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The Lotusphere 2001 contest database

by
Jason
Lounsbery

Level: Beginner
Works with: Domino 5.0
Updated: 05/01/2001

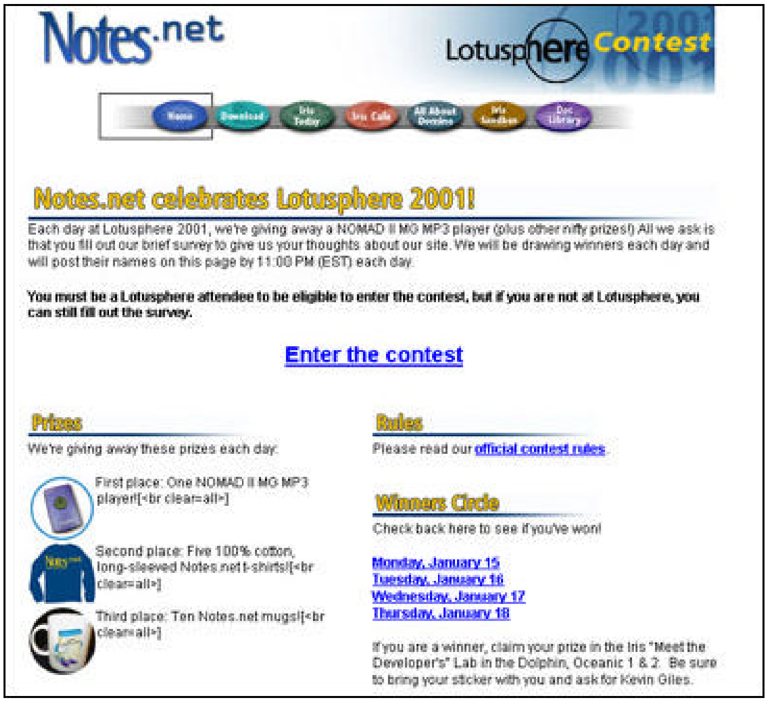
If you were fortunate enough to attend Lotusphere this year, you had the opportunity to enter our Notes.net contest simply by filling out a survey. If you had to stay in the office, you could also fill in the survey, although you were not eligible for the contest.

The idea behind both the contest and survey was to promote Notes.net, offer Notes.net users a chance to win some prizes—most notably four MP3 players—get some user feedback, and have some fun. We realized early on that with all the activity during Lotusphere, we needed to set up a database that would automate, as much as possible, the various processes involved: validation of entries, survey completion and submission, and random selection of 16 winners each day.

This article takes a look at the contest database that was developed to handle our Lotusphere contest and survey. You can download the template for the Lotusphere 2001 **contest database** from the Iris Sandbox if you want to examine it more closely. The template was designed by **Knowledge Resource Group**, a Lotus Business Partner.

The big picture

The contest database was designed so that Lotusphere attendees could enter the contest and everyone could fill out the survey from their browser. The point of entry was the Lotusphere Contest welcome page:



Notes.net celebrates Lotusphere 2001!

Each day at Lotusphere 2001, we're giving away a NOMAD II MG MP3 player (plus other nifty prizes!) All we ask is that you fill out our brief survey to give us your thoughts about our site. We will be drawing winners each day and will post their names on this page by 11:00 PM (EST) each day.

You must be a Lotusphere attendee to be eligible to enter the contest, but if you are not at Lotusphere, you can still fill out the survey.

Enter the contest

Prizes

We're giving away these prizes each day:

First place: One NOMAD II MG MP3 player![<br clear=all>]

Second place: Five 100% cotton, long-sleeved Notes.net t-shirts![<br clear=all>]

Third place: Ten Notes.net mugs![<br clear=all>]

Rules

Please read our official contest rules.

Winners Circle

Check back here to see if you've won!

Monday, January 15
Tuesday, January 16
Wednesday, January 17
Thursday, January 18

If you are a winner, claim your prize in the Iris "Meet the Developer's" Lab in the Dolphin, Oceanic 1 & 2. Be sure to bring your sticker with you and ask for Kevin Giles.

When users clicked the Enter the contest link, an entry document appeared.

