



2017 User Conference

A Little Older, A Little Wiser

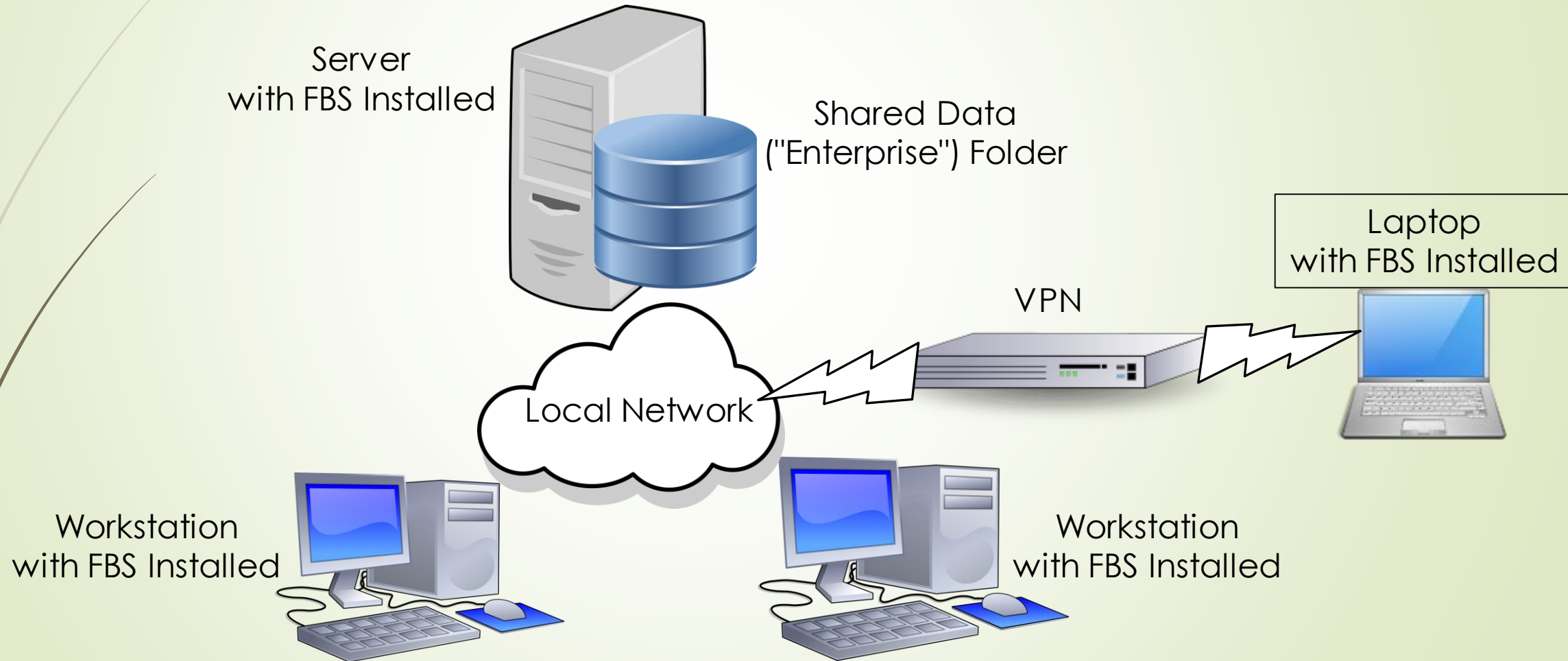
2017 New Features

- ▶ Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)
- ▶ TransAction Plus Large Imports
 - ▶ Limit was 200 lines per transaction
 - ▶ For checks, new limit is 1.6K lines, automatically broken into multiple 200 line transactions
 - ▶ Uses Release 10.X (.Net) version instead of Release 8.x (VB6) version
- ▶ Scanner Support for Networked Scanners
 - ▶ Implemented on AgCompass
 - ▶ Part of Release 11.2 for other customers
- ▶ Reporting Performance
 - ▶ SmartFeeder Open Group Report
 - ▶ General 2X improvement
 - ▶ Additional 6X improvement for feed valuation from purchases
 - ▶ Release 11.2 will use the feed valuation improvement for all SmartFeeder reports

