

Re: Abandoning Kylix makes Delphi less attractive?

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.non-technical/2003-11/1430.html>

From: pNichols (paul_at_computer-logic.net)

Date: 11/10/03

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Mike Swaim wrote:

> *pNichols wrote:*

>> *BTW, what deployment issues are a concern with Java apps? I would*

>> *like to know what you think are problems with Java deployment, since*

>> *I do not know of any <G>.*

>

> *Which JRE you have installed comes to mind.*

>

> --

OK, I thought you were thinking in terms of Java being like the current state of DOT.NET for xplatform deployments (or even as difficult today as NET for Windows deployment).

The problem many are going to have (if they are truly thinking that NET is their future for xplatform development), is that NET is incompatible across vendors. Mono of course, is currently the only NET implementor on any platform other than MS, and in the docs for Mono, you will note incompatibility issues (<http://www.go-mono.com/faq.html#novell>) between MS NET and Mono NET. Look at the GUI section under this URL, alone will demonstrate known compatibility issues. Other compatibility issues can be found under the FAQs as well.

In addition, Mono is incomplete and it will be difficult for them to keep up with MS, since NET from MS, is totally closed to anyone but MS. This is quite different from Java, which has over 120 companies who are part of the JCP. Fortunately, Javasoft now allows individuals and the Open Source community to be able to suggest and develop for the JCP. The JCP stringently enforces total adherence to the Javasoft standards so that incompatibilities or deviation from the standards, will not be approved.

In other words Java is Java, despite the platform or the distributor. All of the APIs are consistent, according to versions, across the platform and distributor space. IBM's JDKs does not change my code if I developed using Sun's JDK, nor if I use Blackdown or whatever.

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JRE versions are an issue, but as long as you progress up (say from 1.2 to 1.4), then you would be OK. Of course, Sun has made this pretty easy now (see the www.java.com site), and with Web Start, it will auto check the user's workstation to make sure that the correct JDK would be installed to match the deployed version specifications. Web start will also auto update applications deployed to a user's machine by checking for new versions of any libs or class files of the application being launched in a background thread. This makes deployment and roll out, much, much, easier.

Distributing Java applications is a no brainer, in terms of deployment across platforms (Unless of course, we are speaking here of server based applications, where you are running EJBs, JMS, etc). For applications and applets, simply packaging the application in a jar file, with all dependencies included, means the entire application or applet is self-contained. No registry worries, no directory here and directory there dll worries, all dependencies are self-contained, whether running on Windows, Mac, or Unix/Linux. Typical Browser based applications (not EJBs, JMS, mind you), are a war file away from distribution. Jar packaging makes Java deployment a real no brainer. Much easier than Kylix apps were to deploy and even easier than all but the simplest Delphi ones.