

Pfew! I am glad .NET exists... confessions of a MS immigrant.

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OK, here is the story, or rather a confession. I used to be a die hard Linux user and app./tools developer. I avoided using Windows (or programming in it) because of lack of freedom. Basically for me it was either Linux or bore myself to death.

When WinXP Professional came out using Windows became more fun but that is only the foot at the door. To keep the story short, for reasons of my own I decided to explore .NET back in .NET v1.0. Wow! it was the answers to my prayers, since then I have been doing a lot of windows development and more or less dropped Linux as my main platform. Not that I don't find it useful, it still gives me lots of freedom but as for productivity I go for .NET.

And then.... recently, for similar reasons I have been "forced" to explore Java (which I had done at some point many years ago). Sadly, Java as a language still misses some nice features of my favourite .NET language: C#.

And then there were web applications, sure with ASP.NET some thing get a bit more complicated. But I expected that Java, as a framework had come to mature enough to provide these things. Unfortunately it isn't so, you have to grab things from here and there (as it was with Linux) and there are frameworks to kind of achieve what ASP.NET does but not quite there yet, not to mention that it is not part of the standard platform.

To complicate matters even more, I had to do some Java windows GUI (not web app. gui). The IDEs (Eclipse and NetBeans) both provide some support for GUI development but do not compare with VS.NET. I mean, I have run into cases where I design a form that looks like something in the "designer", then it simply looks different when you test the form using the IDE's test feature, and then it looks even more different (actually totally screwed up) when run as part of the application.

I cannot believe that something as basic as an absolute layout (X,Y positions for the components) is still not native! you have to use some vendor specific library (in this case from Sun's IDE) but if you try to run it standalone (rather than within the IDE) then hell breaks lose.

Then an application runs fine on the IDE but by default it never "copies"

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the required "assemblies" to the binary directory and obviously, trying to run the application standalone from the command line is yet another misery.

Quite frankly, I had done some Java years ago and had hoped that after all these years the whole framework and tools had evolved sufficiently, but for what I see I was wrong.

So... for me, .NET anytime, specially with Visual Studio, with it I just don't have to waste time assembling the engine and putting the car together before I can take it for a drive. I must say Microsoft has done a darn good job with .NET and Visual Studio and these words do not come lightly from someone who was a hard core Linux/Unix fanatic (both as user and programmer).

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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ ***Re: Pfew! I am glad .NET exists... confessions of a MS immigrant.***  
◇ *From: Jon Skeet [C# MVP]*

- Prev by Date: ***Re: Drag drop image from browser to form***
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