Operational Improvements

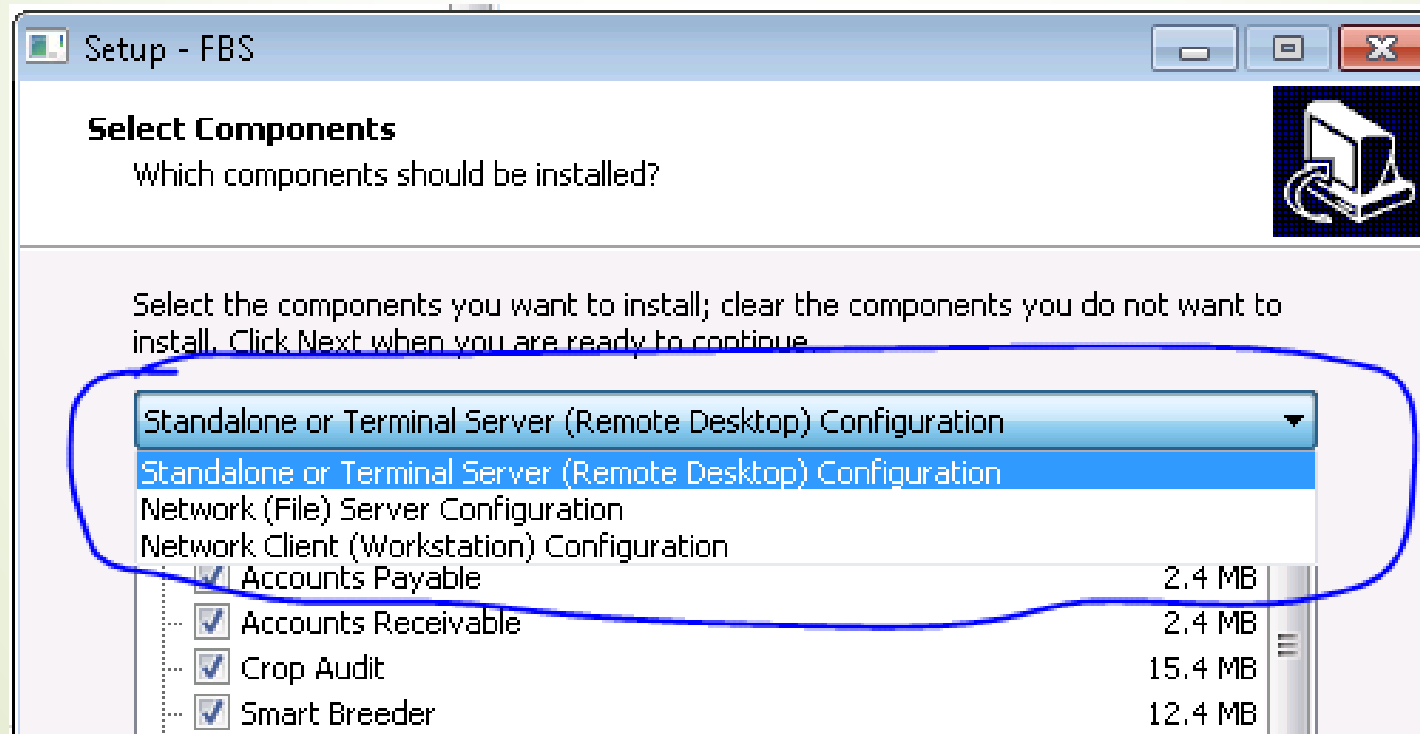
- ▶ Jet 4.0 Database Upgrade
 - ▶ If the conversion would run, it was successful
 - ▶ Several installations had a Windows issue which prevented them from upgrading
 - ▶ Resolved by applying Microsoft fix for Access (see <https://support.microsoft.com/en-in/help/2019235/microsoft-office-access-error-in-loading-dll>)
- ▶ Identified Microsoft's SMB 2.0/2.1/3.0 protocol as the source of strange file system behavior in Windows Server (see [https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff686200\(v=ws.10\).aspx](https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff686200(v=ws.10).aspx))
 - ▶ Symptoms include: files disappearing, missing or delayed changes, and file corruption
 - ▶ A patch is available now for systems experiencing these problems and the patch will be included in Release 11.2
- ▶ Implement "Enterprise folder" configuration
 - ▶ FBS is now identified to Windows as a Vista/7/8.1/10 compatible application
 - ▶ Without this, in some cases, Users can only see a hidden, independent copy of a "shared" file
 - ▶ If C:\Users\\AppData\Local\VirtualStore is not empty then this was happening to you
 - ▶ Implemented on AgCompass (delayed Release 11.1 implementation until it was added)
 - ▶ Starting with Release 11.2, new installations will use a separate "Enterprise folder" for data
 - ▶ Release 11.3 will support migrating existing installation's data to a separate "Enterprise folder"

Typical On-Site, 2 User Configuration



Release 11.2 Installation Options

- ▶ Standalone or Terminal Server (Remote Desktop) Configuration
- ▶ Network (File) Server Configuration
- ▶ Network Client (Workstation) Configuration



Drivers of Development Priorities



- ▶ Support – resolving customer issues
- ▶ Sales – many new features are a direct response to sales opportunities
- ▶ Customer Requests – most new features are driven by customer needs for imports/exports, interfaces, reports, etc.
- ▶ Product Development - some features address new opportunities in the market
- ▶ Maintenance – modifications to support changes in Windows, changes in other third-party software, changes in existing interfaces, etc.

