

Xbasic, Level 1

Course Description: Xbasic, Level 1, is an instructor-led training (ILT) course designed for developers who are familiar with Alpha Five, but who seek a better understanding and ability to use Xbasic and for developers who are using Alpha Five as a front-end for other database products, and need a reference for the Xbasic commands, styles and structures. Participants learn Xbasic fundamentals for manipulating tables, records, forms, reports, and other objects. Participants will also learn the basics of code structure, how to write pseudo code, produce reports, create user-defined functions, use interactive commands, and create and use arrays. Additionally, participants will allow learn how to handle errors, manage email, configure application startup, and implement security.

Course Length: 2 Days

Prerequisites: Alpha Five v8, Level 1 and Alpha Five v8, Level 2.

OUTLINE

Getting Started with Xbasic

- What is Xbasic?
- Viewing Xbasic Code
- Examining Xbasic Tools
- Exploring the Code Editor
- Using the Xbasic Script Genie
- Understanding Functions
- Using the Function Finder

Xbasic Fundamentals

- Working with Variables
- Creating Variables
- Establishing Variable Types
- Dimensioning, Declaring, & Naming Variables
- Using the Xbasic Explorer
- Addressing Objects
- Understanding Pointers & Aliases

Xbasic Commands and Script Planning

- Using Decision-Making Commands
- Using Loop Management Commands
- Using Navigational Commands
- Using Commands for Variable Management
- Using Commands for Function Development
- Planning Your Scripts
- Using Pseudo Code

Managing Tables and Records

- Using Table Commands
- Opening a Table for Manipulation
- Closing a table
- Working with Records
- Creating a New Record
- Finding a Specific Record
- Changing an Existing Record

Selecting and Manipulating Records

- Working with Queries
- Using Query Parameters
- Fetching Through a Table
- Updating Table Records Based on Another Table's Records

Using Xbasic to Produce Reports

- Using report.print() and report.preview()
- Using report.saveas() and report.send()

Using Xbasic for Simple Form Management

- Opening and Managing Forms
- Using form.view() and form.viewqueried()
- Using f.show() and f.hide()
- Using f.activate() and f.close()

Using Events to Control Your Data

- Using Field Rule Events
- Using Control-Level Events in Field Events
- Using Control-Level Events in Button Events
- Using Form-Level Events
- Using Permission Events

Using Arrays

- What is an Array?
- When is an Array Needed?
- What can be done with Arrays?
- Building an Array
- Sorting an Array
- Inserting a Value

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Using Interactive User Commands

- Using Basic User Interface (UI) Tools
- Controlling ui_buttons and icons
- Using Xdialog
- Saving Xdialog to a Script
- Customizing Xdialog

Using Xbasic to Manage Email

- Prompting for Email Settings
- Sending Email with User Input
- Automating Email

Configuring Application Startup

- Using the Autoexec Script
- Managing the Control Panel

User-Defined Functions

- What is a UDF?
- Creating a simple UDF
- Creating a local function
- Creating a complex UDF

Implementing Security

- Controlling Access with Passwords
- Setting User Rights Table
- Setting Login Interface
- Granting or Denying Access
- Protecting Your Data with Encryption
- Why encryption is important
- Encrypting/Decrypting a table

Managing Errors

- Overview of Error Trapping
- What is Error Trapping?
- Examining Types of Errors
- Handling Errors
- Reporting Errors

Exploring Other Tools and Functions

- Using the Code Library
- Using Code Editor Tools
- Comment/Uncomment Code
- Using the Transform Genie
- Using Genies for Inserting
- Viewing the Trace Window
- Exploring Additional Xbasic Functions