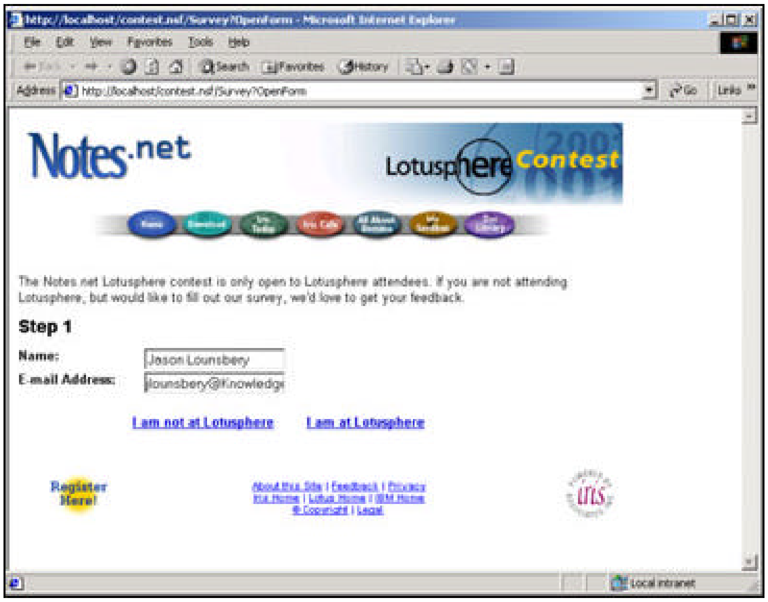
The entry and survey are actually different sections of a single document. Which section appears depends on which step the user is completing. In step 1, you supply your name and e-mail address. Step 2 is entering the contest, for those who were attending the conference. Because entering the contest required you to provide a unique ID number that was given to each Lotusphere attendee, those not attending the conference could not enter the contest. Step 3 involves filling out and submitting the survey.

Validation occurs on three fields in the document: Name, E-mail Address, and for those attending Lotusphere, Contest Number. All the validation is done on the back-end via the QuerySave agent. The document is saved and validated after each step is completed, and the survey is not submitted until the final step. If the survey is not submitted, then the contest entry is not submitted.

Once submitted, the entries are put into a view and an agent is run on that view to pick the daily winners.

Step 1: Name and e-mail

Let's jump into step 1, where the user is asked for their name and e-mail address. Both of these fields are required fields. If one of the fields is blank, the user is redirected back to the current page and asked again to fill in their name and e-mail address.


http://localhost/contest.nsf/Survey?OpenForm - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Search Favorites History
Address http://localhost/contest.nsf/Survey?OpenForm
Go Links
Notes.net
Lotusphere Contest
Register Here!
About this Site | Feedback | Privacy
Iris Home | Lotus Home | IBM Home
© Copyright | Legal
Local intranet

The Notes.net Lotusphere contest is only open to Lotusphere attendees. If you are not attending Lotusphere, but would like to fill out our survey, we'd love to get your feedback.

Step 1

Name: Jason Lounsbery
E-mail Address: jlounsbery@Knowledge

I am not at Lotusphere   I am at Lotusphere

There are two links under the fields: "I am not at Lotusphere" and "I am at Lotusphere." Clicking on either link causes the fields to be validated. All of the validation is on the back-end using the same QuerySave agent. Clicking on "I am not at Lotusphere" will lead the user to the survey section of the document. Clicking on "I am at Lotusphere" will lead the user to step 2, entering the contest.

Here is the formula for the "I am not at Lotusphere" hotspot.

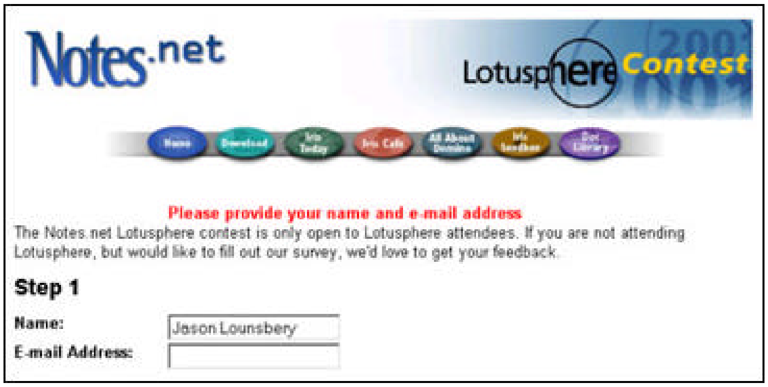
```
@SetField("AtLotusSphere";"no");
@SetField("pass";"5");
@Command([FileSave]);
@Command([FileCloseWindow])
```

