FROM THE EDITOR

By John Olson, Editor-in-Chief

PowerBuilder Potpourri

Standards

With the recent release of PowerBuilder 7 and Enterprise Application Studio 3, we'll be focusing on their many new features for several months. However, we'll also continue to choose alternate topics to focus on. In this issue we've included several articles on standards. Our intent is not to give comprehensive information on standards (there isn't enough space in this magazine to do so), but rather to provide information on standards in several areas of PowerBuilder development.

While researching standards I was disappointed not to find comprehensive standards packages for development of PowerBuilder applications. For other languages there are many packages that can be purchased and customized. However, most PowerBuilder packages don't comprehensively cover development standards. It's not enough to have just naming conventions, documentation templates and a limited set of coding standards. Coding standards are the most difficult ones to create, are as important as design standards, but tend to be undervalued and overlooked.

Not only are standards the communication protocol needed for all workers on a project to understand each other, but they are also critical for ensuring quality in analysis, design, development, testing and documentation. Cutting corners on standards is penny-wise and pound-foolish.

PowerBuilder 7/Enterprise Application Studio 3

By now you should all have received the new release of PowerBuilder 7. Are you stunned by the new interface? What about the new Web features? These tools have gotten very good reviews from the media and put powerful new features in the hands of PowerBuilder developers. Sybase still has to convince its customers that, even though many won't be using the Web development features, the new interface is reason enough to upgrade. Of course, many customers will wait for the first patch before upgrading, but many are already diving in head-first and moving their production applications to PB7. Other than a few bugs (to be expected), the reports have been positive. I'm confident that the first patch will be out before the conference and that it will be stable enough for even the faint of heart to migrate to.

TechWave

Hopefully you're all aware that TechWave 1999 is fast approaching. This is the annual Sybase technology conference. The dates have been set for August 22–26 and the site is Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. I've enjoyed several of the past Powersoft/Sybase conferences at Disney World and am pleased that it's returning there. Though the title of the conference includes "User Training & Solutions," many PowerBuilder developers and managers don't recognize it as a training opportunity. Because there are so many new Web development features in PB7/EAS3, the conference is a must for developers who intend to use those features. If you have money budgeted for one week of training, I strongly encourage you to look into attending this conference. For more information go to www.sybase.com and click on the TechWave logo.

Coming Issues

Next month (July '99) our focus will be on training. In preparation for TechWave we'll outline all the training resources available as well as give some recommendations on how to make the most of those resources.

We're also gearing up for our annual conference issue (August '99). As usual, it will be much longer than our normal monthly issue. To enhance the issue I've lined up several conference speakers to write articles on the topics they'll be speaking about. These articles should complement the sessions nicely as well as give nonattendees a look at the quality information being taught at the conference. It will be a very good issue. Of course, we'll be giving out free copies to all who stop by the SYS-CON booth.

As always, I solicit your feedback and contributions. If you have any suggestions, feedback or proposals for articles, please contact me at john.olson@bigfoot.com. ◆