

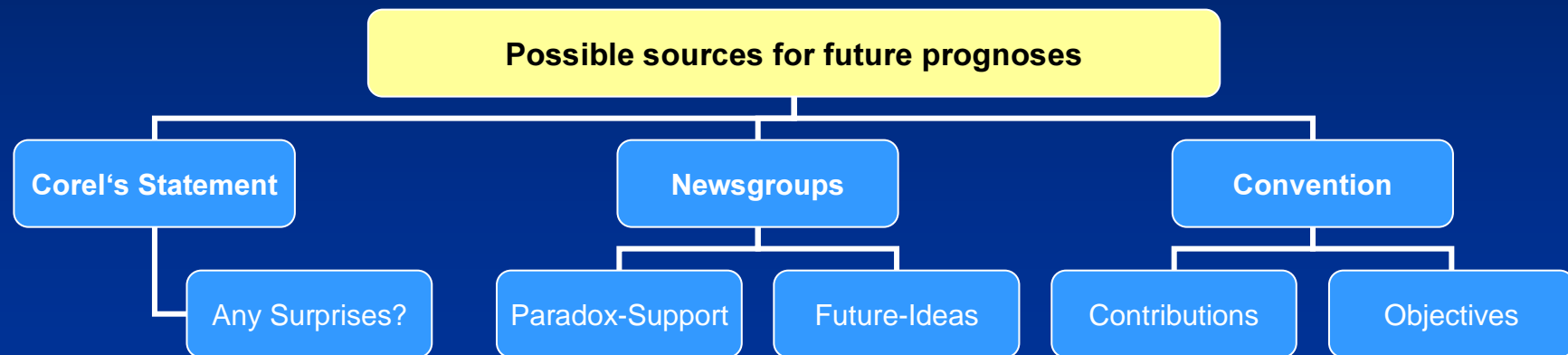
The Future of Paradox

Brief Introduction to the
2nd International Paradox Convention

10/30-31 2004 in Mörfelden-Walldorf/Germany

Egbert Babst, BabstSoft e.K.

Is there any Future for Paradox?



- Jacques Chaillot
- Côme de Christen
- Michel Claveau
- Régis Duc Dudon
- Frank Fischer
- Otto Fischer
- Thies Grimm
- Mike Irwin
- Uwe Laurth
- Frédéric G. Marand
- Vladimir Menkin
- Mike Robinson
- Hans Schoutsen
- Graeme DW Smith

Corel's Statement

Sir,[...]

As mentioned during our phone call, on an ongoing basis, Corel examines its business lines to ensure they are profitable. Based on this criterion and after extensive evaluation, it has become clear that Paradox does not generate sufficient revenues to warrant further investments in development at this time. We recognize that we have customers who require a full-featured database application. To address these customers, we have included Paradox 10 in the Professional edition of WordPerfect Office 12, available as a licence. In addition, we will continue to provide technical support to our Paradox customers as well as professional services to those who require custom configurations.

[...]



Statement-Summery



- As long as there are no sufficient revenues:
No (warranty for) future development



- P10 in WPO12
- Technical Support
- Professional Services

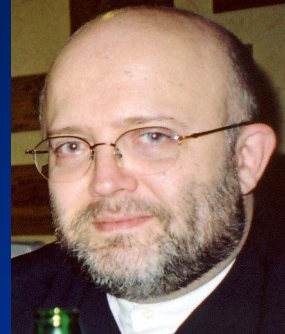
Paradox-Support in the Internet



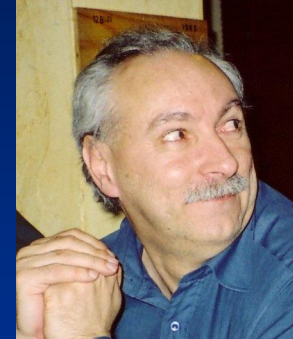
The French Team



Côme



Frédéric



Jacques



Michel



Régis

[Zurück](#)

Possible Developments

Buy Paradox



Jump to alternatives



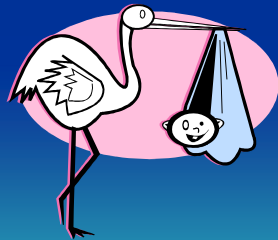
Develop Paradox
new from scratch



Negotiate
development-plans
with Corel



Extent Paradox



Wait and hope...



[Zurück](#)

Buy Paradox (Liz)

Perhaps instead of talking to Corel (who are hopeless, IMO), you guys should spend the time coming up with a sound business plan for Paradox.

That is, I've recently had an experience which leads me to believe (as [Phil H. once said long ago](#)), that if the right set of people could be brought together (manager/business types, not programmers, as programmers can always be found), and the right plan (serious, detailed plan) could be made, that it would be rather simple to find sufficient money to buy Paradox and access to the BDE source and then, with this new company, revive and modernize Paradox (removing BDE reliance or adding alternatives).

Or, to put it in short terms, finding the money would be easy if you could find the right people to make the right plan.

