



Database Pros

The best FileMaker resource on the Internet

About John Mark Osborne...

John Mark Osborne has been working exclusively with FileMaker Pro for over 20 years. He earned his FileMaker Pro degree working on the front lines of Claris technical support. John was the Technical Lead for FileMaker, serving as an escalation path for other technical support representatives and writing a large portion of TechInfo, their technical information reference. John also acted as a liaison between the technical support department and the FileMaker development team, reporting bugs, attending product meetings and acting as resource for the development team.



John Mark is best known as the author of the popular FileMaker Pro web site Database Pros <www.databasepros.com>. The Database Pros web site has been on the internet for 15 years and gets over 35,000 hits a day by offering free FileMaker Pro tips, tricks, articles and techniques.

John Mark is also well known as the co-author of the wildly popular Scriptology book and CD ROM <www.scriptology.com>. Scriptology is the only FileMaker book listed on Amazon.com with a rating of 5 stars out of a possible 5 stars. John Mark launched a hands-on training class based on his Scriptology book and it has become so popular

that it is taught all over the world including the MacWorld Exposition in San Francisco.



John Mark has been the top rated speaker at the FileMaker Developer Conference for the last 15 years. At the 1999 Developer Conference, he was awarded the FileMaker Pro Excellence award for "creation of outstanding technical resources".



John Mark is one of 45 Platinum level FBA (FileMaker Business Alliance) members worldwide helping FileMaker, Inc. with their most important customers. As a Platinum level FBA member, John is also asked to participate in the future of FileMaker development and services.



In his spare time, John Mark is a technical editor for FileMaker Advisor Magazine. His Philosophy of FileMaker techniques have been featured in a series of articles in Advisor magazine and he writes a monthly column which is the most popular in the magazine. A case study was even written about the success of his Database Pros web site.

John Mark is also authorized to teach the FileMaker Training Series (formerly known as the Professional Training Series) created by FileMaker, Inc. John Mark is one of only twelve trainers authorized to teach this exciting new course in North America (1 of 4 original trainers). Only developers who pass the FileMaker Pro 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 certification tests are authorized to teach the course. John Mark passed the test along with a handful of other developers during the beta version of all tests.



Services

Training

- Public
- Private
- Phone (any level)
- Self-paced
- GoToMeeting

Meta-consulting

- Helping developers over programming hurdles
- Analyze your solution
- On-site or over the phone

Consulting

- Specializing in LAN, WAN and web-based FileMaker solutions

Products

Contact Manager

- Complete CRM

Calendar Solution

- Relational calendaring solution
- Master password with purchase

Invoicing Solution

- Complete invoicing solution
- Master password with purchase

Template Set

- 11 FileMaker templates that mimic OSX
- Each template contains most commons starter fields, layouts and scripts

Project Management

- Manage your projects with tasks and sub-tasks

Donations

- Manage your 401c with donations and events

FileMaker Reference

- Definitions of all functions and script steps in FileMaker

7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12

- Over 300 calculation and scripting examples
- Keyboard shortcuts, FileMaker history, versions, new features, errors and more!

Complex Calculations

- 300 calculations
- Easily modify formulas to match your fields
- Master password to see how I did it



Video Training

- FileMaker 8 Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced / Expert Tutorials
- FileMaker 9 Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced Tutorials
- FileMaker 10 Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced Tutorials
- FileMaker 11 Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced Tutorials
- FileMaker 12 Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced Tutorials
- Over 50 hours of video training

Free Stuff

- Over 1,000 FREE files for download
- Over 50 articles
- Hundreds of links to other FileMaker sites
- Searchable news area
- Conversion manager for FileMaker Pro 7/8/8.5/9/10/11

Training Classes

All training classes come with a workbook and a CD ROM with exercise files. All courses written and taught by John Mark Osborne with exception of Professional Foundation Series III course which was developed by FileMaker, Inc..

