Table of Contents

Frances M. Peake, professional database developer, has this to say about the Alpha Anywhere Made Easy books … v
More reader testimonials from around the world … v
About the author vi

Introduction

Alpha Anywhere for web & mobile xiii
What this book is all about xiii
Acknowledgments xiv
Getting Started xiv
What you need to know xiv
The equipment you will need xiv
How this book is set up xiv
File naming convention xv
About the screen shots xv
Footnotes xv
To quote or not to quote xv
Special note for readers of previous editions xv
Download and CD contents xvi
Opening the companion files xvi
Using Alpha Anywhere Help xvi
Installing the lesson files xvii
To install lesson files from the CD xvii
Installing the lessons for the Electronic Download Edition xvii
What files are included? xvii
Support xviii

1 Sensational System

Keeping up 2
About Alpha Anywhere 3
Developing for mobile devices 4
Compatibility with remote data 4
AJAX smooths and speeds your application 5
Developing applications 6
How Alpha Anywhere interacts with database types 6
Using your application online 6
Understanding Web Components 6
Which to use when 10
Creating web pages 11
How this book is organized 12
What's in Volume 2? 12
Newbies take note 13
Browsers call the shots 13
Understanding web based databases 14
Back in the day… 14
Alpha Anywhere and AJAX

by Selwyn Rabins 15
Sending data the traditional way 15
Sending data with AJAX 15
Understanding the process 16
Seeing is believing 16
What is best? SQL or DBF??? 16

2 Marvelous Moves

Using Alpha Anywhere Help 20
How the material is organized 21
Understanding Workspaces 21
Understanding the Web Projects Control Panel 24
Connecting to a SQL database 26
Starting the Development Server 27
Creating a new Web Project 28
Notice to Quick Start Guide readers 29
Creating a Grid Component 29
Defining the Component Type 30
Defining the Data Source 32
Defining the Query 32
Selecting Fields for the Grid 34
Setting the Field Properties 35
Defining the Grid Properties 36
Setting up the Search part elements 37
Setting up the Detail View elements 38
Saving the component 41
Previewing Web Components 42
Viewing at the Preview tab 42
Viewing in Live Preview 43
Viewing in Working Preview 43
Viewing in the Browser 44
Testing Grid component design 45
Using the Detail View 47
Looking at the Grid settings 48
Using the Search Part Query Syntax 48
Clearing Search part values 49
Understanding Modeless and Modal windows 49
Revising an existing Grid component 51
Centering column contents 51
Copying properties to one or more fields 52
Creating an Image Gallery Component 54
Setting up the sample images 54
Creating the component 55
Viewing the image files 55
Creating a Tree-control Navigator 56
Setting up the Grid 56
Locating component controls 57
Defining the Tree-control Navigator 58
Setting up the Master Template 60
Getting ready for the web 60
Creating a Tabbed UI component 62
Adding & modifying controls 64
Changing the Style 65
Adding Frames 66

Adding a Tab Control and Tab Panes 67
Understanding the Browser navigation warning 68
Adding a page title, headers and footer 68
Adding a Home Page 69
Understanding A5W pages for Tabbed UI's 70
Viewing and using the Project in the Browser 70
Publishing the Project 71
Using Quick Publish 71
Execute vs. Publish 71
Using a Stacked Columnar layout 72
Grouping fields into rows 74
Adding Static Text labels 74
Adding a Merge Cell heading 75
Adding a Row Spacer 75
Using a Master Template 76
Adding a Collapse Bar 77
Understanding the Form (Columnar) component 78
Resizing images 80
Grouping fields with a frame 80
Snaking the records 81
Opening the Detail View in a window 82
Filtering the records 83
Grouping the records 83
A few more notes 86
Annotating the
grid component 86
Creating a new web/mobile application 86
Getting off to a Flying Start 87
Converting from DBF to SQL – there's a genie for that 87
Converting an existing web project to SQL 87
RAD without compromise 87
Using the Code section 88
Builders are everywhere! 89
Code design is everywhere! 90

3 Powerful Prodigy

Mobile Device Simulator 92
Phone 92
iiPad 92
How the material is organized 93
Preparation for the lesson 94
Understanding the UX Component 94
What is a Dialog? 95
What are Lists? 95
What's the difference between Grid and UX components? 95
Viewing UX Components 96
Preparation for the lesson 96
Creating a UX Component 96
Overview of the UX Builder 96
Understanding the Menus 97
Understanding UX Component design 99
Adding Textbox Controls 99
Adding a single control 99
Adding multiple controls 100

