
- Quick Open Toolbar
- Improved Workspace Explorer Interface



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New Classes and Features

- Grids, grids and more grids...
 - One of our major focuses for the past year
 - One of the most surprising sequences in recent memory
- Tooltip Support
- Hyperlink (cLinkLabel)
- Scrolling Container
- Splitter Container
- JSON
 - JSON & Visual DataFlex – Mike Peat – 9:00 am Thursday
- New Array and String Functions



Improved Classes and Features

- Treeview
- Labels
- Auto-Activate
- Open File Dialog
- ReportView
- RichEdit and Text
- Libraries
- XML
 - XML Mini-Symposium - John Tuohy - 9:45 am on Friday



Connectivity

- We always include the latest drivers in each new release of Visual DataFlex
 - Visual DataFlex 14.1 – CK 5.0.0.57
 - Visual DataFlex 16.1 – CK 5.1.0.83
- Support for SQL Server 2008
 - Detection of Native Client and matching client enforcement
- New data types
- Uppercase Columns no longer necessary
- Full detail on changes in
 - [SQL Connectivity Recent Changes and Fixes](#) (overview)
 - [What's New in SQL Connectivity Version 5](#) (in-depth)
- Using Embedded SQL – Frank Valcarcel -1:15 pm today

Improvements and Fixes

- Big investments in improving the documentation
- Developer suggestions and bug reports that are logged in Bug Tracker
 - Over 450 since last Synergy
- Pay special attention to the “Suggestions Implemented...” pages for each revision
 - While these may seem on a smaller scale than the “headline” changes, they represent your experience with the product in making it easier to use and more powerful



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“Public” Phases of Development

- Alpha
 - Product set is fully defined and designed.
 - While the product definition is complete, not all parts of the product implementation are complete
 - User input and suggestions are welcomed but..
 - We try to stick to our original design
 - We try to avoid “featuritis”
- Beta
 - Product is feature complete
 - At this point, we are primarily looking to fix newly introduced bugs
- RC – Release Candidate
 - Everything is complete and this could become released software
 - Only serious bugs are addressed

Visual DataFlex 16 Alpha “Surprise”

- Feedback was immediate, excellent and detailed
- Compatibility
 - We had publicly stated that the new grids would be Framework and DD compatible but they would not be code and feature compatible with the old grids.
 - Everyone agreed this was the way to move forward
- However, when you got your hands on the grids
 - We were surprised at the degree of behavior and appearance compatibility you needed
 - We were surprised at how quickly you wanted to replace all of the existing grids in your applications
 - We were surprised at how many obscure features of the old grids you were actually using
 - The old grid was the “class everyone loved to hate”



Visual DataFlex 16 Alpha “Surprise”

- We listened
- The alpha process turned out to be an incredibly constructive experience
- We treated you as a member of the development team
 - We directly used some of your ideas (just like we do with our team)
 - We came up with other changes based on your ideas (just like we do with our team)
 - We did not implement all your ideas (just like we do with our team)
- Developers sitting right here in this room, helped define the product
- You won't get this kind of attention from most companies.



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Visual DataFlex 16.1

- Continued Grid Improvements
 - New prompt list class, new methods, interfaces, properties and events
 - Understanding the Architecture of the New Grids – John Tuohy – Next!
 - Prompt and Selection Lists with the New Grids – John Tuohy – 3:30pm today.
 - Transitioning to the New Grids – Peter van Wijk – 1:45 pm Friday
- Studio Enhancements
 - Configuration options, web services, preservation of table and column names and more
 - Maximizing Your Development Productivity – John van Houten – 1:15 pm Thursday



Visual DataFlex 16.1

- Visual DataFlex 16.1 includes AJAX 2.3
- Building Real-Life Applications with AJAX
 - Harm Wibier
 - Today at 11:15
- Many Suggestions and Fixes
- Environmental Impacts
 - Codejock / COM
 - IE9



COM Changes

- Decided to update the Codejock components from 13.4.0 to 13.4.2
 - It all started with just a simple call to John...
- CJ changed the interface to the ReportControl
 - Removed a notification message that we were counting on to give the control the keyboard focus and to keep the DataFlex and COM focus synchronized.
- Rather than implement a local change to the class, we improved the way all COM handles mouse and keyboard focus changes.
- This has the potential to impact all COM

If You Use Codejock Products

- The Codejock 13.4.2 ReportControl (and higher) will not work properly with Visual DataFlex revisions before 16.1.
- If you were using any Codejock controls on older Visual DataFlex revisions we would advise that you stay with Codejock 13.4.0



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Visual DataFlex, Codejock and IE9

- The Problem
 - Some Codejock controls use a painting optimization that does not work if the application is using IE9 as an embedded browser.
 - The problem appears when you try to resize a docking pane - the application will either freeze or crash.
 - This is a general problem with the Codejock control.
 - Codejock modified their code in 13.4.2. Therefore, if an application uses Codejock docking controls, COM or MFC, based on a revision of 13.4.1 or lower and that application uses IE9, there will be problems. If you are using 13.4.2 or you are not using IE9, everything is fine.

Visual DataFlex, CodeJock and IE9

- The Visual DataFlex Studio
 - We use docking panes and a browser in the Start Center, so you can see the problem. Here are your options:
 - Use VDF16.1 - as of beta 1, we've upgraded our internal use to 13.4.2. It works.
 - Don't install IE9 on your development machine. As a developer you have a bit more control over your own computer.
 - Disable the Start Center. If the IE9 control is not activated, there are no problems.

Read What's New, Love What's New...

- A consolidated and complete reference to the changes in the product since Visual DataFlex 8.x
- Each revision has a section overviews, links to the complete documentation and lists of implemented suggestions and fixes.
- It's all just a key press ([F1](#)) away...



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Are “we” exploiting the full potential?

- Do you feel like you know enough about the capabilities already in the product?
 - How can we improve “information delivery”?
 - Feedback to me in the Forums or via e-mail stephen-m@dataaccess.com



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The road ahead...

Visual DataFlex Roadmap

John Tuohy

Thursday, March 31st

4:45 pm



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