From Paper to Pulses

Computing Services Timecards
Using Microsoft Access and Visual InterDev

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Discussion Topics

- Background information about my specific project
- Background information about Visual InterDev and Microsoft Access
- Actual process of setup
- Problems with implementing the application
- Strengths and weaknesses of using InterDev
Background: Project

- Original process of timecards
- Need for new system at the Computer Lab
- Incorporation of Internet to provide flexibility and remote access
Background: Applications Used

- Microsoft Access capabilities
  - Database functionality
  - Query functions
  - Reporting functions

- Visual InterDev-solution for remote access
  - Web-page interaction
  - Accessed anywhere providing flexibility
  - Security features
Setup Processes: Access Database

1. Planning
   - Personal/Timesheet Information
   - Security

2. Layout
   - Identified two tables
   - Relationships-using a query for the unique ID
Setup Processes: Visual InterDev

- What kind of pages needed-ASP/HTML
- Decided which information should be on what page
- Layout design
  - Background/lettering
  - Textboxes/Text Areas
  - Grids
  - Buttons-Regular, Radio, Checkboxes
  - Hyperlinks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
<th>UU Box #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carla</td>
<td>Barber</td>
<td>660-3331</td>
<td>1496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie</td>
<td>Barger</td>
<td>5677</td>
<td>2121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>Behrens</td>
<td>4796</td>
<td>972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam</td>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>4334</td>
<td>968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawn</td>
<td>Dancy</td>
<td>668-8280</td>
<td>1465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desha</td>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>4885</td>
<td>965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Eudy</td>
<td>6534</td>
<td>2165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandy</td>
<td>Faughn</td>
<td>6527</td>
<td>1488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron</td>
<td>Hardee</td>
<td>6401</td>
<td>2340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alicia</td>
<td>Hite</td>
<td>6507</td>
<td>1423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy</td>
<td>Isaac</td>
<td>4840</td>
<td>2027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Problems: Implementation of Application

- Security passes using ID
  - Does not search database
  - Data type mismatch
- Changing from 20 tables to 2
- Code-SQL
Strengths: Using InterDev

- Once working, user-friendly Web pages
- Effective interaction with database including using Access queries
- Templates are available for setup
- Many texts with “dummy-user” information
Weaknesses: Using InterDev

- Debugging is a pain!!
- Output is not elegant
- How it effectively interacts w/ database must be learned 1st
Sources

The many Visual InterDev books found in the Seminar room along with classmates