



On the path to a better coder

Practical and Philosophical Thinking

(Where can we go past mastering syntax?)

Craig M. Rosenblum



Introduction

- ◆ Part of becoming better, is making sure we can learn from the mistakes that we make. Before we can improve ourselves, we need to know what to improve.
- ◆ We also want to help ourselves become better coders by looking for ways to improve our skills and ways of looking at problems.



Agenda

- ◆ Developing A Project Management System
- ◆ New ways of looking at old problems
- ◆ Self-Training Programs

Project Management

- ◆ PM always starts with goals and communication, to make sure that from start-to-end there are no loose ends or confusion.
- ◆ To do proper PM requires a documented PM Process. The steps from start to end.
- ◆ The key is to make sure that work done matches what was requested.

Rockler PM Process

- ◆ Project Request – Clear Definition
- ◆ Project Plan – How to Execute
- ◆ Project Review – Does Plan match Request?
- ◆ Start Coding – Plan out and Start Coding
- ◆ Testing – Making Sure of Errors/Function/Performance
- ◆ Review – To make sure application is approved for release.

What is Sharky?

- ◆ Sharky is codenamed for our Project Management System.
- ◆ Sharky is an ever-evolving system, that is there to help us document, organize and communicate about projects.
- ◆ At all points this is about documenting, making sure all bugs, problems, confusion is documented.

Sharky – Rockler PMI

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Rockler Project Management Center (AKA SHARKY). The browser's address bar shows a Google search page. The application interface includes a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Project Management', 'Projects: HomePage', 'Group Projects', 'Team Projects', 'Bugs / Troubleshooting', 'Mr. Clean To Do List', 'Tools and Projects', and 'Calendar'. The main content area is titled 'ROCKLER PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER (AKA SHARKY)' and contains a welcome message, a date header for 'Thursday Sep 19, 2002', a 'No Projects Due Today' notification, a 'Past Due Projects' section listing tasks with dates and descriptions, and a 'Project Status's' section with a summary table.

ROCKLER PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER (AKA SHARKY)

Welcome to SHARKY. Use this page as your gateway to the Rockler Project Management Center. Use the [Table of Contents](#) on the left to navigate.

Thursday Sep 19, 2002

No Projects Due Today.

Past Due Projects

August 22	Mr. Clean - Inventory Status Routine
August 22	Mr. Clean - Promo Code Logic
August 26	Update Inventory Shred Procedure
September 12	Security Measures for Database
September 19	Handling Url.sid vs user.sid
September 22	Change offerings keyword field to comma-delimited
September 27	Mr. Clean - Receipt page and E-mail Confirmation

Project Status's

Open Projects	7
Dead Projects	4
Done Projects	48

Solving Problems

- ◆ When it comes down to it, in our coding process, we are solving problems. And as you get more experience, you start to look for ways to speed up the process.
- ◆ The first thing I learned was the importance of patterns and pattern recognition. Seeing applications with familiar patterns.
- ◆ Try to look at your code and see if you can past the lines into patterns of logic, and functionality.

Self Training Methods

- ◆ One of the things, I have learned in my experience is the importance of pushing yourself to learn more and more. So many of us are self-taught that it just makes sense.
- ◆ So every weekday, every morning Don Roden, Jerry Teschendorf and I train on ColdFusion, Databases, Security, anything that helps us become better, and learn more.
- ◆ We can never settle for the current knowledge and experience we have.

Summary

- ◆ Being a ColdFusion Developer is more than knowing the syntax.
- ◆ To be really good, you have to have a handle on everything else: Project Management, Error Handling, Coding Standards, Databases, Security, Ecommerce.
- ◆ Only you can make your career!