Business Plan (Phil)

Questions to answer (1)

1. What are the major factors threatening the continued use and the continued acceptable levels of operability of Pdx?
2. What are the major factors threatening to make Pdx per se (ie not related to survival) outdated or having greatly diminished applicability?
3. How do these factors play out across different categories of user and how does projected changes (if any) in patterns of usage / user makeup accentuate these factors?
4. Are there steps (be they marketing, design or other) that can be taken that can impact the playing out of these factors?

Business Plan (Phil)

Questions to answer (2)

5. Considering all of the above, are there market segment scenarios that intuitively or intrinsically offer potential clearly profitable product delivery plans worth doing detailed investigation of?
6. What are the alternative broad-brush options (eg buy & remodel; clone / build from scratch; assisted managed migration etc) and how do they fit into all of the above?
7. What is the actual legal situation regarding Pdx / BDE vis a vis Corel and Borland?
8. What would be required of Corel / Borland to permit each of these options to be pursued legally?

Business Plan (Phil)

Questions to answer (3)

9. What are the most seemingly insuperable obstacles (other than purchase price) to convincing Corel / Borland to do what would be required of them vis a vis each of these options?
10. What is the precise nature of these obstacles and Corel / Borland's motivations / reasoning?
11. What are the ways that these natures and motivations can be exploited to increase the likelihood of cooperation from Corel / Borland, what are these ways likely to cost, and what practical obstacles (not related to Borland / Corel) will there be to these ways?
12. Taking account of all of the above what are the most preferable options?

Develop Paradox new from scratch (Uwe)

Since COREL won't either sell or develop Paradox, I propose [...]

Basic goals:

- As easy to use as Paradox, e.g. source + bytecode in a single file
- Ability to open and "understand" FSLs, LSLs etc and recompile to new bytecode.
- OLEAuto should work.

Goals for later improvements:

- Extensible e.g. like Perl.
- Should also run on other operating systems.

Extent Paradox

- o My strategy is to encapsulate more stuff into DLL's, support them in PDX (replacing many libraries in the process) and hopefully shoot for a bigger audience. (Rick Kelly)
- o So in my modest opinion, what is the future of Paradox:
 - 1 adapt the GUI
 - 2 get rid of the BDE but keep the DB and tables intact (dbExpress???)
 - 3 extend the language of OPAL (Jan Maryssael)
- o Already realized extensions e.g.: PONX (Michel Claveau), iProView (Vladimir Menkin) etc.

Negotiate development-plans with Corel (Jacques)

I didn't prepare anything and will not have the time to prepare except that I can „present“ the draft of a business plan proposed to Corel. Because of the absence of answers of the decision-makers of Corel, the proposition is now irrelevant but can serve perhaps to others . I will evidently be delighted if it was the case.

Jump to Alternatives (Rodney)

But, I don't know that I'd recommend Delphi as an alternative to Paradox. Delphi keeps you on the Windows platform and Borland has been making a lot of changes to Delphi very quickly. As new Windows platforms come out... Delphi will continue to play a catch up role.

If anything, I'd recommend C or C++..... These 2 languages are cross platform compatible (much more so than Delphi). It seems ashamed to me that if one is going to invest the time to learn a new language, that they would choose one that would "again" lock themselves into a single platform (Windows), especially when the future is so open.

We should create an Initiative:

- we need a **vision**
- we need a group of **motivated** and **competent persons** (concerning business and technical perspectives)
- we need to find a way to **organize** and **share work** (first to formulate precise objectives)
- we need a **process driver**
- we need to **create a network** with the guys there on the other side of the ocean(s).



And, before leaving the convention we should state:

who would do
what
with whom
when and
where

[Zurück](#)

Announced Contributions (1)

- **Jacques Chaillot, Gibbon:**
First outline of a business plan (buy Paradox?)
- **Côme de Christen, Clairinfo:**
Is Paradox a good front-end for MySQL?
- **Michel Claveau (Michel Claveau Informatique):**
Un exemple PONX: utiliser Unicode avec Paradox. (This presentation will be carried out in French since Michel doesn't speak any English).
- **Régis Duc Dodon:**
Storing Paradox newsgroup messages
- **Frank Fischer, Microsoft Germany:**
.Net Framework as an Alternative?
- **Otto Fischer, softwareacademy:**
Paradox, history, future, alternatives .NET, C #, Access. SQL .
- **Thies Grimm, Grimm Data Team:**
Using Outlook contact data in Paradox
- **Mike Irwin, TekstLogik:**
Demonstration: using PHP to present Paradox data to the World.
Mike couldn't come this year personally but he wants to send his presentation. Perhaps he presents live by video conference.

Announced Contributions (2)

- **Uwe Lauth, CURSOR Software AG:**
A huge CRM system made in Paradox
- **Frédéric G. Marand, Ouest Systemes Informatiques:**
Extending Paradox with Delphi Add-In Forms
- **Vladimir Menkin, SGS:**
Using various third-party tools to extend Paradox functionality
- **Mike Robinson, Sundial Services:**
Reliable operation of Paradox on a network; avoiding data corruption.
- **Hans Schoutsen, Co-Exist:**
Reasons to use "small" databases in "large" organisations
- **Graeme DW Smith, UDMS Ltd:**
The Paradox Brand. This discussion invites all delegates to participate in a future plan for Paradox