Current Development Priorities


- ▶ Server Stability (SMB Patch)
- ▶ Reporting Performance
 - ▶ Valuation from purchases
 - ▶ Date cash exchanged
- ▶ Importing from Newer Versions of Excel
- ▶ Web Dashboards
- ▶ Automatic Updates
- ▶ Move Setup Files into Access Databases
 - ▶ Simplifies reporting (and, with SQL Server, improves performance)
 - ▶ Potential sales opportunity for customer with a database only hosting need
- ▶ "Mouse Friendly" User Interface (Martin's pet peeve)

Martin's Pet Peeve

- FBS User Interface will continue to support efficient data entry from keyboard or keypad
- FBS UI will stop moving the focus away from where you click with the mouse!
- Clicking on the spot with the red X should dismiss the drop down without changing the selection; **not** select the drop down item and move the input focus to a different spot on the screen!

(SMF17) Feeding General Input

Line	1
Entry Type	A Buy and Dispense Ingredient
Date	
Cen.	B Buy Drugs and Medication
Group	C Buy Ingredient
Locat.	D Death Loss
User 1	E Drugs and Medication
User 1	F Feed Inventory in bin
Ingredient	G Feed Ration
	H Input Grind and Mix



(SMF17) Feeding General Input

Line	1
Entry Type	Dispense Ingredient
Date	08/17/2017
Cen.	
Group	
Ingredient	0 First Ingredient
Ration	0 First Ingredient
Quantity	
\$/Unit	
Value	
Ticket	

High Priority – Complete VB.Net Conversion

- ▶ Release 11.1 is composed primarily of Visual Basic 6 code from the 8.X series because the conversion to VB.Net in the 10.X series resulted in poor performance
 - ▶ On one benchmark the 10.X series is 3X slower than the 8.X series
 - ▶ Our new work on VB.Net is 2X faster than the 8.X series on the same benchmark
- ▶ Visual Basic 6 Ties Us to Jet 4.0 (database used in Access 2003)
 - ▶ VB.Net supports use of newer versions of Access or SQL Server
- ▶ Visual Basic 6 Ties Us to Old Versions of Excel
 - ▶ Microsoft supplies libraries for interfacing VB.Net to Excel 2007 and above
- ▶ Visual Basic 6 Limits the Improvement of Reporting Performance
 - ▶ We have a much faster version of User Defined Report By Group, which reduces time by using more memory, but Visual Basic 6 is limited to approximately ½ GB of memory.
 - ▶ 64-bit VB.Net programs are only limited by the amount of memory installed in the PC.
 - ▶ The speed ups in the Open Group Report are based on "custom objects" which take more effort to implement in Visual Basic 6 due its 20 old year design and lack of object-oriented features.



The Plan

- ▶ Visual Basic 6 code will gradually be replaced with VB.Net code in releases and updates over the next two years
- ▶ Release 11.2 (October 2017)
 - ▶ Feed valuation performance improvement for all Smart Feeder reports
 - ▶ SMB patch applied on all workstation and server installations
 - ▶ VB.Net Version of FBS main menu (FBS.exe)
 - ▶ Improved error reporting and diagnosis
 - ▶ VB.Net Version of "Check for Updates"
 - ▶ Ability to add new files during an update
- ▶ 2018 Updates
 - ▶ Support for newer versions of Excel in TransAction Plus Import
 - ▶ VB.Net Crop Audit reports

The Plan (continued)

- ▶ Release 11.3 (October 2018)
 - ▶ Migration of setup files into Jet 4.0 databases
 - ▶ Automatic updates
 - ▶ Support for conversion of existing installations to split program/data folders ("Enterprise" folder)
- ▶ Release 11.4 (October 2019)
 - ▶ Windows 7 or Windows Server 2008 R2 minimum
 - ▶ 100% 32-bit VB.Net
 - ▶ "Powered by Microsoft Office Access" 2010
- ▶ Release 12.1 (May 2020) limited to Windows versions on mainstream support
 - ▶ Windows 10 or Windows Server 2016 minimum
 - ▶ 100% 64-bit VB.Net
 - ▶ SQL Server 2016 Container