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## **Editor's View**

### **Striking a Balance**

#### **Plus come to the FoxPro Advisor Conference!**

By Tamar E. Granor, Editor

I'm still basking in the glow of my son's Bar Mitzvah (this past weekend, as I write this). The whole weekend was a wonderful mix of religious ceremony and joyous celebration. Having our family and friends together was a terrific experience.

I had planned to take off the last couple of days before the Bar Mitzvah and worked extra-hard earlier in the week to make it happen. What was interesting was how long it took me to adjust to the notion of being "on vacation." Working from home, there's no clear distinction in my life between work time and home time.

The last six months to a year, I've worked harder than ever before in my life, even when I was finishing my doctoral dissertation. The combination of editing FoxPro Advisor, working on a book, beating on Beta versions of Visual FoxPro, speaking at several conferences and, of course, keeping my clients happy, together with my family obligations and maintaining some presence in the various community organizations I'm involved with, made for many long, long days. It hasn't been unusual for the computer to go on at 7:30 A.M. and not be turned off until sometime after 11 P.M. Even on weekends, I've been likely to be found at my desk at least part of the time.

Many of my colleagues report similar work patterns. One friend mentioned a short workday on a Sunday—he only put in six hours. Even for those working in offices, with e-mail, faxes, cellular phones, beepers and the like, it's easier to be in touch with the office than ever before and everyone's expectations about our accessibility have changed.

This weekend reminded me that there are a lot of other important facets to my life. Work, while engrossing and challenging, is not the only thing I'm about. Spending an evening with my husband and some good friends just talking will re-charge my batteries and lead to better work than spending the same evening staring at my monitor. Taking my kids to the park or out for a bike ride is more important in the long run than writing a few more pages.

Of course, we all have deadlines we have to meet. But, the Bar Mitzvah weekend reminded me that I need to make the deadlines realistic and that, when I'm not dealing with deadlines, I need to balance the components of my life better.

### **Conference Time**

By the time you read this, the FoxPro Advisor Conference and Exposition will be just ahead. The conference, scheduled for October 22-25 in Phoenix, has the full support of and lots of input from Microsoft.

In fact, several members of Microsoft's Visual FoxPro team are among the speakers. Other speakers include many familiar faces (or, at least, names) from our pages, like Mac Rubel, Miriam Liskin, Drew Speedie, Ted Roche, Jim Booth, John Hosier, Steve Black, Andy Neil and, of course, me. Long-time FoxPro expert George Goley will also be there to share his expertise.

The main focus of the conference is Visual FoxPro. You'll find lots of sessions to help you get started with this new environment or to move you up the learning curve if you've already started the climb. If you're still working in FoxPro 2.x, there'll be some sessions for you as well, focusing on some of the key problems of developing in that environment.

As I've said before, attending a conference is a terrific way to enhance your knowledge and to form connections with others in the field. Both the formal sessions and the less formal "shoot the breeze" sessions are filled with information that will help you do your job better. In addition, the friendships you form in a conference setting are a bonus both professionally and personally.

I hope lots of you are planning to be there to learn, meet, grow, interact, and have some fun.

### **How are we doing?**

Now that Visual FoxPro is available and many of you are struggling to learn all its new facets, it's time for a reality check.

Is FoxPro Advisor still meeting your needs? Are we providing the right balance of Visual FoxPro and FoxPro 2.x material? Is what we're offering at the right level? What's missing? What is there too much of?

I know the answer is different for different people. Those who are working in FoxPro 2.x for DOS with no plans to move to Visual FoxPro in the foreseeable future would undoubtedly prefer that we focus more on 2.x material. On the other hand, those moving full throttle ahead into Visual FoxPro without looking back probably want little or nothing on 2.x.

We're trying hard to find the middle ground between those two positions. Post a note in the FoxPro Advisor section of CompuServe's DBADVISOR forum or send me an e-mail and let me know how you think we're doing. (Since I suspect a lot of you will do this, please don't be offended if I don't reply.)

You're the ones we need to satisfy. Are we doing it?