

# Table of Contents

## Introduction

Alpha Five for the web.....	ix
What this book is all about	ix
Acknowledgments	x
Getting Started.....	x
Version 10.5	x
Support	x
What you need to know	x
The equipment you will need	xi
How this book is set up	xi
Remote database users:	xi
File naming convention	xi
About the screen shots	xi
Feature picks	xi
Footnotes	xi
To quote or not to quote	xii
Special note for readers of previous editions	xii
Clean webroot folder	xii
Download and CD contents	xii
Lesson files	xii
Opening the companion database	xii
Using Alpha Five Help.....	xiii
Videos	xiii
Pages	xiii
What's new in Version 10.....	xiv
Using the chart	xiv
Installing the lesson files from the CD.....	xvii
Manual installation	xvii

## 1 Sensational System

How the material is organized.....	3
Understanding web based databases .....	3
How the Alpha Five web system works	4
Web Components	4
Using the Alpha Five web component builders	4
Alpha's brilliant idea	5
What's all the fuss about AJAX? .....	5
Sending data the traditional way	6
Sending data with AJAX	6
Understanding the process	6
Seeing is believing	7
Understanding SQL back-end databases.....	7
Location	8
Server requests	8
Security	8
Developing applications.....	8
How Alpha Five interacts with database types	9
Web Projects Control Panel	9

- Using your application on the web 9
- Understanding the Application Server system ..... 10
  - Browsers call the shots 10
  - Understanding Web Components 10
    - Grid Components 11
    - Page Builders 11
    - Security and maintenance 12
  - Earlier components 13
  - Using the web page editor 13
    - Web Component place holder 14
  - Putting it together 14
- A bit more on AJAX ..... 15
  - Pages load smoothly and quickly 15

## **2** **Marvelous Moves**

- How the material is organized ..... 19
- Preparation for the lessons ..... 19
- Creating a Web Project ..... 19
  - Quick start memo 20
  - Port 80 Conflict 20
- Creating a Grid Component ..... 21
  - Defining the Component Type 22
    - Grid 22
    - Search part 22
    - Detail View 23
    - Read Only vs. Updateable 23
  - Defining the Data Source 23
  - Defining the Query 24
    - Linking table 24
    - Filter 24
    - Sort order 24
    - Sort direction 24
    - Primary Key 24
  - Selecting Fields for the Grid 25
    - Adding to selected 25
    - Removing from selected 25
    - Row numbers 25
    - Record Numbers 26
  - Setting the Field Properties 26
    - Send email 26
    - Change column head 26
  - Defining the Grid Properties 27
    - Record (Page) navigator 27
    - Type-in box 28
  - Setting up the Search part elements 28
    - Fields 28
    - Properties 28
  - Setting up the Detail View elements 29
    - Fields 29
    - Text boxes 29
    - Editable 29
    - Field Rules 29
    - Default Value 29
    - Tips window 29
    - Masks 30

Client side	30
Memo fields	31
Properties	31
Opening the Detail View	31
Permissions	32
Display Options	32
Defining Events for the grid component	34
Annotating the grid component	34
Saving the Grid component	34
Component names	35
Entering Xbasic	35
Searching for properties .....	36
Learning the terms	36
Centering the text	37
Inline style editor	37
CSS	37
Finding properties	38
What property?	38
Type-in box	38
Terms	38
Previewing the Grid component.....	38
Viewing at the Preview tab	38
Using the Live Preview tab	39
Reviewing the results	39
Viewing in Working Preview	40
Viewing in the Browser	40
Browser button	41
Installed browsers	41
Changing a record	41
Keyboard save	42
Field rules applied	42
Masks applied	43
Using the Modeless and Modal windows	43
Modeless	43
Modal	43
Using the record (page) navigator	44
Viewing more records	44
Search part	44
Grid part	44
Creating a Web Page .....	44
A5W Pages	44
Adding an Image to both page and project	45
Save page	47
Understanding the tabs	47
Pages	47
Source	47
Interactive	48
Creating page that holds a web component	48
Duplicate page	48
Executing the page	48
Return to Alpha Five	49
Publishing a page	49
Understanding URL's	50
Creating link to another page	50

- Inserting a component on a web page 51
  - Grid component place holders 52
- Deleting a component from a web page 52
- Viewing and using the Web Project .....52
- Execute vs. Publish 52
  - Execute Page 52
  - =Publish 53
  - Trouble shooting 53
  - Quick Publish 53
- Publishing the web project 53
- Entering new records 54
  - Cancel enter new record 55
- Saving the record 55
  - Auto increment field 55
- Changing the control type 55
- Viewing the table entry 56
- Deleting a record 56
- Canceling a change 56
- Using wild cards to search records 56
  - Entering search criteria 57
  - Clearing search criteria 57
- Sorting the records 57
- Sending an email 58
- Making more modifications 58
- Adding even more functionality with Feature Packs .....58

