



European Xbase<sup>++</sup>

DevCon 2004

# This event!

- Gives us the opportunity to show you what Alaska Software has accomplished in the past 6 months
- We are here to resolve your questions, and tackle your problems



# History of Alaska Software (1/2)

- 1995 Foundation of Alaska Software GmbH
- 1997 Foundation of Alaska Software Inc, US
- 03/2001 Alaska Software GmbH was transformed into Alaska Software Technology AG



# History of Alaska Software (2/2)

- 01/2004 Alaska Software Inc. Germany takes over business from Alaska Software Technology AG



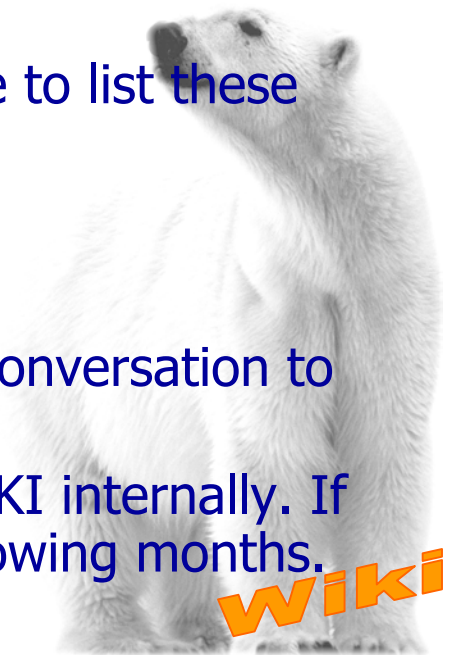
# R&D Investments

- During the first five years of the company (1995 – 2000) the amount of R&D investments got increased constantly
- Where as in the years 2001 – 2003 the R&D investments had been reduced dramatically
- Since Jan. 2004, R&D investments have again been brought up to a healthy level; higher than in 2002 & 2003 together



# What's new and different!

- Organisational structure
  - R&D is not isolated from customers as in the past
  - Reduced overhead costs such as admin
  - Fix-levels for free – see PFL306
- Hotfixes
  - Available upon request for PDR# 2994, 5245, 5386, 5387, 5393, 5395, 5397, 5402 and 5426.
  - A new section on our website will be made available to list these fixes after 1.9 release as they arrive.
- More transparency from Technical Support
  - Hundreds of customers per months get serviced
  - No channel of information from this point-to-point conversation to the public
  - Solution: We are currently experimenting with a WIKI internally. If this works out we intend to set it up that in the following months.



# Wiki



Living knowledge around Xbase++, Clipper migration, xBase and Visual Xbase++

[ [Start](#) | [Inhaltsverzeichnis](#) | [Anmelden](#) oder [Registrieren](#) ]

Mittwoch, 06. Oktober 2004

## PRINTING A DIALOG OR PARTS OF THE DESKTOP

The following code snippet illustrates how parts of the Desktop can be sent to the default printer.

```
// Lock MicroPS for the Desktop window.
// This is our image source.
oPS:=AppDesktop():lockPS()

// Create default printer object and associate
// it with a PS.
oDev := XbpPrinter():new():create()
oPS2 := XbpPresSpace():new():create( oDev, ;
    oDev:paperSize(), GRA_PU_PIXEL )

// Start the print job and blit the source
// image to the target (printer) PS
oDev:startDoc( "Printing Desktop" )
GraBitBlt( oPS2, oPS, {0,0,500,500}, {0,0,500,500} )
oDev:endDoc()

// Clean up: Free source and target PS and
// the printer object
AppDesktop():unlockPS()
oPS:destroy()
oDev:destroy()
```

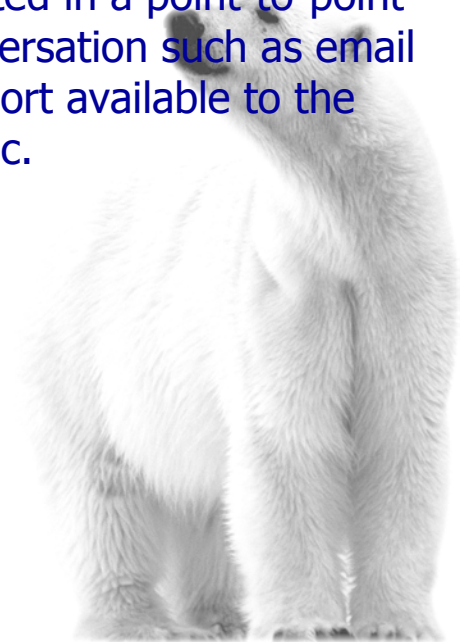


ohne Kommentar | [kommentieren](#)

Dienstag, 05. Oktober 2004

## HOW DO I CREE/MIGRATE MY REPORT FROM CLIPPER TO XBASE++

Alaska Software is currently experimenting with a WIKI. This WIKI is intended to be used by technical support to store all information which can be worth to any customer. The idea is to make knowledge created in a point-to-point conversation such as email support available to the public.



