

Sybase and PowerBuilder User Group Switzerland - History 1994

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11 October 1994 Saal Gotthard, Main station, Berne

This first half day meeting took place at the Saal Gotthard in the Main Station in Berne (Editor's note: While we didn't hear the trains, there was noise from construction work going on during the whole meeting. The group decided not to come back to this location).

Arthur Hefti welcomed 38 people from 26 companies. The statutes as they were distributed in the first issue of the newsletter "PowerTimes" were unanimously accepted by the group as well as the proposal of CHF 100.- for individual membership and CHF 300.- for corporate membership.

Rolf André was thanked by the group for his hard work on the first edition of "PowerTimes". 450 copies were printed and distributed throughout Switzerland. The printing costs of approx. CHF 700.- were generously sponsored by Meyhall Chemical AG in Kreuzlingen/Switzerland. Rolf André asked that members submitted articles for publication to keep the newsletter healthy and informative. Advertisements could be placed for a minimal fee of only CHF 250.- for a full page.

Presentations: The first guest speaker was Justine Tran from SYAP AG. Justine had been using PowerBuilder for about 18 months. She started in the US and then got a job with SYAP AG in Zug/ Switzerland, but was currently working on a project in Denmark. Justine presented a talk on what objects a developer should consider including in a self-built class library and examples of what could be coded on the various events of these objects. This generated a number of questions from the audience which were well answered.

The second speaker was Rolf Vollenweider from Glencore International AG. Rolf has also been using PowerBuilder for about 18 months. He was working on a project to create a company-wide trading/traffic system. Rolf also tackled the issue of class libraries and what to include in them. Rolf highlighted some of the problems with existing off-the-shelf class libraries and what could be done to improve them. Emphasis was given on the communication between the different objects in a class library. The questions generated several lively discussions.

Both speakers were thanked by the group and were presented with PB/ERwin DreamTeam T- shirts and caps in recognition of their efforts. Since everybody agreed that it is not easy to give a presentation to a bunch of unknown people it was decided to give a thank-you gift to all future speakers. LeRoy Tavares from NOW! Information Technology AG then informed the group that PB V4.0 would be available by the end of December

1994 in the US, but that no firm release date for Europe was given yet. A preview session on PB 4 was scheduled for Nov 24 in Rotkreuz. He said that PB 4.0 would be shipped on CD and that his company would create a special bundle including a CD-ROM for users without one (Editor's note: could you imagine today NOT having a CD-ROM ? Hey, this was only back in 1994 !).

1 September 1994 Zug

The meeting took place in Zug and was attended by 40 people from all over Switzerland, representing 29 companies. There was even someone from Austria! Luckily there was just enough space to accommodate everyone; the response was much greater than expected. The enthusiasm shown by the participants shows that there really was a need to organise a group.

The steering committee was formed of the following people:

- President: Arthur Hefti
- Vice President: Robert Turrall
- Secretary: Mark Lansing
- Treasurer: Graham Lancashire
- Editor: Rolf André Klaedtke

The user group was welcomed by Mark Lansing. Words of encouragement for the user group were given by LeRoy Tavares (NOW! Information Technology). The participants introduced themselves. It was agreed to make the official language of meetings and correspondence English and to hold meetings every two months. Extra-ordinary meetings would be organised on an as-needed basis.