

ALPHA DEVCON 2016 SCHEDULE

Tuesday

Pre-Conference Training Day: A Deep Dive Into Mobile Optimized Forms

9:00 AM -
4:00 PM

Master the new Mobile Optimized Forms capability in this hands on instructional course. Presented by Solutions Engineers, Dion McCormick and Chris Martin, you see step by step how to build mobile optimized forms, ideal for field apps and other applications. Prior experience of Alpha Anywhere, JavaScript, and HTML are helpful but not required.

Topics include:

- Introduction To Mobile Optimized Forms
- FormView Control
- Editor Control
- Group Editors
- Camera Editor
- Signature Capture Editor
- Ink Control
- Geo Tagging
- Special Session - PhoneGap or Not
- The Future

| Wednesday | | | |
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| 9:00 AM | Welcome (Richard Rabins, CEO, Alpha Software Corporation) | | |
| 9:15 AM | Opening Keynote: "Tech Stuff that Will Rock Your World" (Paul Gillin, Author and B2B Social Media Strategist) | | |
| 10:00 AM | Future of Mobile Enterprise/Enabling Standing Workers -- Why Declarative Forms Matter and How to do them Well (Dan Bricklin, CTO, Alpha Software Corporation and Guest Speaker: Nikos Kazantzis, Group Head of Systems Integration, Hayat Communications) | | |
| 10:55 AM | Break | | |
| 11:00 AM | Executive Panel (Panelists: Tim Bochard, Vice President of Information Technology, Glacier Water Services Inc.; Wayne Freeman, Director of IT, Merrick Pet Care (a Nestle-Purina Company); Bruce McKinnon, Sr. Director, Clinical Systems Development, Medstar Health; Tom Ritter, Vice President of IT, Caraustar Industries) | | |
| 12:00 PM | Award Most Innovative App Contest Winners | | |
| 12:30 PM | Lunch | | |
| | <table border="1"> <tr> <td><i>Track 1: Building Sophisticated Offline Mobile Apps and Mobile Optimized Forms</i></td> <td><i>Track 2: Empowering Less Experienced (Citizen) Developers to Excel at Building Mobile Apps (Combating Shadow IT)</i></td> </tr> </table> | <i>Track 1: Building Sophisticated Offline Mobile Apps and Mobile Optimized Forms</i> | <i>Track 2: Empowering Less Experienced (Citizen) Developers to Excel at Building Mobile Apps (Combating Shadow IT)</i> |
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| 1:30 PM | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Technical Session #1: Introduction to Alpha Cloud - An overview of Alpha Cloud, the major features that make it a compelling place to run applications, and how it is integrated into the Alpha Anywhere development environment. We will discuss basic concepts without going into great detail. You should leave with a basic understanding of what Alpha Cloud is and the benefits it offers. (Selwyn Rabins, President, Alpha Software)</td> <td>Case Study #1: "Servicing a Broad Range of Users with Rich Data Collection" - (Wayne Freeman, Director of Information Technology, Merrick Pet Food and Michael Conti, Vice President of Development, Clients First)</td> </tr> </table> | Technical Session #1: Introduction to Alpha Cloud - An overview of Alpha Cloud, the major features that make it a compelling place to run applications, and how it is integrated into the Alpha Anywhere development environment. We will discuss basic concepts without going into great detail. You should leave with a basic understanding of what Alpha Cloud is and the benefits it offers. (Selwyn Rabins, President, Alpha Software) | Case Study #1: "Servicing a Broad Range of Users with Rich Data Collection" - (Wayne Freeman, Director of Information Technology, Merrick Pet Food and Michael Conti, Vice President of Development, Clients First) |
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| 2:15 PM | <p>Technical Session #2: Zero to Cloud - Publishing Your First Application to Alpha Cloud - A demonstration of the publication process. This session will show you how to set up a basic publish profile for Alpha Cloud, publish your application, and deploy it on a web site. We will also look at the Cloud View dialog and discuss how you can check on your running application and view usage and logs. Advanced options for deployment will be touched on, but we won't go into detail. You should leave with a clear sense of what is required for a basic deployment. (Selwyn Rabins, President, Alpha Software)</p> | <p>Vertical Apps Panel (Barry Stahl, Systems Architect, American Airlines; Rich Kerr, President, Rich Kerr & Associates)</p> |
| 3:00 PM | Break | |
| 3:15 PM | <p>Technical Session #3: Production Deployment in Alpha Cloud - We will discuss additional steps required for running a public facing application in production on Alpha Cloud. This requires a few additional steps. You will want a production application to use your own domain name and SSL certificates. We will touch on web site configuration as it relates to running a production application in a shared environment. You should leave with a general understanding of how to deploy tested applications to a production web site. (Lenny Forziati, Vice President or Internet Products, Alpha Software)</p> | <p>Case Study #2: SaaS Expense Reporting and Push Notifications -- During this case study of the KnectXpense mobile application, developed using Alpha Anywhere, we will look at two different architectural methods for mobile app development. We will show examples and list the pros and cons of each method. (Lee Haddox, IT Manager, KnectSoft; Jeff Benson)</p> |

