Innovating the Client Side

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Who am I?

• Nathaniel T. Schutta
  http://www.ntschutta.com/jat/
• Foundations of Ajax & Pro Ajax and Java Frameworks
• UI guy
• Author, speaker, teacher
• More than a couple of web apps

The Plan

• Brief history
• Flash
• Silverlight
• Ajax
• Choosing
In the beginning...

Uls weren’t always so rich.
Switches...and lights.

Only a geek could love it!

We evolved.
The mainframe.
Gee, that’s convenient.

Dumb terminals.
Green screens...
Yet more evolution...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNXLK78ZaFo

Despite Engelbart, we were still stuck here:
Or worse...
Perfection?

But then things got interesting!
Well, not quite.

VisiCalc.

Eventually, desktops replaced terminals.
Applications got “thicker.”

Users rejoiced!

Though for developers it was more like this...
But then we found the web!

And the submit button returned.

Or to put it another way...
Period of stagnation...

but now we have oodles of choice!
Flash.

1996.

Two pieces:
Flash Player.

Adobe Flash CS3 Professional.

Currently on version 9.
First time Windows and OS X released together.

Flash editor...not like traditional programming.

Animation metaphor.
Thus begat Flex.

Eclipse based IDE.

ActionScript 3.0 - superset of ECMAScript.
Optional static typing.

MXML - XML for layout.

SDK is free...IDE is not.
Flex SDK - to be open sourced.

Flex charting - $$$.

Bruce Eckel, “Hybridizing Java”

http://www.artima.com/weblogs/viewpost.jsp?thread=193593
Issues.

Skip intro...

Waiting...
Usability can suffer.

Lack of “browserness.”

Installation.
Testability.

Who uses it?

YUI Charts.
YouTube.

Plenty of websites:
http://www.nike.com/index.jhtml

AIR (formerly Apollo).
Web meets desktop.

Use existing web tech, can run on the desktop.

Offline web apps.
Read/write files, drag and drop, etc.

Silverlight.

Microsoft’s Flash killer.
Originally: Windows Presentation Foundation/ Everywhere (WPF/E).

New - current version is 1.0.

Browser plugin.
Windows -or- Mac ;)

Even Linux.

Sharing tests w/ Moonlight team.
Allows you to use a variety of languages.

VB, C#...Python, even Ruby!

Can you say DLR?
2.0 version brings .Net languages and dev tools.

XAML and JavaScript.

Searchable/indexable.
Issues.

Testability.

Long term OS support.
What happens with version 2, 3 and beyond?

Who uses it?
MS.

Netflix video on demand.

Ajax.
Ajax isn’t a language.

It’s a catch phrase.

It’s a technique.
Collection of technologies.

XHR, JavaScript, DOM, CSS, etc.

That's not new...
Asynchronous.

Sweet!

Wait - I’ve done this before.
JSRS, iframes...

Yep.

XHR is cleaner.
Came from MS.


Lets us do some amazing things.
No plugins!

Development is getting easier daily.

Firebug, YSlow, IDE support.
Amazing libraries!

Issues.

Back button, history.
Can be harder.

Browser incompatibilities.

Who uses it?
Google, Amazon, Wall Street Journal...

Too many sites to list!

What do I do now?
What are you trying to do?

Who are your customers?

Internal? External?
Versions!

Browser behavior.

Don’t forget testability!
UlS are interesting again!

Lots of options.

Users are demanding better...and they should.
Questions?!!