Courses

- Philosophy of Scripting 101 (public and private) for FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12
- Philosophy of Scripting 201 (public and private) for FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12

- Beyond the Basics (private) for FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5 and 6
- Reporting (private) for FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5 and 6
- Web Publishing (private) for FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5 and 6
- FileMaker Training Series (public and private) for FileMaker Pro 7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12 only

Course descriptions are on the following page.

All private classes run at \$2,000.00 per day plus expenses. Meta-consulting by the day at the same rate and hourly at \$250.00. Minimum of one hour.

The Philosophy of Scripting public courses are \$995.00 each. If you take both classes, there is a \$250.00 savings. The FileMaker Training Series public courses are \$495.00 per day. If you take all 5 days you get one day free.

Philosophy of Scripting 101 and 201

FileMaker Pro 3/4/5/5.5/6 and 7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12

Offered privately and publicly (only 7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12 publicly)

Introduction

These are the classes I developed based on my wildly popular book and CD ROM, Scriptology - FileMaker Pro Demystified. Intermediate Scripting is a three day intermediate scripting course. Advanced Scripting is a two day advanced scripting course. The curriculum for these classes has been rewritten from the ground up to include more hands-on exercises and the latest techniques!

The course has been rewritten for FileMaker Pro 7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12 but is still offered privately for FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5 and 6. Only the FileMaker 7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12 version is offered publicly.

The public fee for each class is \$995.00. Both classes together are only \$1,750.00. Private classes are \$2,000.00 per day plus expenses.

Registering for a class does not require payment. It reserves a seat in the class. Payment is not required until 3 weeks prior to class.

Testimonials

"It's a great course, the lessons are exciting and the instructors engaging. REALLY, REALLY fun and full of incredible FileMaker tools."

- Patricia Sheehan, Schlotzsky's, Inc.

"At the completion of Scriptology 101 and 201, I'd picked up over 70 powerful tips, tricks and shortcuts. Thanks for pushing the FileMaker envelope and sharing your knowledge with others!"

- Shawn Baccus, The Baccus Group

"I'm sure you've heard it MANY times before but..... an outstanding course. Your humor and wit are only matched by your knowledge."

- Steve Monroe

"Thanks to both of you for an outstanding course on FileMaker Pro this past week. The course exceeded my expectations (which were high to begin with). I feel that I have saved at least one year in moving through the learning curve necessary to master FileMaker at its highest levels."

- Vincent Lackner

"I learned a tremendous amount and have already put some of these lessons into new databases."

- Geoffrey Winship

"I don't recall a single question that could not be answered by one of you off the top of your head. I would highly recommend any class you offered."

- Bruce Littrell

"Just a quick 'googly' of a message [from the U.K.] to say a great big thank you for all your hard work over the last fortnight in providing an excellent course. I know I speak for everyone by saying that it gave us so much help. Both of you must be congratulated for it all. Thank you."

- Edward Calaghan

"Thanks again for a wonderful class. I learned a lot and I've already started evening 'study sessions' with the textbook to become a decent scripter."

- Georgena Terry

Over 300 Testimonials available on the Database Pros web site <www.databasepros.com>.

Curriculum

The curriculum for these classes has been rewritten from the ground up to include more hands-on exercises and the latest techniques!

The primary material for the course is specially designed exercises that will help you learn everything you ever wanted to know about scripting. These courses were inspired by the Scriptology book and CD ROM co-authored by John Mark Osborne.

Every student will have a computer. You will have plenty of opportunity to follow along with the instructors and practice the scripting techniques as they are presented.

Although each class will cover techniques and solutions for real-life scripting scenarios, the emphasis for the class will be on thinking creatively. Students will be challenged to discover multiple approaches to the same problem and asked to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of each. Our goal is to teach you how to solve the problems specific to your work.



