

Agenda

- Review of VFP Databases
- Transition plan from VFP to SQL
- Requirements
- XML
- NAESB
- Who will use this data?
- Next Steps

Review of VFP Databases

- Each form consists of one database table for each page in the form.
- Each table is contained in one DBF file.
- Each data field on a form page is dynamically mapped through tables, allowing for pages changes from year to year.
- The Commission loads all DBF files from all filers into single DBF instances for each form.

Transition Plan from VFP to SQL

- The Commission will create one database to contain all form data.
- Common data elements will be normalized
- The new design will be scalable and flexible to accommodate future changes.
- Commission data usage will be evaluated so that the new design can be optimized for performance.

Requirements

- This is a technical refresh only.
- The current forms data that is collected today will also be collected in the new design.
- Company IDs (CIDs) will be utilized to replace the `respondant_id`.
- Footnotes will be accommodated for all entry fields.

XML

- The Commission is in the process of moving information collections to XML.
- XML provides the ability to submit data in a structured format that is easily parsed. Alternatives such as CSV or tab delimited files require more software development (and cost) to validate.
- Once the new SQL database has been designed, an XSD will be created and published.
- XML forms will be tested against the XSD.

NAESB

- NAESB can facilitate the development of an XML standard that can be used to file form data at the Commission.
- NAESB can also facilitate how data can be extracted from the Commission as XML for public consumption.
- The Commission will provide SQL database designs to NAESB to be used in the XML discussions.

Who will use this data?

- The forms data is consumed by two sets of users:
 - Commission Staff
 - Everybody else
- The final product must be easily accessible by all.
- A human readable version of all forms will be created and stored in eLibrary.

Next steps

- Create the SQL database
- Engage NAESB for XML design discussions
- Work with OE to create a timetable for future XML filings.
- Allow time for testing and future technical conferences.