The field "pass" is used in the QuerySave agent. Its value tells the system what section of the document to validate. Remember, the survey is one document, and we need to tell it what portion we want validated at each step. Here is a section of the QuerySave agent.

```
Select Case pass…

    Case "5":
        If (lotusname = "" Or Trim(doc.Emailaddress(0)) ="")Then
            doc.pass ="0"
            doc.passRegistration ="false"
        Else
            doc.passRegistration ="true"
            doc.pass ="2"
        End If
        Print |[| + vPath(0) +|/0/| + Cstr(doc.universalid)+|!EditDocument]|
```

Lotusname is set to the Name field on the document. The Print statement is a link to the document that the user is currently filling out. If validation fails then the pass field is set 0 and passRegistration is set to false. In this case, the user will remain in step 1 with a note explaining what is wrong.



Please provide your name and e-mail address

The Notes.net Lotusphere contest is only open to Lotusphere attendees. If you are not attending Lotusphere, but would like to fill out our survey, we'd love to get your feedback.

Step 1

Name:	Jason Lounsbery
E-mail Address:	

If validation succeeds, then the survey questionnaire section is displayed (remember, this is the "I am not at Lotusphere" hotspot). Since the survey is the same for both attendees and non-attendees, let’s take a look at the path for attending the conference. Here is the code for the other hotspot in step 1, the "I am at Lotusphere" hotspot:

```
@SetField("AtLotusSphere";"yes");
@SetField("pass";"4");
@Command([FileSave]);
@Command([FileCloseWindow])
```

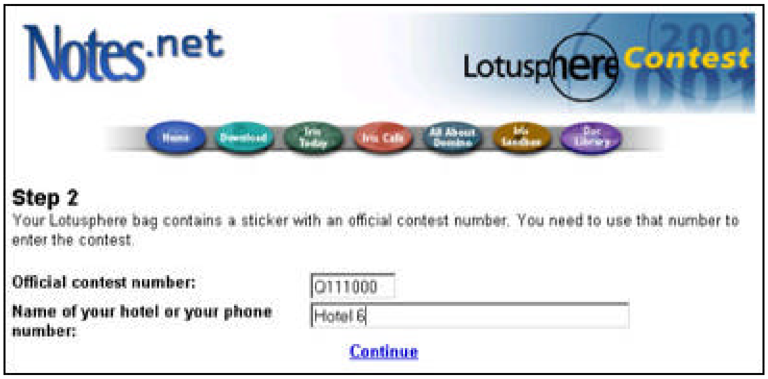
The same validation agent is called, but this time we are interested in a different section of the code:

```
Case "4":
    If (lotusname = "" Or Trim(doc.Emailaddress(0)) ="") Then
        doc.pass ="0"
        doc.passRegistration ="false"
    Else
        doc.passRegistration ="true"
        doc.pass ="1"
    End If
    Print |[| + vPath(0) +|/0/| + Cstr(doc.universalid)+|!EditDocument]|
```

Again the name and e-mail address are validated. If validation succeeds, then the pass field is set to 1. Setting the pass field to 1 displays the screen for step 2, which only conference attendees should see.

Step 2: Entering the contest

Step 2 involves entering the contest.



Step 2

Your Lotusphere bag contains a sticker with an official contest number. You need to use that number to enter the contest.

Official contest number: Q111000

Name of your hotel or your phone number: Hotel 6

Continue

Here the validation gets a little tricky. We must check the Contest Number field for several things:

- The field must not be empty.
- It must contain a valid Notes.net contest number.
- The contest number cannot have been previously entered.

