

Welcome to Boston!!!

Gardner S. Trask III, Chair
1998 Conference Steering Committee



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It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Boston this summer. It has also been my singular honor to have worked with such a great Steering Team to pull together the 27th Annual M Technology Association Conference.

This conference is packed full with information on leading technologies, successful combinations of M and other technologies, and core M products, discussion sessions, and tutorials. In my many years of attending the Annual MTA Conference, I cannot remember a more diverse and detailed offering.

The core thread running through our planning and development of this conference was to make it "user centric." Our efforts were to make this a conference for the programmer, analyst, and manager. We worked to craft a host of interesting speakers and topics, all with an eye to "what would the attendee want?" Our call for discussion sessions and tutorials brought an avalanche of great topics, encouraging us to go to our new four full day format. We hope you find, at the end of the week, that this conference lived up to its "can't afford to miss" billing.

Once again, we have joined forces with DCI's Database and Client/Server World to bring M into a wide industry forum, as well as provide you with an opportunity to see what is happening on the other side of the fence.

This year we have also brought back the Solutions Center. Last year it proved to be an invaluable opportunity to meet your peers in a social setting as well as see core M vendors in a low-glitz, high-content setting. We are pleased to return with this forum, and look forward to molding to your needs even further. Please take advantage of the scheduled snack breaks to meet, greet, and network with friends old and new, and to see what is new and improved with M companies.

My heartfelt thanks go to the members of the Steering Team for their unselfish volunteerism. These people took time from their lives to serve you. Please let them know their work is appreciated.

And a great deal of thanks to the MTA staff for ceaseless prodding, pushing, cajoling, arm twisting, and humor. These are consummate professionals dedicated to serving you through the MTA conference and other MTA services.

All in all, I want to thank you for being here. Your input and ideas have been invaluable in the past, and comments on this and future meetings would be most welcome. It is my sincere hope that you have a great time, learn great things, and go home thinking: "They were right, I would not have missed this for the world."

Good health, safe travels,

Gardner