

# SAGE-AU

The System Administrators Guild of Australia

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## Diary of a junket:

### Microsoft Asia Pacific Developer's Conference 27<sup>th</sup> October 1997 - 29<sup>th</sup> October 1997

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#### Day One (I'm no steenking C programmer)

It was chaos up on the second floor - they were not ready for us and worst of all, the coffee wasn't on, and the demo machines weren't ready. As I have the attention span of a small kitten on three dozen catnip tabs, I was bored. I had run out juice on my CD player, the Asian dude (he was from Singapore) wouldn't believe that Apple would still be around next year, and I didn't know anyone.

Eventually, we were allowed to register and get our show bags. To keep us around, Microsoft weren't going to give us the CDs of NT 5.0 and so on until the last day. Good move. There were some mighty boring sessions! The show bags came with a BFB (Big Fat Book™) on Visual Basic, and I bought a BFB on Visual C++ 5.0 because I was a little lost in that huge IDE. Both books have helped me since.

I was starting to feel a little tired despite the large quantity of oxygenated caffeine in my blood stream. I went to Mark's [Mark Hammond from Skippynet] session on

*Preparing your application for VBA Hosting*, which was very interesting, and a good introduction to the technical tone of the conference. If you spend a little bit of time exposing your app to COM or COM+ (basically extend your object model to external applications), with a little bit of work, you can use the VBA DLL's as your app's scripting language. This allows even dumb users to use the VBA macro recorder to script your app. Even better, you can use VBA to write significant portions of your application (such as Wizards, etc) extraordinarily quickly. Users can then use a language that they know to extend your application in ways you haven't yet thought of, especially if you allow your application to embed objects (an OLE container or server). Mark demonstrated this to us, and it is very nifty. The licensing terms for the VBA DLL's are generous considering that this is Microsoft we're talking about.

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