Here is the formula for the Continue hotspot on the Step 2 page:

```
@SetField("pass";"2");
@Command([FileSave]);
@Command([FileCloseWindow])
```

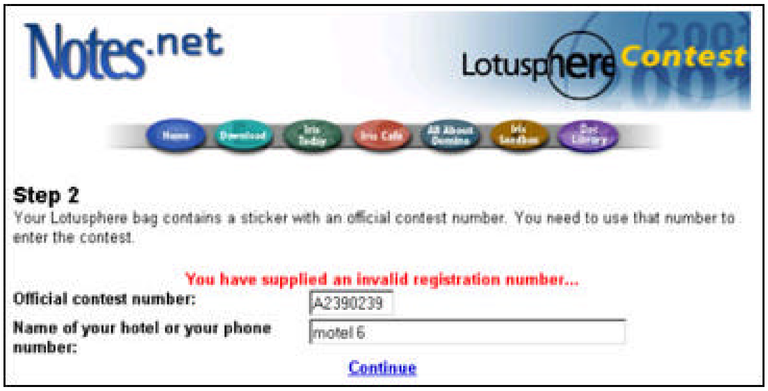
The document is saved again, and the pass field tells the agent what to validate.

```
Case "2":
    If(doc.AtlotusSphere(0) = "yes") Then
        If CanRegister(lotusname,lotusnumber) = "True"Then
            doc.PassRegistration = "True"
        Else
            doc.PassRegistration ="false"
            doc.pass = "1"
        End If
        If notused(lotusname,lotusnumber,s) ="True" Then
            doc.notused ="no"
        Else
            doc.notused ="yes"
            doc.pass ="1"
        End If
    End If
    Print |[| + vPath(0) +|/0/| + Cstr(doc.universalid)+|!EditDocument]|
```

The CanRegister function is called at the beginning of the second pass:

```
Function CanRegister(lotusname As String,lotusnumber As String) As String
    Dim firststring As String
    Dim rest As String
    Dim smallnumber As String
    Dim largenumber As String
    firststring = Left(lotusnumber,1)
    rest = Right(lotusnumber,6)
    Passes = "Continue"
    smallnumber ="2"
    largenumber ="1"
    Select Case firststring
    Case "Q","q"
        smallnumber ="111000"
        largenumber = "112000"
    Case "R","r"
        smallnumber ="121000"
        largenumber = "122000"
    Case "S","s"
        smallnumber ="131000"
        largenumber = "132000"
    Case "T","t"
        smallnumber ="141000"
        largenumber = "142000"
    Case "U","u"
        smallnumber ="151000"
        largenumber = "152000"
    Case "V","v"
        smallnumber ="161000"
        largenumber = "162000"
    Case "W","w"
        smallnumber ="171000"
        largenumber = "172000"
    Case "X","x"
        smallnumber ="181000"
        largenumber = "182000"
    Case "Y","y"
        smallnumber ="191000"
        largenumber = "192000"
    Case "Z","z"
        smallnumber ="201000"
        largenumber = "202000"
    Case "B","b"
        Dim temp As String
        temp = Ucase(rest)
        rest = temp
        smallnumber = "NN1000"
        largenumber ="NN1021"
    Case Else
        smallnumber ="2"
        rest ="1"
    End Select
    If (smallnumber <= rest And rest <= largenumber And
    Len(lotusnumber)=7)  Then
        CanRegister ="True"
    Else
        CanRegister = "False"
    End If
End Function
```

Since the contest numbers were not associated with a specific person, there was no way to connect the number with a person. To validate, the number was matched with a number in a list. The contest numbers consisted of a letter followed by six integers. The six integers fell in a range depending on the first character. If the number is invalid, then the user remains in step 2 with an invalid number error. Again, the print statement directs the user to the correct section.



Step 2
Your Lotusphere bag contains a sticker with an official contest number. You need to use that number to enter the contest.

You have supplied an invalid registration number...

