Running Visual FoxPro on Linux Using Wine

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Who Am I?

- Independent Consultant
- VFP Developer since 1995
- Love solving business problems
- Love working with small businesses
- Believer in Open Source as the foundation for sustainable growth

Session Overview

- Overview of Wine
- Wine and Visual FoxPro: what works / what doesn't
- Installing Wine and Visual FoxPro on Linux
- Working with data - native and ODBC
- Tips and Tricks

Overview of Wine

- Alternative API / looks like Windows, acts like Windows
- In active development, currently in alpha stage - beta 12 months out
- Purpose: make it easier to migrate to Linux
- http://www.winehq.org

VFP on Linux: Why bother?

- Wine can be a bridge to transition from Windows to Linux desktops
- Investment in VFP applications do not need to be lost
- Other, more appropriate, portable development solutions exist (Python, Java), but why not "leveredge" our knowledge of VFP

Wine/VFP: What Works

- Basic IDE features, editors, debugger, properties sheet, all legacy commands and functions
- Native table access, both local and remote
- ODBC data access
- Runtime deployment
- All basic functions work "well enough"

Wine/VFP: What Doesn't Work

- HTML Help
- Newer IDE features - features dependent on Internet Explorer
- Printing / report layout inconsistent between Windows and Linux - mostly font issues that will be resolved in Wine
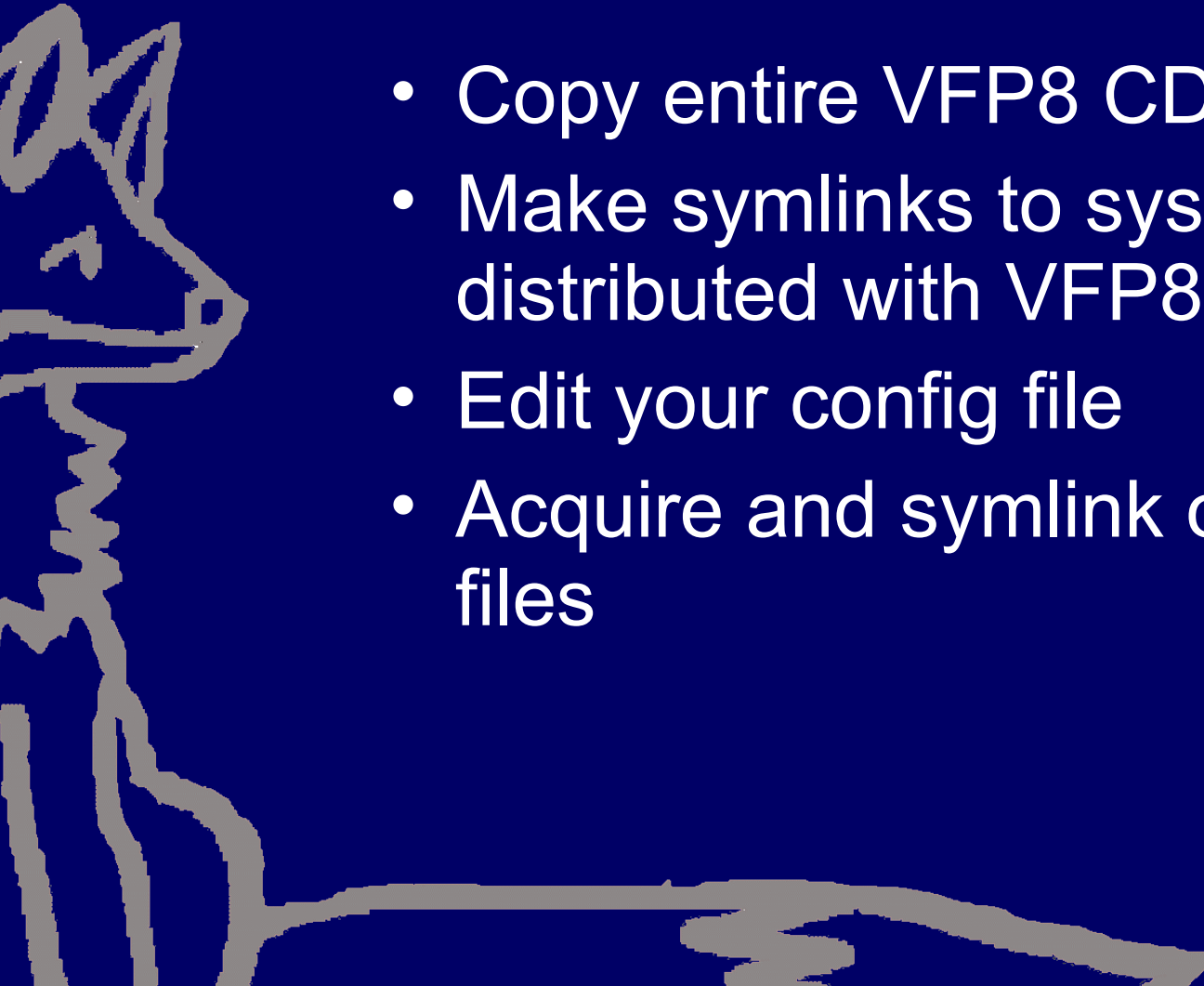- Other less important issues