Philosophy of Scripting 101 - 3 days

- New FileMaker Pro 9 features overview
- Scripting Overview - keyboard commands, most important script steps and steps to avoid
- Organizing Scripts - naming conventions and section dividers
- Modular Scripting - improve readability, reuse code and troubleshoot easier
- The Ultimate Find - idiot proof your solutions, understand error capture, allow users to modify find criteria and much more including dynamic scripting across multiple tables.
- Find Similar - analyze the advantages and disadvantages of one approach to a solution versus another. Script parameters are key to this technique.
- Restore - covers powerful restore feature including alternatives with more power. Includes an overview of the new FileMaker Pro 7/8/8.5/9 restore feature.
- Marking Records - learn how to script for a multi-user solution with record loops, replace and other techniques.
- Deleting Duplicates - four methods for deleting duplicates including an in-class exercise.
- Calculations - this is the longest section covering parsing text, logical functions and an exercise on updating phone number area codes
- Go to Related Record - understand how GTRR reacts under a variety of scenarios so you can better control the outcome of your scripts
- The Many Faces of Set Field - learn the techniques that make Set Field the most important script step like Append, Subtract, Push and Pull

Philosophy of Scripting 201 - 2 days

- Dynamic Scripting -

The opening exercise has students participate in a parsing solution. The goal is to parse an email from a single field into separate fields. The name of the exercise comes from the solution which allows new fields to be added without modifying the script. Students will also be challenged to optimize the script.

- Restoring Records -

Most developers know how to restore a find using script steps. However, this does not enable users to save their own found sets. This technique is covered in class and then students are challenged to replicate the technique with some changes. Multi-user scripting considerations are the focus of this exercise.

- Referential Integrity -

This term refers to the data integrity between related files. Since FileMaker doesn't support this feature, students will replicate the feature using scripts and calculations. This is a very challenging exercise that students work on their own or with a partner.

- Visibility -

Have you ever wanted to make objects appear and disappear from the layout. This technique is so important to stretching the capabilities of FileMaker Pro that it is an integral part of the Database Pros training experience.

- Accounts & Privileges -

In this exercise, we'll start off with an overview of accounts, privileges and extended privileges and then take privileges to the next level by showing how to change the interface based on the logon password. This is an essential developer technique! Several other scripting techniques demonstrating all new security script steps will be covered.

- Custom Form Letters -

Putting power into the hands of the user is the most important developer concern. If you can enable users to add a new form letter on their own, you will have more time to work on new projects instead of adding new layout all the time. In addition, we'll show you how to change text attributes with a script.

- Custom Functions -

Learn how to re-use formulas across a solution with custom functions as well as create recursive formulas for multi-keys and much more.

- Filtered Portals -

Filtered portals are even easier in FileMaker Pro 7/8/8.5/9/10. Consider this section as an example of when not to use calculations or scripts.

The Advanced Scripting course is NOT for beginners. You should have the following knowledge before you come to class (or attend the Intermediate course)

- confidence designing relationships in FileMaker Pro
- know how to create and use portals
- familiarity with most scripting steps
- familiarity with most calculation functions

- in general, feel confident designing FileMaker database solutions

FileMaker Training Series

FileMaker Pro 7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12 only

Offered privately and publicly

These training classes were created by FileMaker, Inc. to teach students how to optimize the development, deployment and administration of real-world FileMaker 7/8/8.5/9/10/11/12 solutions across any size organization.

Whether you are an in-house or professional FileMaker developer, an IS/IT professional, or a FileMaker power user, this carefully developed curriculum can help the FileMaker users in your company to:

- Maximize your investment of time and capital investment by getting started under optimal conditions.
- More effectively harness the power of FileMaker products.
- Understand FileMaker's standard "best practices" guidelines.
- Avoid common pitfalls of solution development.

The Professional Training series contains 12 modules. Approximately 2 to 4 modules can be taught in a 1 day period.

Module Descriptions (12)

Using FileMaker

Approach FileMaker Pro 12 from the perspective of users: learn techniques for working with FileMaker data, printing and exporting, performing Find requests, and accessing features for working with email, Adobe PDF and Microsoft Excel documents.

Working with Fields

Learn practical skills required to define FileMaker Pro 11 data tables and fields. This module explores data types and options for auto-entry, validation, and field storage. Discover how to manage images and other objects in container fields and work with the Database Design Report in FileMaker Pro Advanced.

