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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

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[Music]

Lawrence Ryan: Hey, Rock heads! Invite the Klingons over for dinner some other time 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 Lawrence Ryan announcing show #372, recorded live from devLink 2008 in Nashville, Tennessee. .NET Rocks! is brought to you by Franklins.NET - Training Developers to Work Smarter and now offering SharePoint 2007 video training with Sahil Malik on DVD, dnrTV style, order your copy now at www.franklins.net. Support is also provided by Telerik, combining the best in Windows Forms and ASP.NET controls with first class customer service, online at www.telerik.com, and by Data Dynamics, makers of ActiveReports.Net, simple, powerful and cost effective reporting for Windows Forms and ASP.NET web applications, online at www.datadynamics.com. Support is also provided by CoDe Magazine, the leading independent magazine for .NET developers, online at www.code-magazine.com. And now, the man who would rather be disemboweled by Kayless than eat gach, Carl Franklin.

Carl Franklin: Thank you very much. This is Carl Franklin and Richard Campbell back for your listening pleasure for another hour or so. Hey, Richard Campbell, what's up?

Richard Campbell: I'm actually barbequed out and I did not expect that that was possible.

Carl Franklin: That's right, Richard and I spend last weekend in Nashville, Tennessee in devLINK which we'll hear from shortly, but yes, we had barbeque every day, everyday, and it was really off the hook.

Richard Campbell: it was off the hook.

Carl Franklin: Jack's Bar-B-Que.

Richard Campbell: Jack's place, yes.

Carl Franklin: Amazing ribs.

Richard Campbell: The best thing there was the ribs, no two ways about it which was amazing

because I'm a total ribs snap but I'm telling you, they were as good as it gets, man.

Carl Franklin: They were heaven on a bone.

Richard Campbell: They're amazing.

Carl Franklin: You know, it was weird speaking of cows, it's that I read in New Scientist today, which I don't know if you read newscientist.com, I have an account there, it's great, that apparently grazing cows face the poles north or south and this is a phenomena that has been discovered recently but we've known that cattle that herd and graze tend to clamp together and all point the same direction but apparently nobody notice that they were pointing towards the poles, but some researchers looked at satellite photos of herds all over the world and when they put them all together, it was like holy crap, they're all pointing north.

Richard Campbell: No way, that's crazy.

Carl Franklin: That's true, it is crazy.

Richard Campbell: That's totally crazy.

Carl Franklin: After 10,000 years of agriculture, nobody noticed, hey, they're pointing north.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, or south.

Carl Franklin: Or south depending on which hemisphere you live in.

Richard Campbell: Really it's totally hemispherical.

Carl Franklin: Absolutely.

Richard Campbell: That's nuts, I'm going to have to look that up. That blows my mind.

Carl Franklin: Is that not just absolutely crazy and the title of the article is "And On That Farm The Cows Face North." Ah, let's get into Better Know a Framework."

[Music]

Richard Campbell: All right, man, what have you got?

Carl Franklin: So today's class, it is a class, it's in System Windows Media which is WPF. System Windows Media Video Drawing, and this is what you use to play a media file.

Richard Campbell: Oh.

Carl Franklin: So if it's a video, the video drawing draws it to specified rectangle. That's it.

Richard Campbell: That's it.

Carl Franklin: Well, you know, because WPF is all about scaling and media and being able to put videos on Thumbnails and all of these stuff so I wanted to find out how do I do that. It turns out to be really, really simple as in Presentation Core DLL.

Richard Campbell: Wow.

C a r l F r a n k l i n :
Systems.Windows.Media.VideoDrawing and it's very simple. It's just you specify the rectangle, you load up your files, you tell it to begin and you have control over it, there you go.

Richard Campbell: Cool.

Carl Franklin: Yeah. So all you WPF'ers, get going.

Richard Campbell: Easy, it's easy.

Carl Franklin: It's easier than anything.

Richard Campbell: Actually it's one of the things about WPF because I've got to imagine maybe we should look this up, how much harder is it to do it in a regular Win Form.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, it's never been hard. It's just like what do you get? What kind of features do you get, and you clearly get all sorts of compositing features in WPF you could never do before.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: Well, you could take that surface and twist it around in all kinds of great things.

Carl Franklin: Oh yeah, absolutely. All right, you got any email for us?

Richard Campbell: I do. I got a quick one for you. "Hi, Carl and Richard. I've been meaning to send this since 353 first came out." That was 20 shows ago, so, boy, a slacker. The show he is referring to is the Smart Client panel at TechEd.

Carl Franklin: Ah, right.

Richard Campbell: "Tim Huckaby said to the other panel members that we don't know what the users' experience will be like in a few years time, and I'm paraphrasing here, and this is not picked up by the

other panelists. Could you expand on this? Is it the end of the Win Forms style application that we've had since Windows '95 and how will we keep the same speed with flashy user interfaces utilizing WPF and Silverlight and so forth fully? How is Microsoft going to change Office from the standard document-based interface we see now? How will dynamics change? How did we move from the DOS green screen to Windows and will take as long again?"

Carl Franklin: I'm not even going to answer that question...

Richard Campbell: No, no, it's a fair question.

Carl Franklin: First of all, nothing is going away.

Richard Campbell: I guess that is fair to say, but...

Carl Franklin: Yeah, Office is not going to be rewritten in WPF, no.

Richard Campbell: Not this week but I hear rumors that they're actually – you know, the interesting thing about Office, the way it is today, is that it's stuck. They can't go to 64-bit, there's all kinds of things it can't do and...

Carl Franklin: Mostly it's stuck because of COM though.

Richard Campbell: Right, and this is the thing, there's just no upgrade path for it. They have to rewrite it.

Carl Franklin: Well, I don't know if they're going to. You know, you can use WPF on the front-end with COM objects on the back-end. You can also do that.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, but I don't think WPF is the issue for Office. It's certainly something to get to eventually.

Carl Franklin: I think you're right. I think it's all that COM bit.

Richard Campbell: I think 64-bit is the issue for Office.

Carl Franklin: But you know, they have so many objects though, COM objects, that people are relying on now...

Richard Campbell: Yeah.

Carl Franklin: That they can't just not implement those interfaces. Do you know what I'm saying?

Richard Campbell: Do you know that they're trying to do DDE with Office 2007?

Carl Franklin: Well, let's not even go there.

Richard Campbell: This is tough debate so that's a show, all right. By the way, the email, Rob Blackmoor, thank you Rob, now you will start seeing shows come out of this.

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: This whole debate about Office is a huge one and I think there are obviously going to be mini versions of Office, they just make too much money not to. They've got to find a way out of the corner they're in and it does mean giving up on COM.