### **3 Solid Security**

- How the material is organized .....61
  - Chapter TOC 61
  - Steps to security 61
- Understanding Alpha Five Security .....61
  - Looking at the “Basic Steps” 62
- Preparation for the lesson. ....63
  - Borrowing files for a new project 63
  - Creating a new web project 63
    - Target folder 63
    - Folder levels 64
  - Adding existing pages to a web project 64
  - Adding an existing web component to a project 65
  - Adding image files 65
  - Duplicating pages and components 65
  - Removing a web component from a page 65
    - Remove old code 65
  - Changing the link on a page 66
  - Locating the project files 66
    - Project explorer 66
    - Delete files 67
    - Publish project 67
- Implementing security .....67
  - Turning security on 68
    - Auto start server 68
    - Security framework 68
  - Turning security off 68
    - Quick test 69
  - Creating a redirect page 69

Defining the security settings 69	
Web Security Configuration 70	
Security Policy 71	
Login Options 71	
User ID Options 73	
Password Settings 73	
Lost Data Recovery Options 74	
Customize Options 74	
Defining the Users and Groups 74	
Users 74	
Case Sensitivity 75	
Security Groups 75	
Importing and exporting user lists 76	
Creating a Login web component ..... 76	
Understanding the Login component 76	
Defining the Login section 77	
Show Remember Me? 77	
Show options 78	
Free form area 78	
Open in full page 78	
Controls 78	
Properties 78	
Defining the Change Password section 78	
Layout 78	
controls 78	
Properties 78	
Changing Login component messages 79	
User file — Required data missing 79	
Password confirm doesn't match 79	
Annotating and saving the component 79	
Placing the component on the web page 79	
Setting up page security ..... 79	
Scenario 79	
Choosing the page assignments 80	
Login Permissions 80	
Defining file type permissions 81	
Add Type 81	
Remove type 81	
Grouping page permissions 82	
Group by same permission 82	
Group by different permission 82	
Setting folder security 82	
By file 83	
By folder 83	
Working with Security on 84	
403 Forbidden 84	
Work around 84	
Right click menu 84	
Adding security to the web component ..... 84	
Securing grid components and reports 85	
Component level 85	
Page level 85	
Customize options 85	
Mixed security 87	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- Reports 87
- Right click menu 87
- Restricting column access and editing privileges 87
  - Hiding a column 87
  - Permission to delete 88
  - Permission to save or change 88
  - Permission to insert 88
  - Annotate It! 89
- Viewing in Live Preview or Execute 89
- Publishing the security files .....89
  - General & page configurations 90
  - Users and Groups 90
  - Keeping track of the assignments 90
  - Testing page security 91
    - Publish changed files 91
  - Getting the login page back 92
  - Testing with the back button 93
- Changing a password.....93
  - Making an “online” change 93
  - Checking the password change in Alpha Five 94
- Retrieving the User & Group information .....94
  - Understanding where the data is stored 94
  - Setting up for the transfer 95
    - Security for security 95
  - Retrieving the data 96
    - Administrator change 97
- Safeguarding the Users & Groups data .....97
  - Understanding Web Security Data Published 98
  - Understanding Restrict Web Security Data Publish 99
  - Understanding Auto-restrict Web Security Data. 100
  - One more word of caution 100
    - Trouble shooting 100
- Handy things to know about security .....101
  - Publishing page and security files simultaneously 101
  - Locking and unlocking users 101
    - User and Groups dialog 101
    - Security Policy 101
  - Entering, editing and validating users 101
    - Pre-built functions 101
  - Understanding the 403 Forbidden message 101
    - Security settings not applied 101
    - Component and page permissions don’t match 102
    - Page does not exist 102
    - Security files missing 102
    - GUID not unique 102
    - Guid created automatically 102
  - Miscellaneous notes 102
    - User Level Security 102
- Reviewing the security procedure .....103
  - Creating pages and components 103
    - Redirect pages 103
    - Page and web component security 103
  - Turning security on and off 103
  - Activating security changes 103

