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Training in the US and Europe Q-2, 2002

In early March, BASIS was asked to deliver a PRO/5® class for one of our largest Customers, Perot Systems, Diamond Solutions Division. Their support and maintenance groups spread throughout Colorado Springs, CO, Orem, UT, and Dallas, TX, needed PRO/5 training quickly. In response, I went to Colorado Springs in mid-March and conducted a NetMeeting-based class, which was live in Colorado Springs, and via the Internet and phone to Orem and Dallas. Microsoft NetMeeting is a very interesting medium for training. My desktop was displayed via an LCD projector for the Colorado Springs group and was broadcast simultaneously over the Internet via NetMeeting to the outlying groups. This was the first time I had ever done a NetMeeting class, and it worked very well.

In early April, my travels led me to the small town of Barzano in beautiful Italy. There I conducted Visual PRO/5® and BBj® training for Customers of our Italian distributor, Ready Informatica. This was one of the more interesting and challenging trainings I have ever delivered, primarily because most of the students did not speak English. All the Italian I knew I learned from The Godfather. So, to put it mildly, we started with a communication problem. But the students all knew BBx® very well, and that became our lingua franca as we progressed through the class.

We started with "Hello World" in Visual PRO/5, which morphed to "*Ciao mondo!*" Our finale was a BBj GUIBuilder-based file maintenance program with a *Finestra principale*, or main window, using InputE controls for *il Nome del Cliente*, or the Customer name, *il Telefono*, and an InputN control for *il Saldo*, or the account balance, along with a list button for *il Stato*, or the State, containing a list of all the names of the States in the US. It was a bit of a mixed database, but they got the idea. I now have some sample GUIBuilder/ResBuilder code with Italian variable names and labels in my repertoire for anyone who needs them!

Roberto Viscardi and Loris Longhi at the training in Italy.



The class went surprisingly well, and the students were happy with their progress in GUI and BBJ programming. One of the students, Loris Longhi, will be doing training for our clients in Italy. *Buona fortuna, Loris! Arrivederci e grazie!*

Next I traveled to Germany, where I met with our German Business Manager, Herbert Schmitz, and one of our consultants, Peter Scholz. Fortunately, although my German is MUCH better than my Italian, Peter and Herbert are fluent in English. Communication was a lot easier!

Peter does a lot of training for BASIS in Germany and was interested in the BBJ class we are developing at BASIS. Peter was particularly interested in using the new NetBeans-based BBJIDE, so we put together a NetBeans Quick Start Guide.

We also discussed the new examples of object coding contained in the online documentation. We have been using these examples as starting points for programs in the new BBJ class. As was the case with the Italian students, Peter liked the fact that a student could copy an example from the online documentation, paste it directly into the NetBeans BBJ Editor, save it, and press F6 to run the example.

We will use this capability more as we move into Internet-based training.

After a long day working on the details of BBJ training, I was the guest of Peter and his wife, Krista, at a Bob Dylan concert in Frankfurt. It was a great finish to my stay in Europe. *Vielen Dank, Peter und Krista!*

– **John Schroeder**