Adding controls from pre-defined lists 102
Adding controls from a table 103
Understanding Breaks 104
Removing Breaks 105
Adjusting control width 105
Binding the UX fields to an existing table....105
Mapping the fields 106
Adding a field and binding it in the UX builder 108
Adding submit and reset buttons 109
Submitting the data to the table 111
Editing the data 112
Understanding auto-increment controls 112
Hiding a control 112
Setting the Device Simulator....113
Understanding Panels and Containers....113
Understanding Containers 114
Adding a Panel Card 114
Adding a Panel Header & Footer 115
Understanding Panel Navigators and the List Control....117
Understanding the List Control 117
Adding a List Control 118
Viewing the report 120
Adding a button that opens a filtered report 121
Adding a Panel Navigator 123
Giving the panel a header with a title 124
Placing the button at the top of the panel 124
Creating a UX Menu....126
Creating the child components 127
Creating the parent component 129
Understanding the Dynamic Panels 130
Copying a single control 130
Adding a button that calls up a pane in the parent 131
Adding a button that calls up a pane in the same UX 132
Viewing the competed menu system 133
Testing your App on a Mobile Device....133
Using the QR Code method 134

4 Awesome Additions

How the material is organized....139
Preparation for the lesson....139

Understanding Maps

Maps: A. Displaying a Google Map in a Grid....140
Understanding Alternate Views 142
Defining the Marker 143
Understanding the error messages 145
Defining the number of records to load 146
Using Accordions or Buttons to open the map 147
Removing the Grid from view 147
Placing the map on the Grid page 147
Maps: B. Displaying a Map in the UX....149
Defining the Map control 150
Defining the Button control 150
Removing the default background of labels 152

Maps: C. Using the Google Maps Component 152

Understanding Video Display

Video Player: A. Creating a Video Player for YouTube 155
Video Player: B. Displaying YouTube videos in a Grid 156
Adding a button to the Grid 157
Choosing the Image graphic 158
Defining the Show/Hide expression 158
Defining the onClick event 158
Setting the Flyover appearance 160
Using the Video Player 160
Troubleshooting the YouTube URL's 161
Video Player: C. Displaying YouTube Videos in a UX 161
Defining the List Control 163
Creating a Conditional Button 164
Hiding a column and word wrap 167
Adjusting the List Layout 168
Understanding Loop Navigate 168
Using the Video Player 168

Understanding Calendars

Creating a Calendar Component 171
Setting up the Calendar Component 171
Entering calendar users 173
Using the Calendar component 174
Opening the Calendar component from a Grid 175

Uploading and Downloading Images & Files

Understanding file types 177
Understanding file references 177
Understanding embedded field types 178
Understanding the preview display 179
Running the sample components 179
How this section is organized 179
A. Grid Upload: Linked (referenced) Image 180
Defining the button 182
Testing the action 183
Checking the table 184
B. Grid Upload: Embedded Image 185
Defining the button 185
Checking the table 186
C. Grid Upload: Linked and Embedded Files 187
Understanding BLOB field type display 187
Defining the embedded file upload 188
Defining the linked file upload 188
Testing the uploads 189
D. Grid Download: Embedded & Linked Files & Images 190
Defining an embedded file download 190
Defining the linked file download 191
E. UX Upload/Download: Embedded & Linked Images 191
Connecting to the data 192
Enabling a mobile device camera 193
Creating an embedded image upload 194
Creating a Linked Image upload 197
Downloading Embedded and Linked Images 199
F. UX Upload/Download: Linked & Embedded Files 201

Understanding the [File Upload/Download] control 201
Creating an embedded file upload 202
Creating a linked file upload 203
Creating embedded and linked downloads 204
Placing Submit-Reset buttons in upload button rows 205
G. HTML Memo Upload: Image & File....206
Reviewing the settings 206

5 The 4 P's – Pages, Publishing, Projects & Profiles

How this lesson is organized....211
Creating and displaying A5W Pages0. 211
Adding an Image to both page and project 211
Understanding the tabs 213
Creating page that holds a web component 214
Executing the page 215
Publishing a page 216
Understanding URL's in Alpha Anywhere 216
Creating link to another page 217
Inserting a component on a web page 217
Execute vs. Publish 218
Publishing the web project....219
Testing component function 221
Developing a strategy....221
Understanding how the Application Server works 221
Understanding web constraints 222
Understanding the Client / Server model 223
Xbasic and the web 224
Thinking ahead....225
Diagramming your design 225
Locating your database files 226
Transferring the files 227
Learning about Projects, Profiles and Publishing....228
Understanding Projects 228
Understanding Profiles 230
Understanding Publishing 231
Understanding the Publish dialog 231
Finding the files 233
Remote testing of a5W pages 234

6 Solid Security

How the material is organized....237
Understanding Alpha Anywhere Security....238
Preparation for the lesson....239
Borrowing files for a new project 239
Understanding Target Folders 239
Adding existing pages to a web project 239
Adding an existing web component to a project 240
Adding image files 240
Renaming pages and components 240
Removing a web component from a page 241
Changing the link on a page 241
Developing the Security Framework

