

# ANN: LagLoader.NET 1.0 – .NET Smart Client Bootstrapper

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*Source:*

<http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.thirdpartytools.general/2006-01/msg01040.html>

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  - *Date:* 27 Jan 2006 20:58:44 -0800
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Hi there.

In last January, My previous employer got a proof-of-concept project requiring hand drawing on the web; the customer is a fashion design house. I created a .NET Windows Forms control based smart client, encapsulating Tablet PC InkPicture. It worked well (at least for demo) on all my computers.

Since .NET framework runtime is a Windows Update optional install, and in the impression that everybody should update their operating systems often with Windows Update, before that project, I got a wrong image that .NET framework runtime should be available easily on every Windows XP PC. No, it is not that case. My customer is no where close to IT industrial; they just made enough bucks, and their younger new boss (whose university major was computer science) decided to invest in a design workflow system. Even though every designer of that customer got a Windows XP PC on each of their desktops for long, and they do have a MIS group doing Windows Update time from time, no .NET framework runtime was preinstalled; they just not aware of that optional install.

We found no way to automatically install .NET framework runtime in Windows XP machines of my supposed-to-be users, having to install it one by one, MANUALLY. There were 20+ machines with no .NET framework runtime preinstalled. Remember, this is a smart client solution integrated with a back-end workflow web application solution. It is suppose that no explicit install/setup files should be run on every possible user's Windows.

Anyway, even though I have best performance over the category of hand drawing/writing in all competitors, we failed to get that customer to adopt my solution. .NET framework deployment is really an issue. No, it should not be an issue.

It was already 1 year ago. Now, .NET 2.0 was released for weeks, ClickOnce is out there, and I got the image that ClickOnce does not support .NET 1.x smart clients. So I am still glad to share my

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solution to every .NET smart client developer: LagLoader.NET 1.0.

Features of LagLoader.NET 1.0:

- + Detect if the required .NET framework version is installed. Automatically download and install it if not installed.
- + No code modification is required in existed .NET Windows Forms controls, only minor change in the OBJECT tags in web pages needed. Javascript code worked in the same way to script Windows Forms controls deployed in web pages.
- + In case that some smart clients are not compatible with the latest version of .NET framework, they may be run fixed to a compatible version of .NET framework, while others being run with the latest version of .NET framework, all in the same web page.
- + An optional FULL TRUST mode to run Windows Forms control based smart client fully trusted. Smart clients run as fully trusted as their desktop/local peers, but loaded from remote servers.

Sure, the full trust mode may hint a security issue, but if you have to do so to perform some tasks, then let it be.

The product web page of LagLoader.NET 1.0:  
<http://en.ezlag.com/site/335/lagloader-net.aspx>

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