

Strategies & Solutions

by Don Gall

The first stand-alone meeting of the MTA in four years will be held on September 27 through September 29, 1999 in San Diego. If you have not already done so, mark your calendar and get prepared to attend.

The focus of the meeting—Strategies & Solutions—will bring presenters' experiences with new technologies together with the M World with which you are all familiar. This is an event for strategizing, for finding real solutions to real problems.

Publications such as this can only provide infrequent information about the meeting. The MTA is moving rapidly into electronic communications. The MTA web page: www.mtechnology.org will give you better and more up-to-date information about the meeting as we get closer to September. When you want to see the latest information on the conference, go to the web page.

If you have an e-mail address, make sure that you get it to the MTA staff mta@mtechnology.org so that you are on their e-mail list. More and more of the information that the MTA staff is distributing to the membership

will be electronic (or fax, as needed) and less will be coming to you in the mail. As one example, the large pre-registration booklets of prior years will not be mailed to you this year.

This year's conference will have a number of exciting topics. A few of them are:

- Browser front-end on M
- Cache
- FileMan 22—the latest version
- FreeM
- GUI design
- Legacy systems—how best to move on
- M & Java
- M & the Web
- Object technology
- Windows programming—VB, Delphi, etc.

The MTA will be providing a program vital to the interests of the M programming community. I encourage the more experienced members of the M community to attend the conference, step forward and contribute their knowledge. There was a time when some of us felt (incorrectly) that we were experts in all aspects of programming. That day is gone. The expert in one area is simultaneously the neophyte in four others. I invite you to share your expertise in your area so that you can learn from experts in

the areas that you need to know more about.

The MTA is changing another long-term policy in order to make the conference more affordable to the M community. For the first time ever, we will have a flat charge for the conference and not charge extra for tutorials. We have decided to set a fee of \$495.00 for the entire meeting. Compared to the 1998 registration fee of \$700 (plus tutorial fees), this is a dramatic reduction—take advantage of it!

We also want to encourage the many companies that use M in their product lines to look at the program and allow their staff members and companies to profit by the information that will be presented.

We hope you will join us in San Diego in September to participate and learn with all of the great M folks throughout the world. We are looking forward to a lively conference that will deliver Strategies & Solutions to help you do your job better. **M**

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