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Topics

• Common App Dev Needs
• Allaire Studio Wizards Available
• DatabaseBlocks
  – what it is, what it does, how to use it
  – extra features, coming features
  – support and assistance

Common App Dev Needs

• Most every app needs...
  – interfaces for viewing/editing records
  – means to list records
• Even if just for admin interfaces
  – public interfaces need more customization
• Challenge is building them from scratch every time
• Demonstration: Fast Track Solution
Allaire Studio Wizards Available

• Studio has wizards for:
  – drill down
  – record viewing
  – data entry
  – and more
• Demonstration

Allaire Studio Wizards (cont.)

• What they’re missing
  – bugs in certain instances
  – support for related tables in edits
  – more customizable interface elements
  – next N interfaces
  – sort features
  – drill up as well as drill down
  – to name a few

DatabaseBlocks:

What It Is

• Supplement to those Allaire Wizards
• Same basic interface for creating code
  – dialogue to describe application to be built for a table or related tables
  – CFML code is generated as a result
• Much improved results
  – better interface, more features
• Costs less than an hour of an average developer’s time!
  – giving it a tremendous cost/benefit ratio
**DatabaseBlocks:**

**What It Does**

- Builds typically needed add/view/edit interfaces, in a drill-down style display
- Adds many features missing from Studio wizards
  - some you may not have thought of yourself
- Demonstration: Running the tutorial app

**DatabaseBlocks:**

**How To Use It**

- Uses same design approach as Studio Wizards
- Available under File>New as DatabaseBlocks tab
  - added to Studio interface when installed
- Demonstration: building the tutorial app

**DatabaseBlocks:**

**Extra Features**

- Themes
- Hidden field validation (float, int, date)
- Queries are cached in next-n interface
- Stored procedures can be used
- Supports any database defined to CF (Oracle, SQL Server, DB2, Access, etc.)
- Works in Studio 4.0 as well as 4.5
**DatabaseBlocks: Coming Features**

- Cascading Style Sheets
- Support for custom Javascript validation
- 1.2 is next release
- 2.0 coming after that with lots more
- They’re very open to new feature suggestions (may be added in days)

**DatabaseBlocks: Recommendations**

- Read the docs first!
  - arranged as demos and tutorials
  - will prevent many common problems
  - can’t just “run it”. Trust them (and me!)
- Should be able to work with it in a couple hours
  - will get even better with a few more hours with greater understanding

**DatabaseBlocks: Support and Assistance**

- Documentation:
  - built-in help in Studio and in PDF
    - install, demonstration, tutorial, how it works, how do I?, troubleshooting, large demo database
- Complete App Provided and Documented
  - the tutorial application we saw comes pre-built
  - demonstration doc leads through review of this
  - tutorial doc leads through creating this
Database Blocks:
Support and Assistance (cont.)

• Support at Web Site:
  – troubleshooting wizard, demos, knowledge base, faqs
  – track open incidents
  – fee-based premium support available

Conclusion

Key Features

• Useful interface features
  – add/view/edit/delete, search, sort, list, goto
  – use of icons for add/view/edit/delete
  – control over colors, themes
  – control over add/edit/delete options
  – support for alternate keys
  – crystal reports integration
  – incorporates javascript, redirection
Key Features (cont.)

• Support for related tables
  – drill up/drill down
  – “filtered select” value lookup feature
  – data integrity constraint errors displayed
• Performance Features
  – caches records for “next n” interfaces
  – uses custom tag architecture
  – works with very large databases

Key Features (cont.)

• Wizard driven code generator
  – source code is exposed
  – royalty free
• Result for a table is a single template for
  search/drill-down/view/edit
  – Allaire’s Studio Wizards create several different files,
    that are not even integrated with each other
• Great Support
  – docs and web site

Best Feature: It’s Cheap!

• All this and more for just …
  – $79
  – includes minor updates and discounts on upgrades
  – licensed to developer not machine
    • can be used on all of developer’s machines
Where to Learn More

- WWW.COMMERCEBLOCKS.COM
  - see “databaseblocks” link
  - take the online tour for more detailed walkthrough
  - no trial version available, unfortunately
    - but hey, what’s $79!
    - some have felt the tutorial app (with company, employee, and sales order mgmt) itself is worth it