

Virtual Fox Fest 2025

Call for Speakers

You are invited to submit session proposals for Virtual Fox Fest 2025. Virtual Fox Fest, an online conference presenting the latest in Microsoft Visual FoxPro development techniques and interoperability with other technologies, is being organized by Geek Gatherings, a partnership of long-time Visual FoxPro MVPs Rick Schummer, Doug Hennig and Tamar E. Granor. This is the same team that has organized the Southwest Fox conference since 2007.

Virtual Fox Fest is primarily a Visual FoxPro conference. However, we welcome sessions on other technologies that can enhance VFP development and that improve development generally, as well as best practices in VFP development. We're also interested in sessions that offer Visual FoxPro developers a path forward.

Virtual Fox Fest 2025 will be held online on **Wednesday, May 7**. Sessions will be scheduled to make attendance possible across the Americas and some other parts of the world. After the event, videos of the sessions will be made available to attendees after the conference.

Over the years, the group of people invited to submit has built an incredible treasure trove of sessions, and most in the community have not heard all of them, so rather than ask people to create new sessions for this event, we plan to build it mostly from existing material, but hope to offer one or two new sessions.

We may ask some speakers to pre-record their sessions rather than presenting them live, and we may choose to make some sessions available only online rather than presenting them during the conference.

In addition to any career benefits you may get from speaking, presenting at a conference is a way of contributing to your developer community. Every developer owes a debt to those who came before them, writing and speaking about software development. Preparing and delivering conference sessions is a way of paying that debt forward, as well as strengthening your community.

Session proposals are due no later than **February 24, 2025**. If you are interested in speaking at Virtual Fox Fest 2025, please read this entire document before submitting proposals. Send any questions to speakers@geekgatherings.com.

Areas of Interest

We are particularly interested in topics that cover one or more of the following areas of interest:

- **Solidifying VFP Development**—These sessions should cover either a) VFP fundamentals, aimed at those newer to VFP, whether moving up from FP2.x or

- coming to VFP from other languages; b) VFP best practices, aimed at helping all VFP developers improve; or c) in-depth looks at aspects of VFP that some developers may not have mastered yet.
- **Taking Advantage of VFPX**—These sessions should showcase the projects in VFPX, providing attendees with enough information to put those projects to work for them. These sessions should be deep dives into specific VFPX projects. We will consider offering a single "What's new in VFPX?" session.
 - **Extending VFP**—These sessions should look at ways to extend VFP's reach, by using it together with other products or by taking advantage of native extension capabilities, including working with SQL back-ends.
 - **Moving Visual FoxPro Applications Forward**—These sessions should cover topics related to modernizing VFP applications as well as alternatives for new platforms and future application development. We are particularly interested in sessions about recent additions to the list of new platforms, such as X# and VFP Advanced.
 - **Web and Mobile**: These sessions are aimed at developers who want to learn more about creating web and connected mobile applications.
 - **Technology and Business for the Database Developer**—These sessions should look at tools, technologies, and techniques to make life as a developer easier and more productive.

The audience for Virtual Fox Fest is international and includes attendees with a wide range of VFP experience.

Additional Information

Feel free to suggest other topics if they have a connection to VFP and you believe attendees will find them valuable.

We assume that most sessions will follow the usual VFP community template and run for 75 minutes, including time for Q&A at the end. However, if you have a topic that you feel is better suited to a shorter or longer timeslot, you are welcome to submit it. Include a note in your submission as to the session length you are proposing.

Speaker's Responsibilities

Speakers will present one session and each session will be given only once. Speakers will be scheduled for a Q&A session immediately following their presentation.

Speakers must provide a brief bio and a digital photo for publicity purposes. The bio should be included with session proposals (see "[Submitting Proposals](#)" below). The photo can be submitted with session proposals but must be submitted by **March 26, 2025**.

We strongly encourage speakers to provide session notes (a "white paper"), but they are not required. Speakers may also provide slides. Where appropriate, code examples

should be provided as well. Materials are due no later than **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**.

Speakers are expected to rehearse their sessions prior to Virtual Fox Fest, so that the presentation runs smoothly. In addition, all speakers are expected to participate in at least one rehearsal using the conference platform for Virtual Fox Fest, so they will know how to use it for their presentation.

Speakers are expected to abide by the [Code of Conduct](#) for the conference.

Speaker's Rights

We will provide every speaker with free admission to the conference.

We will schedule sessions in a way that takes note of speakers' geographical locations, doing our best to schedule each speaker at a time that is during their normal waking hours.

Speakers own the copyright to their materials but grant us permission to include them in the downloads available to attendees. In addition, speakers grant us permission to make the video of their session publicly available following the conference. When presenting entirely new sessions, we prefer that speakers do not share their papers publicly until after the conference.

Submitting Proposals

To be considered, submit your proposals at <https://geekgatherings.com/Submission> no later than 8 AM EST on **Monday, February 24, 2025**. Each session proposal must include:

- 1) The session title.
- 2) An abstract (100-200 words) describing the session.
- 3) A list of 4 or 5 bullet points finishing the sentence "Attendees will learn ..."
- 4) The track(s) into which the session fits.
- 5) The level(s) for the session: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced. This is the level for VFP developers, even if the session is about working with another technology. Think of the level (or levels) as fitting into the sentence "This session is appropriate for people who are at the <level> level with VFP."
- 6) Any prerequisites for the session.
- 7) Anything else you think we should know about this session.

Be sure to click Save to submit your proposal. You can make modifications to your personal information and proposals until 8 AM on February 24; we will not retrieve the stored data until then.

Please be aware that we normally build an extra week into the process between the initial submission deadline and the date when we retrieve the submissions and begin

reviewing them. We are NOT doing that this year because we want to maximize the amount of time you have to prepare your session. So please submit your sessions by the deadline.

The Selection Process

If you have been invited to submit topics for this conference, we know that you are a capable speaker who meets your speaker obligations, and we expect to choose one of the topics you propose for either a live or a pre-recorded session.

Initial topic selection will be completed by Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Selected speakers will be notified by email no later than March 12 and asked to confirm their willingness to speak by Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Session Materials and Deadlines

While attendees learn a lot at conferences, the materials from the conference provide the lasting impact. As noted above, session notes are optional, but as they offer the greatest value to attendees, we strongly encourage you to provide a paper. We want to emphasize that session notes are not meant to be books or the definitive work on a topic. The notes should cover the material in the session and provide pointers to additional information. Helping people avoid common problems is helpful, too. For many topics, a paper of 15 to 20 pages is a reasonable goal. Because this conference is focused primarily on existing sessions, we assume most of you will edit and update an existing document.

In addition, we are providing all submission deadlines now so you can check them against your personal calendar before submitting proposals. If you cannot meet the deadlines, please do not submit proposals.

We are very serious about speaker obligations. Those who do not fulfill their obligations will not be invited to speak at future Geek Gatherings conferences.

Summary of Important Dates

February 24, 2025: Session proposals due.

March 12, 2025: Session selection completed, and speakers notified.

March 19, 2025: Acceptance of speaker invitation due. Any revisions to bios, abstracts, and speaker photo due.

April 23, 2025: All session materials due.

May 7, 2025: Virtual Fox Fest 2025