

## Re: VB6, VB2005, or Something Else?

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- *From:* alpine <alpine\_dontsendspam@xxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 24 Feb 2006 10:55:56 -0700
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On Fri, 24 Feb 2006 11:13:45 -0600, "Ralph"  
<nt\_consulting64@xxxxxxx> wrote:

"Anthony" <Anthony@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:47D55D9C-1F71-4F4B-823C-7B9F0E3D7248@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

I am hoping this is a subject suitable for this newsgroup, since I know it  
can be a sensitive one. Hoping to avoid namecalling here, I have a

question

which I could really use some opinions on.

I work for a a small software company. Our entire application suite is  
written in Visual Studio 6 (primarily VB6). We looked at VB.NET when it

came

out, but decided against it because (1) our code wouldn't convert, (2) the  
framework seemed overly large for shareware downloads, (3) anyone that

wanted

to could decompile our code, and (4) the final application seemed very  
sluggish (slow) compared to a vb6 app. Seemed to us the .NET framework  
was

great for corporations, but not so great for small companies selling

software.

Now VB 2005 is out, we have looked at it, and it has some nice new stuff,  
but still suffers from the same items above.

We now know that Vista will support VB6 apps (good news of course). This  
buys us 6 or so years to start a long-term migration to another coding

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platform. Our dilemma is whether or not we should keep coding in VB6 from  
this

point forward. We wonder if Microsoft will somehow purposely kill the  
functionality of the VB6 runtime in the os after Vista. Should we hold out  
hope that some company will save the day and revive VB6? What is their  
history of supporting the VB 1,2,3,4 and 5 runtimes?

If we SHOULD NOT continue with VB6, should we consider moving to VB  
2005?

I

personally hesitate to move there based on the issues above. What else is

a

viable option? C++? Java? Delphi? It would take us 2 years to just get our  
apps into a new system (and thats just maintaining what they already do –

not

really upgrading any functionality – essentially 2 years to get back to  
square one). If we are going to make a move, I don't want to EVER have to

do

this again. I hesitate to go to a microsoft platform in fear they will

pull

the rug like they did with VB6.

Anybody facing the same dilemma? Any food for thought?

Thanks –

[What follows is just a rehash of what others have said better, and what you  
likely already know... <g>]

While I am pissed at MS for what they have done to VB and COM in general.  
And what they have done to everyone's code resources. And that they provide  
no serious upgrade path. And now daily have to confront all the problems  
with .Net you mentioned. (And they are NOT trivial concerns – they are very  
real and very expensive dollar and cent issues.)

There is only one fact and one decision to make.

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Microsoft has literally "bet the farm" on .Net. There is no going back. The Framework is the future of MS and its platforms – it is the "WinAPI" of the future. Moving to any other development platform merely forestalls the inevitable. If you intend to support future MS platforms then you will be doing it with .Net.

Its a b\*tch that MS that MS is a @#%1&@ – but it is and they are – and here we are. Their way or highway.

If you chose to remain with MS = It becomes the classic Fram Oil Filter quandary – "Pay me now, or pay me later". With the obvious answer – buy in now, buy in quickly, and buy in completely. Don't look back.

Or seek, not another tool, but another operating system.

–ralph

No so! There are viable alternatives that can target the framework. There is absolutely no reason to jump into another MS proprietary lockin unless, of course, you like bending over every 3 to 5 years.  
;-)

Bryan

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