## 4 Amazing Attributes

How this lesson is organized .....	107
Developing a strategy .....	107
Understanding how the Application Server works	107
Understanding web constraints	108
Understanding the Client / Server model	109
Xbasic and the web	110
A5 Operation	110
Thinking ahead .....	111
Diagraming your design	111
Locating your database files	112
Transferring the files	113
Preparation for the lesson .....	114
Copying a web project	114
Learning the 3 P's: Project, Profile and Publish .....	115
Understanding Projects	115
Folders	115
Renaming a project	116
Understanding Profiles	117
Local Webroot	117
Understanding Publishing	117
Publishing a project	117
Files to publish	118
More info	119
Retrieve dialog	119
Finding the files	119
Webroot directory	119
Project files	120
Server files	120
Getting control of the Web Projects Control Panel .....	120
Reviewing the menus	121
Finding your way around	121
Using the Top Menu	122
File	122
Edit	122
View	124
Web	125
Window	125
Using the Upper Toolbar	125
Using the Web Projects Control Panel toolbar	126
Right click menu	127
Publishing	127
Components & pages	128
Identification	129
Folders	129
Files	129
Page & component security	130
Using components as desktop forms .....	131
Testing your application	131
Exploring a new way to look at desktop forms	132
No web connection necessary	132
Setting up the grid component with Xdialog	132
Preview	133
Testing	134
Another way ...	134

- Changing the grid 135
- Embedding components in forms 135
- Understanding calculated field types ..... 136
  - Using server-side calculations 136
  - Using client-side calculations 136
  - Using conditional images and styles 137
- Using the Calculated Values builder ..... 137
  - Calculated Values 139
  - Format numbers 139
- Using the Expression Builder ..... 139
  - Using the work space 140
  - The elements 141
  - Select Fields 141
  - Select Values 142
  - Function Finder 143
  - Help! 144
  - Finding the right function 144
  - Calculated Fields 144
  - Variables 144
  - Library Entry 144
- Using the Expression Builder keyboard 146
- Understanding Operators 147
  - Arithmetic Operators 147
  - Logical Operators 147
  - True & False 147
  - Comparison Operators 147
- Using the toolbar 148
- Writing expressions 148
  - Text requirement 148
- Creating an expression we can use 148
  - Remove field blanks 149
  - Calculated Values expression 150
- Understanding summary calculations ..... 151
  - Creating a summary field 151
    - Display 151
  - Creating a summary footer for the grid 153
    - Last page 153
    - Display formats 153
    - Summary properties 153
  - Creating a summary footer for each page 154
  - Adding conditional color & images 154
    - Multiple conditions 154
    - Logical expression 154
  - Adding a conditional image to a grid row 155
- Creating client-side calculations ..... 157
  - Before 157
  - After 158
  - Defining the calculation 158
    - Syntax 159
    - Functions 160
  - Rounding a numeric value 161
    - Table rules! 161
  - Formatting calculated fields 162
  - Assuring entries will be correct 162



- Understanding case sensitivity 163
  - Field rules 163
  - Data entry 163
- Adding conditional formatting 163
  - Conditional style level 164
- Testing formatting and case sensitivity 165
  - Refresh 165
- Defining the show / hide expression 165
  - Case sensitivity 166
  - Operators 166
  - Logical field 166
- Enable / Disable field entry 166
- Defining labels and other control types 167
- Using the Filter Builder ..... 167
  - Using the filter genie 167
  - Excluding records 168
  - Finding unique records 168
  - Viewing the expression 168
    - Logical expression 169
  - Finishing the filter 169
- Creating a Maintenance Component ..... 169
  - Form navigator 170
  - Choosing tables for packing/reindexing 170
    - One or all tables 171
    - Single table only 171
    - Combination of tables 171
  - Testing the component 172
- How the material is organized ..... 175
- Preparation for the lesson ..... 175
- Choosing Read Only or Updateable ..... 175
  - Terminology 176
  - Control types 176
  - Read only 176
  - Updateable 176
- Converting later 177
  - Detail View 177
  - Grid 177
  - Query page read only 178
  - Results 179
- Understanding editing options for updateable grids ..... 179
  - Dirty or clean 179
  - Field validation setting 180
  - Edit on demand 180
  - New records edit style 180
  - Abort update if any row has error 181
  - Error 181
  - Row refresh method after edits 181
  - Refresh on row dirty 182
  - Honor DBF rules 182
- Editing data with RowOnDemand 182
  - Editing 182
- Editing data with AllRows 183
  - Refresh 183

