

Re: OT: The Geek defense

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 - *Date:* Mon, 3 Mar 2008 12:59:09 +1300
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"Charles Hottel" <chottel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
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<news:62ut01F255hveU1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

<snip>

You mean no-one may pay you to develop Web Applications. But, with the right applications, you can generate enough to cover the cost of running them, even if you don't cover the cost of development hours. And it can be real fun. There is a camaraderie and helpfulness amongst Web developers that is quite commendable. I've taken to attending a .NET user group here where I find I can learn much, contribute a little, and the people who attend are generally positive and interested. MicroSoft sponsor it and provide pizza and coffee, but the speakers are mainly from a local software house who house it on their premises. If you have an interest in doing Web development, seek out other like minded individuals who are local to you and you may find it amusing and rewarding.

<snip>

Well I think that I could develop a web app based on what I have read. In fact they seem somewhat easier in many respects than a desktop app, at least in Java. The user interface part is HTML versus Swing in Java, which I find tedious and occasionally frustrating as far having everything controlled as you want when the window is resized. Setting up Tomcat though can be a challenge. I still need to learn more about Java webstart and I don't know much about creating a web service in Java.

Re: OT: The Geek defense

I have finished reading Head First Design Patterns and I have had some aha! moments similar to when I learned structured programming. I think I see now why people like OO programming and how they use it. I must admit though that I still don't love it. I think one of the reasons is that in OO there is often a big difference between the source code structure and the run time call structure and I am just not as used to that as I am with COBOL ways. With COBOL I often drew structure diagrams especially when analyzing code that I was unfamiliar with and trying to learn. But I don't find that technique very helpful with OO.

I'm not going to defend OO to you, Charlie, although I have never encountered the objection you posit above.

It isn't about source code and call structures; it is about encapsulated functionality that can be independently invoked, as and when you want it, locally or remotely, and with multiple copies of it, if that makes sense. (It often does in multithreading environments). You are thinking at too low a level (probably as a result of a lifetime using low level code and COBOL... It's not "wrong", just irrelevant... Try to think about what the functionality you require is and break it into small components that can be re-used. "Small is beautiful". Once you know what you actually want/need, you can group some functions into classes and get cracking.

The important thing here is the journey, not the destination :-) You are reading and thinking and forming opinions and changing them and all of that is excellent.

I wouldn't use Java for web building any more, but there's no reason why you can't. With the tools we have today, (Dreamweaver, FrontPage, etc) there is little need to write HTML and your user interface can be visually designed, with the tool generating the necessary HTML. Start with some fairly simple static pages and set up IIS on your local machine so you can serve them up to yourself (or use Apache if you are in a non-MS environment). It is a lot of fun. I started doing it around 12 years ago and had occasion to drag out the notebook I used for it, recently.

It was a Pentium 3 with 32MB of RAM! I got all nostalgic looking through those early projects and almost forgot why I broke it out in the first place (I want it to be a print server for my wireless LAN, a driver for a 300GB network backup drive, and I also want it to be an answerphone. As it was sitting in a box doing nothing, I thought it could be fun to get some more use out of it. So far, I can't get the wireless adaptor working properly on it, but I will eventually. (It is Win98 SE; man, things were so much simpler then...it reboots in 70 seconds; my dual core 2 system running Win XP takes just on 5 minutes...))

Good luck with your experiments and if you produce anything cool, post it where we can see it :-)

Pete.

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"I used to write COBOL...now I can do anything."