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| 4:00 PM | <p>Technical Session #4: Security in Alpha Cloud - Security is always a concern when deploying an application on the Web. We will discuss how Alpha Cloud manages users and groups, the concept of web site tenancy, and options for secure communication with TLS/SSL. We will cover the concepts behind each of these topics and explore the development environment user interfaces that make configuring a deployment easier. You should leave this session with a better understanding of how applications are secured on Alpha Cloud. (Kurt Rayner, Vice President of Cloud, Alpha Software)</p> | <p>Case Study #3: Alpha Anywhere Meets the REAL Indiana Jones - Archaeologist Indiana Jones had to contend with snakes, Voodoo and villains, but that's nothing compared to the challenges of developing reliable mobile data collection apps for field staff to use in muddy fields and with no Internet signal! Alpha developers at Start Software are working with UK-based Cotswold Archaeology to change the face of data collection for field staff working in some of the largest and most ambitious engineering road and rail projects seen in Europe. Start Software's Director Robin Bennett will explain how his team of developers used Alpha Anywhere mobile techniques to replace paperwork with mobile data and will deep-dive into some of the most challenging technical problems and solutions. (Robin Bennett, Director, Start Software)</p> |
| 5:00 PM | Cocktail Reception | |

| Thursday | |
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| 9:00 AM | Alpha Anywhere Roadmap (Selwyn Rabins, President, Alpha Software Corporation) |
| 10:30 AM | Customer Awards |
| 10:45 AM | Break |
| 11:00 AM | New In Mobile (Dan Bricklin, CTO, Alpha Software Corporation) |
| 12:00 PM | Lunch |
| | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"><i>Track 1: Building Sophisticated Offline Mobile Apps and Mobile Optimized Forms</i></div> <div style="width: 48%;"><i>Track 2: Empowering Less Experienced (Citizen) Developers to Excel at Building Mobile Apps (Combating Shadow IT)</i></div> </div> |
| 1:00 PM | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>Technical Session #5: Troubleshooting in Alpha Cloud with the Cloud View Dialog - Deploying to Alpha Cloud means not having to manage a data center. It also means not having direct access to the machine to manage an application. The Cloud View dialog available in the Alpha Anywhere development environment provides a view into your running application so you can verify and debug your application. We will discuss how to view page usage and server load, view and download, logs, and access application dump files. We will also show how you can work with Alpha Software support to make your logs available to our support and development teams to debug potential product issues. You should leave with a basic understanding of the tools available to you. (Kurt Rayner, Vice President of Cloud, Alpha Software)</p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>Case Study #4: Platform Migration – Best practices/challenges/solutions - This session offers an overview of Warren County’s migration process to Alpha Anywhere. Jeremy Scrimme will provide a brief background on the platform the organization previously used and why a need arose to find a replacement platform; steps followed in evaluating various platforms; challenges encountered along the way; and finally why Alpha Anywhere was selected and what the organization is doing with Alpha Anywhere today and into the future. Attendees will also benefit from a migration checklist they can use for their own projects. The format will be interactive, allowing for discussion and questions. If you are thinking of adapting a new platform or recently started using Alpha Anywhere then this session will help accelerate your path to success in migrating to the Alpha Platform and avoiding as many pitfalls as possible. (Jeremy Scrimme, Senior Computer Systems Analyst/Programmer)</p> </div> </div> |