Installing Wine and VFP

- Get the core fonts http://corefonts.sourceforge.net
- Remove older Wine's
- Download Wine
- Unpack Wine
- Patch Wine
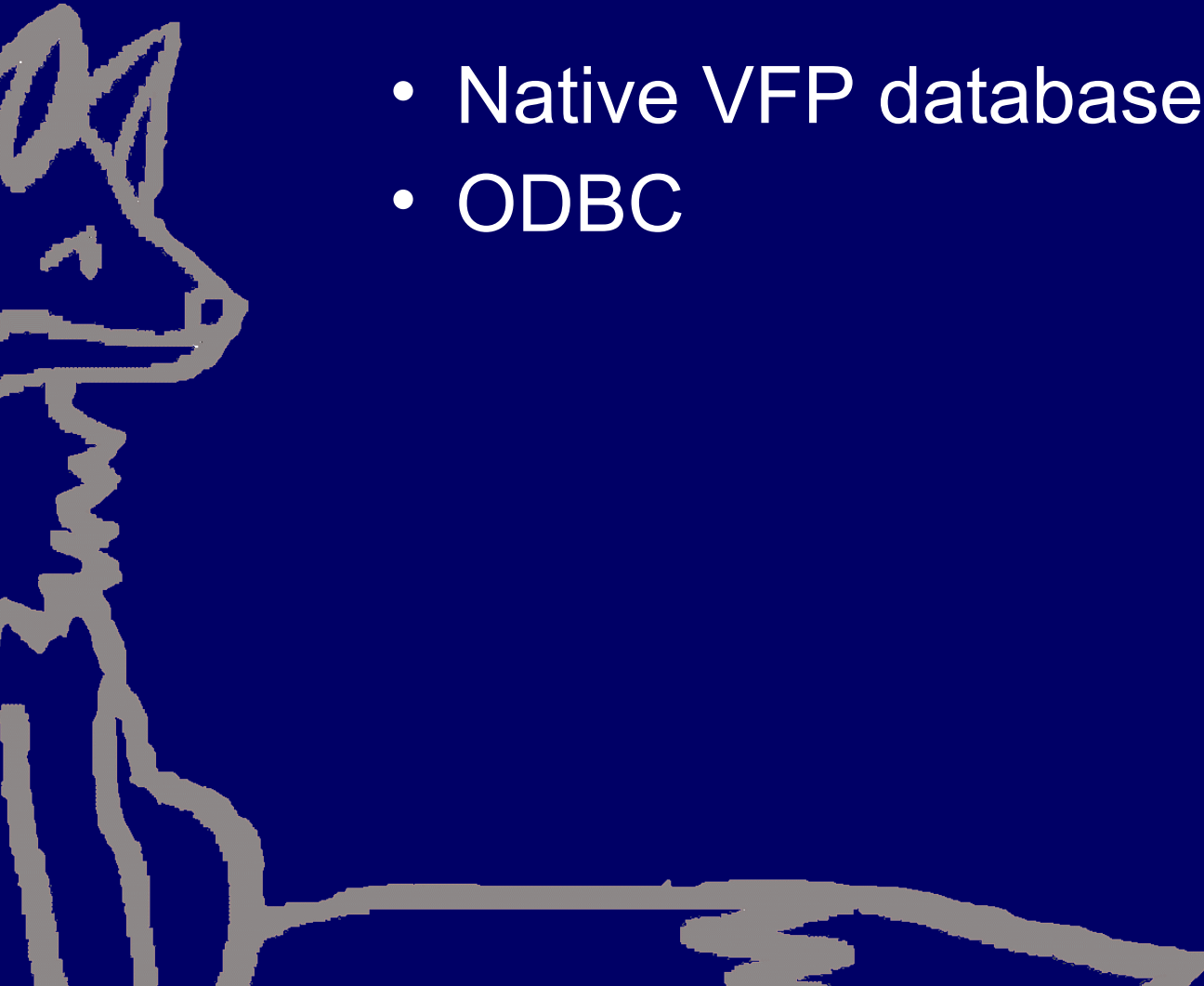- Build and Install Wine
- Configure Wine

Installing Wine and VFP

- Copy entire VFP8 CD
- Make symlinks to system files distributed with VFP8
- Edit your config file
- Acquire and symlink other system files

