

Microsoft PDC Special

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PDC 2005 Highlights Sept 2005

Professional Developers Conference

PDC Tracks:

- Presentation
- Data & Systems
- Communications
- Office & Sharepoint
- Tools & Languages
- Fundamentals

For those of you who follow Microsoft's technology here's a quick summary of the annual Professional Developer's Conference (PDC). This year's PDC05 was held at the Los Angeles Convention center, Sept 12-16th and was a success. I attended this year's conference along with 10,000 geeks!!!

The conference was organized in the following tracks:

Presentation. New UI changes, Avalon.

Data & Systems. Future directions, new WinFS, SQL Sever 200.

Communications. Windows Communication Foundation (formerly Indigo), service model, and IIS 7.

Office & Sharepoint. New Office 12 features, search technology, and updates to Sharepoint.

Tools & Languages. CLR changes, new Visual Studio 2005, LINQ.

Fundamentals. Management, Vista (formerly Longhorn).

See <http://msdn.microsoft.com/events/pdc/agenda/tracks/> for more details on the tracks. If you couldn't make the PDC, all of the presentations are located at: <http://commnet.microsoftpdc.com/content/downloads.aspx>.

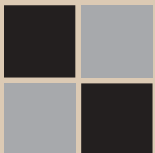
Here are a few of the technologies that I found interesting.

Remote Differential Compression (RDC). RDC is a technology that enables you to synchronize files by just sending the file differences instead of the entire file itself. For slower or congested network links this provides a huge savings in bandwidth. In the demonstration I saw a 28mb file on one system was modified slightly and then automatically synchronized with the same file on another system. Total bytes sent across the wire to accomplish this synchronization → 1500 bytes!!! Now that's cool. What's even cooler is this technology will be made available in the WinFX SDK.

Technologies

- Fibre channel
- Device drivers
- COM/DCOM
- Database, SQL
- C/C++
- SCSI
- GUIs/MFC/.NET
- Windows
- Linux

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PDC Highlights (continued)

Microsoft Shell –MSH (Monad). This is the code name for Microsoft's new object oriented command shell; it is really a different way to think about commands. MSH leverages .NET and uses reflection to query and use all of the methods on an object. The interesting thing is MSH pipes '|' objects around vs. plan text, you can also create your own MSH commands.

Windows Presentation Foundation (Avalon). Microsoft has rewritten the entire presentation layer for Windows Vista. The new system will tie more closely with the current graphics hardware. You'll need to think of grids and canvas instead of the old GDI. Windows will be layed out using XAML, which is an XML based screen layout language. Don't fear, Windows Forms, which use the GDI, will be around for a long time. Microsoft plans to support and continue to develop Windows Forms.

WinFX. This is the new API model for managed code, you can think of it as the managed code version of the good old Win32 API. WinFX will be part of the Windows SDK, which will include both WinFX and Win32 pieces.

Language Integrated Query (LINQ). This is cool, I mean very cool. This is an extension to the .NET framework which enables you to code database queries directly into your programming language – C# or VB. Instead of building an SQL query string, you build your query directly in the programming language.

WinFS. We've heard about his for a while, but it finally looks like Microsoft will deliver this new technology. WinFS will not be part of the Vista release, it will be release later as an add-on. In a nutshell, WinFS is a relational file system. It enables applications to store data in common schema format that is accessible by other applications. Typically applications create their own private data files, one of the goals of WinFS is to provide a common store and schema for applications.

Linux

It is well know that Microsoft views Linux and the Open Source Community as a serious competitive force, which threatens their business model. While a few Microsoft employees referred to Linux directly and were very knowledgeable about Linux, others tended to ignore Linux. I found it fun to track how some of the Microsoft folks referred to Linux indirectly. Here are few quotes:

"... other Unix like variants ..."

"... Unix derived systems..."

"... free offerings available on the internet..."

"... other open source alternatives..."

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