

# Re: New Delphi roadmap is coming: NO UNICODE PLEASE!

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*Source:*

<http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.non-technical/2007-01/msg04140.html>

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- *From:* "Brad White" <bwhite at inebraska.com>
  - *Date:* Fri, 26 Jan 2007 09:26:20 -0600
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"Jolyon Smith" <jsmith@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:MPG.2024276cb21c4ba2989bad@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:MPG.2024276cb21c4ba2989bad@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

In article <45b95888\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, says...

I'm the project manager of a .NET desktop application at our company.  
As a result, I'm confirmed in my disinterest in .NET \*desktop\*  
applications.  
AFAICS, no one has demonstrated a need for .NET desktop applications,  
let alone Delphi.NET desktop apps. More than ever, I think native is the  
way to go.

This is very relevant to me right now.

When you say you are disinterested in .NET on the desktop (to paraphrase  
slightly) does this mean you are actively \*not\* interested in .net on  
the desktop or that .net on the desktop is of no great benefit from your  
pov, but neither is it any great concern?

Hmm. How to phrase this?

1)

I personally don't like the user experience that I'm getting with the  
new app. Startup is slow. Paint is slow. Redraw is slow.

Not exactly, but it's sort of like you can see the wireframe drawn  
before the rest of the form and texture fills in.

I've done a bit of research on it, not much mind you, and I've been told  
that yes, if you just use it out of the box it is a bit slow, but there are  
some things you can do to speed up the drawing. But my developers  
say they are already doing those thing, and this \*is\* the faster version.  
I don't have time to look up the details right now, but GDI and GDI+  
always come into the conversation.

I've also been told that future versions of .NET will deal with this.  
Personally, I wouldn't put any money on that. I don't think MS is

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putting their eggs in the WinForms basket.

Is this enough for me to actively campaign against using .NET for a new project. Probably not by itself, but it is a factor that I will weigh in.

2)

Strong naming. I was excited about this at first. No one can quietly replace

a dll with a trojan. That's good for security. Avoids DLL hell, because it always only uses the DLL that it came with.

Hmm. In practice, the reason I put things in a DLL instead of in the exe is so I can swap them out. Now I can't. I have a bug in the DLL. The app is deployed and the user is getting an error. I could fix it by replacing the DLL. But then the app won't run at all. This really sucks.

Yes, this happened. It is a unique circumstance from the fact that we have different departments providing different functionality.

3)

DLL hell.

..NET was supposed to prevent this. But we have had several instances where upgrading .NET broke things that were working.

1.0 -> 1.1

1.1 -> 1.1 upgrade

1.1 -> 2.0

all broke a few things. Very irritating when you were told that ..NET was the answer to this. I never had this much problem upgrading Win32.

There are clearly some things about .NET that are good.

C# as a language is a huge step above VB, C, C++. It allows you to write more secure applications much easier than those languages. Coming from Delphi, this isn't any big deal of course.

The .NET framework handles a lot of things that we used to have to do on our own. It has some really nice functionality.

But my perspective is that they clearly don't have religion as far as backward compatibility. I have no idea whether a given app is going to work when a user upgrades their version of .NET or what the next automatic upgrade is going to do to us.

Apparently, with VB runtime supported through the lifespan of Vista, now VB apps are more stable than C# apps.

Delphi is looking pretty good to me.

i.e. do you see concrete \_dis\_advantages of choosing .NET for the desktop, or merely not perceive any real \_ad\_vantage\_?

This isn't intended to trigger a flame war.

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I am actively looking at the task of migrating a significant 32-bit Delphi codebase to 64-bit.

I'm using 64 bit IDs in my database today. Delphi 6 couldn't handle this, but I posted the issue in QC and it was fixed in D2005. What exactly can't you do today that you need to?

Currently of course there is no way to do this natively and to stay with Delphi and for numerous reasons Delphi.NET is not #1 on the list of candidates for a .NET targetted approach.

Agreed.

We use D.N to wrap some Win32 DLLs so that they can be used in the .NET app. It works fine for that.

If there are concrete disadvantages to using .NET on the desktop from your pov, this could be a factor in any eventual decision to wait for 64-bit Delphi or not.

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HTH,  
Brad.

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