



Conference for Software User Assistance

Daily News

2005 Conference Winds Down; San Diego in 2006

by Chuck Martin

We come to it at last, the final day of WritersUA 2005 (you thought I was going to say "the great battle of our time," didn't you, or is the "Lord of the Rings" reference too obscure?). Yesterday was the heavy load and now we're on the downside, finishing with the flourish of a William Horton presentation.

The big Macromedia/MadCap Software news of Monday died down and folks got to the business of learning, and at times in some highly technical sessions.

The weather threatened, but inclemency held off until nightfall.

But while the main WritersUA conference wraps up today, future conferences are already in the works.

First is an east coast swing September 12-13, stepping for the first time into the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia. Just a few days later, the European version hits

Amsterdam on September 16-17.

Finally the 2006 conference returns to San Diego on March 26-29, 2006. Stay tuned to the WritersUA web site for details about the conference hotels, for the call for speakers, and for the beginning of registration.

See you next year!

Prizes!

The following people were raffle winners yesterday. Thank you to all for filling out your session evaluation forms, which are all entered in today's and tomorrow's raffles.

- Jennifer Wrightsell-Hughes, PCI Geomatics, free LavaCon registration
- Frank Ripp, MDL Elsevier, Macromedia Contribute 3, courtesy of RemoteSite ProSpring also held its drawing for the free trip to Hawaii, and the winner is
- Peter Webbers, Oracle



One of the fun things at this year's conference was little flags that attendees

could stick to their badges. This montage shows a sampling of what some people chose for themselves (or in some cases, what was chosen for them).

Wednesday Forecast

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Tuesday Session Summaries

Content Management in a Single-Writer Environment, John Barrow

John spent some time explaining that while content management systems (he was using AuthorIt) can require a significant amount of start-up time (having at times large learning curves), but then showed how such systems make his work faster. For example, he can add notes to his blocks of content and easily create variables that will automatically update when things change (such as when your company gets bought and the company name in all your content needs to change).

10 Guidelines for Successful Project Management, Paula Berger

Among the points that Paula made were about the role of a project manager, which includes to provide a focus and to know project priorities. She also stressed the importance of planning (as opposed to the plan itself). She noted that it's often the case, especially at smaller companies, where you're being asked to just get started. But as she said, "You can't go anywhere without knowing where you're going."

Using Dreamweaver Templates to Author HTML-based Help Topics for Web Applications, Jeff Haas

Jeff described and showed examples of Dreamweaver functionality that are useful for developing help for web-based applications, functionality that includes templates, regions, snippets, assets, and extensions. He describes the differences and showed examples of code from existing help systems.

The Ultimate Rollovers Tutorial, Dave Gash

This code-heavy session showed many ways to create roll-overs, from (fairly) simple JavaScripting to cascading style sheets (CSS) with no scripting whatsoever.



Wednesday Notes

Lunch

Lunch today is not provided by the conference, enabling you to try out the many fine eating establishments nearby.

Peer Showcase

The Peer Showcase is this morning from 9:15-10:45 in the Caribbean Ballroom.

Session Evaluations

Please remember to fill out your session evaluations and your full-conference evaluations and drop them in the boxes by the doors.

Supplemental Materials URL

Additional conference materials and files are at www.winwriters.com/ohc05/suppmat/.



Sue Heim and Dana Worley.

Closing Keynote features William Horton

The closing session speaker in 2005 is renowned speaker and expert in digital media and communication techniques.

He's speaking today on software simulations, coaches that could aid in eLearning. The presentation begins at 3:15pm in South Pacific 5.

The keynote follows closing comments by conference organizer Joe Welinske at

3:00 in the same room. Joe will give away the final day's prizes (you must be present to win these).



Correction

In yesterday's Session Summaries, we printed the wrong Paula for the Trends panel. Paula Berger (who is also running for STC 2nd Vice President and so doesn't need to be confused with a different one) was the Paula on the panel making predictions.

Newsletter Staff

Chuck Martin: Writer, editor, photographer, layout, production

Mike Hamilton: Vegas Freebies

Vegas Freebie

Fremont Street Experience Light Show at Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas will have you dancing in the street with its \$70 million light canopy and 540,000-watt sound system. Every hour/On the hour, beginning at sunset.