## **5 Setup Settings**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- Delete 184
- Edits 184
- Validate violation 184
- Cancel a change 184
- Validate rules 184
- Highlight row 185
- New records at top 185
- Trapping actions 185
- Being consistent 185
- Understanding multi-user editing 186
  - Optimistic record locking 186
- Using a grid template to save time and trouble ..... 186
  - System templates 187
  - Custom templates 187
  - Edit description 187
  - File names 188
  - Move, delete or rename templates 188
  - Using the System templates 188
  - Creating a template 189
    - Editing later 189
- Using a Stacked Columnar layout ..... 190
  - Grouping fields into rows 190
    - Special controls 190
  - Adding Static Text labels 191
  - Adding a Merge Cell heading 192
  - Adding a Row S 192
  - Using a Master Template 192
    - Accordion container 193
    - Accordion style 193
    - Initial open Panes 193
  - Adding a Collapse Bar 193
- Understanding the Form (Columnar) component ..... 194
  - Grouping fields with a frame 195
    - Filter 196
  - Snaking the records 196
    - Cell size 197
  - Opening the Detail View in a window 198
- Defining the Grid > Data Source..... 198
  - Remote databases 199
- Defining the Grid > Query ..... 199
  - Table changes 200
  - Understanding the Primary Key(s) 200
- Combining tables with a View ..... 201
  - Understanding the difference between DBF & SQL 201
    - Live data 202
    - Result set 202
    - Set vs. Query 202
    - SELECT statement 202
  - Creating a View 203
  - Adding and joining tables 203
  - Editing the Join 204
  - Defining a Primary Key for a View 205
  - Choosing the fields 206
  - Formatting a numeric field 206

Understanding Arguments.....	206
Terminology	207
Variable types	207
Field selection	207
Defining the Argument	207
Preview value	208
Defining the Variable	208
Defining the Prompt	209
Control types	209
Choices	210
Defining the Prompt Page	210
Adding a default value	210
Using the argument in a filter	211
Testing the argument and filter	211
Missing argument	211
Testing the variables	212
Ending the session	212
Browser view	212
Working Preview	212
Ordering records.....	213
Reverse order	213
Expression	213
Sort Direction	213
Previewing Events.....	214
Editing events	215
Event references	215
Annotating the Grid component.....	215
How the material is organized.....	219
Control types	219
Lookups	219
Special controls	219
Data validation	219
Preparation for the lesson.....	220
Notes on fields.....	220
Fields first	220
Adding and removing fields	220
Component	220
Source table	220
Choosing a Control Type.....	220
Understanding hidden controls	221
Hide row or column	222
Hidden control	222
Selecting Control Types	222
Grid fields	222
Search part fields	223
Detail View fields	223
Understanding Date and Time fields.....	223
Field properties	224
Display format	224
Date Picker properties	224
Entering time fields	224
Time	225
Short time	225

## 6 Fun with Fields

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- Creating Checkbox, Radio Button and Drop Down Box controls .....225
  - Checkbox 226
  - Radio buttons 226
  - Drop down box 226
  - Creating a checkbox 226
  - Choosing the type of list 226
  - Creating a Static list 227
    - Pre-defined lists 227
    - Custom lists 228
  - Creating a Dynamic list 228
  - Understanding Add to List 229
    - Edit combo 229
    - Auto suggest 230
    - Auto fill in 230
    - Grid component lookup 230
- Creating an Edit Combo List / Lookup .....230
  - Comparison 230
  - Static lists 230
  - Defining the dynamic list 231
    - Load data method 231
    - Lookup display 232
    - Place holders 233
    - Fill in other fields 233
  - Centering a textbox 233
  - Entering data 233
    - Value in lookup 234
    - Value not in lookup 234
    - Resize drop down 234
  - Adding a dynamic filter 234
    - Add field to display 234
    - Modify the template 235
  - Restricting data entry 236
  - Using an Edit Combo box in the Search part 236
  - Having fun with the Freeform areas 237
    - Columns 237
- Creating an Auto Suggest List / Lookup .....238
  - List type 238
  - List only 238
  - Filtering 238
  - Window size 238
  - Reviewing the optional properties 238
    - Display 238
    - Fill in fields 238
    - Delay 238
- Using Action JavaScript to auto-fill fields .....239
  - onBlur Event 239
  - Defining a Zip Code lookup and fill in 239
  - Filling in fields from a table 240
- Looking up data in a grid component.....241
  - Design 241
  - Lookup layers 241
  - Part 1. Creating the lookup grid 241
    - Inverted data 242
    - Record display 242

---

- Part 2. Creating the data entry grid 242
  - Hide linking field 243
  - Logical field 243
- Defining and mapping the lookup 243
  - Field mapping 244
- Defining the numeric fields 245
  - Server-side format 245
  - Client side format textboxes 245
  - Client side calculations 245
- Defining Update Settings 246
- Connecting grids in a Master-Detail or One-to-Many relationship .....247
  - One-to-one 247
  - One-to-many or Master-Detail 247
- Adding a [Linked Grid] 248
- Entering the Update Settings 248
- Using a lookup grid to enter a new record 248
- Understanding the automatically entered fields 249
- Enhancing the Form layout with Special Controls.....249
  - Viewing the Special Controls 250
  - Adding a Frame 250
    - Frame style 250
  - Adding a tabbed interface 251
    - Properties 251
    - Position 251
    - Labels 251
  - Previewing quickly 251
  - Showing or hiding the objects inside the frame 252
    - Initial state 252
  - Displaying data in columns 252
    - Remove break 253
  - Nesting tabs within tabs 253
  - Changing the tab that opens first 254
  - Displaying tabs as accordions 254
- Using the Image and Container controls .....254
  - Server-side or client-side 255
  - Expressions & Image names 255
  - Side-by-side 256
- Adding a Button that prints a report .....257
  - onClick Event 257
  - Troubleshooting Previews 257
- Validating field data .....259
  - Component level 260
  - Table level 260
  - Writing validation Xbasic 260
    - Sample code 261

