



.NET Rocks!

The Internet Audio Talk Show
for .NET Developers

With Carl Franklin **msdn**
and Richard Campbell

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Carl Franklin

Carl Franklin and Richard Campbell interview experts to bring you insights into .NET technology and the state of software development. More than just a dry interview show, we have fun! Original Music! Prizes! Check out what you've been missing!



Richard Campbell

Text Transcript of Show #107
(Transcription services provided by [PWOP Productions](#))



Scott Hanselman and Rory Blyth
April 1, 2005

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(Music)

Geoff Maciolek: Hey, Rock Heads! Stop drinking the TechEd Kool-Aid and listen up. It's time for another stellar episode of .NET Rocks!, the Internet audio talk show for .NET developers with Carl Franklin and Richard Campbell. This is Geoff Maciolek, here to announce Show #107 with guests Rory Blyth and Scott Hanselman, recorded live, Friday, April 1st, 2005.

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And now, the man who really has no idea what to expect for the next hour, Carl Franklin!

(Music)

Carl Franklin: "Classic ASP, WordPerfect, Shift F7." Hey, this is Carl. Welcome to NET Rocks!, the Internet audio talk show for .NET developers. A special almost-reunion and wacky show that I have no idea, as Geoff said, what's going to happen but I am here in New London, Connecticut. It's Friday, April 1st as we record this, and my counterpart out there in British Colombia -- in Vancouver, British Colombia, that is -- is Richard Campbell. How are you, Man?

Richard Campbell: Well, I am finally feeling better.

Carl Franklin: Yes.

Richard Campbell: You heard me earlier in the week. My punishment for flying 5 hours twice in 48 hours was getting a nasty flu.

Carl Franklin: You sounded horrible, Man. Were you hugging the porcelain?

Richard Campbell: No, it wasn't that bad. It was only mostly just goo emanating from the head in all directions. And of course the family being away, I got to take care of myself the whole time so, so much for my break. But I did manage to get out on Wednesday, went and saw -- Barry Garvin did this talk in Vancouver. He is a fellow Canadian RD. He did this architect's breakfast in downtown Vancouver.

Carl Franklin: Cool.

Richard Campbell: So I had a chance to visit there, and I took lots of drugs and got up early to go see what he was up to. It was an interesting talk. We were talking about modeling. The architecture of applications is similar to modeling software and using design patterns around it.

Carl Franklin: I like Barry. He taught me what the word (expletive "bleeped") means.

(Laugh)

Richard Campbell: You know, that's a very naughty word there, Carl.

Carl Franklin: It is.

Richard Campbell: The French Canadian folks are going to get offended.

Carl Franklin: That's why I like saying it, because it has no meaning to me; so...

Richard Campbell: Yes, no meaning at all.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, so what the heck.

Anyway, we did get some mail this week from -- who is this from? Jim is his name, Jim McCusker, and he says, "Hey, Carl, just finished listening to this week's show, and I couldn't agree with you more about the overall confusion about web services' SOA and to overall confusion over its usage. While I don't agree with the comments regarding developing a new language for SOA, I do believe Microsoft's work with Indigo and WSI compliance is going to make web services much easier to implement in the future for all of us. One key thing you guys all seemed to miss in your discussion about SOA was interoperability. My organization has a mixture of Wintel, Linux and Unix variants that are generally stovepipes of functionality that don't generally communicate between each other. Some of our first-generation web services were developed under BEA, but there were many problems interfacing to their interfaces unless you were using BEA's Java wrappers. With the advent of WSI standards and Microsoft's adoption of these standards with WSE and Indigo, I am very hopeful that the future



benefit of SOA will be in truly interoperable services that work between platforms. Only time will tell, but I'm seeing good examples of such interoperability already. Perhaps the Java and .NET camps can finally start to get along. Great show as usual, keep up the good work on DNR, and I'm looking forward to next week's show, Jim."

Yeah, Richard, that's a really good point. We didn't talk about interoperability.

Richard Campbell: We didn't talk about interoperability at all. And oddly enough, I just finished doing talks about interoperability using web services, too; so we were right there, My reaction when he says, "Maybe they'll finally get along," my automatic reaction is, "Don't bet on it."

Carl Franklin: We'll see (laughing). Yeah, don't bet on it.

Richard Campbell: You know, WSE is great, and it is applying to the standards; but because this stuff is shifting so quickly and new versions are coming all the time, and Microsoft is, in Microsoft's usual way, just like every other vendor -- it's not just Microsoft doing this -- when they put together a bundle of web-services implementations, they add some of their own stuff, as well. And so it's fairly tough. Interop doesn't just happen. It's not that simple. You've got to work at it. But it can be done, and the demonstrations we did definitely showed it worked.

Carl Franklin: And I was listening again to the show, and there was a point at which Rocky was basically being ultra, ultra sarcastic about services and --

Richard Campbell: Yes. So sarcastic, even we didn't get it.

Carl Franklin: We didn't get it at first, and he basically said, "Objects are done. I'm done with Objects. Services is the way it goes." And what he is basically reacting to is people who say just that, who say that "Objects are dead, services are the way to go," as if the SOA architecture is a one-size-fits-all, a one-stop shop for every architecture issue; and that's exactly what my point was, and his point is the same. I said it more blatantly; he was just a little more sarcastic about it, but ... which is odd for him, don't you think?

Richard Campbell: Yeah, I know, it was very strange. Rocky is a pretty straight-up guy, and that's why he sneaks it past. I think what it was is, he was sitting too close to Bill Vaughn.

Carl Franklin: I think that was it, yeah.

Richard Campbell: Yeah. There's a little Vaughn radiation there to just generate sarcasm everywhere you go.

(Laugh)

Carl Franklin: Well anyway, it was a great show. Well, this is going to be fun, because this is like Old Home Week here. Rory Blyth is out there at an airport somewhere, and Scott Hanselman is at his home and talking. How are you guys?

Scott Hanselman: Oh, are we allowed to talk? I'm sorry.

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: I was on the phone just with Brian Campbell just then. He let me on his show a little earlier.

Rory Blyth: I didn't want to come in and say anything.

Scott Hanselman: I didn't want to mess up you guys with this back-and-forth.

Carl Franklin: That's okay. Rory, where are you right now?

Rory Blyth: I am at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport in one of, like, the 45 gates owned by American Airlines. Actually, it's like 80 gates, or it's like 90 gates. Whatever it is, it is really ridiculous. And I am just sitting on one of them and waiting to fly back after a weekend in Dallas at a Microsoft meeting.

Carl Franklin: How much time do you have before your flight takes off?

Rory Blyth: They want us to board at about 3:30, so I have plenty of time till then.

Carl Franklin: That's 10 minutes.

