

# FM 8.5: Release Effort

FMUG

December 1, 2006

# What we will cover

- Status of the Release Effort
- Backwards Compatibility
- New Features in 8.5
  - Web Viewer and Object Naming
  - Intel Mac compatibility
- Resources

# The FileMaker Release Team

- Deb Bowser - QAC
- Bronwen Heuer - Training
- Cecilia Marra - PRC
- Lee Ridgway - Documentation
- Matthias Thorn - Help Desk
- AI Willis - Platform Coordinator

# Release Effort Status

- Effort due to wrap up mid-December
  - If you've got any feedback to share, send it in to [filemaker-release@mit.edu](mailto:filemaker-release@mit.edu) now!
- IAP session
  - Hands-on conversion workshop
  - February 6 FMUG 12:00-2:00
  - Pre-registration required

# What's (Not) Being Supported

- Yes -- FileMaker Pro 8.5
- Not at this time (any versions)
  - FileMaker Advanced
    - Features are primarily for developers
  - FileMaker Mobile
    - Possibly in future releases
  - FileMaker Server Advanced
    - Web Publishing add-on is not recommended in the MIT environment
- Soon -- FileMaker Server 8.0v4

# Key Decisions

- Upcoming support for FM Server 8.x
  - \*Will\* include security-related features and configurations
  - Will not include Server Advanced or any web publishing functionalities
- Retirement of v5.x/6.0
  - Outdated technology lacking in key security features of later versions
  - Targeting 6/30/07

# Release Effort Outcomes

- Services you can expect:
  - 8.5 Installation Disk available:
    - <http://web.mit.edu/is/products/vsIs/mitfmpro/>
    - Single disk contains all \*licensed\* 8.5 products
  - Updated Stock Answers
    - <http://itinfo.mit.edu/answer.php?id=8238>
  - New documentation on the IS&T product web site
    - <http://itinfo.mit.edu/product.php?id=48>
  - Help Desk support (Matthias)

# Release Effort Outcomes (cont.)

- Training (Bronwen Heuer)
  - The suite of three courses has been rewritten to reflect the relational database capabilities of FileMaker since version 7.
  - The Basic course is three hours and focuses on navigating through the FileMaker user interface.
    - It assumes one has inherited a database and needs to discover what is in the file, to query the database, and produce reports.
    - It covers the four modes, using an existing database as an example.

# Release Effort Outcomes (cont.)

- Training (cont.)
  - The 2nd Course “Reports, Layouts, and User-Interface Design” (6 hr)
    - Covers the creation of the many different types of possible layouts, teaching the tools for creation and design
    - As of Dec., will include the new Web Viewer tool and object naming in v8.5
  - The 3rd Course “Database Concepts and Design” covers:
    - The relationship graph and using multiple tables in a single FileMaker file
    - One-to-one, one-to-many, and many-to-many relationships
    - Creating layouts that draw on related fields
    - The ins and outs of the portal tool
    - An array of different configurations for a database using a single file and multiple files for data and/or interfaces; creating an example of the Separation Model
    - Scripting using Go To Related Record, the script step introduced in v 7
    - The new (to 7) capability of FileMaker to access parent and grandparent information.
    - Security considerations and the creation of accounts and privileges for a file

# Backward Compatibility

- The FileMaker 8.5 file format is compatible with 7.x and 8.x.
  - Mixing client versions in a shared environment is not advised, as there are feature differences that could cause problems for users of older versions.
  - If you are using FileMaker Server, your clients and server version should match, with the latest patches for both clients and server applied.
    - The only exception to this rule is that 8.5 clients should connect to Server 8.0v4, as there is no Server v8.5.
- The FileMaker 5.x/6.0 file format is *\*not\** compatible with any later version.
  - You may run 6.0 and later clients on the same machine if you need to access different version databases, but they are essentially separate applications.
  - Again, we urge that users of version 5.x/6.0 migrate to version 8.5.

# Intel Mac Compatibility

- You should install v8.5 if you have an Intel Mac on which you wish to run a FileMaker client.
- If you are running FM Server on an Intel Mac, you must install FM Server 8.v4.

# New Features

- What is Web Viewer?
  - A new object that can be added to layouts
  - Calls the web technology that is bundled with the FileMaker user's operating system:
    - Internet Explorer for Windows
    - Webkit will call the default browser for Mac
  - Allows user to access with the URL that you specify from within your FileMaker database
  - When used with Object Naming, you may create navigation controls

# Web Viewer Features

- Works with certificates!
- Calls browser's plug-ins, such as Flash or Acrobat Reader
- Can be set to allow user to interact, or not, as you desire

# Web Viewer Gotchas

- Best when used with a web site you can control, because:
  - If the url changes, it won't work
  - Pop-ups or new window links will launch the browser outside of FileMaker
  - Browser's navigation tools (back button, location bar) will not appear
  - Be aware of platform/browser differences, e.g., IE7, file download behavior

# Web Viewer Examples

- Staff directory:
  - "http://web.mit.edu/bin/cgicso?query=" & Contacts::Last Name
    - URL calculation combines text string and field
    - Unique last name, no clicking necessary
    - Common last name, user can click through
- Certificate site
- Plug-ins
- New browser windows

# More “New” Features

- **FileMaker Pro 8.0**

- Save and send records as Excel or PDF files.
- With Fast Send, email the contents of a field
- Use the Send Mail menu item to create personalized emails to individuals or groups.
- Select information from a field, then use Fast Match to find all matching records.
- Auto-complete, tab controls, spell checking

- **FileMaker Pro 7.0**

- Control access to databases through user accounts and privilege-based security mechanisms.
- New relationship model

- See

[http://www.filemaker.com/downloads/pdf/filemaker\\_versions.pdf](http://www.filemaker.com/downloads/pdf/filemaker_versions.pdf) for more features introduced with earlier versions.

# Resources

FileMaker Pro 8.5: Web Viewer:

[http://www.filemaker.com/downloads/pdf/whitepaper\\_web\\_viewer.pdf](http://www.filemaker.com/downloads/pdf/whitepaper_web_viewer.pdf)

FileMaker 8.5 Release Notebook:

<http://web.mit.edu/swrt/releases/filemaker/>

Migration assistance: [db-consult@mit.edu](mailto:db-consult@mit.edu)

# Self-Help Resources

- ITAG Guidelines applied to FileMaker:  
<http://web.mit.edu/ist/db/fm/>
- FMUG presentations:  
<http://web.mit.edu/ist/help/filemaker/fmug/>
- FMI knowledgebase: [http://filemaker.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/filemaker.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_alp.php](http://filemaker.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/filemaker.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php)
- FMI documentation:  
<http://www.filemaker.com/support/downloads/index.html>

# Questions?

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