Carl Franklin: Yeah and unfortunately I don't see how they're going to do that. I don't see how they're going to simply rewrite without COM because so many people, again, are relying on those COM objects for their applications.

Richard Campbell: They have to build some kind of COM interop going backward to the new version.

Carl Franklin: Well, either that or just fork the product.

Richard Campbell: Right, but a whole other show is this new user experience concept. You know, the topic you haven't brought up here, which you made me think of with Tim Huckaby, is Surface in the multi-touch interface which I think is a huge deal to changing the way things work.

Carl Franklin: Right.

Richard Campbell: We're readying some shows on that because I think multi-touch is huge.

Carl Franklin: I do too and you know, we're still beating the drums for Infusion. If you want to work in Dubai or in New York City, have some interesting experiences and for sure in New York I believe for the right people, they'll fly you out there, they'll pay your way and they'll put you up on an apartment for a year in Manhattan while working on great .NET projects. If you're interested in the New York tour, go to shrinkster.com/kh6 to learn about that. Interested in Dubai or working with Surface in New York, email me at carl@franklins.net. So this show, Richard, we recorded late on night in a bar in Nashville...

Richard Campbell: Always a bad sign right there.

Carl Franklin: I don't think so. Some of our most endearing .NET Rocks episodes have been in a bar.

Richard Campbell: I'm with you and I remember it. It was devLINK was over, we're in the bar, we've all had a few drinks and you just sort of looked at me and said we should get the microphone.

Carl Franklin: Well, sure.

Richard Campbell: And I was skeptical. I feel like no, and you go I'm getting the microphone, and off you went and you'll hear it in the show because Carl totally starts the show off and then hands it over to me for a little while and I talked to a few folks and I got to admit I got right into it because there were really, really bright people sitting with us and really it was most of the organizers and many of the speakers of devLINK and a very passionate group of folks...

Carl Franklin: Exactly.

Richard Campbell: ...that really were into making great shows.

Carl Franklin: Exactly. Well, let's roll it now and you'll hear what we're talking about.

Carl Franklin: I told you I'd come back.

Richard Campbell: You did bring it.

Carl Franklin: I came back with the microphone. It's got a flash recorder built-in into the microphone.

Male Speaker: Oh man. Oh, that can't be good.

Carl Franklin: Oh yeah.

Alan Stevens: How much?

Carl Franklin: For 1200 bucks.

Joe Stagner: You're going to have one soon.

Male Speaker: I know you.

Alan Stevens: I might have to look at this.

Joe Stagner: I know you, man.

Male Speaker: All right, here we go.

Carl Franklin: Hey, Richard.

Richard Campbell: Yes sir.

Carl Franklin: These people don't know it but they're about to be on .NET Rocks!

Richard Campbell: I didn't know that either. When?

Carl Franklin: Right about now.

Richard Campbell: All right.

Carl Franklin: So we are sitting -- what's the name of this place, anyway? Fanatics.

Richard Campbell: We're in the bar at the DoubleTree near where devLINK took place; just outside of Nashville, in Murphreesboro.

Carl Franklin: Murphreesboro, is that what you said?

Richard Campbell: Murphreesboro.

Carl Franklin: Murphreesboro.

Joe Stagner: Notice how every conversation at the table just came to a screeching halt when you walk in with a microphone.

Carl Franklin: So we have one microphone. We're going to pass it around. We're going to talk with some of the people here that were involved in the devLINK conference and starting with the man who just spoke, Joe Stagner. I guess because he's already been on...

Male Speaker: He hasn't been on with me.

Carl Franklin: Okay. Joe, how are you?

Joe Stagner: I'm great, thanks and sorry about that but I was on a show a while ago and I've never been invited back, so...

Carl Franklin: What's up with that? You and a lot of other people.

Joe Stagner: So here we are at Murphreesboro...

Carl Franklin: OK, five bucks to someone who can pronounce the name of this damn town.

Alan Stevens: This is Murphreesboro, Tennessee, home of MTSU, Middle Tennessee State University, the site of the devLINK conference in 2008.

Carl Franklin: And you are?

Alan Stevens: I'm Alan Stevens.

Carl Franklin: Alan, tell us about your involvement in this conference.

Alan Stevens: Well, I'm on the board this year but the role I took actively in the event was running open spaces. I facilitated the open spaces event here.

Carl Franklin: So that's sort of like the open space at MIX, sort of Cabanas, sort of an open area. Tell us...

Joe Stagner: Only better.

Alan Stevens: It's more unstructured than an "eyes front" presenter conference session so we have more of a round table discussion and the feedback I got was fantastic. So from what other people around me say, it went very well.

Carl Franklin: So guys, open spaces went well?

Crowd: Yeah.

Carl Franklin: Guess you got your confirmation there.

Alan Stevens: Yeah, I feel good about it. Thanks.

Steve Andrews: I don't know, Alan Stevens just happened to find that right balance between leaving the open spaces and stepping back and letting them run. It was some of the best open spaces I've ever experienced

Carl Franklin: And is your name Geek. You have a shirt that says Geeks simply in angle brackets. What's your name?

Steve Andrews: My name could be Geek, Bob, Frank, Joe, whatever you want. No, I'm Steve Andrews.

Carl Franklin: So what was your involvement in the group?

Steve Andrews: I was a speaker here at devLINK.

Carl Franklin: What did you speak on?

Steve Andrews: MSBuild and Team Build.

Carl Franklin: Oh, hard core.



Steve Andrews: Yeah, I'm a Team System MVP so it's kind of my bag, but yeah, I flew down from Philadelphia to just join this great crowd.

Carl Franklin: You flew from Philadelphia to come to Nashville to talk.

Steve Andrews: I did.

Carl Franklin: A lot of people, I think, came from all over the place. I heard some guys drove from Arkansas.

Steve Andrews: Yeah, we had people from Michigan and Texas.

Carl Franklin: You're from Texas?

Mark Leon Watson: Yeah, I'm from Texas.

Carl Franklin: What's your name?

Mark Leon Watson: My name is Mark Leon Watson. I'm the CodeCamp junky. I go to all the code camps around.

Carl Franklin: So you were an attendee here.

Mark Leon Watson: Yes, I was an attendee.

Carl Franklin: Did you drive?

Mark Leon Watson: I flew into Nashville. No, I didn't drive.

Carl Franklin: All right. So where in Texas?

Mark Leon Watson: Forward Texas, home of the Forward .NET user group. Cory Smith and Steven Swinton are the organizers there.

Carl Franklin: So what attracted you to devLINK?

Mark Leon Watson: Like I said I'm the CodeCamp junky. I go to all these code camps and the reason is that people come to these places are really passionate about what they do; they wouldn't come out on a Saturday if they weren't. You get a chance to meet with all kinds of people, you peers that have interest that you have. It's just a wonderful thing to go to as many code camps as you can and that is what I do.