Rory Blyth: That's 3:30 whatever time I am in, so one hour behind you. Can you guys do the arithmetic --

Carl Franklin: That's okay.

Rory Blyth: -- because I can't see a clock right now, and I can't do it anyway.

Carl Franklin: So you've got plenty of time. And also, Rory, before I forget, congratulations on your engagement. That's great news.

Rory Blyth: Yes, thank you very much.



Scott Hanselman: I am very happy.

Rory Blyth: I should congratulate you guys, too. This is the first show I have been on since leaving, and so it's the first show I have been on with a different host.

I just wanted to say, Richard, that as of this point, as far as I'm concerned, you are one of the top three co-hosts that have ever worked on .NET Rocks!, although, that said, you are a little bit of an amateur when it comes to diseases and illnesses of the human body.

Richard Campbell: Oh, no, I am definitely a weaker player when it comes to the illnesses.

Rory Blyth: Come on, Richard, the flu? The flu? Come on, Buddy, look, it was, what, three weeks ago? I was dizzy; I was throwing up and; just to top it all up, I was urinating blood.

Carl Franklin: Oh, God!

Rory Blyth: The flu? Come on, Man, that's nothing. Last week when I was in Fiji proposing to that wonderful, little woman of mine, I had rashes all over my body, and I don't know if I can say this on the air; but I sunburned my penis

Carl Franklin: What?

Rory Blyth: I am not even making that up.

Scott Hanselman: The top or the bottom?

(Laugh)

Rory Blyth: The top, actually. I had a nice, little, red blister on the very end, and I had to lather it in cocoa cream every day.

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: You usually do that, though. Yeah, how was that different from your regular day, Rory?

Carl Franklin: Anyhow ...

Scott Hanselman: All right.

Rory Blyth: So that's what I have been doing since I left the show.

Carl Franklin: Wow! Well, congratulations again. And it's been rough without you, but we are muddling through and changing direction a little bit. It's different, but things are working out all over, I guess.

Rory Blyth: Well, very cool. Well, I am going to go back on Mute, so you guys I will look for opportune times to jump in and interrupt people. But in the meantime, if you want me come in and say something, just let me know, and I will get rid of this background noise.

Carl Franklin: Okay. So, Scott, how have you been, Buddy?

Scott Hanselman: Oh, I am a little disturbed right now, having heard that. I came here, and I was going to say things like "Blah, blah, blah, C#" and "Blah, blah, blah, weak reference" and "Blah, blah, blah, garbage collection," and then now I have got this image in my mind of Rory in Fiji slathering himself, and ... I just want to talk about code, Man.

Carl Franklin: Before we talk about code -- and I do want to talk about code, there's lots to talk about obviously -- the TechEd videos, Man, awesome stuff! How did that happen?

Scott Hanselman: I called Rory and I said, "Be in a video," and he said, "No." And I said, "Rory, don't forget I've got the negatives."

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: And he said, "I will be right over."

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: And there you go.

Richard Campbell: You guys are both in Portland. You must see each other more often than just to make videos, right?

Scott Hanselman: You know, two or three times a year, we see each other. No, I mean, I don't know. Rory is very small, so I have walked past him and not noticed him before. So I don't -- no, we see each other when we see each other.

Richard Campbell: Except when you don't.

Scott Hanselman: I have some protection money that he pays me. It's just an envelope drop, really.

Rory Blyth: When Scott is having a coding problem out at Corillian, usually my phone starts ringing. But aside from that, we actually live on opposite ends of town. So I try to help him out occasionally.

Carl Franklin: Okay. All right. So, Scott, I gotta' know. So, like, did somebody at Microsoft call you and say, "We are looking to do some promo



stuff," or did you just have the idea, "Hey, I want to do a promo video." I mean, what happened? Is this an official Microsoft thing, or what is it?

Scott Hanselman: I am an RD and Rory's whatever Rory is and --

Richard Campbell: I have been wondering that myself.

Scott Hanselman: So we always have a Microsoft person breathing down our neck; but, no, this was not like a Microsoft Studio's thing. This was totally out of the sick mind of Rory and I. And some of them hit, some of them miss. Neither of us have lost our jobs yet. But no one is pulling the strings. No one wrote the script but us. We're just screwing around. We'll probably do something else at TechEd if we can come up with it.

Carl Franklin: That's what I like about it, though. It's so guy-with-a-camera-and-Premier-in-a-couple-of-hours' kind of thing.

Scott Hanselman: I think it actually was premier.

Carl Franklin: It's great stuff; and if you haven't seen it you can find these videos. These are TechEd promo videos which you and Rory did. There are three of them now?

Scott Hanselman: Yeah, there are three, and I think we will probably do another maybe one or two.

Carl Franklin: And if you go to Computerzen.com and click on the TechEd category, down on the left, right? You can pretty much find it up there. That's how I found them easily, because you do a lot of posting on that blog. I mean --

Scott Hanselman: Apparently. People are asking me when I sleep.

Carl Franklin: What kind of viewers -- viewage do you get? Is that a word, "viewage"? Readership? How many people read your blog?

Scott Hanselman: "Readership"? I don't refer to them as "readers". It's usually "spam". Most of my traffic is spam.

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: My mom has started reading my blog, which is a little special.

Carl Franklin: A lot of people read your blog, though, right?

Scott Hanselman: What's that?

Carl Franklin: How many people on average will read a post?

Scott Hanselman: I get, as far as actual page views minus "Refer Spam", maybe 10,000, 15,000 a day.

Carl Franklin: Wow.

Scott Hanselman: Most of it's Google, though.

Carl Franklin: Really?

Scott Hanselman: It's not people who care about me. It's anonymous strangers.

Carl Franklin: And what about you, Rory? How many people hit neopoleon.com?

Rory Blyth: As far as page views go, I am actually about in the same neighborhood as Scott. Individual users, according to my stats, I am getting about 9,000 to 10,000 a day. I have no idea where they are; but I am getting the same thing as Scott, though. I am getting a lot of Google stuff, I get about 500 searches a week just for "Nicole Ritchie", and I don't know where that's coming from. So most of my Google referrals are for "Nicole Ritchie" and the word "ass", and those go straight to me, and I don't understand what the significance is. But, yeah, that's what I am getting. It's getting up there. It's a little weird but, yeah.

Carl Franklin: Well, Scott, I gotta' ask you. You haven't been on the show since ASP.NET 2.0, really, was announced and its feature set. If you were, we really covered very little of it. But you have been working with this, obviously. What are your likes and dislikes?