Data Modeling

Learn how to construct different types of data relationships, ensure data integrity, and implement multiple-table solutions. This module also covers lessons in building layouts using related data fields and portals.

Working with Layouts

Review new features in FileMaker Pro 12, such as conditional formatting and auto-resize, while learning how to work with layout objects. Understand how field behavior and tab orders are controlled, learn to create different kinds of value lists, and work with the Web viewer object, tab control object, and tool tips.

Calculation Functions

Learn how functions work in the calculation engine in FileMaker Pro 12. Study how custom functions are built and how to best apply them to database solutions.

Scripts

User controls and interface elements are generally driven through scripts in FileMaker Pro 12. Explore best practices in scripting, learn how to build navigation and window controls, and study logical branching and looping routines.

Reporting

Practice creating reports in FileMaker Pro 12, using a variety of techniques. Explore sub-summary reports that group information by break fields. Learn how to build a cross-tab report (with data-driven columns) and an HTML report that is displayed via the Web viewer object.

Security

Study the account-based security features of FileMaker Pro 12 and learn how to implement privilege sets, tie access to database solutions to external authentication servers, control both access and authoring rights to systems, and extend security controls with scripting.

Intermediate & Advanced Techniques

Work with relational value lists, write scripts that leverage object naming, and explore custom menus in depth. Learn advanced techniques with portals that include dynamic sorting, filtering, row highlights and preview panes.

FileMaker Server

Learn the best practices for setting up and maintaining FileMaker Server 12 and FileMaker Server 12 Advanced. Review hardware and networking requirements, learn proper backup routines, and be trained in configuration processes.

Connectivity

Learn how to integrate FileMaker 12 with SQL systems, both through ODBC connections and with the new External SQL Data Source capabilities in FileMaker Pro 9. Review configuration processes and learn to use other data systems in tandem with your FileMaker Pro databases.

Web Publishing

Understand the capabilities of both Instant Web Publishing (IWP) and Custom Web Publishing in FileMaker Pro 11 and learn how to develop solutions to publish via the Web. Review the PHP Site Assistant and gain hands-on experience with IWP.

Offerings:

The FileMaker Training Series is designed to be taught at your site and courses are customized to the needs of your workgroup at a cost of \$2,000 per day plus expenses. However, public versions of the classes are offered in the following configurations:

The 12 modules are divided up into 5 one day classes for public offering at \$495.00 per day. Discounts are available to students taking all 5 days:

Starting a FileMaker Solution is a 1 day course covering 3 modules (\$495.00): Working with Fields, Data Modeling and Working with Layouts. See module descriptions above.

Developer Skills is a 1 day course covering 2 modules (\$495.00): Calculation Functions, Scripts and Reporting. See module descriptions above.

Advanced Developer Skills is a 1 day course covering 1 module (\$495.00): Intermediate and Advanced Techniques. See module descriptions above.

FileMaker Server is a 1 day course covering 1 module (\$495.00): FileMaker Server. See module descriptions above.

Security is a 1 day course covering 1 module (\$495.00): Security. See module descriptions above.

Beyond the Basics

FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5 and 6

Offered privately only

The Relational Database Design 1 (Beyond the Basics) course is based on the original Beyond the Basics course material written for FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5 and 6. Relational Database Design 1 for FileMaker Pro focused on the transition from FileMaker Pro 2.0 to 3.0. With the release of FileMaker Pro 5 and 6, the course sorely needed to be updated to remove the FileMaker Pro 2.0 and 3.0 information and include sections about the web companion and other new FileMaker Pro features. Even the content from the old Beyond the Basics course has been revamped. It has been rewritten with a greater understanding of what FileMaker Pro can accomplish.

Curriculum

Beyond the Basics is a 2 or 3 day class (depending on the capacity of the student) running from 9am to 5pm. Every student will have a computer. You will have plenty of opportunity to follow along with the instructors and practice the scripting techniques as they are presented. Each exercise will be introduced by the instructor and a Q&A period will follow the exercise. Each exercise is completely self-paced with many screen shots so that it can be used as review after the class.