## **7 Sweet Searches**

- How the material is organized .....265
- Preparation for the lesson .....265
- Searching with the Search part .....265
  - Defining the Control Types 266
  - Understanding the search types 267
    - Search style 267
    - Query by Form syntax 267
    - Combine search criteria 268

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- Defining a Cascading Drop Down search 268
  - Select multiple items 269
  - Not in list rule 269
- Defining a Tree Control search 269
- Searching between two dates 269
- Searching Time fields 270
- Defining Keyword searches 270
  - Constrained Keyword search 270
  - Settings 270
- Using a Watermark to add instructions 271
- Sorting by column title 271
- Testing the search settings 272
- Sprucing up the Search part.....273
  - Placing several fields on a single line 274
    - Double fields 275
    - Hide row 275
    - Hidden fields 275
    - Row labels 275
  - Combining Cascading Drop Down Boxes 276
- Creating a Quick Search.....277
  - Grid fields 277
  - Control Types 277
  - Current order 277
  - Constrained search 277
  - Placement 277
  - Auto-submit 277
- Searching with a TextBox 278
  - Search style 278
- Searching a sub-set of records 279
- Creating a DropDownBox search 280
  - List Types 280
  - Auto-submit 280
- Searching with a CheckBox 281
  - Freeform Layout 282
- Searching with a RadioButton 283
- Searching the Current Sort Order 284
- Creating Alphabet and Custom 'Button' search controls.....285
  - Changing the style and position 286
  - Creating a label 286
  - Creating custom buttons 286
  - Creating a consolidated alphabet 287
  - Hiding the alphabet button bar with few records 288
- Adding a Query by Example row .....289
  - Additive filter for multiple conditions 289
  - Match types 289
  - Excluding data 289
  - Hide / show 289
- Using Action JavaScript to filter a report and/or link to another grid.....290
  - Reports 291
  - Grids 291
  - Display 291
  - Functions 291
- Opening a report with the current filter and order 291
- Understanding target grid Filter, Order and Link 293

---

## 8 Component Compadres

Base & User Filters	293
Link	293
How it works	293
Opening a grid with current grid filter and order	294
Opening a grid with link and filter	295
Filter/Order	296
Filter evaluation	296
Opening grids and/or reports in a Modeless window	297
Window Position	297
Button column title	298
Adding a Google, Yahoo or MSN search to your grid.....	299
Web page definitions	300
How this lesson is organized .....	305
Grid sections	305
Linked grids	305
Layouts	305
Putting it together	305
Preparation for the lesson .....	305
Understanding Freeform Edit Regions.....	305
Line spacing	306
Horizontal display	306
Paragraph and break tags	306
Using the HTML genie	306
XHTML	306
Testing the line breaks	307
Centering the HTML in the column	307
Opening a grid, report or web page in a DIV .....	308
Defining the DIV ID	309
Placing the div ID tag	309
Defining the DIV ID for the button	309
Target IFrame	309
Placing the DIV ID in the Freeform Edit Region	310
Understanding the Master Template .....	310
Arranging the parts of the grid	311
Accordion	311
Table layouts	311
Tab containers	311
Custom layout	311
Modify template	312
Linking grids and simultaneously updating a child table.....	313
Using the Row Expander	314
Setting up the detail grids	315
Hobbies tab	315
Linking with a Row Expander	317
Testing the settings	318
Open Row Expander	318
Data entry prevented	318
Quick search	318
Fields filled in	318
New entry display	319
Add new hobby	319
Connecting grids with the Linked Grids / Content genie.....	319
“Other Content”	320