Carl Franklin: Excellent. So from 1 to 10, what would you rate this devLINK?

Mark Leon Watson: Eleven.

Carl Franklin: Good answer. I'm going to get one more interview and I'm going to pass the mike over to you so you can serve the rest of the table.

Richard Campbell: Yes sir.

Carl Franklin: All right, so this gentleman out here, we were talking earlier. You are?

Jeff Blankenburg: I'm Jeff Blackenburg.

Carl Franklin: And Jeff, you are?

Jeff Blankenburg: I'm a developer evangelist for Hartland District for Microsoft.

Carl Franklin: Excellent. So you're involved in the CodeMash which is going to go on, what, in January?

Jeff Blankenburg: It's January 7 through the 9th, up in Sandusky Ohio at an indoor waterpark.

Richard Campbell: We got to go to that.

Carl Franklin: Yeah, I think we do. I think we already sign up for it.

Richard Campbell: Oh good. We got to go over the top on it though. I think we'll do the whole .NET Rocks pitch at the show.

Brian Prince: In the Lazy River.

Carl Franklin: The Lazy River is what, the thing that goes all the around the water.

Brian Prince: Yeah, with the inner tubes and yeah...

Carl Franklin: And who are you?

Brian Prince: I'm Brian Prince. I'm an architect evangelist with Microsoft.

Carl Franklin: Excellent. So there are a lot of Microsoft guys here.

Brian Prince: Yeah. We're like flies. Yeah, absolutely.

Carl Franklin: Oh, there are drinks here and you know, the Microsofties did pick up their fair share of the tab, I got to say.

Richard Campbell: Yeah, they certainly filled their role as community leaders by buying alcohol.

Carl Franklin: So as the DE, what do you think was going on down here? How did it go?

Brian Prince: I think this was absolutely an astounding event. I mean the sessions were great. The open spaces, like we've talked about, have been just unbelievably great. So overall, I mean this has been an incredibly successful event without question.

Carl Franklin: What was your favorite part of it?

Brian Prince: We had one open space on non-community and we really had a really in-depth conversation about how to grow a community, how to really get more people involved because this is just a small subset of the developer population around here. We'd really like to see more people get involved in conferences like this and participate. That was a great conversation.

Carl Franklin: Alan, how much as this devLINK event?

Alan Stevens: Oh, you can get in here for \$50. It's the best value you can get in a community conference.

Carl Franklin: Is CodeMash similar? Is it similar...?

Brian Prince: It's very much similar. It ranges from 75 to 125 based on when you register.

Carl Franklin: Okay. So why the difference in price? Like expenses versus like how many tracks you have. Do you have more tracks at CodeMash than they did have here, or speakers?

Brian Prince: I believe there are more tracks at CodeMash, five or six, and as far as expenses go using a professional convention facility has a higher price tag than a college.

Carl Franklin: You guys got to use the university so you can keep costs down.

Alan Stevens: Exactly, that's part of what we wanted to do. The first year, this event was free. The only reason we actually charge money for this event is to keep drop off down because that way we can budget better.

Brian Prince: Although there certainly is a downside to the logistics of using the university here. So the first one is that every morning, my GPS took me to a monstrous road block and once I figured out the detour, it was really an interesting experience that while I was traversing the detour every morning, there was a Tennessee State trooper hiding behind a bush jumping out with this portable radar gun.

Alan Stevens: I thought he was complaining about the fact that it was also pledge week for all the sororities this week. There were college girls running around everywhere at the university.

Brian Prince: Yeah, so that was the only thing that made up for the speeding tickets. That's worth 50 bucks.

Carl Franklin: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: You remember our good friend Tom Robbins once said these things should all be free. Something has gone terribly wrong with that.

Carl Franklin: That's right. You guys, what's going on? What's wrong with the CodeCamp manifesto that...

Brian Prince: Tom Robbins is a buddy of mine, he is from Bedford which is before he moved out to Redmond he's from Bedford which is pretty close to where I live and so now that he is in a position of authority at Microsoft, I think that if he really wants to stand behind that statement that it should all be free, that money should flow out of his monstrous budget.

Carl Franklin: Good point.

Alan Stevens: We'd really pass that one along to Tom, I think.

Carl Franklin: I'm sure we will. Well, you know, it's a good point that you guys paid for us to come here, I mean you've paid our T&E you've paid the T&E for the speakers, you have box lunches, you have free soda, you have free coffee, it's not cheap.

Alan Stevens: Actually we do have plenty of sponsorship to put this event on, but if we have 50% of the people that signed up not show up, we're wasting money and we can spend that money better to put on a better event if we know what the numbers are going to be coming in the door.

Brian Prince: But for me, that was one of the things that illustrated the significance of this event even though it's a regional event compared to a big event like TechEd or MIX, but from the sponsorship, you know, you've got top tier sponsors, like Telerik are here not only sponsoring but with a booth, with active presenters, DevExpress is here.

Alan Stevens: I mean the top song was CompuServe.

Carl Franklin: Who?

Brian Prince: Compuware.

Alan Stevens: Actually Compuware was the partner that helped us put on this event. They were our biggest contributor.

Carl Franklin: CompuServe, boy, I remember CompuServe, those were the days, man.

Brian Prince: You're not that old. Sorry, that was maybe a little Freudian there.

Joe Stagner: Steve falls through the way back machine.

Carl Franklin: Well, I'm going to let Richard take the microphone and talk to the other half of the table. Thanks guys.

Richard Campbell: Before circling over the other half of the table, I really want to engage Alan a little bit on the open spaces thing because you were the facilitator and I got to admit it was very successful open spaces. What did you do?

Alan Stevens: Well, in preparation for this event, I tried to talk to anybody I could that had run an open space event concurrently with a regular conference because open spaces had been around for a while but they're typically a standalone event so everybody comes in with the expectation of this interactive conversation where when someone comes to an event like this, they expect to have professional presenters and just sit and just take notes and that type of thing. So I gather as much information I could and there's a great book on running open spaces and I got all the guys I could and then I leverage everybody I knew in the community and I seated them and I told them what I wanted, what expectation I had, and I got them to come out and help get the energy going at the beginning of the event and that helped draw in more people.

Richard Campbell: Let's let the guy with the louder mike finished.

Alan Stevens: Yeah.

Richard Campbell: So for those who have never been to open spaces, what are the key elements? What are the really distinctive features of an open space conference or at least the open space area that you did?

Alan Stevens: The most radical thing about open space is that it breaks the social contract that you are expected in an open space. If you are not contributing to a conversation or you're not benefiting from it, we have a rule in open spaces that you must get up and walk out and find something productive to do and that is very difficult for people to accept but it

means that you never sit around complaining that this speaker wasn't any good with his topic, wasn't what I expected, and you have a personal responsibility and when everybody is responsible for getting the most out of a conference, they really put more energy into making it a great conference for themselves and everyone else.