NOVEMBER 2004, Alaska Software Inc.





# Bottomline:

- Alaska Software Inc. currently lives up to a strict technical driven course of consolidation – at least until mid of 2005 and/or the release of Visual Xbase<sup>++</sup>
- Alaska Software has a clear vision and commitment to Xbase<sup>++</sup> as a language and technology platform
- Alaska Software is longer in business than any other player in that field!





# Xbase++ moves forward

- Xbase++ 1.9 is a milestone release **sample Project**
- Visual Xbase++ is long overdue, we release it in 2005
- Xbase++ 1.9 and VX in 2005 are just the beginning of:
  - new dynamics at Alaska Software
  - new era with Xbase++

In 2005, we all will have the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Xbase++ and Alaska Software



# Xbase++ 1.9 impressions

The screenshot displays the Xbase++ 1.9 graphical user interface. It features a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', and 'Properties'. The 'File' menu is open, showing options like 'Open...', 'Save', and 'Quit'. A list box contains five items labeled 'Blue #1' through 'Blue #5'. In the background, a text editor window titled 'RtfForm' shows the text 'ActiveX with Xbase++' and an 'Agenda' list. A bar chart window titled 'Xbase++ Chart Sample' displays sales data for three categories: 'Buy Price', 'Sell Price', and 'Profit'. Each category has three bars representing different car brands: Audi (blue), General Motors (maroon), and Nissan (yellow). The y-axis ranges from 0 to 500,000. A legend on the right identifies the colors for each brand.

Ownerdrawing using GraXXX functions

ActiveX with Xbase++

Agenda

- In 5 seconds
- Overview
- History
- Benefits
- Xbase++ @ ActiveX
- Xbase++ 1.9 und danach mir!

New XbasePARTs such as XbpToolbar(), XbpRTF() and XbpStatusBar()

MS Chart ActiveX control used to show sales data



# Xbase++ 1.9 & Volume 6

- We focused on Database and User-Interface features
- We have added new optimization strategies to the Xbase++ garbage collector and packer.
- A new deadlock detection algorithm now resolves deadlocks between threads. This means your application can better saturate the CPU => better performance
- We reviewed a lot of the kernel code to identify problems which may result in XPPFATAL logs.
  - If you have a case where your application quits with a XPPFATAL please let us know – send to [support@alaska-software.com](mailto:support@alaska-software.com)
- Fixes related to Compiler and Pre-Processor



# Current State

- Xbase<sup>++</sup> 1.9 is feature complete
- ActiveX Visual Component beta scheduled to start directly after DevCon
- DevCon attendees can get the Xbase<sup>++</sup> CapeHorn pre-version
- Xbase<sup>++</sup> 1.9 this year under the christmas tree
- Visual Xbase<sup>++</sup> 2.0 in the first half of 2005



# Sept: 2002 feature promises

- **Advanced Encryption Standard:**
  - Available if customer requests it
  - Encrypts FOXDBE files on record level
  - No index/order encryption currently
  - Transparent classes on the language level to encrypt/decrypt any data
- **Extended Locking**
  - With 1.82 available for the CDXDBE
  - Hotfix available for 1.82 customers which need it for NTXDBE
- **VX Pre-Release is available since Nov. 2004**
  - Send email to [esd@alaska-research.com](mailto:esd@alaska-research.com) with HELP in the subject line.



# What's next?

- Revised error mgmt.
  - Catch/try/finally
  - Internal errors of Xbase++ available on language level. Currently transformation is made in the Xbase++ kernel. 100 ErrorCodes versus at least 230 ErrorCodes
  - Locality of error handling on Object-Level, default handling routed to error-sys. Therefore new approach is compatible to exiting concept
- Revised expression optimizer for Rushmore
  - No more those IDSCs if optimization is enabled
  - Enhanced performance for Filters, Queries and Index creation
- Additional XbasePARTS are customizable at the language level
- XbpGET() re-implemented to support any XbasePART and provide transparent editing capabilities for browsing too.
- ActiveX/COM Server implementation capabilities
- Final validation of .NET integration services
  - Usage of any .NET component from within Xbase++
  - Implementation of components in Xbase++ which can be transparently accessed from within .NET
- Virtual DatabaseEngine
- Named Workspaces
- ...