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- Display 320
  - Freeform edit region 320
  - Master Template 320
- Defining the Linked Content 320
- Placing Linked Content in the Freeform Edit Region 321
  - View Freeform region 322
- Placing Linked Content in the Master Template 322
- Placing the grid parts in a tabbed container 324
- Viewing the tab panes 324
- Removing a tab pane 325
- Changing the linked grid area 326
- Locking the child record display 326
- Placing a linked grid in the cell of another grid .....326
- Linking grids on pages in a DIV .....327
  - Creating the target (child) grid and page 328
  - Creating the hyperlink in the parent grid 328
    - Target grid placement 329
  - Creating the page for the parent grid 329
  - Placing the DIV on the page 329
  - Publishing the pages 329
    - Target folder 330
- Consolidating Form layouts .....330
  - Smart phones 330
  - Watermark 330
  - Hide block 330
  - Custom navigator 330
  - Tab display 330
- Using “Liquid Forms” for smart phone design 330
- Watermarking the fields 331
- Hiding a block of fields 332
  - Show / hide expression 332
- Customizing the Record Navigator 333
  - Number of links 333
- Adding a Tab Control 334
- Creating a Dialog.....334
  - Advanced 335
  - Dummy table 335
  - Designing the layout 335
  - Adding other grid features 336
  - Placing the Xbasic 336
  - Inserting the target page 336
- Understanding the Tabbed UI Builder .....336
  - Legend 337
  - How it works 338
  - Creating a Tabbed User Interface 338
    - Properties 339
    - Rename button 339
    - File name 340
    - Adding frames 340
  - Adding tabs 340
  - Changing width of buttons and panel 341
  - Adding Other Controls 341
  - Understanding navigator confirmation 341
  - Giving the page a title 341



- Adding a header and footer 342
  - Hyperlink 342
- Understanding Tabbed UI web pages 342
  - Change page name 342
  - 'Head' content 342
  - Deleting 342
- Adding a Home page 343
  - Link to outside web page 343
  - Define the local page 343
- Understanding Linked Resources 344
  - Purpose 344
  - How grids are loaded 344
  - Custom code 344
  - Trouble shooting 344
  - Recommendation 344
- Modifying the objects 344
  - Properties 345
  - Containers & Other Controls 345
  - Buttons / hyperlinks 345
  - Refresh 345
  - Pane header 345
  - Filter 345
  - Order 345
- Understanding the Page Layout Builder .....346
  - Understanding the display 346
    - Side-by-side 346
    - Open or closed 346
    - Buttons / hyperlinks 347
    - Window 347
  - Displaying a Page Layout component in a Tabbed UI 348
    - Pane display 348
    - Place on page 348
    - Add page to Tabbed UI 348
    - Component tab 349
    - Button display 349
  - Adding an External Web Page 349
    - Automatic updates 349

## **9 Graphic Goodies**

- How the material is organized.....353
  - Index page 353
  - Navigation System Series 353
  - Design features 353
  - Troubleshooting 353
  - Getting technical 353
- Preparation for the lesson .....353
- Adding a Login to a logo.....354
  - Setting up the design 354
  - Sizing the logo 355
  - Recovering Login data 355
    - Web security 355
    - Redirect after login 355
    - Lost data recovery options 356
  - Login component 356
  - Login Display 356

- Remove Link display 356
- Setting the Index page 357
- Reserving space for the image 357
  - View HTML 358
- Adding an alternate name 358
- Adding the Login component 358
- Placing the component in the logo 359
- Changing the page security 359
  - 403 Forbidden 359
- Publishing the project 359
- Adjusting the HTML 360
- Testing the Login 360
  - Some design ideas 361
  - Tabbed UI 361
- Understanding the Navigation System web component.....361
  - Understanding the Description page 362
    - Type 362
    - Vertical menus 362
    - Horizontal menus 362
    - Style 362
  - Understanding the Navigation System settings 363
    - Root settings 363
    - Security 363
  - Understanding the menu structure 364
    - Children & siblings 364
    - Nodes 364
    - Trees 364
  - Adding and deleting Children, Siblings, Nodes and Trees 364
  - Moving the nodes 364
    - Up and down arrows 364
    - Left and right arrows 364
  - Deleting nodes 365
    - Delete node 365
    - Delete tree 365
  - Undo & Redo 365
  - Understanding node settings 365
    - Type 365
    - Security groups 366
    - Button highlight rules 366
    - Item id 366
    - OnClick Javascript 366
    - Text 366
    - Icon 366
    - URL & Fallback URL 366
    - Target 366
  - Previewing the Navigation System menu 366
  - Switching from onclick to onmouseover 367
  - Using the Information page 367
  - Including a Tabbed UI 367
    - Naming 367
- Creating a Navigation System menu .....367
  - Developing a plan 367
    - Layout 368
  - Creating the pages 368