Richard Campbell: So what about the topics? Where do they come from?

Alan Stevens: The first session of an open spaces event is around an opening circle in which we lay out and set the tone of the event, we lay out the theme of the event, and then as a facilitator I step aside and the actual attendees propose topics and then they work out in the marketplace of ideas combining topics and prioritizing them and then putting them on a schedule for the rest of the event. So we had two days and they lay out the schedules themselves.

Carl Franklin: Opening circle, so you guys have like a talking stick and a like a frame drum?

Alan Stevens: You know, that's great flier in the center. That is actually a great point because what my underlying agenda in putting this on here was to say that open space isn't some weirdo hippy thing to do. It's actually a very productive format that's been tried and tested in corporate America so I want to bring it up to a more typical event and draw in people that wouldn't be drawn to it by default and it was very successful.

Richard Campbell: You know, it's not a hippy thing to do a set up by the guy who calls himself the Jesus of .NET.

Alan Stevens: Just because I have long hair, use a Mac and I'm a vegetarian doesn't make me a hippy.

Male Speaker: Because I like to fish and build boats.

Alan Stevens: Just because I feed the masses...

Joe Stagner: Thanks for the wine, by the way.

Alan Stevens: Yeah, you're quite welcome.

Carl Franklin: I want to just take a minute to bring you a message from our sponsor Telerik and let you know that this portion of .NET Rocks is brought to you by Telerik. You know, summer is in full swing now and you're probably lying on the beach but our friends at Telerik are working hard as usual to bring

you exciting new stuff for your .NET toolbox. How about two brand new control suites? RadControls for WPF and RadControls for Silverlight? That's right. If you started building next generation applications, you now have UI components with Telerik quality and Telerik reliability. Both product lines are derived from the same codebase and share the same API so transition is seamless. They have many improvements in the other robust suites for ASP.NET AJAX and Windows Forms also, as well as the intuitive reporting tool, but product alone isn't everything. To jumpstart your projects and help you easily get up to speed with these great tools, Telerik has got a couple of unique training resources, the Telerik Interactive Trainer and Telerik TV of course, which I am the host of. Now, that's what I call summer heat. Go check out all the details at telerik.com, and if you happen to run into those guys, say thanks for supporting .NET Rocks!

Richard Campbell: One of the challenges I saw in that was that there you had the big board up there where people posted notes up but there really didn't seem to be a rating system. It would concern me that the board filled up very quickly, then at some point during the course of the show no more ideas went up as there was no room on the board, there was no way to take anything down again.

Alan Stevens: Okay. Now, that was a part of the challenge of doing this alongside this standard event, it's because typical open spaces event we made it the morning of the second day and say what do we want to change about the schedule, but we were very flexible about this. One example is during the conversation, we got off on a sidetracked tangent talking about internal sealed classes in API and whether they were evil or not and we decided we need to make this a tone topic and somebody that has a topic in the next session said cancel mine, I want to be in on that conversation.

Carl Franklin: Let's talk about that. Why would anybody seal a class?

Alan Stevens: I don't know if he agrees personally.

Carl Franklin: No, seriously I can't either. I can't think of a good reason why you would seal a class.

Alan Stevens: If it's deep inside of your framework, if you're building the .NET framework so deep inside, I'm fine with that, but once it's up around the API and you surface it, don't treat me like a child and tell me I don't know how to use it responsibly is how I feel, but that's the kind of conversation that's great to have and it came up at the spur of the moment. The other thing was we were talking about

star DD, TDD and BDD, Behavior Driven Developer, Tester Driven Development and so some people said I really need a live demo of this. As a facilitator, I said, "Let me see what I can do." I booked us a room, I got the audio video guy in there and I got my laptop set up and I put a whiteboard up and say, "Hey, we're going to do a live TDD demo at lunch." The room filled up at lunch and we thought we're going to have five people in there, we had 65 and that was done within 15 minutes.

Carl Franklin: Now, I know a Test Driven Development is Behavior Driven Development's sort of everything that TDD is not.

Alan Stevens: With that, we had a session on that right after this on How It Should Change my Life as the title of the session and so that is how changing the verb is from test to specification removes the idea that I'm writing test to that I'm actually specifying my code in an executable format and I haven't had that moment of enlightenment, that eureka moment that the people leading this session were very persuasive about the fact that changing the language change your attitude.

Richard Campbell: So anything that you will do differently next year on the open spaces?

Alan Stevens: I'll definitely do an opening session around breakfast at the second morning and I will try to make the opening circle part of the keynote so that everybody gets to the setting the tone. There's an instructional format in which I lay out here's the rules on how this is going to play out, here's the roles you can play within here, and what's acceptable and what's expected of you. I really think if more people had had that ahead of time, it would have saved a lot of talking when people came up to our schedule board and said what is this and why are you doing this.

Richard Campbell: Would some technology help here? Could we digitize this scheduling board in some way that would make it better?

Alan Stevens: Absolutely not. I think it's very important we keep this low Fi because this is very much about people interacting with one another. One of the things that we did that I learned, I did a one day open space alongside that we did in Knoxville two weeks ago and I learned that we didn't produced any content at the end so what I require the people that convened at the session was they have to designate someone to take notes, like to take notes that someone else could and then we tore all those big sheets of paper and hung them on the wall in the hallway so as people walk by, they saw what the topics of the conversation were and they became more engaged through that and I think that low Fi

tactile approach actually increases people's engagement.

Richard Campbell: I wonder if we couldn't be recording those open space sessions so people could have even more view into what happened there.

Alan Stevens: We videotaped the opening and the closing. We videotaped some of the sessions internally, but I absolutely believe that as it's easier to post video online, we're going to do more of that. In the closing circle today, the participants in open spaces wanted to continue the conversation and I left it open to them how to do it, we're going to get a domain, set up a wiki, set up a Twitter account, and begin to continue this conversation and post the videos etc, but then we'll have to transcribe the notes that we made and put them in the wiki and see where things go, if we can carry this on at CodeMash and other events.

Richard Campbell: Cool, thanks very much for that, Alan. It's an interesting insight into the intent of open spaces.

Alan Stevens: Thank you, it was really a pleasure to facilitate this.

Richard Campbell: Jeff.

Jeff Blankenburg: Yes sir.

Richard Campbell: So where are you actually based at as a DE?

Jeff Blankenburg: I'm based out of Columbus Ohio. I've been there for about 10 years.

Richard Campbell: I found it fascinating that, you know, when I do a code camp on either seaboard, the attendees are from the area like maybe a radius of 50 miles but here they had a bus that started in Grand Rapids and it came all the way down, there were folks in from Arkansas, from Texas, what is it about the interior of the United States that draws these people from such a long way for an event?

