So You've Inherited an Application – Now What?
51 Tips to Help You Survive

Whil Hentzen

About moi

- 5'7-1/2", 135 lbs, grey hair, blue eyes
- B.S.M.E. Rose-Hulman Inst. Of Tech.
- Enjoy long walks on the beach, snuggling, Neil, Ted, Aerosmith

- MVP, LTA, books, sessions, cert exam

- 22,000 billable hours since 1990

Agenda

1. Before you take on the job
2. Sizing up the customer
3. Sizing up the system
4. Meeting of agreement
5. Working with the system

1. Before you take the job on

Inherit

Diversity

One Little Change

"How hard could it be?"

Mission: Objectivity

2. Sizing up the customer

Before the Kiss

Quarter-inch Holes

Purpose

Remorse

Leafe

Surrealism

Difficulties

No Assumptions

One Assumption

Clueless

3. Sizing up the system

Education

Analogy

May You?

Can You?

MAIN2.PRG

Ancestor Knowledge

Ancestor Developers

Inventory

Audit

Stack the Deck

WTF?

Attention Span

Standards

4. Meeting of Agreement

Set Expectations

Rewrite

Wisdom

Compassion

5. Working with the system

Backup

Cruft

Making copies...

Delicious
Fox Wraps

Write Once,
Forget Often

Rental Cars

Instant Recall

debugo = friend

debugo context

debugo context redux

Instrumenting

Debugging scaffold

debugox

HC

Permanent Debugox

Data, schmata

Steinbach's Guideline

Corollary to Steinbach's Guideline

Spinning Wheels

Refactoring

Bug Reporting

Another Beer

Compassion Revisited

Thank-you-g'night

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