Turning security on 243
Turning security off 244
Testing pages / components 244
Creating a redirect page 244
A. Defining the Web Security Configuration 245
B. Defining the Users and Groups 249
Importing and exporting user lists 251
C. Creating a Login component 252
Understanding the Login component 252
Defining the Login section 253
Defining the Change Password section 254
Changing Login component messages 254
Annotating and saving the component 254
Placing the component on the web page 255

Understanding Page, Folder, File and Component Security

A. Setting up Security for Pages, Files & Folders 256
Choosing the page assignments 256
Defining permissions by file type extension 257
Grouping page permissions 258
Understanding folder and file security 259
Understanding the order in which security is applied 260
Working with Security on 262
B. Adding Security to Components and Reports 262
Understanding virtual pages 263
Setting security for reports 265
Publishing security for components and reports 265
Applying security to the component itself 265
Restricting column access and editing privileges 266
C. Publishing the security files 268
Keeping track of the assignments 269
Testing page security 270
Getting the login page back 270
Testing with the back button 271

Managing Security at Run Time

How this section is organized 272
Understanding the Unique Identifier 273
Adding contact information to a table 274
Validating the security data 274
Making data entry required 274
Using variables 275
Understanding where the Action Scripting goes 275
About the videos and templates 276
A. Registering new users to the security system 277
Defining the UserRoles & UserGuid controls 278
Defining the Server-side Events 279
B. Adding the New User Contact Info to a Table 282
Defining the server-side events 284
C. Editing the Security data from a Grid 287
Editing the UserName field 288
Displaying the Submit & Reset buttons as Icons 289
Defining the Server-side event 290
Using a variable to define a default value 291
Turning off the cached copy 292

Deleting a User from the Security System with a UX 293
D. Filtering Data based on the Logged In User 294
Defining the Register and Login links 296
Defining the Server-side action 297
Using variables to filter the components 299
Defining the Page and Component Permissions 301
Publishing the Tabbed UI component 302
E. Adding Security to a Mobile Application 302
Using a template to create the UX login 305
Defining the onLogin event 306
Defining the child component 307
Linking UX Components 311
Defining the A5W Page 312
Setting page and component permissions 312
Publishing the project 312

Miscellaneous morsels

Changing a Login component password 313
Making an “on-line” change 313
Checking the password change in Alpha Anywhere 313
Retrieving the User & Group information 314
Understanding where the data is stored 314
Setting up for the transfer 314
Retrieving the data 315
Safeguarding the Users & Groups data 317
Understanding Web Security Data Published 317
Understanding Restrict Web Security Data Publish 318
Understanding Auto-restrict Web Security Data. 319
One more word of caution 319
More about Login Expiration and “Remember Me” 320
Understanding Login Expiration Policy and Time 320
Understanding “Remember Me” (aka automatic login) 322
Adding a logout option to the Login component 323
More Tasty Tidbits....323
Publishing page and security files simultaneously 323
Locking and unlocking users 324
Entering, editing and validating users 324
Understanding the 403 Forbidden message 324
About Ulink 325
Miscellaneous notes 326
Reviewing the security procedure....326
Creating pages and components 326
Turning security on and off 326
Activating security changes 327

7 Fun with Fields

How the material is organized....331
Preparation for the lesson....332
Notes on fields....332
Adding and removing fields 332
Choosing a Control Type....333
Understanding hidden controls 336
Understanding Date and Time Pickers....337
Using the date and time pickers 338

Choosing the right tools 339
Understanding the Properties settings 339
Understanding the Field property settings 340
Defining the date and time fields 342
Dynamically setting the low value for a date 344
Understanding table entry 345
Creating Checkbox, Radio Button and Drop Down Box controls 345
Creating a checkbox 346
Choosing the type of list 347
Creating a Static list 347
Creating a Dynamic list 348
Understanding Add to List 349
Adding "Touchable" controls 350
Using the demo component 350
Creating and using Data Controls in the UX 351
Understanding the Record Navigation Slider and List View 352
Using the Calendar control 353
Offering a single choice 354
Defining Multiple Choice options 357
Understanding Logical entries 359
Understanding the Slider control 361
Understanding the QR Code control 362
Understanding the Signature Capture control 363

Lookup Series

A. Creating an Edit-Combo List / Lookup 365
Defining a static list 365
Defining a dynamic list 365
Centering a textbox 368
Entering data with a lookup 368
Adding a dynamic filter 369
Using an Edit-Combo box in the Search part 371
Forcing the user to choose from the list 372
Having fun with the Freeform areas 373
B. Creating an Auto Suggest List / Lookup 374
Reviewing the optional properties 375
Understanding the search type 375
Entering multiple selections 376
C. Using Action JavaScript to Auto-fill Fields 376
Defining a Zip Code lookup and fill in 377
Filling in fields from a table 378
D. Looking up Data with a Grid Component 379
Part 1. Creating the lookup grid 380
Part 2. Creating the data entry grid 382
Defining and mapping the lookup 382
Formatting the numeric fields 383
Defining the client-side calculations 385
Defining Update Settings 385

