Title: How We Made Lotus Notes Go To (V)BITS and Pieces
Lotus Notes Applications with Visual Basic
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I. Goals

        make Notes more accessible (while still maintaining)
        full feature functionality

II. What Is Notes?

        document centered system
                => rich text, imaging
        groupware
                => attachments, mail, response hierarchies
        non-relational database
                => Notes forms, Notes views
        enterprise-wide application development system
                => alternative UI's, external data access

III. The Edge Research Solution

        three Venn diagrams with varying overlap

IV. Design Philosophy And Corresponding Techniques

        functional completeness
            layer onto a full-featured enhanced API sitting above the Notes API

        easy learning curve
                leverage familiarity
                        controls inherit from standard VB controls
                        controls map to standard Notes UI components
                        controls interoperate with external reusable facilities (e.g.
                 OLE to Word)
                graphical metaphor
                        Leggos/Tonka-Toy feel
                        place, plug, power up

        open ended system
                embody that API Graphically : GAPI
                        Consumer/Producer Roles
                        Input/Output Properties
                design for Interoperability of API and GAPI
                        I/O Types of API vs I/O Properties of GAPI

        reusable components
                extended Consumer/Producer, used to talk to non-Notesworthy controls
                data Conversion Facilities

V. Notesworthy Controls Set

Server combobox   selection list of available Notes servers

Database   combobox   selection list from available Notes databases

Cursor checkbox   represents an open connection to one database

Formula editbox manifests a selection formula and its result set

View Style Document Selector   combobox   formatted selection list of documents
according to summary data and criteria

Scroll Style Document Selector
        scrollbar   relative-index selection of a document from a result set
Named Entity Selector   combobox   selection list of entities in the database

that have formal names (e.g. Views)

Document   checkbox   represents an opened document

Item Display   static displays the value of a field in a document

Item Edit   editbox allows text-style editing of the value of a field in a
document

Grid Style Document Selector
        grid   array of Item Edit and/or Item Display controls
HiTest Command pushbutton   executes one or more HiTest functions

VI. Demo Programs

        A. a 'no VB code' example
        B. API calls mixed with controls example
        C. commercial program prototype

--Mark