

.NET dead in 2 Years ?

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Hi,

in our company we are currently thinking about to do new project in .NET. I like this idea but there is another group that has a totally different opinion.

Yesterday I got the following email, and I am wondering if it is true what is said in this mail.

Here is the mail it is very long:

CTO Corner

Where is the Industry going?

What technologies and platforms make sense for GUPTA and its customers to grow their business? Is Longhorn the answer to all IT challenges? What about the coexistence of Windows and Linux in the future? These questions need answers and I want to share some thoughts about our direction.

What is Longhorn?

Longhorn is Microsoft's next Desktop operating system that will offer the next generation of application development. Longhorn will allow developers to create rich-client applications that reside on a central server and, via HTTP (web browser) users will be able to access these applications and, the applications will make calls to the new operating system to render graphics and other services. The user experiences will be very much like a client/server application offering much of the rich features and immediate feedback such as population of drop-down combo boxes, populated fields, etc. Developers will only have to maintain one single version of the application, which will reduce much of the time and frustration of deploying client/server applications.

What about the delays in Longhorn?

Because Microsoft tightly integrates their development tools and other supporting products with the operating system the delay of Longhorn has far reaching implications. The delay of Longhorn, from 2004 to 2006 not only affects Microsoft products, but also affects independent software vendors like GUPTA.

What does it mean to GUPTA?

As an independent provider of a RAD development tool and embedded database engine, we must look at the broader market. Linux is quickly becoming a

microsoft.public.dotnet.general: .NET dead in 2 Years ?

contender for the desktop space and, in fact, many believe it may offer better support for Windows applications in the near and long term than Microsoft. It is very important for everyone to understand that Longhorn will not support most of today's applications, even many of the .NET applications written today.

There is serious doubt about Microsoft's ability to deliver Longhorn even by 2006 and even more concern about the financial implications to business as they are forced to rewrite most Microsoft based applications. Team Developer has a long history of protecting its developers from having to rewrite entire applications every time the underlying operating system or technology changes. This is why it's important for GUPTA to fully understand the Longhorn release and, determine how GUPTA can best ensure developers will be minimally impacted. Anyone serious about this topic should read the following links.

http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/04_16/b3879001_mz001.htm

<http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=19502405>

<http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1759.1589204.00.asp>

<http://channelzone.ziffdavis.com/article2/0.1759.1589870.00.asp>

<http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1586641.00.asp>

Where is GUPTA heading?

Some customers have asked why we are developing a Linux product rather than a .NET product? The answer is very simple – .NET as we know it today has a life span of two years and it is hardly worth investing in technology that is going to be deprecated or significantly changed.

On the other hand, there is a lot of momentum on the Linux platform. A number of governments, corporations and SME's are either implementing or evaluating the use of Linux as a desktop and vendors like Novell/SUSE and Red Hat are providing some very compelling Linux desktop distributions. This in conjunction with a number of other projects such as WINE <http://www.winehq.com/>, MONO <http://www.go-mono.com/mono-roadmap.html> and the work being done by the Desktop Linux Consortium XUL project (http://news.com.com/2100-1032_3-5201325.html) mean that not far off in the future there will be a .NET framework and Longhorn equivalent on Linux. This creates a huge opportunity for GUPTA to become a major player in the cross-platform market allowing developers to create Microsoft Windows and Linux applications using a single source code line.

What does it mean to GUPTA customers?

In a word – Opportunity! Can you imagine writing a Team Developer Linux application with just three or four developers and delivering the application in just four or five months versus a team of 10 Java programmers delivering an application in 18 months if at all. This is not rhetoric, it is fact.

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What's more, the Linux market is a green field for ISVs, VARS and software houses. Business applications are the final link needed to make the Linux desktop a reality. For those who have stayed with GUPTA products, they will be able to take applications they have invested many man years in development and quickly offer a Linux version by simply taking their source code files and recompiling in Team Developer for Linux. This is a huge opportunity for economic growth in 2005 and 2006.

Additionally, as the MONO project progresses and Microsoft clarifies the feature set for Longhorn, GUPTA will be in place to provide a version of Team Developer that will generate MSIL code that can be run on both Longhorn and Linux taking advantage of both platforms. As we monitor the Desktop Linux Consortiums XUL project, we will see how it mirrors the features of Longhorn and, determine how best to take advantage of this new technology as well.