Official contest number: A2390239

Name of your hotel or your phone number: motel 6

Continue

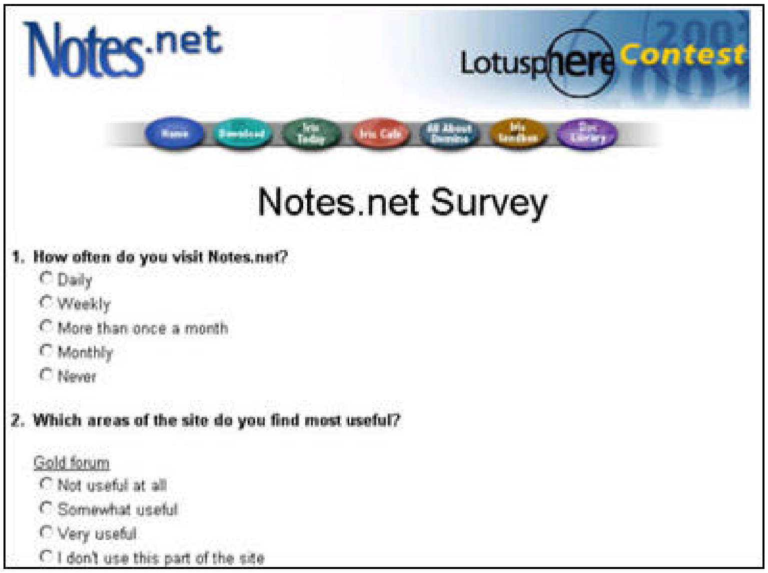
If the number is correct, the notused function is called. This function determines if the number has already been used, which guarantees that a person cannot enter the contest more than once.

```
Function notused (lotusname As String, lotusnumber As String, s As
notessession) As String
      Dim db As notesdatabase
      Dim view As notesview
      Set db = s.currentdatabase
      Set  view = db.getview("byregid")
      Dim doc As notesdocument
      Set doc = view.getdocumentbykey(Ucase(lotusnumber))
      If doc Is Nothing Then
            notused = "True"
      Else
            notused = "False"
      End If
End Function
```

If the registration number had already been used, the user had to find a member of the Notes.net team in the Iris Developers Lab at Lotusphere and make their case for a new valid number. Since there was a possibility, however remote, that someone might enter someone else's number, we wanted to accommodate attendees and allow them to enter the contest.

Step 3: The survey

After all validation is completed, the user is ready to participate in the survey. As before, the print statement at the end of the case statement displays the correct section of the document, in this case, the survey.



Notes.net Survey

1. How often do you visit Notes.net?
   - ○ Daily
   - ○ Weekly
   - ○ More than once a month
   - ○ Monthly
   - ○ Never

2. Which areas of the site do you find most useful?

   Gold forum
   - ○ Not useful at all
   - ○ Somewhat useful
   - ○ Very useful
   - ○ I don't use this part of the site

The user scrolls through the survey, answering the various questions. At the bottom of the survey is a Submit hotspot. The formula for this hotspot is:

```
@SetField("pass";"3"):
@SetField("Submitted";"Yes");
@SetField("showall";"yes");
@SetField("validatenow";"no");
@Command([FileSave]);
@Command([FileCloseWindow])
```

Here is the validation section of the code that we are concerned about in pass 3:

```
Case "3":
    doc.pass ="2"
    doc.Can_Read ="[Readers]"
    Set item = doc.getfirstitem("Can_Read")
    item.IsReaders = True
    Print |[| + vPath(0) + |/ThanksSurvey?Openform]|
```

Once the document is submitted, a Readers field is set to allow only specific users—the Notes.net team in this case—to see the completed survey. The user is directed to a thank you page.

Picking the winners

So far we've looked at how Lotusphere attendees and others filled in the survey and how attendees entered the Notes.net contest. Now let's look at how we picked the winners.

Someone on the Notes.net team ran an agent once a day to pick the winners using a random number for each daily winner. There were 16 winners each day, so 16 random numbers were picked. If for some reason a winner was not eligible for the contest, they could be removed and a new winner could be added to the bottom of the list.

Let's examine how this works by looking at the Contest Entries and Daily Winners views.

The Contest Entries view

The Contest Entries view has the following selection formula:

```
SELECT  HasWon ="0" & AtlotusSphere ="yes" & Submitted ="Yes" & Form
!= "welcomepage" & Form != "winnerslist"
```

This view displays all of the surveys for people attending Lotusphere that have *not* won the daily drawing. It is used to pick the 16 winners. The Pick Winner button calls the Pick Winner agent, which picks a random number between 1 and the number of documents in the view. For example if there were 1,543 documents, the agent selects a random number between 1 and 1,543. It then flags the document in that place as a winner, removes the document from the Contest Entries view, refreshes the view, and then repeats the entire process 15 more times. The order of winning is important, because it determines which prize the winner receives.