Designing the Navigation System component	369
Defining nodes with pages	369
Tabbed UI	370
Defining nodes without pages	370
Previewing the Navigation System menu	371
Placing the Navigation System component on pages.....	371
Inserting the component	371
Selected button	371
Container	371
Understanding the Container	372
Horizontal menu	372
Vertical menu	372
Modifying the table border	373
Width	373
Borders	373
Centering	373
Adding text and component to the table	373
Setting up the other pages	373
Viewing the Navigation System	374
Adjusting the menu items	374
Troubleshooting	375
Changing the In-line Style.....	375
Font settings	376
Text settings	376
Edge and Background settings	377
Position and Layout Settings	377
“Other,” Lists, CSS and IE Specific settings	378
Hiding text display	378
Watching where you are working!	379
Defining Conditional Style	379
Selecting Styles for components .....	379
One or many	380
Changing one component	380
Changing multiple components	380
Descriptions	381
Adding a heading to your component .....	381
Left aligned	381
Centered	381
More regions	381
Clearing Freeform regions	381
Adding images.....	382
Understanding the HTML Editor .....	382
Using the basic tools	383
Help	383
Spell Check	383
User dictionary	383
Using a table to display pictures and text	383
Table toolbar	383
Inserting a table	384
Understanding the Database Explorer	385
SQL	385
Using the Transform utility	385
Exploring some Xbasic options	386
Using the Forms toolbar	386

Opening a target web page from within a component.....387  
 Another way to put a component on an A5W page 389  
 Troubleshooting page display .....390  
     Publish dialog 390  
     Right click publish menu 390  
     Security 390  
 Working with an outside web design program.....390  
     Adding an outside web page to the project 390  
     Copying the component code to the page 391  
     Connecting an outside form to fields in a table 391  
         File or string 391  
 Understanding CSS Pages and Webform Styles .....392  
     Understanding CSS 392  
     Understanding the “CSS” folder 393  
     Understanding Webform Styles 393  
         Types 394  
         Order of access 394  
     Creating a new Style or modifying an existing one 394  
         New style 395  
         Modify existing style 395  
         Component level 395  
     Using the CSS Editor 395  
 Building and rendering pages.....396  
     Using frames 397  
     What’s to come 397

## 10 Sexy SQL Secrets

How the material is organized.....401  
 Preparation for the lesson .....401  
 Connecting your SQL data to Alpha Five .....401  
     Built-in Drivers 401  
     Understanding the Data Source 402  
         ADO 403  
         Alpha DAO 403  
 Understanding the Connection String .....403  
     Named Connection String 403  
     Specify Connection string 403  
     Opening a previously saved connection string 403  
     Creating a new connection string 404  
         Multiple saved connections 405  
         Previous connection 406  
     Creating a temporary connection 406  
         Specify Connection String 406  
 Completing the SQL Query pane .....406  
     Using Tables and Views 407  
         Remember to refresh 407  
         Define Arguments 407  
         Filter 407  
         Order 408  
         Read only? 408  
         Select Primary key 408  
         Select sequence 408  
         View grid 408  
     Creating a SQL Select Statement 409  
         SQL Builder 409

SQL Genie 409	
Filter & Order 410	
Using the SQL Query Builder (aka SQL Genie) 411	
SQL Genie 412	
Edit select statement 412	
Primary Keys 412	
Fields for grid 412	
Printing SQL Reports .....413	
Publishing the SQL Reports Library 414	
Setting the default value 414	
Understanding Active and Passive-Link tables .....415	
Active-Link Tables 415	
Passive-link tables 415	
Creating an Active-Link table 415	
Connection string 415	
SQL Select Statement 416	
SQL Syntax 416	
Query Builder 416	
Using web application forms on the desktop 417	
Learning more 417	
Active-Link and web applications 417	
Direct connection 418	
Active-Link connection 418	
Understanding server connections.....418	
Testing vs. Live 418	
Using a professional hosting service 418	
Understanding portability 419	
Getting more information .....419	
<b>11 Internet Installation</b>	
How the material is organized.....423	
Deciding how to put your application online .....423	
Do it yourself 423	
Professional hosting 423	
Using a Domain Name 424	
Using Alpha Five Runtime on a server 424	
Reviewing the Application Server settings .....424	
Licenses 424	
Professional Hosting Service 424	
Self Hosting 424	
Everyone! 424	
Understanding the settings 425	
General Tab 425	
Saving changes 425	
Server Name 425	
Server Port 426	
Document Root 426	
Page Extension 426	
Default Page 426	
Auto start 427	
Security 427	
Server running 427	
Logging Tab 427	
Enable Server Logging 427	
Access Log 427	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- Error Log 428
- Debug Logging 428
- Sessions Tab 428
  - Session Id's 428
  - Adding a license 428
  - Session cookie 428
  - Session lifetime 429
  - Licensed sessions 429
- Errors Tab 429
  - IIS Errors 429
  - Custom pages 430
  - Server signature 430
- Access Tab 430
  - Directory Browsing 430
  - IP Restrictions 430
  - Allow/Deny 430
  - IP Addresses 430
- SSL Tab 430
  - Enabling SSL 431
  - Certificates 431
  - Getting a Self-Signed certificate 431
  - Getting a trusted company certificate 432
  - Entering your certificate 432
  - Disable SSL 432
- Performance Tab 433
  - Server threads 433
  - Compression 434
  - HTTP Keepalive 434
- Advanced Tab 434
  - Multiple applications on same system 434
  - Systray Caption 435
  - Maximum URI Length 435
  - Read Timeouts 435
  - Browser Tracking 435
  - Built-In Resources 435
  - Sample Pages 435
  - Log Rotation 435
- Server Variables Tab 436
- Preparation for the lesson .....436
- Locating your files for the server .....436
  - Purpose 436
  - Testing 437
- Before you begin 437
  - Network 437
- Creating the Profile 437
  - Where to publish 438
- Publishing to a local server 439
  - Application Folder 439
  - Data Folder 439
- Publishing to a LAN 439
  - DBF & MDB files only 440
- Publishing to ISP/remote 440
- Defining the Publish details 440
  - Default page 440