Working with Data

- Native VFP databases and tables
- ODBC

Working with Data: Native

- Wine needs local mount, and config entry to that mountpoint Mount a remote data directory
- Recent versions of Samba client mandatory. Some reports of locks not releasing with older Samba clients.
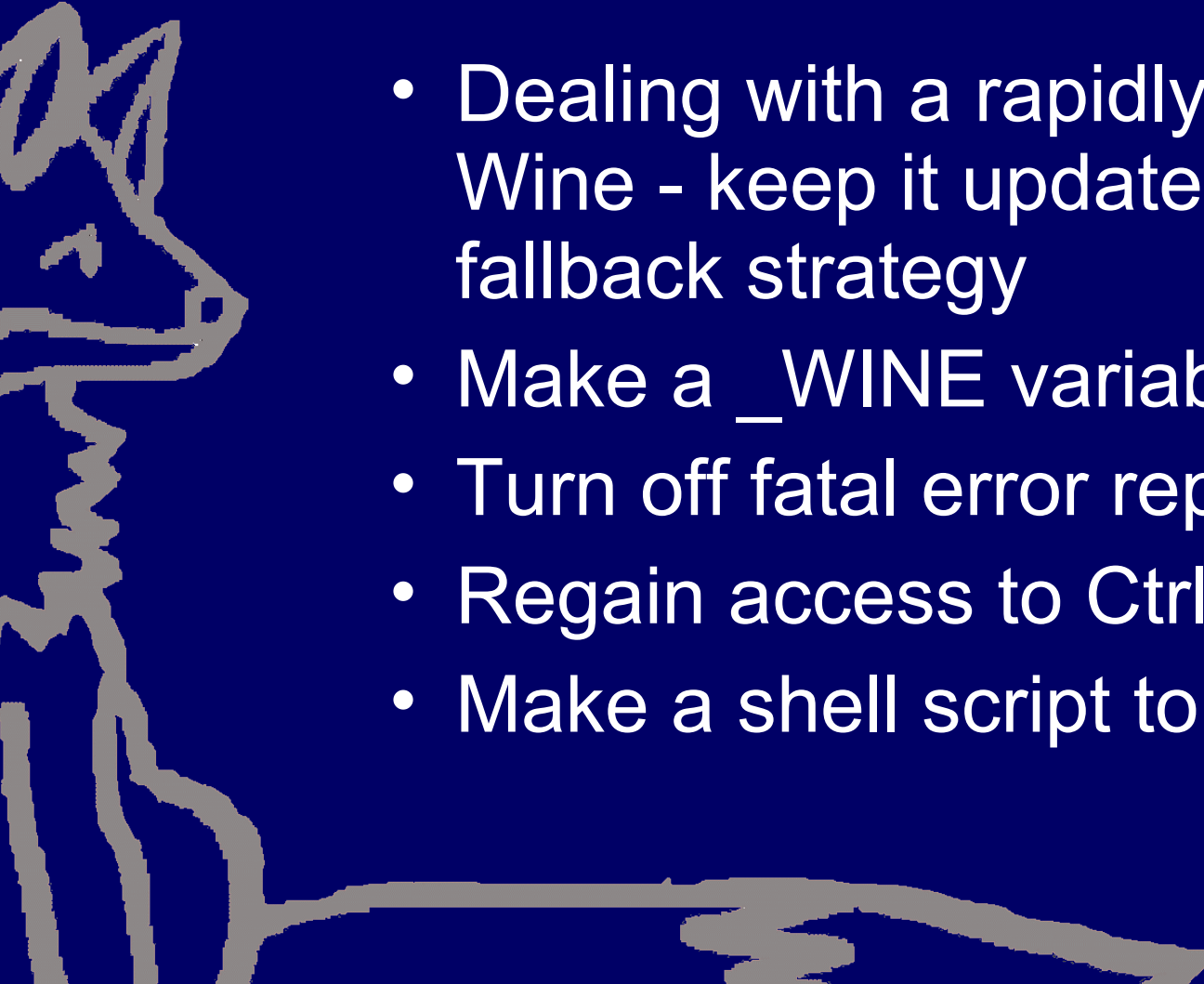- Samba versus NFS

Working with Data: ODBC

- Install Microsoft ODBC by using the MyODBC 2.50.x installer from http://www.mysql.com

- Use odbcad32.exe to add/edit your DSN's.

- Use SQLCONNECT() or SQLSTRINGCONNECT() from VFP

Tips and Tricks

- Dealing with a rapidly changing Wine - keep it updated but leave a fallback strategy

- Make a _WINE variable

- Turn off fatal error reporting

- Regain access to Ctrl+F1...

- Make a shell script to start VFP

EULA

- VFP7 and VFP8 have unacceptably restrictive language re: runtime deployment.
- Until legal issues put to rest, advise Linux deployments with VFP6 runtimes

GLGDW Web Update Page

www.hentzenwerke.com

This session could possibly have web updates.

Thank you!

Please remember to fill out your evaluation.

Great Lakes Great
Database Workshop 2003