Curriculum Details

- FileMaker Pro 6.0 -

- + Scavenger hunt to locate new FileMaker Pro 6 features
- + Exercise on conditional value lists with extra credit for conditional value lists in a portal
- + Courseware was written for FileMaker Pro 6 and includes references interesting new features throughout the course
- + Time: 1 hour

- File Relationships -

- + Learn how to ER diagram
- + Exercises with Many-to-Many, One-to-Many and One-to-One relationship creation
- + Topics include an invoicing system that is added onto throughout the 2 day course
- + Time: 2 hours

- Working with Files -

- + Fine tune your skills on the most important FileMaker Pro features with exercises on finding, sorting, importing and exporting. All aspects will be covered from beginning to intermediate.
- + Subsummary reports are the key to making sense of your FileMaker Pro data and one of the most important exercises in this course
- + Aggregate functions are used to show how to total portals in the invoicing solution
- + Time: 2 hours

- Working with Fields -

- + Exercises on Auto-Enter and Validation teach how the options for a field can aid data entry
- + Field formatting exercises allow you to filter numbers, dates and times
- + An extra credit exercise shows how to reproduce the field formatting with a calculation to extend the types of filtering that can be done
- + The invoicing solution is brought back to show how value lists can be used to aid data entry
- + Time: 2 hours

- Special Field Types -

- + Global fields in a single-user and multi-user scenario considered along with common applications
- + Calculations are utilized in Define Fields, Set Field, Replace and Insert Result. Exercises cover when and where to use calculations.
- + Functions covered include Left, Right, Middle, LeftWords, RightWords, MiddleWords, Position, Substitute, If, Case, Choose, time functions, date functions and most of the logical functions.
- + Merge fields allow you to mimic a form letter in a word processor. This exercise show all the basics to make a successful letter.
- + Time: 2 hours

- Scripting -

- + Discussion of which scripts to focus upon
- + The many ways to activate a script
- + Default script steps and why they are there
- + ScriptMaker shortcuts
- + Idiot proofing a solution with a find example. Shows how to use Set Error Capture, If, Loops, Set Field, Allow User Abort, Show Message, Status Functions and many other script steps.
- + Set Field is covered in more detail with exercises on key concepts such as appending, prepending, extracting, subtracting, pushing and pulling.
- + Deleting duplicates is one of the most common tasks and is covered with three approaches.
- Time: 3 hours

- Web Publishing -

- + Instant web publishing is much more sophisticated in FileMaker Pro 6.0 and covered by an exercise that shows how to test a solution locally as well as the many possible pitfalls like security and passwords.

- + Custom web publishing is the next step and is demonstrated through exercises in finding, listing records, show a form view, adding records and editing records.

- + Time: 2 hours

- Screen Real Estate -

- + Many of the techniques in scripting, calculations and relationships are brought together in this exercise which demonstrates how to maximize the available screen space.

- + Topics include creating a tabbed interface, reproducing the status area so it can be hidden, buttons with multiple functions and a menu bar.

- + Time: 2 hours

Prerequisites

You should have the following knowledge before attending the Beyond the Basics course:

- understand how to define fields

- be familiar with basic layout design

- feel comfortable with basic FileMaker features like find and sort (exercises cover find and sort, but a basic understanding of how they work is important)

- the concept of how data is stored on records

- a basic knowledge of HTML is good for the web publishing exercises

Reporting

FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5 and 6

Offered privately only

Reporting is a 2 day class that covers how to make sense of the data in your FileMaker Pro 3, 4, 5 and 6 solution. It is an intermediate courses that covers the following.

- Summary fields including Fraction of Total
- Subsummary parts
- Multiple subsummary parts
- Percentages
- GetSummary function
- Calculations
- Automation (Scripting)
- Reports with Columns
- Sliding Objects
- Finds (restoring)
- Sorts (restoring)
- Page Breaks
- Grand Summaries
- Headers and Footers
- Insert items
- Page Totals (e.g. page 4 of 10)
- Custom titles
- Creating a phone directory
- Printing portals the right way
- Printing one of each like label