Jeff Blankenburg: I think there are a lot of commonalities in the people in the mid-west and they have a lot to grow upon from each other. I actually got to ride on that bus and people boarded in Grand Rapids, Michigan, we came down through Detroit, Toledo, Columbus, Cincinnati, and we're picking up people all along the way and every guy on the bus, everybody already knew each other and I attribute a lot of that to [Twitter](#). Everybody seems to know each other because they exchange [twitter tags](#) when they come to one of these events and they continue that conversation once they get home. So they're building relationships the whole way along, it's amazing.

Carl Franklin: How did you guys advertise the bus other than Twitter? Do you think like next time you guys do a devLINK down here, will you need two busses? Are you going to organize like get people on, you know, put it on a website or a blog or something that there will be a bus?

Jeff Blankenburg: It manifested itself in a couple of ways. There is conversation certainly. Twitter was one of the ways the venue was sent out. There was also a Google group set up so that people could know about what was going on, what they're going to be, where the stops are going to be, that kind of stuff. So it was very online, a lot of conversation, Twitter was a great piece of it but I don't want to make it sound like Microsoft really had much to do with it and we certainly helped the conversation but this bus idea was a community driven, community created idea and to answer your question about coming to devLINK next year, there's a very good chance we may need two buses next year. What's great is they are already talking about a bus for CodeMash and how to get the people from Atlanta and Nashville, that kind of stuff, all the way up to Lake Erie, so I think it's amazing. On top of that, you get to stay on this bus with the smartest people from anywhere around you so you have amazing conversation for 9 to 16 hours.

Carl Franklin: It sounds like every major city that's within bus distance should get a little bus group going because you know, when everybody pitches in for a charter, it doesn't cost all that much.

Jeff Blankenburg: No. To get on this bus, we did get some sponsorship. Microsoft contributed some money. There were some consulting companies who threw some money in the pot and then that cost each person about a hundred dollars round trip. So I mean; you can't beat that if you drive by yourself or even car pool with a couple of people, and that's with drinks and entertainment provided on the bus. I mean, the whole way through, we had snacks and beer and soda and Office Space and Lord of the Rings and everything.

Richard Campbell: We got another Microsoft boy that jumped in. Name and role please.

Brian Prince: Oh yes, Brian Prince, architect evangelist. I live half a mile from Jeff in Columbus.

Richard Campbell: Ah, a blue Ohio cluster here. There was some amazing number of folks from Ohio and from Michigan all the way down here in Tennessee. It's crazy.

Brian Prince: We are really hitting a, for a lack of a better word, a reconnaissance of community developers in the heartland. It's amazing. People are

coming out of the wood word, everyday I get asked hey, how can I be one of those speakers? How can I get on and do the stuff? It's really my job to make sure the people have the ability to get out and do these kinds of things so I would encourage anyone that wants or even is considering speaking, do it, take that chance, get out there and talk about something intelligently and you'll succeed.

Richard Campbell: Now we're getting back to Tom Robbins code camp manifesto which said by the people, for the people kind of thing. It was the community that should be the speakers so I'm the foreigner, I should not have been speaking this if I'm going to stick to that manifesto. I'm glad you guys have invited me, I had a great time doing it but I feel like an anomaly I'm glad that it is mostly local speakers.

Jeff Blankenburg: It is local community. I mean, I would think even though Brian and I work for Microsoft, we were part of the local community prior to taking our positions. I mean, I had a couple of sessions here but I wanted to make sure I participated in open spaces. I'm just another community guy. I just happened to have a different perspective on it. I'm not writing software on projects every single day. Instead I'm making sure that people and the tools, resources, they'll succeed at their jobs.

Richard Campbell: I think the .NET Rocks folks have definitely heard about developer evangelists before, but I don't know if many of them knows what an architect evangelist is either, so Brian, what's your job like?

Brian Prince: Well, we're a rare breed, that's for sure. Where there are three DEs and artists, I'm the only architect evangelist. I do the same exact thing but I focus on the architect community and that's a very broadly define term. It's whatever you think in architect is. If you think you're an architect, then I want to talk to you. If you're an aspiring architect, a technical decision maker that Microsoft speak as TDM, those are the we'd like to talk to, and if there are different topics and concerns that they want to talk about, my job is to in the community, help the community grow and help them, those architects come together and form a community.

Richard Campbell: Do you find yourself mostly working with larger organizations?

Brian Prince: No, actually today I spoke with customers, architects that were from large banks all the way to a small ISV that makes little GPS-based electronics for motorcycles. You know, everyone I think has an architect role whether they have a person who is called that or not.

Richard Campbell: Were you speaking at the show as well?

Brian Prince: Yeah, I did a topic called Soft Skills. I think too many user groups since and community events focused too much on the hard tactical skills like how do I do WF, what is XAML, and I wanted to say, you know, we need to talk about the skills that makes us better professionals, better developers, better architects.

Richard Campbell: And you did that as a session?

Brian Prince: Yeah, as a session and I talked about career management, how to talk with humans, communication skills, all those sort of skills and it's always been very, very popular.

Richard Campbell: I remember at the conference, there was a real buzz around the soft skill discussion and there was a bunch open spaces that spun off, I think, because of your session.

Brian Prince: Yeah and I think that's great and more and more speakers are saying yeah, I want to do a session on users' experience principles which is not a hard technical skill and so at CodeMash we're starting a Soft Skill track to pull those speakers together and get that information out there.

Richard Campbell: That's cool and it's nice to see the content of the shows shifting as we learn more about what people need to know.

Brian Prince: Yeah, yeah. I think we need to expand and broaden what we're learning and talking about. I think it will draw more audience in so that's not just a nice forward brain dump on technology which you need and that's important, but then we need to broaden that and kind of bring everyone forward and make them more successful in their careers.

Richard Campbell: So one track of six dedicated to something softer than straight apart technical skills.

Brian Prince: Yeah and I have a feeling a lot of the open spaces will be associated with that as well.

Richard Campbell: To me it's interesting that when we mix these two things together, open spaces end up reflecting the areas inside the conference that weren't as well supported. So if I get a huge concentration of soft skills discussion in open spaces makes you think we need another track.

Brian Prince: Yeah, exactly that and the great thing about open spaces is it's successful if six people show up, but if you have a session, you want

30 to 50 people on a session to make it worthwhile. So it's a great way to see a topic evolve from something that's small into something bigger and in CodeMash we'll be doing open spaces really before they recall back because at the Kalahari, the resort, it is not like your normal stereo-hospital type convention centers it's an African theme resort. So there are these big leather couches everywhere and nooks and crannies. In the first year, we saw people just busting our laptops working on Python code and preprogramming in the hallway and knows what start conversation and so obviously open spaces is a rule structured implementation of this informal activity but it's great. That's what we want to see, we want to see a Java guy and a Ruby guy sit down and jam on it and learn the stuff.