Scott Hanselman: The thing that I've always disliked about ASP.NET regardless of the version was that you visit the page, and some voodoo happens; and everything is great for months and months and months, but then something goes wrong and you are deleting temp files from eight different places. I see less of that kind of stuff in ASP.NET 2.0. It's much more transparent. It seems to me like there is less voodoo with 2.0. I haven't had any trouble with 2.0 freaking out, having to reset permissions on this and that and remove temp folders from this and that. I really like it, even though we don't have Edit and Continue, we have Edit and Refresh. Everyone was complaining, "Oh, God, we don't have Edit and Continue!" How would you Edit and Continue in a stateless environment, like on the web? But you can Edit and then Post back, and that's pretty cool. It's almost like back in the day. I



mean, we've come back to where we were in 1997 where we would make changes to a page and hit Refresh. It took six or seven years; but we picked up 150 Widgets on the way, and we picked up garbage collection, then we picked up - oh, and X-HTML, by default, it's pretty hard.

Well, one of the things that the standards' monkeys around here are really concerned about is making sure that we do X-HTML and CSS, "X-HTML", of course, being HTML with a schema, HTML reformatted as XML. When you hear people saying "standards-based", that's what they're meaning. The problem is ASP.NET 1.0 and 1.1 are physically incapable of producing valid X-HTML, because X-HTML is something that really happened a little bit after 1.0 was released, and it was too late.

Carl Franklin: What is that? I don't even know what X-HTML is.

Scott Hanselman: Well, it's like a break-tag, like an "open < BR close <".

Carl Franklin: Oh, yeah.

Scott Hanselman: That's an open tag. It never ends; it never gets closed. Let me put it this way: One of the reasons that things suck so badly on the 'net between multiple browsers is because HTML is lazy. HTML, yeah, you put in B-tag, you forget to do a TR or a TD, the browser will figure out what the table is supposed to look like. So the different browsers dealt with that laziness in different ways.

Carl Franklin: And that's why you have all the incompatibilities.

Scott Hanselman: Right. Back in the day, you could create a page that would show up on IE, because IE was really mellow; but it just would not show up on Netscape. It would go blank.

Carl Franklin: Sure. I did many of those.

Scott Hanselman: So, now a lot of these different things back and forth between IE and Firefox are just incomplete or poorly interpreted standards-compliance issues. And X-HTML is the HTML vocabulary formulated as XML. So then X-HTML is well formed. You can use an XML editor. Now, remember that the very, very first tenant of XML is well formed, right? There's three or four kinds of XML. There's well formed, valid, and crap.

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: If it doesn't have a closing tag, it's crap. People say, "No, no, that's

malformed XML." It's not malformed. It's not XML. It looks like XML. It might have the potential to one day be XML; but it might as well be a CSB file. It's not going to load into the dom.

Richard Campbell: Yeah. It parses just as well as a text file out of Notepad, so it's crap.

Scott Hanselman: It's crap. So most HTML and most websites are crap. But once things become X-HTML, you can start putting in semantics from other namespaces. You can mark up your X-HTML, because it is just XML. You can transform from XML into X-HTML. You can use all your existing tools so you can make sure that you are complaint by doing actual schema validation on your X-HTML, the point being that you can push a button in ASP.NET, and you get X-HTML by default.

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Scott Hanselman: So something with that was physically impossible to do without writing your own page class. And ASP.NET 1.1 is now standard and embraced, and that's going to be pretty sweet.

Carl Franklin: Let me just ask you a real quick question for my benefit, and I am sorry if I am taking up time with stupid questions; but...

Scott Hanselman: There are no stupid questions, only inquisitive idiots.

Carl Franklin: Great, I like that. The X-HTML, now, I have been doing well-formed HTML with P and /P for a long time. That doesn't make it X-HTML, right? You have to have an XML header in a schema tag, is that --

Scott Hanselman: Oh, yeah. You have to have a namespace. It needs to validate as HTML. Your stuff may validate as probably HTML transitional, which is the HTML 4.0 as a DTD that backs it up. Let me ask you this. Do your pages have a doc-type header?

Carl Franklin: No.

Scott Hanselman: So they are just text files.

Carl Franklin: Right. Well, you know, that was a long time ago that I was writing HTML by hand; but so...

Scott Hanselman: Really? I'm all about TR and TD, Man. That's my only skill, actually.

Carl Franklin: I am a tweaker, and especially with tables. I hate the table design. Any kind of WYSIWYG table editor is crap.

Scott Hanselman: You know, Man. Let me tell you, the ASP.NET 2.0 table designer is pretty hot.

Carl Franklin: You know why? You know what the problem I have with all these table designers is? If you, like, move the cursor up in the upper left corner and just move it around by one pixel, and you get a different icon for every pixel you move around. There are so many different ways to select stuff -- you know, column, row, the whole table, the one cell. There are so many ways to select in a table that if you don't blow it up somehow and get some better ways to latch onto things, it's very difficult. I find it really infuriating to use that way. So I am all about tweaking, but I don't start out with a blank text pad and ink each page.

Rory Blyth: You know, that might be our way of hinting that we don't want you to be actually using tables so much as we want you to be using DIV tags and CSS and positioning things without busting out with the tables too much, although I do agree with you that it is kind of a pain in the ass, although I wish we wouldn't pay that so much, as I am now a stock holder and ...

Scott Hanselman: Well, you know what tables are for, right?

Carl Franklin: Sure, yeah, for positioning.

Scott Hanselman: No, they're for freaking tables.

Carl Franklin: Okay.

(Laugh).

Carl Franklin: I use them for positioning. You know, I use them for layouts.

Scott Hanselman: Go to csszengarden.com. csszengarden.com is a single page formulated as X-HTML, and a designer created it. It's got a series of DIVs, a series of tags. It's very small. It's maybe two or three pages of, like, Page Down, Page Down, that's it. And he said, "I want to see what you designers can do with this page without touching the source. You can only do this with CSS." And he has a Forward and Back, where you can walk through literally hundreds of different re-imaginings of this page using CSS without changing anything.

Carl Franklin: I've gotta' admit, that's not my area of specialty.

Richard Campbell: Wow, this is fabulous!

Scott Hanselman: This is the point: You have to hire a designer. Avalon is going to make it worse, okay? Elvis, Einstein and Mort, the three kinds of developers, none of them are good at UI design. Hire a developer, get a UI designer, have a -- you know, hire a usability studies' company. But for God's sake, stop slapping big buttons and green lights and red lights and Icons that you find in Explorer somewhere.

Rory Blyth: I wanted to pitch in and say that I totally agree with Scott. That's one thing that I talk about to my audiences. I say that, you know -- I'll go through a particular demo, and I'll show them something. Even in Win forums, depending on what you're going to be doing, I always suggest that you hire a designer; but especially if you are going to be doing a website. And nowadays, you can get Canadians, you know, like Richard, to do this stuff for, like, 400 bucks a pop.

