

## Re: RCP framework for .NET?

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.general/2005-03/0811.html>

---

**From:** Alex Shneyderman ([AlexShneyderman\\_at\\_discussions.microsoft.com](mailto:AlexShneyderman_at_discussions.microsoft.com))

**Date:** 03/07/05

Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2005 14:21:03 -0800

> *I'm really struggling to understand what you're looking for Alex. You  
> mention PFC which is a UI library for Powerbuilder and seems to offer pretty  
> much the same sort of services as Windows Forms and System.Data. You also*

you are not exactly accurate about PFC. PowerBuilder would be equivalent of .NET. PFC was an abstract layer, much of whose functionality was, believe it or not, non-visual. Well more than half that is for sure.

But let me try to be a bit more specific on my question. What both PFC and Eclipse provide is the general kind of functionality. I will talk Eclipse-wise since it is fresher in my memory. For example Eclipse has a Workbench component that is pretty much non-visual component whose hole purpose is to manage all there is to manage about RCP (Rich Client Platform)

–

– Keep track of open windows and serve as a general registry for who is active who is open and who can be accessed.

– Keep information about the layout of a window (or as they call it Eclipse perspective). This is basically controlling what views/editors (see below for what they are) are open and where they are located. How to break up the window.

– Provide view sites for views. Views are portions of the window that display only certain aspect of the Model behind your system.

– Provide Editor sites – similar to views but allow to edit your model. It can be a form or an editor in a real sense of the editor.

– Selection manager: if one object selected in view A and event has to be propagated to view B because view B has to be updated, an event is being propagated automatically to the view B all you have to do as developer describe what to do in the event.

– Progress manager: you can enroll a thread to be monitored and a progress bar on the bottom allows: see progress; cancel a job; get detailed window to pop up.

- Status bar manager: similar to progress monitor .
- Theme management.
- Self update management.

It is hard to mention all of the functionality the eclipse provide and I am not mentioning a lot of stuff here. Plugin structure of the system would be the one I really need but I am not going to go into details about it.

As you can see there is really noting particular about IDE in the features I just described above. As the matter of fact about a year and a half or so ago it became so apparent to Eclipse community that they created a separate project called Eclipse RCP (Rich Client Platform). The generic functionality of Eclipse IDE was separated out and can be reused over and over without your application being IDE.

So, sure I can develop all of this with crude components, but I was wondering if there is anything like that already out there, that I can just take, learn about and start being productive?

Thanks,  
Alex.