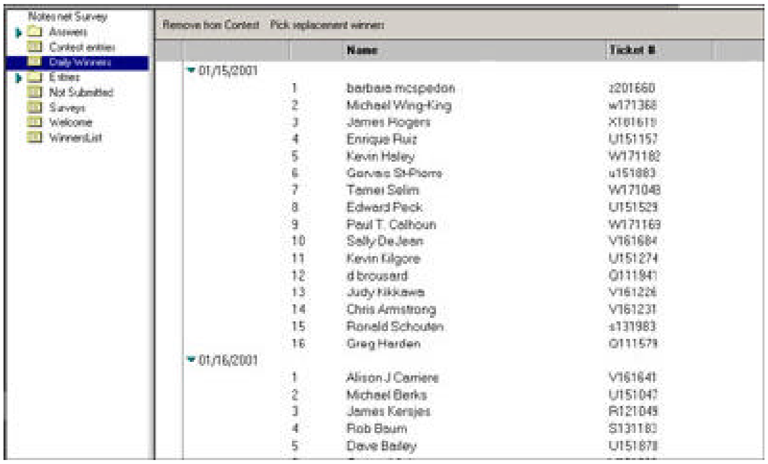
Here is the code for the agent:

```
Sub Initialize
    Dim session As New NotesSession
    Dim db As NotesDatabase
    Dim view As NotesView
    Dim doccoll As notesdocumentcollection
    Dim doccount As Integer
    Dim x As Integer
    Dim doc As NotesDocument
    Dim dateTime As New NotesDateTime( "" )
    Call dateTime.SetNow
    Set db = session.CurrentDatabase
    Set view = db.GetView( "Admin" ) ' put the name of your view here
    For x = 1 To 16
        Set doccoll = view.getalldocumentsbykey("0")
        doccount = doccoll.count
        Randomize
        i=Int( (doccount-1)* Rnd+1)
        Set doc = view.GetNthDocument( i )
        doc.haswon ="1"
        doc.datewon = dateTime.dateonly
        doc.numberchosen = x
        doc.randomnumber = i
        Call doc.save(False,False)
    Next
    Call view.refresh
End Sub
```

The Daily Winners view

The Daily Winners view displays the winners sorted by the date. The selection formula is:

```
SELECT form = "Survey" &HasWon ="1"  & Form != "welcomepage" & Form
!= "winnerslist"
```



		Name	Ticket #
01/15/2001			
	1	barbara mcspedon	z201660
	2	Michael Wing-King	w171368
	3	James Rogers	X181619
	4	Enrique Ruiz	U151157
	5	Kevin Haley	W171182
	6	Gervais St-Pierre	u151883
	7	Tamer Selim	W171048
	8	Edward Peck	U151529
	9	Paul T. Calhoun	W171163
	10	Sally DeJean	V161684
	11	Kevin Kilgore	U151274
	12	d brousard	Q111941
	13	Judy Kikkawa	V161226
	14	Chris Armstrong	V161231
	15	Ronald Schouten	s131983
	16	Greg Harden	Q111579
01/16/2001			
	1	Alison J Carriere	V161641
	2	Michael Berks	U151047
	3	James Kersjes	R121049
	4	Rob Baum	S131183
	5	Dave Bailey	U151878