Combining and connecting

A. Combining SQL Tables 386
Using an existing View 387
Creating a SQL Select Statement with the builder 388
Selecting fields for the grid 391

B. Combining DBF Tables 391
Understanding Views 392
Adding and joining tables 392
Editing the Join 393
Defining a Primary Key for a View 393
Choosing the fields 394
Formatting a numeric field 394
C. Connecting grids in a Master-Detail or One-to-Many Relationship 394
Adding a Linked Grid 396
Editing records in a Form layout 397
Using a lookup grid to enter a new record 398
Understanding the automatically entered fields 398
D. Understanding Repeating Sections in the UX 399
Creating an invoice with totals 400
Creating calculations 401
Validating field data 402
Understanding validation 402
Setting validation 403
Defining custom validations 403

Enhancing the “Form Layout” in Grids

A. Changing the appearance of a Grid 405
Adding a Frame 405
Adding a tabbed interface 406
Turning a Frame into a Collapse Bar 407
Changing the tabs to accordions 407
Defining the pages that open first 407
Animating the display 407
Displaying data in columns 408
Placing the columns side by side 409
Nesting tabs within tabs 409
B. Using the Image and Container Controls 409
Defining the conditional image 410
Placing the fields side-by-side 411
Troubleshooting 411
C. Searching with a Form Layout 412
D. Adding a Button that Prints a Report 412
Creating & locating reports 413
Adding the button 414
Creating a dynamic label 414
Defining the filter 414
Previewing the receipt 415

8 Computing & Calculating

How this chapter is organized 419
Understanding calculated field types.....419
Using server-side calculations 419
Using client-side calculations 420
Using conditional images and styles 420
Creating filters 420
Creating client-side calculations 421
Defining the calculation 423
Rounding a numeric calculation 424
Formatting existing records 425

Rounding numeric entries 426
Understanding case sensitivity 426
Adding conditional formatting 427
Testing formatting and case sensitivity 428
Defining the show / hide expression 429
Enable / Disable field entry 430
Defining labels and other control types 431
Understanding summary calculations 431
Creating a summary field 432
Copying property values to multiple fields at the same time 432
Centering text 434
Creating a summary footer for the grid 434
Creating a summary footer for each page 435
Adding conditional color & images 435
Adding a conditional image to a grid row 436
Using the Filter Builders in Grids 438
Using the SQL Filter Builder 438
Using the DBF Filter Builder 438
Ordering the records 440
Understanding Arguments 441
Defining the Argument 441
Defining the Prompt 442
Using the argument in a filter 443
Testing the argument and filter 443
Adding a drop down box 443
Defining the Prompt Page 444
Creating DBF Calculated Fields 445

9 Heavenly Help Plus!

How the material is organized 451
Understanding the Documentation Viewer (DV) 452
Getting off to a strong start 452
Display and navigation 452
Searching for topic pages 454
Saving page references 457
Taking Notes 458
Printing topics 460
Updating the documentation 460
Window style 461
Restoring open pages 461
Sending feedback 461
Using the Video Finder 462
Filtering 462
Refreshing 463
Preferences 463

10 Essential Elements

How the material is organized 467
Must knows
Understanding the Primary Key(s) 467
Understanding Path Alias 468

Understanding Variables **468**
Clearing session variables 470
Understanding the Project Properties **470**
Defining the Project Style 471

Going live!

Deciding how to put your application on-line **473**
Changing servers 474
Using a Domain Name 474
Reviewing the Development Server settings **474**
Locating your files for the server **475**
Before you begin 476
Creating the Profile 476
Publishing to a local server 478
Publishing to a LAN 478
Publishing to ISP/remote 479
Defining the Publish details 479
Publishing the Library files (SQL users only) 480
Viewing the settings 480
Publishing to the new Profile 481
Using the AppLauncher component **482**
How to define the startup component 483
Launching the startup component 484

Nice to know

Back up, E-mail and Update **485**
Web component backup / restore 486
E-mailing selected web project element(s) 487
Receiving components 487
Alpha Anywhere software updates 487
Tidbits **488**
Root directory location 488
Getting rid of the $$$$$$$$$$$$ 488
Query by Form Syntax 489
Using the Contact Manager Project Template **490**
Help! **490**
Alpha Software Website 490
Tips and Tricks 491
More books from Liberty Manuals **492**
Designing Reports 492
Learning Xbasic 492

Index 493