Richard Campbell: I had to sense that this thing, this show was almost entirely a .NET show. I know we talked a little Ruby and so forth, but is CodeMash a heavy mix of different technologies?

Brian Prince: CodeMash is intended to bring all the big platforms together and we encourage attendees to attend sessions that aren't their main skills so we want a .NET guy to go to a Python talk, learn how you solve problems in Python and bring that new perspective back to their everyday language. Maybe they'll get hooked on Ruby or Python or Java or whatever and really expand out and part of that is just opening your mind in new ways of solving problems so you're not always using the same hammer and part of that is you'll get to learn a new language every year to keep fresh and keep your mind moving forward.

Richard Campbell: We've heard that mantra in DNR for a while. Keep learning languages, it's fun.

Brian Prince: Yeah, you've got to always learn and you have to unlearn quick. You have to dig out, ditch out all the old baggage and move on to the next paradigm to adapt those quickly.

Richard Campbell: Right, thanks very much for your insights. I'm going to move over to, oh, Mr. Jim Wooley, how are you sir?

Jim Wooley: It's good to see you again, it's been awhile.

Richard Campbell: Well, I always seem to bump into you on shows like this actually.

Jim Wooley: The last time I was on this show, it's about 2:00 in the morning.

Richard Campbell: Where was that?

Jim Wooley: That was on your -- two guys and five lunch session when you came around through all these days in a van and you stop off in Atlanta and we had, all four of the .NET Rocks hosts run and brought me up about 2:30 in the morning. There's a little raggedy in...

Richard Campbell: Oh, I remember, yes. I think we were almost away through a bottle of Woodford at that point. Hey, it's Brian's birthday. So the cake for Brian just arrived for his birthday. Happy Birthday, Brian.

Brian Prince: Thanks. I spoke on my birthday. I turned 36 today.

Richard Campbell: Congratulations. Oh, my goodness, 2005, that is now three years ago, or almost three years ago. So I like the code camp model better, I get to go home more often.

Jim Wooley: Actually, I really enjoyed the model that they had here particularly with the open spaces concepts. They really energize and get a lot of communication going between people. In several conferences that you have, somebody is standing up in front of this location talking to people and people may be attending attention, but when you're doing an open space type of environment, there is a lot more active listening and actual involvement of all and participation involved in there.

Richard Campbell: The open spaces area was not that big. There are over 400 people at the show. It seems to me that there was only a small section of that that really latch on to the open spaces area.

Jim Wooley: Much true in parts. Some people don't necessarily know what to expect from that. They've seen what the schedule of events is upfront in terms of what's been scheduled with outside speakers and things like that and they've seen that for a couple of months now so when they do the open spaces, they may have seen it for a day or two days and not necessarily know what else is involved and what's been happening with it, but really part of the excitement is the people that get involved in doing open spaces are not necessarily the people that would want to sit in that kind of lecture environments. They get more out of it. A lot of them come for a perfectly good reason of going to a conference and they may not feel they have lot to contribute in that kind of environment, in that case the lecture type of environment is perfectly fine. So it's great that you can combine the two of those and have the option for the different people and the different ways that they are able to contribute, learn, understand, and grow.

Richard Campbell: I did have a sense that there were a few folks that just spent the entire conference

in any of the open spaces area grabbing different topics and running with them for awhile, and other folks even come and go a fair bit. It also appears to me that there was a significant chunk of the conversation that never got down there.

Jim Wooley: I would agree very fully.

Male Speaker: Get Lori on the show!

Richard Campbell: Hey Lori, can I get a gin and tonic when you get a second?

Lori: Of course, sir. Now that you made me blush...

Carl Franklin: Lori, how much money has this table spent tonight on booze?

Lori: At least 350.

Richard Campbell: I got to admit, the drinks here are not expensive.

Joe Stagner: It's a deal.

Lori: I'm a college student and they're outrageous to me, man. That's just me talking, man.

Richard Campbell: Jim, were you speaking at the show as well?

Jim Wooley: Yeah, I did two talks, both ones on LINQ. I've been focusing on LINQ for the last two years at this point and trying to support the book that we have out and it's been really a fun ride working with LINQ and sort of being able to be speaking in a lot of areas to give me a perspective on how this area has its particular community. I've done a lot of speaking throughout all the southeast at this point, and it's interesting how each of the different areas has different communities but the power that came out of this particular conference was the reach in which they were able to bring people from these different locations. As you see we have people from Michigan, Arkansas, Georgia, all over, there was Pennsylvania, and there's really impressive talents and such that are coming not only to speak but also to listen. There are people from Texas just to listen. This is actually the second conference in two weeks in Tennessee that I've been to and both of them were able to have this big draw from the outside region, it's just very powerful, and I'm sure that a lot of these social networking web tool types of things that they're utilizing to promote these events definitely has a benefit. So the Twitter, the websites and all those kinds of things are really important.

Male Speaker: You were always against Twitter and you finally caved in, right?

Jim Wooley: Yes.

Male Speaker: What is your tag, what's your tag?

Jim Wooley: My tag is LINQINQ sort of a play on the king of LINQ. I think it's sexy, I don't know about anybody else.

Richard Campbell: So how is the adaption of LINQ, and talk about LINQ for a while now. Are you seeing Exchange in the audience? Are people using it more, asking more complex questions?

Jim Wooley: Yes, to a certain extent. When I first start talking about LINQ over two years ago, maybe one person in the whole audience would have known anything about it. Now when I ask, okay, how many people have seen a presentation on LINQ, everybody in the room raises their hand. Now how many are actually using it, that maybe has a smaller percentage but part of my goal is try to show people how they're able to use LINQ, not necessarily to replace or fold the access to things like that, but how they can prove their applications in many ways that they may not have thought of before. So I have seen more and more people that are using it in their communities, definitely growing around it.

Richard Campbell: it does seem like it still has a ways to go, I think three or five adoptions taking as time and people are waiting to see who they are going to actually utilize this. What's the part of LINQ that interest you most that you see engagement on?

Jim Wooley: Well, a lot of people are still thinking that LINQ is about augmented databases. That's not what interests me the most. What interest me the most is when you're working with objects, XML, heterogeneous data so you have this abstraction layer over data and you need not necessarily have to learn different APIs for all these different constructs. That's really the powerful part of it.

Richard Campbell: I'm with you. I think that LINQ to SQL is the least important part. I'm much more interested in LINQ to XML just because the normal ways of querying XML are painful.