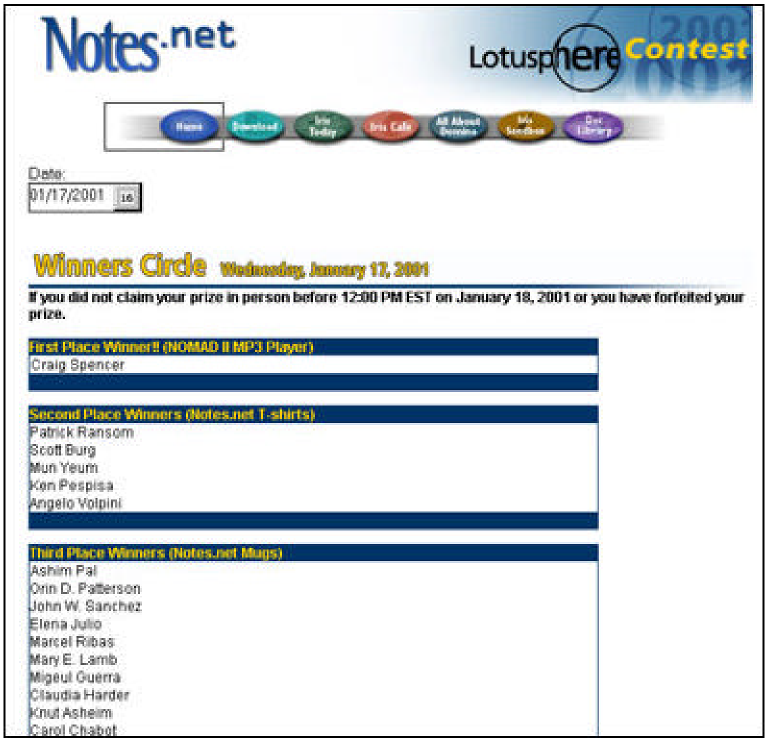
If for some reason a winning person needed to be removed from the list, a member of the Notes.net team could remove that person by selecting the document and clicking the Remove from Contest button. The code behind the button is:

```
Sub Initialize
    Dim s As New notessession
    Dim db As notesdatabase
    Dim doccoll As notesdocumentcollection
    Dim doc As notesdocument
    Dim entry As NotesViewEntry
    Dim datewon As String
    Dim view As notesview
    Dim vc As NotesViewEntryCollection
    Dim x As Integer
    Dim doccount As Integer
    Set db = s.currentdatabase
    Set doccoll = db.unprocesseddocuments
    doccount = doccoll.count
    Set doc = doccoll. getfirstdocument
    datewon = doc.datewon(0)
    While Not(doc Is Nothing)
        doc.Haswon ="never"
        doc.AtlotusSphere ="no"
        Call doc.save(False,False)
        Set doc = doccoll.getnextdocument(doc)
    Wend
    'Call doccoll.removeall(True)
    Set view = db.getView("winners")
    Call view.refresh()
    Set vc = view.GetAllEntriesByKey(datewon)
    Set entry = vc.GetFirstEntry()
    Set doc = entry.Document
    x = 1
    While Not(entry Is Nothing)
        doc.numberchosen = x
        Call doc.save(False,False)
        Set entry = vc.getnextentry(entry)
        If Not(entry Is Nothing) Then
            Set doc = entry.Document
            x = x+1
        End If
    Wend
    Call view.refresh()
End Sub
```

This script flags the selected documents as “not at Lotusphere” and prevents them from winning the contest. This causes the documents to be removed from the winners list and displayed only in the Survey view. The other daily winners are moved up a spot depending on the positions of the removed documents, so for example, if the 10th winner is removed, the 11th winner becomes the 10th, the 12th becomes the 11th, and so on.

Finally, we can use the Pick replacement winners button to pick new winners until we have 16 winners again. This agent prompts for how many winners to add, randomly selects that many, and adds them to the end of the winners list.

The other views
In addition to the Contest Entries and Daily Winners views, the Survey view lists all of the completed surveys, the Not Submitted view lists the documents that were started but never submitted, the Welcome view displays the Notes.net Lotusphere Contest welcome page, and the Winners List view contains the documents used on Notes.net to display the daily winners.



Date:
01/17/2001

Winners Circle Wednesday, January 17, 2001

If you did not claim your prize in person before 12:00 PM EST on January 18, 2001 or you have forfeited your prize.

First Place Winner!! (NOMAD II MP3 Player)

Craig Spencer

Second Place Winners (Notes.net T-shirts)

Patrick Ransom
Scott Burg
Mun Yeum
Ken Pespisa
Angelo Volpini

Third Place Winners (Notes.net Mugs)

Ashim Pal
Orin D. Patterson
John W. Sanchez
Elena Julio
Marcel Ribas
Mary E. Lamb
Migeul Guerra
Claudia Harder
Knut Asheim
Carol Chabot

The database in action

During Lotusphere, over 1,500 attendees entered the contest. We picked 16 winners every day and posted the winners on Notes.net as well as in the Iris Developer's Lab. Notes.net team members at Lotusphere and back at Iris monitored and facilitated the contest with minimal impact on their day.

About Jason Lounsbery
Jason Lounsbery works at [Knowledge Resource Group](), a Lotus Business Partner.