(Laugh)

Rory Blyth: Your whole look and feel, up and down, you just outsource it to Canada. Outsource to Canada, and they'll ship something back, and it's all in the Canadian dollar. It's really cheap, and they do a fine job. I mean, just because they are up there doesn't mean they're, like, worse artists or something like that. You know, they do a great job.

Scott Hanselman: I totally agree with Rory. The great thing about Canada is that every time I hear that the Canadian dollar has fallen, everything in Canada goes on sale, 10%.

(Laugh)

Richard Campbell: When I was doing all my work in the US, every time the Canadian dollar went down, it was like I got a raise.

Carl Franklin: All right, I like this. I'm at csszengarden.com, and I am clicking on the links on the right, and you're right. I mean --

Richard Campbell: I am blown away. It's amazing.

Scott Hanselman: No. 156 is fantastic. It's called "Table Layout Assassin". These are things you could not conceive of being possible, but this is the power of CSS. At Corillian, we've really embrace this, and we do all of our layout with CSS, and we have a theming and skinning engine.

Richard Campbell: I figured, you said you "embrace this", all your pages have ninjas on them.

Scott Hanselman: We all have ninjas, yes. There is a lot of zip-lining going on here, a lot of sneaking around. There is a breakable, stained-glass window I like to zip-line through, and then I put it back together.

Carl Franklin: Nice.

Rory Blyth: Hey, Scott. I know that I am not, like, a co-host or anything any more; but I still have a question. I figured you would be a good guy to talk about. You want to talk about why it's a good idea to go with CSS and DIV tags rather than doing it the old-school way, where you've got all your font tags and all your markups? I mean --

Scott Hanselman: I mean, just look at dasBlog. I mean, what do we ship now five, six, seven different themes? The six people who read my blog have noticed that I changed my look and feel. I literally shipped off three CSS files and a template to a Canadian, paid them in Canadian dollars, and they came back with a really nice layout. I didn't change a single markup tag. That's powerful. I mean, it's the idea between expressing what something is, like, "Here is my page. It has a button on it" versus how it's going to present itself: whether the button is blue or green, maybe it's not even presented as a button. You know how people say, "I have a three-tier design" or "I have a three-layer design" or whatever? But it's always on, like, one machine, and ASP.NET talks to SQL. So I don't know where that third layer is. There are a lot more potentials for abstraction even within layers. Your user interface can be chopped up into CSS, HTML, JavaScript validation, like using, like, maybe stuff like Peter Blum's, and then having a business layer. Those are all like logical layers within one physical tier, the web tier.

Carl Franklin: Yes. You know, speaking of Peter Blum stuff and controls, third-party controls, all the ASP.NET controls totally support cascading style sheets. All the styles come from the CSS stuff, right?

Scott Hanselman: Totally. For example, we are doing a lot of the server-side controls, because we do banking. A data grid isn't appropriate for what I need. I have a balance list control, so I drop it on a page, and then I've got a "Here is a list all of your account balances." We expose every aspect of that control with a CSS class, which means that if -- actually, to answer Rory's question, if a boss says, "Oh, that's great, except make that column right-aligned." And that could either be a change control that will take six days and a \$100,000 to recode and recompile, or it's a quick tweak to CSS.

Carl Franklin: Well, right now, we are going to pause a little bit and actually hear from our friend, Peter Blum, and hear about him. I am going to talk about him for a second. But you've used his stuff before, haven't you? In fact, you're the guy who introduced me to Peter.

Scott Hanselman: Yeah, totally. Peter, we standardize on his validation controls here, because the ASP.NET 1.0 validations are egregiously lame. He has built a dynamic JavaScript engine for doing both client and server-side validations of widgets, and we use it in all of our sites here at Corillian, and I'm looking forward to seeing what he is going to do in ASP.NET 2.0. And actually, another thing I noticed that he just put up a little while back in the same vein is, he's got a visual-input security tool that watches for SQL injection and stuff. So anything that involves me not working, I am behind.

Carl Franklin: So let me tell you about Peter Blum. He is the author of several very popular ASP.NET control suites, and we've had him on the show twice to talk about them. His customers have thrown their accolades at him through numerous testimonials on the ASP.NET control gallery and two Readers' Choice Awards in ASP.NET Pro Magazine.

What I really like about Peter's work is how feature-rich his stuff is, you know? For example, his replacement to the ASP.NET calendar control has well over 100 properties. In a recent review in ASP.NET Pro Magazine, Don Keily said this about his documentation, and I quote, "The documentation is so detailed and complete, it's almost scary. There's no way I'm ever going to show any of my clients the docs, because that will raise the bar way too high for my own documentation."

So, what are these controls that everyone is talking about? Well, there are four: Peter's Date Package, Professional Validation and More, Visual-Input Security and Peter's Polling Package.

Peter's Date Package is a suite of 19 date and time controls, including the calendar I mentioned. If you're trying to create your own date-picker with a popup calendar, you're wasting your time and there's something like this good for \$50.

Professional Validation and More resolves many of the issues users face with Microsoft Validators and greatly expand your validation tools. Its 22 validators provide client-side support for FireFox and Opera, as well as IE, of course. They handle most validation rules without you writing custom code, plus they make it much easier to



communicate errors with the user. Professional Validation and More is really a suite of controls designed around data entry. It enhances all phases of data collection, from setting up the page to submitting it. It includes greatly enhanced text boxes and adds multi-browser-compatible JavaScript into your web forums to make your pages much more interactive. Version 3.0 is coming out next week, giving you a suite of over 40 controls. I found this testimonial on the ASP.NET control gallery: "Professional Validation and More' is probably the most useful suite of controls that you would ever have for ASP.NET. It makes working with complex forms that require a lot of logic nothing short of a breeze. I can't imagine the amount of thought and time that Peter's put into this package, because it does everything. Just try out the package, and you'll wonder how you ever got along with using the built-in validation."

Visual-Input Security is the only product I know of that addresses how hackers use SQL injection and cross-site scripting to damage your site and steal your data, like Scott was talking about. It's very thorough with validators, logging and other technology to frustrate the hacker. Don Kiely's review gave it five stars and said, "I highly recommend 'Visual-Input Security' for all web developers who are serious about building secure sites."

Peter's Polling Package is the most popular ASP.NET polling control. Like all the other products, it's very feature-rich, with a web-based poll data entry and reporting system. I strongly encourage you to visit www.peterblum.com, and take these great products for a spin around the web.

Really good stuff, and cheap, too. It's like 50 bucks apiece or something like that, aren't they?

Scott Hanselman: Yeah, it's ridiculous.

Carl Franklin: Yeah. I don't know how he does it.

Richard Campbell: I am staggered by this csszengarden. You've got to send anybody who needs to get a page developed here and say, like, "If you are not thinking in these terms and this caliber, what are you doing?"

Carl Franklin: Yes, Scott.

Scott Hanselman: You're still looking at that. And it just goes on and on, doesn't it?

Richard Campbell: It just goes on and on, and every one is more beautiful than next. Like, it's just astounding.

Scott Hanselman: If they do a View Source, it's the same XML.

Richard Campbell: It's the same XML every time.

Scott Hanselman: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: It's fabulous.

Carl Franklin: That is pretty awesome. Then again, how many different styles are you going to make for your website?

Scott Hanselman: Well, it depends. Let's say that you're a bank, and you do a credit card. How many different credit cards do you think Bank One has, or how many credit cards do you know WAMU has? If you've got a blog, how many different faces, how many different categories, do you have if you want to give someone a choice? I mean, usually you see basic, basic seaming on different sites. I think Fox News and ABC News have got a button on the right-hand side that lets you change the size of the font. That's the first kind of public recognition that maybe people don't want your little, 8-point font. That's done by switching out CSS. That's just the start.

There has been times where -- I think MSN spaces lets you have five or six different themes. RSS readers give you the opportunity to look at stuff with its own skin. You know, why should I be forced to look at a bad design when there is an optional on it?

Richard Campbell: Well, the salient point is, if you don't do this, you know how many designs you are going to have.

Scott Hanselman: Exactly. There will be a new one every time.

Rory Blyth: It's also one of those things where even if you aren't planning on having any other designs whatsoever. I mean, your marketing department is going to come to you at some point and say they want some major overhaul, because they have gotten bored with the current design, and they think that their customers don't care about it any more, because they think their customers are only concerned with that one website, like they are sitting up all night biting their nails, waiting for a new set of graphics to come in.

Carl Franklin: That's true.

Rory Blyth: And it is going to be a lot easier to make that change if you don't have to go through



and completely redesign the site from the ground up. And it's also one of those situations where I used to do work for a company where we were literally writing the same applications over and over again, and the only thing that really changed was the UI. If we were actually trying to change everything in the markup, that would have been a major pain in the ass. And that is actually how some of the older projects we had were being done. It was a major pain in the ass. So you want to avoid that, you know, if you can.

Carl Franklin: Hey, Rory, I think they are paging you, Man.

Rory Blyth: No, no, It's fine. I am hiding in a corner.

Carl Franklin: Hey, Dude, I dare you to go into a bathroom and talk in a stall right now.

Rory Blyth: Well, okay. I'll put it on mute until I'm in the bathroom, okay?

Carl Franklin: Awesome. Excellent. (Laughing).

Richard Campbell: You knew he had no choice once you said that.

Carl Franklin: The gauntlet has been thrown down.

So, Scott, while he is going into the stall of the nearest men's room, tell me about this cool post that has generated some interest on your blog recently, because I read everything that you post, and it's always interesting.

Scott Hanselman: You know, before I say that, I got to say, Man, no one ever comments on anything in my freaking blog. But I go to your blog, and people go on for days, like it's a chat room of some kind.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, I know.

Scott Hanselman: Your blog is blissfully devoid of content, and people go on and on and on and build this community that has this whole sense. And people -- I'll, like, work for days on a post explaining how to do some obscure thing, like auto-sizing columns in Win forums and I will get, like, maybe Richard will come and say, "Good job."

Richard Campbell: Well, yeah. My usual reaction to some of those mega-posts of yours is, "Wow!" I don't know where to go after that, Scott. You have nailed it down. You've thought about this more than I have in my entire life. What am I going to say now?

Carl Franklin: I think you've got hundreds of people out there who see your greatness and are just too intimidated to even comment. But they come to my lousy blog, and, hey, they can show me a few things. So, you know, they are more prone, because I am an idiot, and I'm just blathering basically, talking about .NET Rocks! schedules and trips to Florida, you know. What's the harm in commenting there? There is no chance to even look dumb.

Scott Hanselman: And if I see one more picture of your cat, I swear.

Carl Franklin: No, no, I don't --

Scott Hanselman: "I'm Carl Franklin. Here's my cat." Whoo-hoo!

Carl Franklin: I don't post pictures of my cat.

Scott Hanselman: That must be a different Carl Franklin.

Carl Franklin: It must be. I don't even have pictures of my cat.

Scott Hanselman: I am joking. It's a blog architect. Come on, Richard, help me out here.

Carl Franklin: All right. So go ahead.

Scott Hanselman: I posted back on February 21st to go to the blog and Search for "interview". I posted a list where I called it "What Great .NET Developers Ought to Know". I was coming back from the ISV Community Days that I spoke at in Boise, and I had about a 45-minute, little, puddle-jumper flight.

Carl Franklin: Oh, my God.

Scott Hanselman: So I just -- what?

Carl Franklin: I am just looking at the laundry list of bullets here. It's enormous.

Scott Hanselman: See how he says he reads everything in my blog. and then goes back a month later, "I've never seen this before"?

Carl Franklin: I haven't seen this. I am sorry.

Scott Hanselman: So I wrote a list of things you need to know.

Rory Blyth: Hey, Carl, you dumb bastard, are you there?

Carl Franklin: Yeah. Are you in the toilet?

Rory Blyth: Yeah, I had to go into one of the handicap stalls, because I have a lot of bags and there was no room for anything else. It's actually a lot quieter in here.

Scott Hanselman: The acoustics are fantastic.

Carl Franklin: Are there people in there right now?

Rory Blyth: Yeah, I am in here right now. The only problem is that although I can hear you guys better, it's a little bit humid.

Carl Franklin: Are there people in the bathroom right now?

Rory Blyth: Oh, absolutely, yeah. I mean, what do you think, it's an empty bathroom?

Carl Franklin: How about A Little Teapot, Man?

Scott Hanselman: Oh, my God. What is this, Howard Stern?

Rory Blyth: Yeah, that's getting a little weird.

(Laugh)

Rory Blyth: But I guess it's typing nicely with the video, which probably confuses anybody who is only listening to one end of this conversation.

Scott Hanselman: And the four people who watch the video.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, right.

Rory Blyth: It's like you're one of these people who divide everything by 1,000.

Scott Hanselman: No, really, there are four people who watched the video.

Rory Blyth: Well, that's a good point. I mean, you're doing the thing where --

Scott Hanselman: I meant that.

Carl Franklin: All right.

Rory Blyth: -- you're saying you divided and it's 4,000, right?

Scott Hanselman: I meant that I met them. They were at Subway. There was a group of them.

Carl Franklin: All right. You don't have to say any more.

Rory Blyth: So the reception is better? Can you guys hear me better in here?

Richard Campbell: Just stop flushing the toilet.

Carl Franklin: Yeah. Just to prove that you're in there, let's hear the flush.

Rory Blyth: Okay, let me see here. It's one of those infrared things, and I'm trying to trick it. See? Oh, no, it has a button. There it is. There we go (sound of flushing toilet).

Scott Hanselman: Rory is too thin to convince the machine to flush.

(Laugh)

Carl Franklin: I liked, by the way, Scott, when you actually had to flush Rory's urinal in the first video. That was really --

Scott Hanselman: Well, you can hear it right now. He just flushed with his foot.

Richard Campbell: Yeah. I was just thinking, "How do you hit that little button with your foot, Rory?"

Rory Blyth: I didn't use the little button. I put my hand in front of that little thing that looks like HAL's eyeball? And I just held it there for a minute, and then I took it away. I can see the button, but I have no intention of touching the button, because -- I am not actually going to talk to you about it right now, because this is even a little bit too gross for me.

(Laugh)

Carl Franklin: All right. So let's get on to this post about "What Great .NET Developers Ought to Know".

Rory Blyth: Is that the topic, or what we are talking about?

Scott Hanselman: First, we caught Carl in a blatant lie when he said he read my blog, and then I showed him a post he'd never seen. I was just telling about how I was coming back from that Boise ISV thing, and I wrote that quick list of interview questions. And people hate that list. That's like the only thing I have ever got comments on. I've got 48 comments and --

Richard Campbell: And they are all angry.

Scott Hanselman: Yeah, they're all like, "This is trivia, Man. I don't want to buy or hire a trivia guy. You know, I'll look that up."

Rory Blyth: Which list is this?

Scott Hanselman: What's that?

Rory Blyth: What list was that?

Scott Hanselman: This is the interview question.

Rory Blyth: I kind of remember that, and I didn't think there was anything wrong with it. I mean, it did get a little trivial at times; but it was still a nice service.

Scott Hanselman: It was like, "Here's a question," and then I am getting things from, like, people in Jabudi who want to know what the answers are.

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: They are very kind, very well meaning people, you know. "Hello, my name is Fred. I live in Jabudi, and I need the answers to your questions for a final."

Carl Franklin: Let's read a few of these. Everyone who writes code should know -- should be able to describe the difference between a thread and a process. What is a Window service, and how does its life cycle differ from a standard exe? What is the difference between an exe and a dll?

Scott Hanselman: That's basic stuff, right?

Carl Franklin: Yeah, and then you get into --

Scott Hanselman: 101-type stuff.

Carl Franklin: And then you get into mid-level .NET developer: "What is reflection? Can date/times be null?" Those are some of the shorter ones. There are about 20 of those, it looks like, maybe 15. Senior developer architects, what does this do: "sn-tfoo.dll", right?

Scott Hanselman: Right.

Carl Franklin: Good stuff.

Scott Hanselman: The question being, not do you know the trivia but if you are really architecting large, complicated systems, you will LookType that once in your life.

Carl Franklin: "What is boxing?" you know, those kinds of things.

Scott Hanselman: Right.

Carl Franklin: So it goes on for C# developers, ASP.NET UI developers. Obviously -- I mean, not "obviously," but interestingly, VB.NET developers is missing from there.

Richard Campbell: Yeah. What is up with that?

Carl Franklin: "What's the nearest package store?" You know, "How many ounces in a \$10 bag of" -- I don't know.

Richard Campbell: Of Doritos?

Scott Hanselman: Well, if you'll notice, there are only ten questions that are C#-specific; but the vast, vast majority of that stuff is totally agnostic. And I am very much someone who is agnostic. I mean. I cut my teeth on VB 3.0.

Carl Franklin: I am just giving you hell.

Scott Hanselman: So if you like semicolons, I believe you should be able to marry whoever you want to marry.

Carl Franklin: Obvious target there.

(Laugh)

Richard Campbell: He is not going to let you go, Carl. You know he won't.

Carl Franklin: It's good stuff. I would be really providing a disservice to the listeners if I didn't bring up your all-time best post, which is on how to give an effective presentation -- "Tips on Giving A Great Presentation" -- and you know why? It's because I have seen this stuff, and I have absorbed it so much, and so many people know about it; and then, you know, I heard from somebody at Dev Connections that they couldn't read the screen for somebody's presentation. I didn't know who it was, but some presenter at Dev Connections didn't read this and didn't have their font bumped up or whatever.

Scott Hanselman: Oh, yeah, I am taking full credit for all large-font presentations from now on. I've already decided that.

Richard Campbell: And Lucida Console. I'm behind it 100%.

Scott Hanselman: That's right, Baby.

Carl Franklin: Yeah. But, yeah, this is good stuff -- not for everybody; but for anybody who is a presenter.

Richard Campbell: If you are going to present, you have no excuse not to do all of these things. It's not that difficult. This is what the job entails.

(Music)



Carl Franklin: Folks, do yourself a favor and check out our friends' DataDynamics' website, www.datadynamics.com, makers of ActiveReports.NET: "simple, powerful and cost-effective reporting for Windows' forums and ASP.NET, very nice stuff. You compile the reports right into your application; ship them with your assemblies. It has all the great features you've come to expect in a reporting engine, and you can use ActiveX controls right in the reports, too; so, great stuff. DataDynamics has been an excellent sponsor of .NET Rocks! for a long time. They deserve a little bit of your love and attention. So go check them out at www.datadynamics.com.

Rory, how are you doing in there?

Rory Blyth: Actually, I got out of the bathroom, because it was too humid, and I was getting this 10 to 15 other people's urine on my body. The stall that I had to go in, because I had all my bags and I had to go into one of those big stalls, was obviously one into which somebody who had eaten a lot of, like, those electric chips and gone running.

Carl Franklin: Oh, come on.

(Laugh)

Rory Blyth: I didn't want to actually stay around there any longer than I had to. So I felt like we had our fun, and we did some toilet flushing, and then I had to get the hell out. So I'm now staring at American Airlines MV83 out the window that's sitting and being prepped for flight. That's what I am doing now.

Scott Hanselman: You know, where else on the blog is fear? Where on the Internet can you bracket such things as "How does the garbage collector work?" with just cheap potty humor?

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: Nowhere. This is the service we provide you. This is the commitment to customer service that is provided by .NET Rocks!, the ".NET" part meaning ".NET"; the "Rocks!" meaning whatever you just ate.

Rory Blyth: You know what I can say that is not potty humor and that actually is exciting and is totally related to ASP.NET 2.0? I mean, does anybody want to hear it, or would that be more on topic?

Carl Franklin: Yeah, go ahead.

Scott Hanselman: Let's just make fart noises.

(Laugh)

Rory Blyth: All right. Okay. Here is the deal. Here is what I am really excited about. I mean, I have been wanting to tell people this, and you guys are the first people I can tell. I was going to blog about it, but I'm not home yet.

So I just found out yesterday -- I mean, you guys know. I don't know if anybody else knows -- I am on the MSDN Events Team at Microsoft, which is the team that goes around and gives technical seminars to developers, msdnevents.com, and the content that we're doing -- not through this upcoming quarter here; but I think for the one after it -- where actually we've brought in portal sites and, specially, Fritz Onion as consultant, and they are working with us to put together our content. And that just has me, like, my little geek heart is going "pitter-patter", because Fritz Onion wrote the absolutely best book on ASP.NET in existence, "Essential ASP.NET", for those of you who haven't actually read it or heard of it.

Carl Franklin: Great book.

Rory Blyth: And I am so thrilled that he's going to be the guy who is going to be our main resource for putting these presentations together. That's going to be awesome. I had to do a little bit of, like, advertising/bragging about that, because that's just way too cool for me. I adore that man.

Carl Franklin: His book is the textbook for the ASP.NET master class that I teach. Great stuff.

Rory Blyth: Oh, sweet. And you remember that? Do you remember when we interviewed him? He wrote that book by hand with a pen and paper.

Carl Franklin: I remember.

Rory Blyth: That guy is something. Anyway, I just wanted to say that, and it's actually kind of even on topic, and it involves no mention of the digestive process or mishap.

Richard Campbell: I am so confused now, I can barely understand you there, Rory.

Rory Blyth: So that's that. It's all going to be ASP.NET 2.0 stuff, and that's going to be free. So I am just happy as a little clam in a bed of nice seaweed somewhere or some other analogy that works better than that there. So, that's good.

Richard Campbell: Scott, aren't you working on a book, as well?



Scott Hanselman: It will never be as good as Fritz's book, though.

Richard Campbell: Well, that goes without saying; but I'm just trying to give you a plug.

Scott Hanselman: Well, yeah. When Rory said that Fritz's book actually replaces the New Testament, my little book on ASP.NET will likely be -- I don't know -- smaller. And I didn't write it on a big, yellow pad with a pen. I wrote it with Dragon Naturally Speaking. Mine is the anti-Onion book, basically. I'm just trying to get my little piece of the pie.

Carl Franklin: You just posted shrinkster.com/4j4. I don't know where this fits into the conversation; but this is a really cool thing, "The Cenqua Pairon Chair for XP, Extreme Programming".

Richard Campbell: It's like an Aaron, only with more Photoshop.

(Laugh)

Carl Franklin: That's really good. It's a twin Aaron chair for "Extreme Programming". Great stuff.

Scott Hanselman: Maybe it's not translating over radio.

Carl Franklin: Oh, you've just got to go there.

Richard Campbell: Ya' gotta' go to the lake.

Carl Franklin: That's something Richard would do.

So let's get back to cascading style sheets, because we do have to talk about some .NET stuff on a .NET Rocks! show. And this is really intriguing to me, because as you realized and figured out, I have always been a dude-with-tables-and-pixels-.gif kind of guy and never really got into cascading style sheets. So there is a cascading style sheet editor in Visual Studio 1.1, you know -- or 2003, .NET 1.1 -- and I noticed some weirdness with that thing that when you drag a cascading style sheet over onto your page -- which you have to do, or you put a link tag in there -- that every time you do that, it adds another link tag in the Meta section. And so, like, if you drag it once and, poof, you've got your cascading style sheet applied. Drag it again, and now you go into the HTML view in the ASPX file, and now there are two links in there.

Rory Blyth: That's actually not that weird, because that's one of the whole ideas behind cascading style sheets. You can have multiple

style sheets overwriting settings and defining other settings, as well, and you can have, like, an aggregate collection of settings specified in several CSS files. I mean, that's where you get into the whole cascading thing.

Carl Franklin: Oh, okay.

Scott, do you have, like, a more elegant way of saying this?

Scott Hanselman: I have no idea what you guys are talking about.

(Laugh)

Carl Franklin: Well, that makes more sense now. Thanks, Rory.

Rory Blyth: Yeah, that's not a bug. That's actually how it's supposed to be. It's a little weird that it would let you drag the same file over and over again; but, multiple files, that's actually the way it should be.

Carl Franklin: And the style sheets in this csszengarden.com include lots of glorious graphics and great stuff like that. Cascading style sheets allow you to change graphics, as well as font sizes and things like that.

Scott Hanselman: Right. If you have, like, a Div or say you take, like, a header like H1, like, on my blog I've got a logo. The logo doesn't appear in the source; it appears on the H1 as a background image. So you can take any element and say, "This has an image associated with it."

Carl Franklin: Okay.

Scott Hanselman: So images don't have to be in an image source tag. Like, you could take a UL -- -- an Unordered List -- or an HTML tag "UL, LI, LI" -- "UL" for "Unordered List", "LI" for "List Item" -- and put bullets on them using CSS.

Richard Campbell: The real question that you allude to there, Carl, is, I have to wonder, "What tools these" --

Carl Franklin: Right. What are the tools that you use?

Richard Campbell: -- "graphics' designers use to make these unbelievable style sheets?" I mean, there's really some talent here, and I don't imagine they were using Visual Notepad when they wrote them.

Carl Franklin: Like, I know Dax uses Coral Photo Paint and does markups in that, and then I guess he's using ... I don't know what he's using



in terms of style sheets or whatever; but, Scott, do you do a lot of CSS stuff yourself?

Scott Hanselman: No. Man, if you're not good at something, hire someone else.

Carl Franklin: Right.

Richard Campbell: Probably a Canadian.

Scott Hanselman: I can't be a decent programmer and a designer at the same time.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, and that's where my HTML talents end, as well.

Scott Hanselman: Do you hire someone to do franklins.NET?

Carl Franklin: Yeah. I was just talking about him, Dax Pandhi from Nukeation.com. He did the .NET Rocks!, he is doing the franklins.net update, pwop.com and thedailycommute.com

Scott Hanselman: Dotnetrocks.com is pretty nice.

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Scott Hanselman: [Franklins.net](http://franklins.net) looks like you did it.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, franklins.net is, like, three or four years old; but I did it myself. And that's getting an update, too.

Scott Hanselman: That's cool.

Carl Franklin: So the rule is, now, if you are doing a website in ASP.NET using cascading style sheets, your output is pretty raw, isn't it?

Scott Hanselman: Our output is basically like "DIV left side, DIV right side, DIV body." We are actually using master pages, the ASP.NET 1.1 imitation of master pages. So we don't even have a form, or we don't have anything on our pages but the little chunk of content

Carl Franklin: Hey, there has been a lot of talk on the Regional Director list lately about AJAX.

Scott Hanselman: Asynchronous JavaScript and XML.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, exactly, there you go. And this is what Google is using for Google maps, right?

Scott Hanselman: This is what Outlook Web Access used 10 years ago.

