

Re: Article: – David Intersimone on DevCo, the viability of Delphi, and Turbo Ruby

Source:

<http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.non-technical/2006-05/msg00937.html>

- *From:* "Paul Nichols (TeamB)" <paul@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 03 May 2006 23:45:57 -0400
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I.P. Nichols wrote:

"Paul Nichols (TeamB)" wrote:

If DevCo was really smart, I would forget trying to compete in well rounded circles and start offering something new. No, I would not drop my current revenue streams, but face it folks, the future is not with the past.

A Killer IDE, IMHO, would be an Ajax IDE that was as RAD as Delphi/BCB but which could be used with Java or NET. That would give them potential to a very LARGE market, one that currently has little to no coverage at all.

Get the JUMP on all COMPETITORS, NOW. DO NOT WAIT FOR MS...

Not to rain on your parade but here are some things to research before jumping into the deep end of the pool.

<http://atlas.asp.net>

The Atlas framework is said to integrate with the IDE of Visual Web Developer Express to facilitate RAD Ajax development.

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio/express/vwd/>

Plus the yet to be completely unveiled Expression Web Designer

http://www.microsoft.com/products/expression/en/web_designer/default.mspx

I can name just as many for Java as you did for NET. But all of these are not truly RAD. Have you ever tried to debug Java Script? Have you ever attempted to do a Object.[Get a List of methods, vars] in Java Script?

That is what Borland needs to do. Make a VCL type of Ajax IDE, that will work with:

Java
Net
Php

That is what I am talking about. Not some plugin that lets you drop a few GUI Controls onto a form and MANUALLY code, decode (from some stinking Java Script debuggers like MS' Debugger or even Mozilla's JS debuggers) and work and work and work all day to build a simple GUI.

I work with Ajax almost full time now, so I know what is out there. The libs are good (prototype, scriptaculous, Rico, etc) but there is no true RAD way of creating a really useful Ajax app. Sure, I can use Java Studio Creator (Java way), or Open Lazlo, or DWR and drop some components onto a form, set some JavaScript events and put out a very basic HTML Ajax powered application in say an hour or two and pat myself on the back. But is it commercial quality? No way!

Just to do a Dashboard using the current best way (write Java Script run a hundred times and debug all of the time) took me about 45 hours. That is one freaking screen (yes it is complex, offers auto updating with the database sync, drag and drop, edit in place and close portlets to be discarded and saved as user profile). With JBuilder using Swing, Delphi or BCB, I could have written the GUI in less than a Day. Give me a whole week for the Alpha version of the project and I would be good to go. Give me a little more time (60 hours) and I could have written the entire dashboard (from and back end) in a traditional Web manner. With the current Ajax tools, it takes 40–60 hours just to write the GUI.

I can write the back end logic three times faster than I can the GUI. That is the old Windows way, back before tools like Delphi and VB (think C/C++ without the RAD or Object Pascal for Windows). What the world wants and needs is a really RAD Ajax builder, with integrated Java Script and a Java Script Object inspector and built in debugger. Would the dev world pay for something like this? You better believe it. I would be the first in line.

Funny thing is, years ago, Borland had something close to this (without Ajax). Intrabuilder had some ability to RAD Java Script. SO the know how used to be there.

So I am not speaking of some run of the mill current tools that get you half way there. I am speaking of something RADical, like Delphi and VB were in the Windows world. A full RAD system.

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