Jim Wooley: Yeah. I mean, working with XML before was more of a necessary evil, and now it's more of a labor of love. I've done all sorts of things, just small apps, one offs that take me one hour or two hours to create and gives great business benefit in just that hour of work working with XML and its very powerful. I was able to replace most of the

click once deploy with LINQ to XML in an hour and a half.

Richard Campbell: That's pretty powerful. That's impressive actually. What about heterogeneous joining? Are you actually doing that in the applications that you're building?

Jim Wooley: Sure. I have a join between a web service XML structure with an M memory object structure then pushing that into a database, you know, all the things pushing them together and be very careful how you do that because sometimes we'll be pulling from more things than what you want but it does have a great tremendous power.

Richard Campbell: Awesome. Jim thanks for talking to us. Very cool stuff you're working on.

Jim Wooley: Always a pleasure, anytime.

Carl Franklin: Thank you, Richard.

Hey, I just want to give a shot out real quick to our friends at Data Dynamics who make ActiveReports.NET among other awesome things. ActiveReports.NET is great because it allows you to just build your reports with the Easy Editor, embed them right in your application, provide PDF and HTML output, give your end-users a Report Editor, royalty free of course, a great Access report upsizing Wizard and all this for a price that isn't going to break the bank. ActiveReports.NET from Data Dynamics, go check it out now at datadynamics.com.

I'm sitting here with Chris. Chris, how are you?

Chris Robert: I'm great. How are you doing?

Carl Franklin: Introduce yourself.

Chris Robert: I'm sorry?

Carl Franklin: Introduce yourself to the audience.

Chris Robert: I'm Chris Robert from Atlanta Georgia and I'm a developer doing consulting in Atlanta.

Carl Franklin: So were you speaking here?

Chris Robert: No, I was not.

Carl Franklin: So what did you think?

Chris Robert: It was a great conference. I was amazed at how well communities gather and get all these people from all over, as far as Michigan and

Ohio and Georgia and Alabama, Tennessee is amazing.

Carl Franklin: What was your favorite talk, if you will?

Chris Robert: I like the open spaces, being able to communicate where it's an open conversation, people talking not just kind of being fed information but being able to open that conversation and talk about things that other people are experiencing.

Carl Franklin: Was there one conversation in open spaces that stuck out as being the most poignant to you?

Chris Robert: You know...

Carl Franklin: Hey, hey, hey, we're trying to do a show here.

Male Speaker: Well, maybe you're talking to the wrong guys.

Carl Franklin: All right, all right, all right. I'm sorry, carry on. So is there anyone of your -- I'm sorry, I can't go on. Was there any one talk that was more poignant for you than the others?

Chris Robert: You know, I don't think anything in particular struck on my mind as far as the most important conversation. You know, it's kind of tough to pick one out but it was just kind of great to see what other people are doing and how they're attacking problems. I mean it was really a...

Carl Franklin: And it's great to sit in a conversation, isn't it, rather than being lectured to.

Chris Robert: Yeah, exactly. I mean, that's the kind of whole interactive thing where you're not just being fed some information.

Carl Franklin: We have a message here. Joe?

Joe Stagner: Yes sir.

Carl Franklin: What is that...?

Joe Stagner: We're handed a missive. So it's been a long time since a lady handed me a note. So I read this with great...

Chris Robert: I didn't say, sir, you're making a scene.

Male Speaker: I'm a representative of the following law enforcer...



Joe Stagner: So I got momentarily excited about this one but it turns out -- well, it's certainly exciting but not relative to me personally. It says please plug codecampjunkie.com, the source for community driven events, codecampjunkie.com.

Carl Franklin: We'll talk later about how much that little ad spot will cost you, okay.

Joe Stagner: How many shots of bourbon do you need?

Carl Franklin: I think I've had my fill as it is.

Joe Stagner: He clearly doesn't need any more shots of bourbon.

Carl Franklin: You won't pay me in bourbon, trust me. Chris, anything else before we pass the microphone along?

Chris Robert: No, just a great experience coming here and like the price, I mean, unbelievable for the amount of information and the quality speakers here, just absolutely amazing that they paid \$50 to come here and see this information is amazing.

Carl Franklin: And then you get karaoke on top of that.

Chris Robert: Yeah and there's a karaoke and the company, what else more can you ask.

Richard Campbell: I was actually just switch seats with Brian.

Carl Franklin: Well, okay, have fun.

Richard Campbell: You sit down over there, I will sit with Brian here and I will carry Brian.

Carl Franklin: Richard's going to some people down the other end of the table.

Richard Campbell: Thank you, sir. Brandy I'm going to save you 'til the end so be patient. Hello, sir, how are you?

Jim Holmes: I'm doing well.

Richard Campbell: Your name, your role and why you're still here.

Jim Holmes: Besides beer, I am Jim Holmes. I am a -- what am I? I am a practically the Quick Solutions where both Brian and Jeff used to work. I am one of the organizers of CodeMash which is another conference in the region and have been an active member of the Hartland community for quite a

while and had not managed to get down for devLINK before this.

Richard Campbell: Did you present?

Jim Holmes: I did not. I hung out, I did not go to a single session, I hung out at open spaces the entire time.

Richard Campbell: So you are one of -- I'm just describing there. I saw there are certain faces that I think one of it was yours. Open spaces was why you were here.

Jim Holmes: Yeah, absolutely. So I love formal conferences and I love formal sessions and I get a lot out of them, but at this point in my career, I get more out of the networking and I get more out of the interaction which is all what that stuff was about.

Richard Campbell: That's awesome and it's just interesting to see where certain people grabbed on to it. Hey, Lori, that's my drink. Thank you; deary.

Male Speaker: Was that yours?

Richard Campbell: No, I think it was yours but I'll happily use it. So any major topics that the open spaces have really jumped out to you?

Jim Holmes: Yeah, a whole bunch. I heard you talking about the "should" discussion earlier and that was really amazing because this is a fundamental change in, it's a small change, but it's fundamental in how you approach what I want to do with my code and I want to test it and that's a great step and it was just a wonderful conversation. There was also a hysterical example of how cool open spaces are. We have one session on the board that was distributed source control and so there were about five or six guys around talking about GIT and some of the various odds and ends while there was a young fellow up in Michigan, Jay Wren, who couldn't make it down to the conference. So they're talking about a distributed technology, this guy isn't here, they called him up on the phone and had a speaker phone lying on the table with five guys around it, they're talking to the brain guy in the region. This is why I dig open spaces so much.

Richard Campbell: So a distributed conversation about distributed source control.

Jim Holmes: Yes. So is that not cool?

Richard Campbell: Very cool.