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| 2:00 PM | <p>Technical Session #6: Troubleshooting and Bug Reports Elsewhere in Alpha - In this troubleshooting section, you'll see how to read and interpret server logs and dump files. We'll also cover general purpose troubleshooting and the right way to submit bug reports. (Jerry Brightbill, Senior Developer, Alpha Software)</p> | <p>Case Study #5: How Alpha Anywhere Helps OERCA Meet Predictable - and Unpredictable – Demands</p> <p>OERCA is the world's premier zoological management application. As OERCA has evolved and gained a wider variety of customers, Alpha Anywhere has provided the tools and flexibility to meet all kinds of challenges - expected and unexpected. Lead Developer Steve Workings will take you on a tour of OERCA (including brand new mobile features) and show you how Alpha Anywhere facilitates growth, evolution and, yes, the dreaded feature creep. Steve Workings has been an independent Alpha Developer, consultant and instructor for 28 years. Become familiar with OERCA before the presentation at OERCA.com. (Steve Workings, Custom Database Consultant (Member: IADN))</p> |
| 2:45 PM | Break | |

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| 3:00 PM | <p>Technical Session #7: Stylizing Alpha Applications with Bootstrap Themes - Good user interface design can be the difference between a hugely successful website or app and its failure to make any impact. If your potential customers find your website to be too complicated to navigate or too busy and confusing, then even the best service or product in the world could be left collecting dust on the Internet shelves. This fun and informative session will introduce you to the steps to integrate Bootstrap theme content into your Alpha Anywhere solutions to make them look fantastic!</p> | <p>Case Study #6: Alpha Anywhere Delivers a Real-Time, Wireless, High Speed Counting Solution for the Inventory Services Industry: modas - Based upon the Alpha Anywhere platform, modas provides inventory service companies with a next generation high speed counting technology. Utilizing a mobile intranet and key Alpha Anywhere features such as Offline capability and SQLite, the modas app provides a feature-rich mobile counting platform. Plus, modas integrates with legacy technology including an Alpha desktop inventory data processing application that has been utilized in the industry for years. Furthermore, by unlinking the software from the hardware, modas provides the industry the ability to easily add new features and upgrade to the latest in hardware technology in ways that were not previously possible. Come to learn how Alpha Anywhere is helping this industry deliver new features, lower hardware acquisition costs, and improve team efficiency. (Steve Palmer, Badger Inventory Service (Member of ISN); Mark Stenberg, Monarch Inventory Services (Member of ISN); Frances Peake, Proctor & Peake, Inc (Developer)</p> |
| 4:00 PM | <p>Technical Session #8: What's New in PhoneGap Development - In this session, we'll take a look at some of the new PhoneGap plugins and component templates for iOS and Android. We'll also discuss SQLite and SQLCipher for securing data at rest on a mobile device. (Bob Moore, Vice President of Mobility, Alpha Software)</p> | <p>Case Study #7: (Daniel Santucci, Director of South Divisional Pricing, Goodman Manufacturing/Diakin Group)</p> |
| 5:00 PM | <p>Birds of a Feather Pizza Party Extravaganza!</p> | |

| Friday | |
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| 9:00 AM | Engineering Panel/Q&A: A freeform Q&A session with the Alpha Developers (Selwyn Rabins, Dan Bricklin, Kurt Rayner, Lenny Forziati, Bob Moore, Jerry Brightbill, Terry Smith) |
| 10:20 AM | Award: Most #AlphaDevCon Tweets |
| 10:25 AM | Break |
| 10:30 AM | Mobilizing Microsoft Access Special Session |
| 11:30 AM | Testing Your apps on the Amazon Cloud Device Farm - Testing your mobile application in an emulator is one thing, but the most accurate way to test an application is on a physical device. The problem is there are hundreds of devices on the market. You can't own them all, and you can't test on them all. That's where the AWS Device Cloud Farm service comes into play. With this service you can you test your applications on the same devices your clients are using, right over the cloud. See how. |
| 12:00 PM | Lunch |
| 1:00 PM | Debugging PhoneGap Applications - What do you do when your PhoneGap app simply doesn't work as planned? In this session you'll learn how to use the Chrome and Safari debugger to debug your Android or iOS PhoneGap apps. We'll build a native PhoneGap app with known bugs and work through the thought process and techniques required to resolve the issues. Client side and server side debugging will be discussed. (Bob Moore, Vice President of Mobility, Alpha Software) |
| 2:00 PM | Hot Items |
| 2:30 PM | Closing/Open Session (Richard Rabins, CEO; Selwyn Rabins, President; Dan Bricklin, CTO, Alpha Software Corporation) |
| 3:00 PM | Departure |