# What about sales?

- We are generating around 300 new leads per month
- Clipper migration market is far from being saturated
- Linux support required by approximate 2% of our customers, even the majority of the Technology Improvement Fund investors wanted to have .NET support
- Around 10 to 15 new leads per day which are active Clipper developers seeking for a new tool!
- As of Sept. 2004 we have sold ~15.500 units of Xbase<sup>++</sup> - where 70% was in Europe, and 30% in Americas, Pacific Rim.
- Currently we experience a sales increase from Spanish speaking countries. Some of them are former Clipper + FiveWin then xHarbour customers.





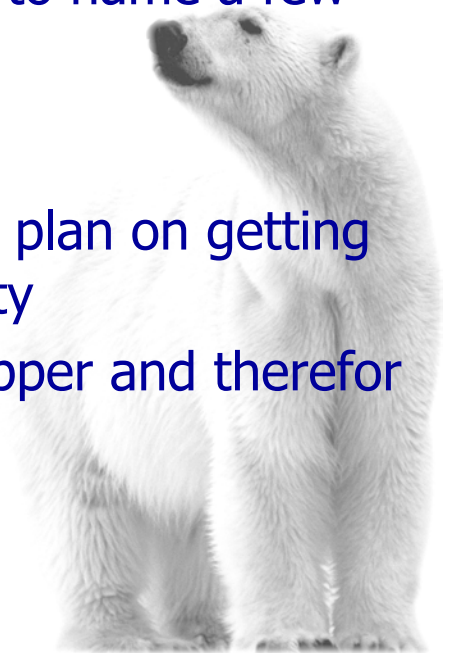
# What you can do for Xbase++

- Get out and help others in the newsgroup
- If you see/hear somebody asking for a Clipper migration tool – step in and share your experience
- Vote at the Knowledgebase! This is important
  - For you to make us aware that you have this problem too
  - For us to schedule our work, and set priorities



# New to Xbase++?

- Remember:
  - Xbase++ is Clipper language compatible, in fact today it is the only choice for utilizing your Clipper expertise and knowledge
  - Xbase++ is a complete development tool – the language, the tools and the runtime library
  - Xbase++ is a true 32Bit development tool with features such as Object Oriented Programming, GUI, Multithreading to name a few
- Impacts:
  - There is a learning curve from Clipper to Xbase++
  - Xbase++ is a complete product – no add on tool, so plan on getting familiar with the tool beyond its Clipper compatibility
  - Xbase++ has a multiple of features compared to Clipper and therefore to become really productive – one has to explore it



# Don't wait for VX?

- Since there is a learning curve from Clipper to Xbase++ - there will be even more to learn in the context of VX!
- As you have mastered Xbase++, you will be able to get the productivity out of VX easily!
- And you can save money if you start today, as every current subscription customer can get VX for free.

Each customer who buys Xbase++ 1.82 now  
gets Xbase++ 1.9 for free.



# Message to any Clipper developer:

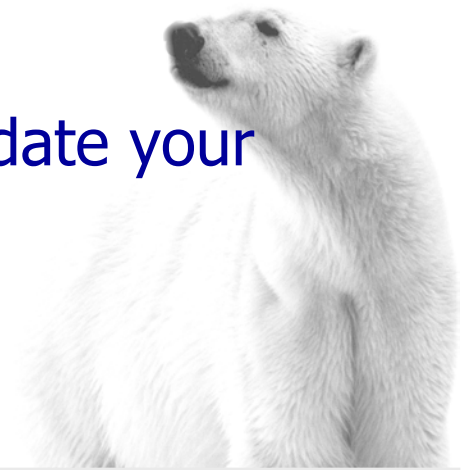
- 1.)** Get Xbase++ and start your Clipper migration now
- 2.)** Get yourself familiar with Xbase++ today!
- 3a.)** Get eXpress++ or Top-Down Add-On for the GUI part in case you can't wait for VX
- 3b.)** Wait for VX to move to GUI



Each customer who buys Xbase++ 1.82 now  
gets Xbase++ 1.9 for free.

# Message to existing customers

- Xbase++
  - has improved and does improve
  - has a rock solid community
  - Version 1.9 is a milestone release
- No other company has invested that amount of money into an xbase related development tool than Alaska Software in the past years.
- The Subscription products are your way to update your existing Xbase++ 1.x to the current top level.



Each customer who buys Xbase++ 1.82 now  
gets Xbase++ 1.9 for free.

# 2005 is the YEAR

- ✓ Xbase++ 1.9 availability
- ✓ Visual Xbase++ release
- ✓ 10<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of Alaska Software
- ✓ George W. Bush is still president of the US
- ✓ And I become 40!



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software

Thanks for your attention !

Please visit us at  
[www.alaska-software.com](http://www.alaska-software.com)