



TAI Scores a *Whole in One* With XCALL A *whole* lotta power *in one* line of code

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Great success at [TAI Club Management Systems](#) comes, in part, to their commitment to meeting their customers’ needs. Recently, TAI met the challenge of evolving e-mail security by enhancing their e-mailing capabilities from within their Membership Management System, specifically while sending member statements via e-mail.

Michael Ley, Senior Developer explained, “We had a called program that communicated with our e-mail server but some password verification issues prevented us from using that program. This situation forced us to look for other options.” President Mike Talbot adds, “When I saw the announcement about [XCALL coming out](#), I got really excited. To add a one-line XCALL that runs BBJ® programs from within the standard legacy Visual PRO/5® programs...it is absolutely huge!” Since this module was written in Visual PRO/5, their obvious option was to use BBJ’s e-mailing capability by way of the [XCALL Server](#).

BASIS was the Caddie

Talbot and Ley were one of the first BASIS customers to take a swing at this new implementation. As seasoned veterans playing on this virgin XCALL fairway, they did hit a few bunkers and other obstacles to overcome on opening day. On par with their longstanding commitment to customer satisfaction, BASIS engineers worked diligently with TAI to clear the course. “The BASIS engineering team was a tremendous asset in working with us to figure out those little divots and add the fixes into the latest release. Now it is as advertised and what BASIS says is accurate and true, we really did only have to change one line of code in Visual PRO/5 to run the XCALL. And it ran fabulously!” Talbot explained.

XCALL Bridges the Visual-PRO/5-to-BBJ Gap

“Speaking for all vendors with legacy GUI code, at the outset it looks like a transition to BBJ is going to be smooth and great and tremendous, but when reality sets in, we see that it really is going to take some time,” Talbot explains. >>



By Susan Darling
Technical/Marketing Writer

One wants to enhance the application with the power of BBJ as part of the transition. The plethora of new functionality and language capabilities such as the new object-oriented syntax and callback event handling paradigm are difficult to resist but can necessitate significant code changes.



Talbot continues, "XCALL allows a more incremental transition by harnessing the power of BBJ in certain utilities and common programs and then back-filling them into the legacy code so there aren't two full sections of code doing the same thing. I only have to maintain one code line and use XCALL to back fill it into the old legacy stuff. It's a tremendous tool to go forward...to bridge the gap to get from traditional Visual PRO/5 programming to BBJ. Now that we understand the strength of XCALL it actually is causing us to hold back a bit to think about how we should now attack the conversion process. While it's opened up a lot of doors, we now need to go back and look at the blueprints to make sure we have the doors lined up properly."

Feedback from the Gallery

"End users are seeing great benefit from our conversions to BBJ, although they aren't aware that BBJ is responsible. They just see product that works like they expect it to."

Ready for the BBJ Course?

"I drug my feet until they showed me the pretty graphs at TechCon. I figured then that BBJ was stable and mature enough to use as a development platform. Since we started moving over to it, although the process to relearn a new way to doing things is always a challenge, BBJ turned out to be much easier than I, a non-Java programmer, originally anticipated. Logic is logic and once I got the hang of it and the flow, things made sense. The great thing about it is that for someone like me who doesn't have the Java experience, I could still become very adapt at Java programming. Those programmers experienced with Java have much more capability that they can bring into the product. So from a BASIS standpoint, it was a tremendous move to go in that direction (Java) and the faster that TAI is able to get there, the better off our product offering is going to be to our industry."

Summary

What's next for TAI? "All our current new development is done in BBJ and we're just picking the modules and systems to convert over. We started with our banquet module then small front desk check-ins for health clubs. Right now we are evaluating whether to redo membership or start payroll or revamp another module," responds Talbot.

"For us, it's the little things that BBJ offers, like grid management. It doesn't have the overhead and bulkiness the way grids used to be; having it be so much more simple changes the development time, which is why I can't stand to develop any more in Visual PRO/5. I want to move ahead with BBJ for everything, as quickly as we possibly can."

So follow TAI's lead. Add the XCALL club to your bag and score a "whole" in one! ■



TAI Club Management Systems

provides solutions to the resort, private club, and public golf course market sectors. Their foundation is the TAI Club Management System software suite, the most continuously installed club software system in the United States. TAI Club Management Systems...small enough to care, large enough to achieve your goals!

Mike Talbot
is President
of TAI Club
Management
Systems.



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