- Publish data files 440
- Publishing the Library files 441
- Viewing the settings 441
  - Alpha DAO 442
- Publishing to the new Profile 442
  - File transfer 442
- Using a hosting company to put your web app on-line .....444
  - Understanding the server situation 444
  - Flying with an Alpha Software partner 444
    - ZebraHost 444
- Using your own server to put your web app on-line .....445
  - Type of IP address 445
  - Safety 445
  - Domain name 445
  - Port 445
  - Default Page 445
  - Backups 445
  - Using your ISP for hosting 445
    - Get your own domain name 446
  - Understanding Firewalls 446
    - LAN or WAN without a Firewall 446
    - Internet with a Firewall 446
  - Using a static IP Address 447
  - Configuring your computer's IP address 447
  - Using Port 80 447
  - Naming the default page 448
  - Watching the clock 448

## 12 Helpful Hints

- How the material is organized .....451
- Using Functions and Expressions.....451
- Finding the A5 Help pages .....451
  - Tabs for Local Help 452
  - Finding pages 452
    - Search Tip 452
    - Index Tip 452
  - Help for later versions 452
  - Finding the real URL 453
- Understanding the Feature Packs .....453
  - Advanced Search Features 453
  - Tree Control Navigator 454
  - Grid Components for Desktop Applications 454
  - Flying Start Genie 454
  - Database Upsize Genie 455
- Backing up is easy to do .....455
  - Alpha Five users 455
  - SQL Users 455
  - Backing up your web application 455
    - Backup settings 456
  - Using One Step Backup 457
  - Requiring regular backups 457
  - Restoring the database 458
- Understanding Variables .....458
  - Types of Variables 458
  - Creating layout and session variables 458

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- Correcting “Calculated Fields” terminology 458
- Tidbits.....459
  - Root directory location 459
  - Large screen format users 459
  - Getting rid of the \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ 459
    - Deleting Temporary Files 459
    - Web Applications 459
  - Query by Form Syntax 460
- More about Security .....461
  - Configuration > Login Options 461
  - Understanding Login Expiration Policy and Time 461
    - Policy 461
    - Login Expiration Time 462
  - Understanding “Remember Me” (aka automatic login) 462
    - Cookie 462
    - Login component 463
  - Adding a logout option to the Login component 463
    - Function call 463
- More about Relative URL’s .....464
- Converting an Alpha Five database to SQL.....465
  - Local vs Remote and Slow Access 465
  - Pros and cons 466
  - Conclusions 466
- Understanding Path Alias .....467
- Exploring error messages .....467
  - Adding the server signature 468
- Saving expressions in the Script Library.....468
  - Compiling your scripts into a library (AEX) file 468
  - Runtime Application Server 468
- Exploring Xbasic References .....469
  - Understanding Xbasic 469
  - Using the Xbasic toolbox 470
    - Trace Window 470
    - Code Editor 470
    - OLE Automation Browser 470
    - Debugger 471
    - Script Recorder 471
  - Assuring successful script writing 471
  - Additional videos 471
- Help!.....471
  - Alpha Software Website 472
    - The Alpha Community 472
    - Message Board 472
    - Software Updates 472
    - Technical Support 472
    - User Groups 472
  - Alpha Software, Inc. 473
- Tips and Tricks 473
  - Proctor & Peake 473
  - Alpha to go.com 473
  - Independent Alpha Five Developers 473



# Appendix

## Component Re-Views

The way this section is organized.....	477
ABC Seminars components and pages	477
Lenny’s examples	477
Sampling some sensational web components .....	478
Using the Web Application Demo	478
Viewing the application	479
Tabbed UI	479
Viewing the component settings	479
Reviewing the ABC Seminars components .....	480
Tabbed UI	480
Chart	480

<b>Index</b> .....	501
--------------------	-----

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

Notes: