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The Internet Audio Talk Show for .NET Developers

With Carl Franklin **msdn** and Richard Campbell

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Carl Franklin



Richard Campbell

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!

Text Transcript of Show #147

(Transcription services provided by [PWOP Productions](#))





(Music)

Carl Franklin: Oh, my God! Will this road trip ever end?

Richard Campbell: I am not complaining. I think this is the best show we've done yet.

Carl Franklin: No, I agree. This is Houston, Texas, and great crowd.

(Applause.)

Carl Franklin: Except for that guy. And, Man, what a great crowd. They were saying, "Oh, Man, I am sorry. Only 100 people showed up." But, Man, what a great crowd it was!

Richard Campbell: Yeah, they're very interactive, very excited to be here, and we had a great time with them. Even if we were hurried by security, we got it done, and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

Carl Franklin: Yeah. Funny thing about security guards that have to go home at 9:30, they get really cranky when they have to stay to let you out; so they just threatened to close the doors and leave. But we got out on time, and we're here with a few people now; we're going to talk to some of them.

And our first guest is Hank Lynch. Hi, Hank.

Hank Lynch: Hey, how are you doing?

Carl Franklin: Good to meet you. So tell us about yourself. Who are you, and what do you do?

Hank Lynch: I am developer here in the Houston area. I work over in some banking software company and pretty much write -- I don't know -- a lot of ASP kind of .NET software, C#.

Richard Campbell: Is that ASP classic?

Hank Lynch: No, no, ASP.NET.

Richard Campbell: Oh, it's all ASP.NET, that's good.

Carl Franklin: And "some banking software company", because they get really picky about people saying their names on the air.

Hank Lynch: Yeah, very much.

Carl Franklin: So we know a few people in banking software business. Is that a big industry in this area?

Hank Lynch: Not so much. Not so much. It's mostly oil around here.

Carl Franklin: So the kind of stuff you're working on the website is internal stuff or external?

Hank Lynch: It's internal, a lot of server processes and stuff like that.

Carl Franklin: Yeah. Anything interesting that you want to share?

Hank Lynch: Well, not from the bank, more stuff that I do. What I'm trying to get going right now as, I've got a site, excio.com. I have taken a version of Community Server -- you guys heard of that?

Carl Franklin: Sure.

Richard Campbell: Sure, that's Rob Powers' product.

Hank Lynch: Yeah, Rob's. I kind of integrated that with MapPoint software in the background and kind of created a GPS-based blogging system.

Carl Franklin: Nice.

Hank Lynch: So it would work out for you guys, too.

Richard Campbell: I swear, I just looked at your blog today; was wandering around looking for GPS-related stuff, and you got a little graphic that shows where you are at any given moment, if I remember correctly.

Hank Lynch: No.

Richard Campbell: No? Okay Somebody --

Carl Franklin: Doctor Neil does that.

Hank Lynch: Somebody else.

Richard Campbell: Yeah. Now, what's the website address?

Hank Lynch: Excio.com.

Richard Campbell: Oh, I see. Are you an ex-CIO?

Hank Lynch: No, no.

Richard Campbell: Just checking.

Hank Lynch: Just some strange word I pulled out. So basically what it lets you do is, you can geo-code your individual posts. So for you guys -



- you are traveling around, right? -- so you would be able to get a place to play; so when you are actually doing your blogging at the end of night, you put in the address where you are at, ZIP code or whatever, and people can actually aggregate the RSS feeds by location.

I am writing a Windows Mobile 5.0 piece that goes on the HP ... what is that, Beta Package W6700?

Richard Campbell: Uh-huh.

Hank Lynch: Put that in with the GPS on that, and you can actually find out what's going on around you while you are traveling around.

Carl Franklin: Okay. So for us, it would be nobody -- the people that read our blog posts are only the local people from where if we post in the area.

Hank Lynch: Not necessarily. I mean, they can still read your blog; but if they come in to view --

Carl Franklin: Sure. It's just another way to filter it.

Hank Lynch: Right, just filtering it via location.

Richard Campbell: It's a smart idea to aggregate by location so that I don't have to think of a topic; I am just looking for what's going on in Houston.

Carl Franklin: I guess the thing that makes that work is people using it for meaningful posts, right?

Hank Lynch: Yeah, so far I am the only guy. So you can pretty much pick up my blog in my office (laughing). So like I said, I am trying to pimp the site.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, yeah, excio.com. So is this stuff you can download and use as a developer, or is it an end-user thing?

Hank Lynch: Well, right now, it's all web-based. I am trying to open it up a little bit, working on like a search engine that will kind of go along with it so people can make their own GPS-enabled blogs; and then I can aggregate the RSS through that.

Carl Franklin: Cool. Well, I guess one thing we have been asking everybody here on these shows is, do you have anything to plug; but you did that already. So is there anything else that you want to say?

Hank Lynch: No. I just really appreciate you guys coming out. This is really cool, getting like the up-close-and-personal thing.

Carl Franklin: Sure, yeah. It's been fun for us, too.

Hank Lynch: Yeah, pretty awesome. Good show.

Carl Franklin: And you guys were a great crowd. We love Houston.

Hank Lynch: All right. It's a good show.

Carl Franklin: All right, thanks.

And our next guest is Luis Vazquez. Luis, how are you?

Luis Vazquez: I am doing good, Carl.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, are you tired?

Luis Vazquez: Yeah, getting tired, because we have been on the road a long --

Carl Franklin: Because we drove quite a ways today, did you not?

Luis Vazquez: Definitely, yeah. We have been on the road since early this morning.

Carl Franklin: So tell us where you came from.

Luis Vazquez: We drove here to Houston from Alexandria, Louisiana. It's about a seven-hour trip.

Carl Franklin: Wow. And you came just for the show?

Luis Vazquez: Oh, yeah, definitely.

Carl Franklin: That is so cool. Thank you.

Luis Vazquez: Well, I appreciate you guys being there for me.

Carl Franklin: So you have been a fan of the show for a while, I take it.

Luis Vazquez: Since the day it, like, came out. I just ... totally, totally.

Richard Campbell: Well, we have had a conversation in email, haven't we? I think you were trying to convince us to come to Louisiana.

Luis Vazquez: Don't know if I was convincing you, but I was definitely stating the obvious.



(Laughter.)

Richard Campbell: I think it came along the lines of, "You better come to Louisiana."

Luis Vazquez: Yeah, exactly.

(Laughter.)

Richard Campbell: Well, that was about what it was like. Unfortunately, we'd already had the schedule set and couldn't do it. But I do remember saying, "I hope you can come to Houston." I am really pleased that you did. It's exciting. It's a long way to come. We drove Memphis to Dallas I think it's a comparable distance. It's a long, long way.

Luis Vazquez: Yes.

Carl Franklin: So you were telling me about the thing that you guys do in Alexandria. I guess there's not a lot of community there?

Luis Vazquez: Yeah. There is like seven of us, and so we meet over at my house. And on Thursdays usually, which is tonight; so hopefully they'll listen to this tomorrow and feel like they were there. But seven of us meet. We listen to .NET Rocks! We listen to Mondays! And then we just talk tech.

Carl Franklin: It's great.

Luis Vazquez: We are just a bunch of geeks.

Carl Franklin: Who knows? You could turn this into a real user group.

Luis Vazquez: That -- well, yeah, I hope.

Richard Campbell: Oh, seven guys, that's bigger than some user groups I have run into. You should just form one. Get an INETA listing and start bringing in some speakers.

Luis Vazquez: I've thought about it. I have tried; I have put ads in papers. I can't get any response. I am just in a digital oasis.

Carl Franklin: I see, I see. So what do you do when you are not driving to Houston to watch a .NET Rocks! show?

Luis Vazquez: Well, at the same time being in a digital oasis, it's just amazing that in central Louisiana how many projects come my way. And .NET has been an incredible solution to all these projects that have come my way.

Richard Campbell: So you are an independent developer?

Luis Vazquez: No, right now I am developing for a company called KJ Communications; and mostly I am developing for municipalities, for organizations and for the State of Louisiana, the Department of Natural Resources.

Richard Campbell: What sort of apps?

Luis Vazquez: A lot of it has been ASP.NET apps. Recently, the companies allowed me to venture into some Desktop software, which was pretty nice for a transcription service that transmits files; and I got to do a lot of security stuff there, because hospitals are tight about data coming in and out. And if it wasn't for the .NET framework, I would have just passed.

Richard Campbell: it wouldn't have been worth it to even try. A lot of skill is needed to make that stuff work.

Luis Vazquez: Yes, and there would have been so many different types of machines and so many different situations; and to be able to say, "Hey, look, if the .NET framework is there, this app will run."

Richard Campbell: That's pretty cool.

Luis Vasquez: It's incredible.

Richard Campbell: Yeah. It sounds like you are really much a one-man band: you've got to do it all to make it work.

Luis Vazquez: Yeah, exactly. Now, they did give me a team; but at the same time, I am trying to get these folks up to speed on .NET and training and development. You get paid to develop, and I don't get paid to train.

Carl Franklin: Sure. So what are some of the good features of 2.0 framework you are looking forward to?

Luis Vazquez: A lot of it, see, is with the rapid development, of course. I like some of the features; I love the code snippets. Those things are working real good. I just think a lot of the data-access model is getting away from dropping adapters and stuff on the page, and things are just going to be incredible as far as development.

Carl Franklin: Luis, how long you have been programming?

Luis Vazquez: Well, I am 40 years old now. I have been programming since I was 15 years old.

Carl Franklin: On what?

Luis Vazquez: My first programming job was with a company called Whitlock Amusement Company, and I was taking applications or games, video games that were written to run on a particular processor, and in assembly code writing it to work on an alternate processor.

Richard Campbell: Which processor was that?

Luis Vazquez: It was the Z80.

Richard Campbell: The Z80, love it.

Luis Vazquez: And we were writing it, and we were updating the code to run on Z88s in a little bit more dogged-out --

Richard Campbell: 88s and 80s.

Luis Vazquez: Exactly. A lot of Asteroids, stuff like that. Yeah, definitely.

Carl Franklin: So you did some Asteroids in the '60s is what you are saying, basically?

(Laughter.)

Luis Vazquez: I decline to comment.

Carl Franklin: Okay. I cut my teeth on a TRS-80 Model 4, which was a Z80-based processor.

Luis Vazquez: Timex-Sinclair is what he gave me to learn on in order to do that code.

Carl Franklin: Wow, so cool. So here is your chance to plug or push or slam or smack or anything you want to say; say anything you want.

Luis Vazquez: Well, I am not going to smack nobody; but I do post --

Carl Franklin: And nobody has taken me up on that one yet; but you never know.

Luis Vazquez: But I get a lot of questions asked through blogs and stuff, and so whenever I get asked about code, I always post that code at a website called <http://www.hippiegeeks.com>.

Carl Franklin: Cool.

Richard Campbell: What a great name!

Carl Franklin: That's awesome.

Luis Vazquez: And basically, that's because I am like an old, 40-year-old hippie geek, and that's my category.

Carl Franklin: Well, we are almost 40-year-old hippie geeks; so ...

Luis Vazquez: Well, welcome to the club.

Carl Franklin: There we go.

(Laughter.)

Carl Franklin: Excellent so hippiegeeks.com, we'll be sure and check it out. Luis, thanks a lot for talking to us, and thanks for making the trip.

Luis Vazquez: Thank you very much, Carl. Oh, yeah, Man. I will make it again if you guys come close. Just come within 500 miles.

Richard Campbell: We're stuck going to Louisiana next time, you know that.

Carl Franklin: Right. Well, you make sure and email the show now and again.

Luis Vazquez: Definitely, definitely.

Carl Franklin: Okay, take care.

Luis Vazquez: Thank you.

Carl Franklin: And here is none other than Markus Egger. Hi, Markus.

Markus Egger: Hey, how are you doing?

Carl Franklin: Doing okay. Glad to be here in your hometown.

Markus Egger: Great to have you here.

Richard Campbell: I totally forgotten you were here; and then I was looking at the loot table, and there were so many CoDe Magazines, and I am like, "Why do these guys have so many CoDe Magazines?"

Markus Egger: Tons and tons.

Richard Campbell: And in walks Markus Egger and I am like, "Well, duh, there you go" (laughing).

Carl Franklin: Yeah, you are like the candy man with the CoDe Magazines, you just push them. Everywhere you can, you push them. "Here, the first one is free. Yeah, the first one is free" (laughing).

Markus Egger: Now we work a lot with user groups; and they can contact us, and we'll get them copies -- and in fact, we just have had a push for that. So a lot of user-group people that contact us can get free copies for their members



and so forth. So if anybody is interested, just send me an email, and I will hand you over to the right person.

Carl Franklin: What is your email address?

Markus Egger: markus@code-magazine.com.

Carl Franklin: Yeah; and we love CoDe, of course, because you publish our article in there, "Heard on .NET Rocks!" We take some transcriptions. Wouldn't it be funny if we took this show right here and made that the column for the CoDe Magazine? That'd be kind of useless, wouldn't it, come to think of it? You shouldn't do that.

Richard Campbell: It's a recursive article.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, that's right.

Markus Egger: Yeah, the magazine would just implode on itself or cause a stack overflow or something.

Carl Franklin: Definitely.

(Laughter.)

Carl Franklin: So what's on the horizon for CoDe Magazine? Well, first of all, what is your subscription base these days? How many people are reading this thing?

Markus Egger: We have about 35,000 or so. We audited the publications; we are just under 35,000. I don't know what the latest numbers are, 33-something.

Carl Franklin: Wow, that's a great number.

Markus Egger: So, yeah, we are pretty happy with that. I mean, we are steadily growing. We are actually the only magazine that's growing at this point, as far as the audited circulation goes.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, that's saying a lot.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, it's a tough industry to be in these days. With the amount of data available in other forms, it's tough to be paper.

Markus Egger: Yeah, in a way, that's true. I think there are opportunities, as well, though, because on the internet there is so much stuff that's just available, and you can go out and you can find it; but among with all that stuff, there is a lot of ... let's just call it sub-par quality and --

Richard Campbell: How about crap?

Markus Egger: That was the word I was trying to avoid, yes; but I guess this being .NET Rocks!, I think --

Richard Campbell: I am just trying to summarize for you.

Markus Egger: All right, it's crap.

Carl Franklin: Let us say it; you don't have to say it.

Markus Egger: No, not all of it is crap, of course; but you have to go through, you have to filter it out. Plus, it's information that you pull, right? So if new technology comes out -- let's say Visual Studio Team System -- then you probably don't just go out and just randomly search the web for new stuff. You might be just interested in once a month or once every other month getting some new information to you that's solid information well-edited; and then if you need more information, you can go out on the internet and find a lot more.

Richard Campbell: Sounds like you structure your editorial calendar around what's not going to be easy to find online, that kind of specialized information.

Markus Egger: Sure, sure, yeah, exactly, because that's I think the place of a printed magazine today. And of course, we are also trying to do a lot online. We have online-only content at this point, and a lot is going on on the website.

Richard Campbell: But one thing I notice about your magazine, really long articles, right? And these aren't just articles, not just short, quick readers; these are -- like the Miguel Castro articles on web controls, I read Part 2 the other day, it's like 17 pages long.

Markus Egger: Yeah, that's right, and I think that has to do with the way we publish the magazine, because usually when you write for a publication, they say, "Well, what do have to write about?" and they say, "Well this, that or the other"; and then they say, "Well, you have 4,000 words to write about that" or whatever it is. And we usually don't do that. We just go out and tell people to write whatever it is that they have to write, and then we go in and we look at it. If it gets too boring or whatever, we edit it out; but we give people the room to publish whatever it is that needs to be published about a certain subject.

Richard Campbell: I remember looking at that article and thinking, "Wow, I can't believe you published this." I have had enough experience in the editorial side of the thing. Anything over six or



seven pages, that's it; you stop. So I am impressed that you did it.

Markus Egger: Well, it's challenging a little bit, because planning-wise it makes it harder. You know, you have one more or less article that basically adds another eight pages to the magazine and that sort of stuff.

Carl Franklin: It also makes the magazine more valuable; I mean, it's not just --

Markus Egger: A lot of people tell us they like that. There are a lot of people that read an unnamed other magazine where they usually say, "Well, after I read an article, I know less than I knew before"

(Laughter.)

Markus Egger: And then there's other magazines -- and I am a magazine nut. I read most of them cover-to-cover anyway; but there are some where I sometimes feel, "Okay, I read this article, and it was very long; and it wasn't real reasons." So we try to avoid that, as well. We just try to give people exactly the space that they feel is adequate, and we try to help them with that; but we won't cut them off, nor will we ask them to add another page or anything like that.

Carl Franklin: So, besides code-magazine.com and anything like that, is there anything else that you are working on that you want to plug, or...

Markus Egger: Well, the one big thing that we are doing right now is a special issue that we are producing actually together with Microsoft, which focuses on mobility and Tablet-PC development, which I think is a very cool thing. It's a full-sized magazine, but it's a special issue of CoDe. It's called the CoDe Focus Magazine, and the really cool thing about it, it's completely free for everyone. So just go to the CoDe website, sign up, and we will send you a free copy, no strings attached.

Richard Campbell: Very cool, nicely done. Now, obviously, you made a deal with Microsoft to make that happen.

Markus Egger: That's right, so we are working -- and that's also kind of cool because of the content that we have is partially from within the team, things that are not readily available otherwise, anything from today's Tablet PC and Mobile PC development -- battery-aware applications, network-aware apps, all that stuff -- to things that will come in Vista that nobody else knows at this point, because we worked with the team members to get that, and it's totally free.

Carl Franklin: That's great. Hey, you know, I got a question for you. So I open up CoDe, and I see this Page 1/Page 2 spread for something that I can't get called the MILOS Framework. What the hell is that?

Markus Egger: So the MILOS Solution Platform is something that we do in our main business, which a lot of people don't know that; but CoDe magazine is just a small part of our business. We are actually mostly a software shop, and MILOS is our platform that we build software on. It's actually not true that you can't get it. You can get it, and if you are interested in speeding up development significantly, just come to www.eps-software.com and check it out.

Carl Franklin: So I guess you get it by hiring ESP to do up a --

Markus Egger: There are a number of ways to get it. Let's just leave it at that. But it's not something that we are ...

Carl Franklin: You can't download it. Let's say that.

Markus Egger: You can't download it; it's not something that you'd probably be happy with if you just -- you want a new framework, you want to build apps in five minutes or a half a day, then that's not what it is; but if you want to take an application that will probably take you five years to develop and you want to take it to two or three years, then that's probably a good product for you; and if that's your scenario -- or even a year and you want to do it in four months, that sort of stuff. If that's your scenario, stop by the site, check it out, contact us, and we will help you.

Richard Campbell: It's a funny thing about you, Markus. I mean, you and I have known each other a long time. We have been in a lot of conferences and things. And most people know you about your magazine; but you are actually a hardcore developer -- I mean, a very serious thinker about building software -- for a long time, a lot of years, in some winky languages, as I recall, too.

Markus Egger: I don't even know what you are referring to (laughing).

Richard Campbell: Yeah, I don't think so. We'll call it a language barrier.

Markus Egger: Yeah, we'll call it the 'F' word. No, yeah, that's right. I've done FoxPro development in the past, and I am pretty happy about it, too, because a lot of the object-oriented stuff that's going on in the .NET framework, we have had in FoxPro for ten years. A lot of people



from the former Fox team have moved into .NET, and that's where a lot of the code models, a lot of the objects models, are very similar; so in a lot of ways, Fox developers have a lot of advantages.

Richard Campbell: See, I always saw Fox as the text bed for anything new Microsoft was doing, because that way if it was really awful, there was like three guys they annoyed.

(Laughter.)

Richard Campbell: But it was good. Then they moved on to other tools.

Markus Egger: Yeah, luckily, I guess, they didn't annoy too many people there except for the marketing; but, yeah, it was in a lot of ways, like looking back, I mean, it was the first Win32 app ever. It was the first app that used DOS EXEs; so, yeah, that's right in a lot of ways.

Richard Campbell: Sure.

Carl Franklin: And of course, I learned quite a few things from you about object-oriented architecture. One of the biggest tips I got from you is to just completely sub-class all the controls in Windows, and use those as your base classes directly. Instead of using the base classes directly, you use that class.

Markus Egger: Right, use the great layer attraction.

Carl Franklin: That little tip, every time I'd give that to somebody, they'd come back to me and said, "Man, that little tip just saved me hundreds of thousands of dollars and aggravation."

Markus Egger: Plus, you know, that's really a good thing to do in general; and it's also a good way to learn more about object-oriented development, because in a Visual environment, you sub-class a button and you change the font and so forth, that gives you ... it's an easy way to understand object-oriented development, I think, and then get into the more heavy-duty stuff.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, flexibility, it's all about that. All right, Markus. Well, great talking to you; and, again, we're very happy to be here in your town.

Markus Egger: All right. Glad to see you again.

Carl Franklin: All right.

Markus Egger: Thanks.

Carl Franklin: So our next guests are Jay and Tracy Sawyer. Hi, Guys.

Tracy Sawyer: Hello.

Jay Sawyer: Hello.

Carl Franklin: Sharing a microphone, that's good. So probably the only married couple I know that actually has a meaningful dinnertime conversation.

(Laughter.)

Richard Campbell: Oh, yeah, that's going to fly back home.

Jay Sawyer: Yeah, well --

Carl Franklin: Well, all right.

Tracy Sawyer: Yeah.

Carl Franklin: My wife is resigned to the fact that she just doesn't ask me what I did today. I mean, my wife is a nurse; I watch ER. I know how a jaundiced baby I had to give a colostomy, whatever, I can understand that. She has --

Jay Sawyer: You need to give a colostomy for jaundice?

Carl Franklin: No, no, no, different cases. She has more than one patient in a day.

Jay Sawyer: I was just wondering there (laughing).

Carl Franklin: No, no. So but then she says, "What did you do today?" And I said, "Oh, I wrote some strongly typed assemblies and deployed them to the GAC." "Okay."

Anyway, how are you guys doing?

Tracy Sawyer: We are doing pretty great. Little tired this evening.

Jay Sawyer: Doing good.

Carl Franklin: Little tired. So what is each of your roles here in the user group and in Microsoft? What do you do?

Tracy Sawyer: For the user group, I run the -- I am the Chair for the Speaker Committee., I am the Treasurer and generally the person that just generates all the fun in the user group.

Richard Campbell: And didn't we see you on some show? What show was that?

Tracy Sawyer: Yes, you did. You saw me on the pilot for Code Room.



Richard Campbell: Of course, Code Room.

Tracy Sawyer: Yeah.

Carl Franklin: And you were the real friendly one, right?

Tracy Sawyer: Right, I was the friendly one (laughing).

Carl Franklin: Yes, and Chris Menegay was in that, and Russ Fustino was sort of the ringleader there. And who else am I missing? Oh, Scott Bellaware was on that, and somebody else. That was it?

Jay Sawyer: I think that's it.

Carl Franklin: Okay. So, Jay, you are the DE in these here parts?

Jay Sawyer: Yup I am the DE in these here parts.

Carl Franklin: So what is your region, generally?

Jay Sawyer: I cover south Texas and Louisiana.

Carl Franklin: Okay. So this is pretty cool that you guys work together. As I say, it's pretty impressive. I am a bit jealous, actually, come to think of it, that, you know.

(Laughter.)

Jay Sawyer: Yeah, it's kind of cool. Tracy comes home from work and talks about support calls or a cool code that she wrote, or she'll call me in the middle of the day asking, "I need to do this. How do I do this? Is this right?" So --

Tracy Sawyer: What path am I going to take if I am going to move this out of here (laughing).

Carl Franklin: See, this is a solid relationship right here. Solid.

(Laughter.)

Carl Franklin: So how did it go tonight, user group-speaking?

Tracy Sawyer: Y'all rock. You guys, .NET Rock! rocks. Y'all just -- it was amazing. It was the coolest meeting; Everybody was fired up, everybody had a lot of energy. People stayed until 10:00 o'clock, which is really, really a lot for them.

Richard Campbell: We ran over, definitely.

Tracy Sawyer: Oh, wow, I was just really thoroughly impressed with both of your presentations. It was a great, great presentation from both of you.

Richard Campbell: Well, thanks.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, thanks a lot.

Jay Sawyer: Yeah, I thought the presentations were excellent. I thought you guys had a lot of energy and a lot of enthusiasm. I mean, I certainly know what it's like to do it the same presentation over and over and over again and still keep it interesting.

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: We're both experienced speakers. We know the actual challenge of doing this talk, after doing this many times, is to make it fresh every time. That's the job. You've got to be pumped. I know what I am going to say; but it's new for them, so it should be new for me.

Jay Sawyer: That's right; and it's tough, and you guys did a great job.

Carl Franklin: Thanks.

Tracy Sawyer: Yeah.

Carl Franklin: So what's a typical day like for you, Jay?

Jay Sawyer: I don't know if there is a typical day.

(Laughter.)

Carl Franklin: What's your day job?

Jay Sawyer: They're all kind of different. I mean, it depends on what's going on. I mean, I could be working from home, dealing with email and programmatic stuff. I could be going here, going there, doing customer presentations and meetings with customers. I could be flying to New Orleans and doing stuff there. It's just ever-changing.

Richard Campbell: I guess the launch is probably owning your space right now, I mean, thinking-wise?

Jay Sawyer: Launch is taking up a lot of time. Certainly getting all the content and getting it ready for my speakers and going through it and making sure I know all the content, certainly that's taking up quite a bit of time, too, yeah. But we've got until December 6th.



Richard Campbell: Right, right. It's not like it's next week for you. You've got a little more time.

Jay Sawyer: That's right, yeah. So we have got a buffer zone before it gets really bad.

Carl Franklin: So I am just pulling something out of left field here maybe you guys, one of guys, can answer. What's the wackiest thing that's ever happened here?

Tracy Sawyer: As far as (laughing)?

Carl Franklin: As far as the user group goes.

Tracy Sawyer: Oh.

Carl Franklin: Wackiest thing. Define "wacky" however you want: most unusual, fortuitous ...

Tracy Sawyer: Well, usually, it's a standard formula. A speaker comes in and talks to the group, and everybody listens and asks a couple of questions. I mean, everybody gets that. But for our group, we do kind of a little special thing for our raffle.

Carl Franklin: Okay.

Tracy Sawyer: And what it's called .NET Rocks!, ironically.

(Laughter.)

Tracy Sawyer: And we started that. I actually started that about a year ago. Sitting around, we do a raffle, and people would win stuff, and they would say, "Yeah, it's me." And they get free stuff; and I like generating excitement around .NET. I want people to -- coding is fun. Writing software is fun. Why should we sit around and be bored about it? Have more excitement around it.

So I wanted them to yell something, but "bingo" didn't really work.

(Laughter.)

Tracy Sawyer: So I said, "How about .NET Rocks?" So everyone started, and I made a rule. I said, All right. When y'all win, you have to yell '.NET Rocks' in the most craziest, creative, innovative way you can possibly imagine, and whoever does the craziest, most innovative way wins extra stuff from us" -- money, usually, from Best Buy.

Richard Campbell: Nice.

Tracy Sawyer: Yeah.

Carl Franklin: And so as we saw tonight, it started out like ".NET Rocks," right? And the next one was ".NET Rocks." You know, and then they'd get a little most exciting; and finally, some guy got up and did like the Funky Chicken or something. What was that?

(Laughter.)

Tracy Sawyer: Right, right I actually have video. We now started filming these guys doing it, because we do hear some really -- there was actually two really crazy ones that just really stick out in my mind. One is Tarzan Man. This guy comes up, and he screams ".NET rocks!" and he does it beating his chest like he's Tarzan.

Carl Franklin: Awesome.

Tracy Sawyer: It was so cool. And then another guy actually did like a back-flip or a roundoff or something in the middle of the room, screaming ".NET rocks" while he did it.

Carl Franklin: Oh, my God. Wow.

Jay Sawyer: That was kind of scary. We were afraid he was going to run into a desk or a chair, or a person or something, and then --

Richard Campbell: "I broke my leg, and all I got was this lousy teeshirt."

(Laughter.)

Jay Sawyer: Yeah. But don't forget that other guy who got up and did the Elvis kind of thing, moving his hips. I mean, we had to like cover the eyes of the children and that kind of stuff.

(Laughter.)

Jay Sawyer: Yeah, I can't forget that one. I was scarred.

Carl Franklin: Well, it's all good fun.

So what is the thing that you guys want to plug, individually or collectively? The mic is yours; say what you want.

Tracy Sawyer: I have nothing to plug. All the stuff that I do and write is all internal to a company; so, nothing ...

Jay Sawyer: Why don't you plug the user group?

Carl Franklin: Say, "Hi, Mom" or ...

Tracy Sawyer: Oh, yeah. Houston .NET user group is one of the best user groups I think in the country. I really do. I mean, we have an



incredible group of really dedicated, fun, exciting people that just come in order to learn about .NET, share their experiences with .NET; and if you are ever in Houston on the second Thursday of every month, you can go to www.hdnug.org and you can sign up and come visit us at one of our events and participate in .NET Rocks.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, and if you beat your chest like Tarzan, you get a free mug.

(Laughter.)

Jay Sawyer: That's right, and you get mentioned on .NET Rocks!

Carl Franklin: That's right. How about you, Jay? Got anything else you want to --

Jay Sawyer: Well, of course, the typical stuff: Visual Studio 2005. Certainly it's available today, it's very exciting stuff. I have certainly been -- I have pretty much only been in Visual Studio 2005 since like November or December of last year. So I am really excited about that; I'm really excited about the launch ... I guess just typical stuff. It's a good day to be at Microsoft.

Carl Franklin: It's a good day. Today, it was released, right? We didn't mention this, so ...

Jay Sawyer: Oh, yeah, that's right, today.

Carl Franklin: That's right.

Jay Sawyer: That's right. We talked about it at the user group, and I forgot the whole --

Carl Franklin: Yeah. I forgot about it, too.

Jay Sawyer: -- the whole train of thought, yeah. But, actually, today, Visual Studio 2005 and SQL Server 2005 are posted up on MSDN Subscriber Downloads for MSDN subscribers to download and start playing with the official released RTM bits.

Richard Campbell: Yeah! The day has finally come. It's exciting stuff.

Jay Sawyer: Yes, it is.

Carl Franklin: All right, Guys. Thanks a lot for talking to us, and it has been a pleasure talking to your group.

Jay Sawyer: Thanks.

Carl Franklin: You bet.

Carl Franklin: Our next guest is Jason Woytek. Hi, Jason.

Jason Woytek: Hello.

Carl Franklin: How are you? What do you do?

Jason Woytek: Basically, I am the managing partner with PC Rescue. Basically, what we started as a repair company obviously, and we kind of ... the best word I can come up with is, we exploded into everything else.

Carl Franklin: Wow! PC Rescue, so you are kind of like Geek Squad before the Geek Squad, maybe.

Jason Woytek: Yeah. Actually, we have to pay the bills.

Richard Campbell: Aren't you into hard-drive recovery and crazy stuff like that, as well?

Jason Woytek: Absolutely.

Richard Campbell: Yeah. I am sure I heard a friend of mine sent you Compaq flash cards to recover.

Jason Woytek: I don't think so.

Richard Campbell: No? Maybe not, all right?

Jason Woytek: Different PC Rescue.

Richard Campbell: Scratch that.

Carl Franklin: No, that's okay. So is it just data recovery, or what ... you said you got into a lot of things.

Jason Woytek: Basically, what happened is, I was fixing people's computers just on the side, and now it's turned into fixing servers, fixing PCs. Now, I'm a system builder that delivers new PCs and networks and servers and a sundry other things.

Carl Franklin: Such as?

Jason Woytek: Anything from software to we build apps, we ISP or ...

Carl Franklin: Just a one -stop shop kind of thing.

Jason Woytek: Unfortunately, sometimes.

Carl Franklin: Yeah. So are you finding that it's hard to specialize and stay in business or ...?

Jason Woytek: No, I am pretty specialized; it's just if it makes our company money, then we do it.

Carl Franklin: All right, okay. So where does your role as a developer fit in all this?

Jason Woytek: Basically, right now, we are writing for three different lines or types of applications. One is the healthcare application, utilizing basically it's a backbone. We'll take the existing software that's in place that doesn't talk to each other; and basically, what we will do is, we will write a backbone, which used to be Unix and now we are trying to move towards Microsoft.

Richard Campbell: So it's all HL7 interfacing, that kind of fun stuff?

Jason Woytek: Actually, I have no idea.

Richard Campbell: It's not your problem.

Jason Woytek: No.

Richard Campbell: Okay. I've just spent enough in healthcare to know some of the pain that's in there.

Jason Woytek: Yes.

Richard Campbell: So what sort of stuff do you work on?

Jason Woytek: Basically, right now, all I do is make sure that our application is running. I use a lot of like VSTO and basically InfoPath. That's my main function is making sure that will integrate in, say, a Tablet-PC environment.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Carl Franklin: So you got any stories of pain for our listeners ... or pleasure, for that matter.

Jason Woytek: Probably the best one I have is, one particular hospital that we use is still using a particular backbone, and they have basically about a 190 telemetry channels, which you can see they have both transmit and receive.

Carl Franklin: "Telemetry channels" being heart monitoring, that kind of thing.

Jason Woytek: Exactly, and not only that; but their servers are running anything from P1 to P4, and their data backbone runs P1 to P4. So you can obviously see the integration problem there.

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: So there are some 98 boxes and older than that in that mess, I'm sure.

Jason Woytek: 95 boxes.

Richard Campbell: Now, yeah, friends don't let friends run Win95.

Jason Woytek: Yes, or 3.1.

Carl Franklin: How often are you rebooting those boxes?

Jason Woytek: Well, since it's ... I would never mention that it's a Kayak machine; but it ...

(Laughter.)

Jason Woytek: The service manual has basically a joke written into it that says, "You cross your fingers when you reboot it, because the power supply will or will not run on reboot." It was a joke we wrote into it.

Carl Franklin: Oh, okay. So needless to say, lots of challenges with this, and not something you can just replace hardware-wise? Yeah, he is laughing. "Replace? What a foolish idea you have!"

Jason Woytek: It's a very interesting thing when you are dealing with certain industries like healthcare. They have something about, "Wait a minute. That would cost us money, and that's still kind of running."

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: "But I got another piece of duct tape. That's all I can afford."

Jason Woytek: Actually, yes.

Carl Franklin: Yes; but then on the other hand, they charge exorbitant fees to the insurance companies for minor things.

Jason Woytek: Oh, yes. And actually, one of the things we are looking at doing is, we are taking an X-64 architecture with the new Dual Core, and we are going to be running the new Dual Core using their basically Windows XP Pro as the backbone right now until we get our software up and running; and that will basically reduce their server time or server cost overall from about 93 servers to about 20.

Carl Franklin: So you get the right machine, you could just run a whole bunch of instances of Virtual Server; you could replace all those Window95 boxes with virtual Windows 95 boxes. Now, isn't that a good idea, huh? Don't tell me I never have good ideas, Richard Campbell.

(Laughter.)



Jason Woytek: That was a rhetorical question, right?

Richard Campbell: There you go. Well, at least they reboot faster.

(Laughter.)

Carl Franklin: That's right. Well, okay. Here is your chance to plug or smack down or do whatever you want, say, "Hi, Mom" or anything else.

Jason Woytek: Okay. Basically, we have got a site that's going live on November 15th. It's pcrescue.biz, B-I-Z for those of y'all who can't spell, like me. That's why there's SpellChek. And also, of course, I have to say hi to my daughters, Erin and Katie, and my wife, Deidre.

Carl Franklin: Great. It's been nice talking to you.

Jason Woytek: Thank you.

Carl Franklin: Thanks.

And our next guest is Kurt Charney. Hi Kurt.

Kurt Charney: Hi, how you doing?

Carl Franklin: So tell us about yourself.

Kurt Charney: Well, been in Software development for quite a while, kind of like ... was it Lance? Luis, okay, yeah, since I've been 15. I got into it right round that timeframe, as well, started doing different development on the Apple II and the Tandy, and I had a Timex-Sinclair, as well, back then. So I started doing all those different, little things. So, I mean, a lot different languages; but now, I'm doing a lot of mostly .NET. Anything I can do in .NET, I will do it there.

Carl Franklin: Since Version 1.0 or ...

Kurt Charney: Yeah, since Version 1.0.

Carl Franklin: Great. So what's your day job like?

Kurt Charney: Well, I do a little bit of everything. It's hard to actually get a title, but I just changed jobs from R&D over to consulting; but they made a special spot for me, so I am kind of like R&D consulting. So I can actually develop apps to meet customers' needs; and actually, I go out and train and teach a lot of database work involved with different things in SQL and Oracle. But it's just as needs come up, I develop the

solution to solve it. So it is great. It's totally flexible. I love it (laughing).

Carl Franklin: So is this company you work for an IT company or ...

Kurt Charney: It's Halliburton Landmark Graphics, yeah, Halliburton, whatever. We have all these different names now.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, sure.

Richard Campbell: I heard that name somewhere before.

Kurt Charney: Yeah, somewhere there, yeah, yeah, yeah (laughing).

Carl Franklin: On the news. So you go to Dick's house for Christmas parties and stuff, yeah.

Kurt Charney: No, we are still Landmark. We're the software-development shop of it; we are not the actual (laughing) ...

Carl Franklin: "No, that's not us, honest. Honest. Honest to God, Man!"

(Laughter.)

Kurt Charney:, "I plead the Fifth" (laughing).

Carl Franklin: So you looking forward to the new versions of ASP.NET and VB.NET and all that?

Kurt Charney: Yeah, I am looking forward -- I haven't been able to really play with them much, because I am so busy with everything else. I do have Virtual PC. I use it all the time with different things for so many different environments I have. Especially when a customer has a lot of these old things, I use Virtual PC to ... I have virtually every operating system out there with Virtual PC. You just start it up, and you don't have to --

Richard Campbell: Sure, try it all. I mean, it's great for testing different platform configurations.

Kurt Charney: Oh, it's awesome. It's awesome.

Richard Campbell: Yeah. The only thing you can't really test is hardware options; but certainly, spinning all the different operating systems and different languages for operating systems, as well --

Kurt Charney: Exactly.

Richard Campbell: -- it saves a lot of grief. Plus, the journaling feature, being able to unwind it, try it again, unwind it, try it again till you get it right.



Kurt Charney: Yup, and then -- when you have the service pack, yeah (laughing).

Richard Campbell: Yeah, you bet. Not that we worry about service packs. They always work for us, sure. No problem. No problem at all.

(Laughter.)

Carl Franklin: Yeah. Nobody ever has bugs, either.

Kurt Charney: Yeah. It's good with Virtual PC, too, because when it actually happens, you can actually just save the session and bring it to the developer and say, "See, look-it. It's on your machine, too, now" (laughing).

Richard Campbell: Yep. Stop right at that very moment; just close it, save in state the empower backup right in the air.

Kurt Charney: Exactly. Oh, yeah (laughing).

Richard Campbell: It's awesome.

Carl Franklin: So what are some of your favorite features that you are looking forward to here in the new version?

Kurt Charney: Oh, there is a whole slew of them with different things; but a lot of stuff that you guys showed tonight, I mean, and --

Carl Franklin: Building web apps or Windows apps or ...

Kurt Charney: Well, actually, with a web app, I do a lot with the web apps. I use DotNetNuke and, oh, it's just --

Carl Franklin: Okay, sure. A lot of people on the trip using DotNetNuke.

Kurt Charney: Oh, it is incredible. It is such a timesaver with things. And I do like custom development with them. I am actually developing a website now for time-scheduling and everything else and just using DotNetNuke for it, and it's just incredible. It's just such a timesaver.

Richard Campbell: So building components for DotNetNuke to do the scheduling part?

Kurt Charney: Yeah, building custom components and now building all the different little layers of it; and the security is already there. It's incorporated with the ASP --

Richard Campbell: Right, right.

Kurt Charney: -- .NET 2.0 model with everything; so it's just awesome, it just saves so much time.

Richard Campbell: So you figure you are going to carry DotNetNuke forward to ASP2.0?

Kurt Charney: Oh, yeah.

Richard Campbell: I mean, an awful lot of DotNetNuke stuff is now part of ASP.NET 2.0.

Kurt Charney: Exactly.

Richard Campbell: All of those things are now moved into it, not that they were with the same code base; but it makes you wonder how much DotNetNuke is essential when you've got that capability, and it's just out of the box.

Kurt Charney: Yeah, what's really cool about DotNetNuke is that their community is just so open-source with so many things. You can get components for so inexpensive, and they give you the source code that you can buy with it. So then you get it, and it's a great starting point for launching so many other things and then customizing it.

Richard Campbell: So are you going to roll the code you are writing into the open-source space?

Kurt Charney: Well, it's kind of internal code; so if I actually get to the point where I write something and I sell it, I mean, yeah, or write something and that I can give away externally, sure, yeah.

Richard Campbell: That's cool.

Carl Franklin: So did you enjoy the show tonight?

Kurt Charney: Oh, yeah, it was awesome. I had a great time. Yeah, it was a lot of fun. You guys are definitely entertaining. I have given a lot of presentations myself with things, too, and sometimes it's just hard to keep people going with things. You guys did a great job; and especially even having PowerPoint and then doing a great job, that says a lot there, too.

(Laughter.)

Richard Campbell: It's sort of a challenge to just be able to show off that way; but you notice, I have a good collection of props, too.

Kurt Charney: Oh, yes, yes, the props help; pretty pictures.



Carl Franklin: Well, what saves Richard is that he did like 15 minutes on the first slide, had nothing to do with the slide, right? He was just talking about the toys that he has and all the cool differences between GSM and ... yeah.

So, anyway, here is your chance to plug something or slam something or anything that you want to say?

Kurt Charney: Well, actually, I'll plug something. I am working with another developer -- actually, he's over in China -- and we've got a product called COM Express. It's a code generator, and it's at www.shoutsoft.com; and it generates full -- it generates C# or VB.NET. It's fully template-based. You can customize it for anything you want. It will develop VB 6.0, as well, and it supports the CSLA framework.

Carl Franklin: Rocky's framework, great.

Kurt Charney: Rocky. Yeah, it's totally incorporated with all of that; and it actually has a whole GUI thing. So you design the forms, and you can do regeneration, like you were speaking of with different things; and it's got a whole section that will not be overwritten with each of the things. And it's got derived forms, and you can override --

Carl Franklin: And you do this without partial classes, obviously. So there's part --

Kurt Charney: Well, it's not 2005 yet.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, so there's pieces in the code that you generate, and you say, "If it's between here and here, don't touch it."

Kurt Charney: Exactly.

Carl Franklin: What a great feature.

Kurt Charney: And so you can put that in there. And it's also got derived forms on there; so you can actually customize the whole form, and it will actually -- it won't touch that whole other like .VB section. So it's awesome.

Carl Franklin: That sounds fantastic. Shoutsoft?

Kurt Charney: www.shoutsoft.com, exactly.

Carl Franklin: Excellent. All right. Well, it's been a pleasure talking to you.

Kurt Charney: All right, thank you so much.

Carl Franklin: Keep in touch.

Kurt Charney: Thanks for coming.

Carl Franklin: Okay.

Well, Richard, that means there's only four shows left.

Richard Campbell: Four real shows left, but six cities.

Carl Franklin: Actually, none of -- we are going to do four show, shows; but we are probably going to do a show in San Francisco of .NET Rocks! Online, right?

Richard Campbell: Yeah, I think we will record a show; and then in DevConnections, we are going to do our classic .NET Rocks! Live.

Carl Franklin: Right. So we've got six more of these, but four live shows.

Richard Campbell: Yes, sort of our Road Trip shows.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, right.

Richard Campbell: Yes. How are you doing? You are hanging in there?

Carl Franklin: Yeah, I'm hanging in, no problem.

Richard Campbell: We said this to each other last night -- and I would like to put it on the air now -- is that people are wondering how we can keep doing these shows day after day after day, and I've realized because we end with this every day.

Carl Franklin: Right.

Richard Campbell: By sitting down and doing what we really want to do, which was interviewing the listeners.

Carl Franklin: Yup, that's what it's all about for us.

Richard Campbell: We are recharged for the next day every time.

Carl Franklin: Yup. So thank you, Guys.

Richard Campbell: Thanks very much.

(Applause.)

Carl Franklin: Yeah. And we will see you in Austin tomorrow.

(Music)