

FILEMAKER MASTER CLASS (EXPERT)

Selected dates and locations

Presenter: Ray Cologon, Director of Development, NightWing Enterprises Pty Ltd

SESSION FORMAT:

The class will take place over three consecutive days and will comprise six substantive and wide-ranging topics.

Topics will commence with a presentation and overview of the key points, including or followed by demos as appropriate. Subsequently for each main topic, questions and discussion will be invited, after which a workshop format will be adopted to explore key ideas emerging from the discussion.

Examples and proof-of-concept files will be available to participants, and further examples contributed by participants during the classes will (with permission) also be made available to attendees.

Interaction between participants is encouraged as part of a mutual learning, exploration and professional development process.

Summary/Overview of Topics:

Day 1:

Introduction

- Introduction of presenter and participants
- Overview of the schedule
- Logistics and orientation
- Framework, purposes and objectives of the Master Class

2. Mastering Solution Design

- Taking the “design rethink” opportunity
- The simplicity principle as a solution design axiom
- Evolving concepts of user interaction modelling
- Getting more out of FileMaker interface elements
- Doing more with less: visual dynamism options
- Achieving precision, subtlety & depth with object/attribute controls
- Harnessing the modern FileMaker design surface
- Designing for device-specific operability

3. Data and Structure: FileMaker Application Models

- Reviewing data modelling and entity relationships
- A deeper look at the handling of associative entities in FileMaker
- Conceptual separation between tables and table aliases (TOs)
- Graph management and its implications
- Optimal use of themes and styles in FileMaker
- File structures: data separation & multi-application solution options
- Multi-platform & multi-device design considerations
- Understanding and managing file interdependencies
- Versioning and its implications and practicalities

Day 2:

4. Process Control: Advanced Scripting Techniques

- Abstraction and the principles of modular and reusable code
- Precise timing control in loop and interaction applications
- Optimal solution script architectures
- Management of lengthy script sequences and user feedback options
- The concept of “processing in place” vs macro coding
- Server and client trade-offs including perform script on server
- Advanced control and automation techniques using script triggers
- Code architectures for solution management and control
- Control systems for managing version deployment

5. Code Logic: The FileMaker Calculation Engine

- Logical dependencies, redundancy & code efficiency
- Logic in the interface layer
- Compound syntax challenges
- Code optimisation and the FileMaker calc engine
- Native calculation power vs extensibility with plug-ins and custom functions
- Examples of alternate code models for complex calculations
- Techniques for controlling calculation dependency

Day 3:

6. Designing for Scalability

- FileMaker development life-cycle overview and options
- Frameworks for design validation and load testing
- Design and development techniques that scale vs those that fail
- Special considerations and optimisations for large-scale solutions
- Understanding the nuances of indices and their implications.
- Understanding FileMaker's caching systems
- Advanced control of referential integrity in FileMaker
- Local-code/remote-data and wan optimisation

7. Advanced Development Techniques & Quality Assurance

- Steps towards optimal handling of code and data
- Value and trade-offs of standards-based development
- Considering a frameworks-based approach
- Effective models for "harmony" with FileMaker
- The anatomy of error – fault tracing in FileMaker
- The value of stubs and maquettes in testing and analysis
- Quality assurance in the context of the FileMaker development life-cycle
- Etiology and remediation of database file corruption
- Innovative deployment models for the FileMaker platform
- Custom environments for solution management

8. Conclusion

- Review, Q&A, Discussion
- Feedback, Evaluations and Follow-Up
- Closure