

Re: An idle rant

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.non-technical/2005-01/4400.html>

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(The Liz yell and scream tickler top post).

This is a nice change of topic... Read on for more comments.

"Ben Hochstrasser" <bhoc@tiscali123^H^H^H.ch> wrote in message
news:Xns95E19906ADEA5bhoc@207.105.83.66...

> *Please bear in mind that the following is /not/ meant as D2005 bashing.*

Even if it were, we here know that D2005 runs on top of an OS which can and often is the cause of many application issues (I'm talking any OS not just Win).

> *In my jobs I came across many different kinds of developers. One thing had
> all in common: They worked with above-average well-equipped, fast machines
> with dazzling graphics and ultra-fast server attachment. There's nothing
> wrong with that.*

No, nothing wrong with that especially if you want to buy machines that last a few years instead of having to incur the sometimes problematic issues with upgrading every year.

> *Unfortunately, many of their products proved to be of rather poor
> performance when run on an average office PC with average memory, disk and
> graphics. It often proved to be unusable when connecting via the internet.
> Today I run across this behaviour far more than the years before.*

This is a management issue. Management should be aware of that problem and take steps to prevent it! Eg; The QA team should have machines of varying configuration to test the app on (heck most companies have a room with junk computers sittin' around). At least one of those configurations should be minimum system requirements testing. I know you can project what the mins might be, but there's nothing like sitting in front of an old machine running the production release app.

> *When I read that eg. D2005's IDE responsiveness was "quite acceptable" with
> 2GB of Memory and a >3GHz processor I'm getting goose pimples when I think*

- > *of the applications produced with that environment. Not because of the*
- > *quality, but because developers often forget to test the performance of*
- > *their work in less-than-ideal environments. (I have the uneasy feeling*
- that
- > *the 2005 IDE falls in the same category). A sluggish application on an*
- > *average machine just reveals sloppiness in programming and algorithm*
- > *refinement. <eg>*
- >
- > *Therefore, as an engineer who has to deploy and support that stuff, I*
- > *kindly ask you to think of your customers when you test your applications.*
- > *Not everyone has a dream machine. Not everyone has a T1 link to the*
- > *internet (and the time to wait 15 minutes for the web application's splash*
- > *screen to load).*

The machine I'm using right now is a P133 with 32Mb RAM, and Win95. My server is a P233 with 64Mb RAM, and Linux. My dev machine is a P?800? with 128Mb RAM and Win2K (removed XP, it pissed me off).

- > *Now do go back to your work.*

I've got time to talk, I'm waiting for something to compile :-)