Rory Blyth: Isn't it just XML http? Isn't that all that is?

Richard Campbell: Yeah, that's the point.

Scott Hanselman: XML http was an IE-specific thing.

Rory Blyth: It's the same sort of deal, though, right? It's the same idea?

Scott Hanselman: It is using JavaScript to make web requests and parse the result.

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Scott Hanselman: It just has a name now.

Carl Franklin: So what do you think of this? I mean, you're an ASP.NET guy. You are not necessarily beating the Smart Client drum, which is obviously where this thing is targeting?

Scott Hanselman: Okay. I talk to the general public, though. Grandma can't download a Smart Client, because Grandma can't figure out how to install the .NET framework, because framework is not on Windows' Update. Next Thanksgiving, I will install the .NET framework on Grandma's machine, and maybe then Smart Clients will take off.

Carl Franklin: So I take it you're totally into this AJAX stuff.

Scott Hanselman: I'd rather do it in Flash, frankly.

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: No, I'm not kidding, because I can tell you, Flash is on your machine. I know Grandma has got Flash on her machine. Flash has a 97% market penetration? Yeah, I'd do it in Flash before I'd do it in Java. I'd do it in AJAX before I'd do it in a Smart Client. Now, Smart Clients are fantastic if you control the machines, if you are going to do, like, an intranet, or you are going to do a customer-service application. But unless you can guarantee that the .NET framework is on everyone's machine, it's not going to happen. I believe Smart Clients will happen when Longhorn ships. Until then, AJAX is great. The problem with AJAX, though, is that it's voodoo.

Carl Franklin: Right.

Scott Hanselman: I mean, I still don't know how Outlook Web Access knows how to tell me that there is new mail.



Richard Campbell: It is spooky.

Scott Hanselman: It is spooky, little, blue toes popping out of my web browser.

(Laugh)

Richard Campbell: You people stop that. Stop that right now. Don't do stuff in the web that shouldn't be happening. The Outlook Web Access is the bane of an endless number of application developers. "How come our app isn't as nice as Outlook Web Access?" You finally put a really incredible web application in front of non-web people -- in front of regular mortals that sign checks -- and you've ruined all these developers' lives.

Carl Franklin: Oh, Man. We are just coming down to the last few minutes of the show here, and I want to ask both of you guys the question that I ask everyone these days, which is: What is the coolest thing you have downloaded lately?

Scott Hanselman: My own video.

(Laugh)

Richard Campbell: Admittedly, a very cool thing.

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Rory Blyth: Now, there's -- Scott, do you want to hear me?

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Rory Blyth: Okay. The coolest thing I have downloaded actually has to do with Geoff Maciolek, if that makes sense. About a year ago, he pointed out this application to me called DOSBox, which is a DOS emulator. I don't know if any of you guys have run this, but I certainly got this hankering to run not just the old adventure games that I used to play when I was a kid, but I wanted to get them in French. And they don't run under Windows; so I had to go out, and I had to grab DOSBox, and then I grabbed another application. If you don't want to sit around and configure DOSBox, which is a sort of convoluted, open-source project, you can go and download this thing called dfend, and it's a graphical front-end to DOSBox, and it makes it really easy to configure. It will hold applications of games that will only run under DOS and run them from this menu-style configuration. But even from that, I'm getting kind of bored of these things in French, and I am moving on to ... I went to an abandonware website, and I found a copy of Windows Version 1.0, the old text-based version of Windows, and I am going to grab that and get that installed when I get back to Portland, just out

of curiosity. I just want to see that thing running. Just for not even historical reasons, but just because I am so curious about what those days must have been like. So ...

Richard Campbell: You ought to play the original version of solitaire.

Carl Franklin: And CP/M.

Rory Blyth: Yeah (laughing). So that thing is actually really cool, just because there are so many DOS apps that will absolutely not run under Windows. I mean, there are Windows 95 and 98 apps that won't run under XP. So you have to do something, and the "something" I'm doing is, I'm running these old apps under DOSBox. So that's the coolest thing I have downloaded later, along with dfend.

Carl Franklin: And, Scott, are you sticking with your video as the coolest thing? There isn't anything really cool that you have downloaded other than --

Scott Hanselman: Well, I just downloaded DOSBox --

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: -- because Rory said it was cool.

Rory Blyth: Scott, I'm going to -- I'm almost back -- I'm coming back to Portland, and I'm going to kick your ass.

Scott Hanselman: No, seriously, I just downloaded it. I am going to get it, along with the Dark Running, which is a fantastic game from 1991.

Rory Blyth: Well, are you serious? You're actually going to get the Dark Running?

Scott Hanselman: I literally just got DOSBox running, and now I am going to download -- I love the Dark.

Carl Franklin: Do you know the old game that I have a weakness for? It's Transport Tycoon.

Rory Blyth: Yeah, you can get that, too.

Geoff Maciolek: Hey, Rory, if you're into French adventure games, you should look into a game called Relentless. That was one of the few games that was actually developed in France that I think ever made any sort of impact.



Rory Blyth: Wait a minute, why do I know about that game? Could you describe it? Because I think I've seen it or something.

Geoff Maciolek: Relentless, you play a guy in a blue robe who dribbles a ball around. It's an isometric view. It's goo-rad-shaded, so everything is sort of colorful spheres and oblong things.

Rory Blyth: Marble Madness?

Geoff Maciolek: Not quite Marble Madness.

Rory Blyth: Wow, Geoff, I'm sorry. I said that I thought that I had heard of that game and played it; but I realized I haven't, and probably nobody else has, to be truthful.

(Laugh)

Scott Hanselman: Ah, the French, the French.

Rory Blyth: But I will take a look, Relentless, blue guy in a robe with a basketball, right? That's what you said?

Geoff Maciolek: Something like that.

Rory Blyth: Dribbling what? Is he drooling or dribbling? I couldn't -- the connection is bad here.

Richard Campbell: A little of both. Little of both.

Rory Blyth: Well, I'll find it.

Carl Franklin: Okay. All right, Guys. So are there any last-minute words of wisdom you want to impart on the listening public?

Scott Hanselman: When Rory proposed to me that day in Fiji, it was the most beautiful day of my life.

Carl Franklin: Rory?

Rory Blyth: Well, what I'll say, if Scott doesn't want to share any of his wisdom, mine is, go on ahead and check out MSDNevents.com, and come to one of my events, and I'll give you some free crap and do some demos for you.

Carl Franklin: Awesome. Well, Guys, it has being a pleasure having you yet again on another show, and keep making those videos. I can't wait to see the next one.

On behalf of myself, Geoff Maciolek in the sound room, Richard Campbell in Vancouver, this is Carl Franklin saying, have a great week and rock on and check out those videos! Have a good one.

(Music)