Jim Holmes: Yeah. There are a whole bunch of other things that I got great value out of. We've done open spaces at CodeMash as well. Alan

really knocked it out of the park with the kind of current feeding that he did here and he actually is going to come up to CodeMash next year and help us out with that. So we're really pumped about that as well because it's a little odd running open spaces side by side with a formal conference, but it gives you so many glorious options. We took a schedule board which was kind of in the back in the open spaces room and we moved it out to the main hallway and so people are kind of going by what is this crazy board with all these weirdass stickers all over and it just open up all these conversations and all of a sudden people who would not have ever gotten into doing open space came back in and were part of the conversation. We had one guy yesterday who said open spaces saved him from going home; because the conference for whatever reason; was a meeting is made in form of sessions. He got open spaces and he is like, oh.

Richard Campbell: It sounds like there we certain personalities that are better served by open spaces and others being served by typical standard conferences.

Jim Holmes: We all are in differently. So you guys have had conversations on your show about do I learn well via books or media? Is print media dead? Yadda yadda -- it's, you give everybody a lot of options and let them choose.

Richard Campbell: Right.

Jim Holmes: And the flexibility is the really cool thing plus that conversation is huge. Now, I'm kind of at a point in my career where I need to know the next step and I don't get that from being lectured to necessarily. Where I get that from just talking with the many people of this conference who are smarter than me and who have had their butts kicked in different ways. So I don't get that in a session.

Richard Campbell: It was interesting to see Alan just sort of flit around. It seemed like -- what exactly do you think he was doing that he sort of step in every so often and touch these different groups?

Jim Holmes: So there is this interesting concept of butterflies and bumblebees, semi-open space domain and I'll skip the definition but a butterfly like goes one place, gets a little bit, goes to another place, gets a little bit more, goes to another place, gets a little bit more and you can do that very easily in the open spaces. I get a little bit of content here and I have something to share so I can over to this other session and get something else and maybe contribute there, I don't have to sit for an hour and 15 minutes in one place.

Richard Campbell: Right. Cool. Jim, thanks very much for talking to us.

Jim Holmes: Thank you.

Richard Campbell: Mr. Walker, from deep northwest Arkansas, and you drove.

Randy Walker: Yes, a whole nine hours all the way to come down here and it was well worth it let me tell you.

Richard Campbell: Now, you weren't alone either, you have a little contingent with you.

Randy Walker: Yeah, I have two guys from our Fort Smith user group. I'm actually from the northwest Arkansas user group and they drove eight hours and I drove an hour to meet them and we drove all the way over.

Richard Campbell: Man oh man, that's a long way to come. Why not just fly in?

Randy Walker: Yeah, yeah. You know, actually I really enjoyed it. It got me a chance to really get to know a couple of guys that I don't get to interact with a whole lot and of course the fact that you can tether and get to the internet on that long drive, it was very quick actually so I want to do that.

Richard Campbell: So you're running a user group up in your neck of the woods as well.

Randy Walker: Well, actually, I've kind of turned that over. Jay Smith, he actually runs that, as well as Zack and so they run that user group. I've actually transitioned to an INETA regional role and so now I am responsible for Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas. So I help new user groups get started and that's my role with INETA and if any of you guys are interested in starting user groups, you all have regional representatives from INETA and it's their job to help you get started creating your user group.

Richard Campbell: That's awesome. So what did you do for devLINK? Were you an attendee, were you a speaker?

Randy Walker: Well, I did help out with the conference. I spent a little time helping give directions and things like that, but I did also have one session that I gave and I try not to focus on technical stuff. I actually really enjoy doing the business related things and so I did a session on starting and running your own software business and so I go through this huge long spiel of how to get set up, success, and most importantly the failures that I've experienced starting my business.

Richard Campbell: So any particular highlights that you brought up in your session?

Randy Walker: Well, you know, for the first time most recently I had a customer not pay me after they ordered my software and so I got to share that story and it was really interesting. You know, you can tell it's a great session when everybody is getting out their notepads and writing stuff down furiously before you get to the next slide and so it was really good, I really enjoyed it.

Richard Campbell: Did you pack the house? Was it a full room?

Randy Walker: Well, no because I actually had the main hall so you know, that seats I guess around 500 so I didn't quite fill it but I did have probably around 60 people and very interactive, everybody contributed, one of the best sessions I've had so far.

Richard Campbell: That's a lot of fun. Have you carried it out to the open spaces area as well?

Randy Walker: Yes, a little bit. I participated in a couple and open space has a really unique concept. I know it's taking off real well. Alan did a really terrific job coordinating it all. I'm really curious to see how many of these little open spaces, there's a lot of open spaces conferences, just four open spaces starting out and it's kind of neat to see all of these conferences start up.

Richard Campbell: I do like the hybrid model where you can pick and choose. I'm wondering if we can't get to a point where speaker doing sessions then move over to the open space area to carry on and continue conversations where necessary.

Randy Walker: Absolutely. I wish I had time before my actual session because since I do focus on that business area, I would have actually like to help create some of those sessions because, I mean, that's really where people can really interact a lot better and I'm not sitting there trying to present a bunch of content and they can actually contribute a whole lot more than I can.

Richard Campbell: One of the things that I've always struggled with is a good way to manage the great conversations you have immediately following your session where you have that little ring around you of folks who really want to talk to you more about what you had just discussed, but you also have that pressure of getting out of the room so the next speaker could come in and I hate losing that, I just wonder if there's a way we could turn to the open spaces model to carry on that connection.

Randy Walker: Yeah, absolutely. You know, I had like 10 different people head me up after the session and of course all you can really do is answer a couple of people and then just hand out business cards for email and hopefully they'll contact you through your blog or something like that. An open space is beautiful because you can start out with session and then carry that over to open spaces, I mean that's the best of both worlds and you get so much community involvement in it and you get everybody helping each other out and it's fantastic.

Richard Campbell: Shift it over to this concentrated view that are really focused on the topic. Mr. Willy, you have some input?

Willy: Yeah, I just want to contribute. One of the things that I did at this conference that was kind of interesting was they didn't have a speaker room. So very often when you go to a conferences, all the speakers are sort of huddled off in a separate room and never associate with anybody else. So what they did instead was they sort of said, "Speakers, we really want you to go out into these open sessions, open spaces, and actually contribute there." So that is really an additional way of trying to get them to continue that conversations by having the speakers co-mingle with everybody else. It's a great way for us to all contribute together.

Richard Campbell: You know, there actually was a speaker room but Alan was quite adamant that it was a prep room. If you need to prepare in quiet, that's where you do that. If you want to hang out, come to the open spaces area and I think every time I check the speaker room, it was largely empty. One or two people getting ready, everybody else was hanging in the open spaces area.

Randy Walker: Yeah, the speaker room, I think, the only people I ever saw in there was the recording of the Deep Fried Bytes. So it was definitely a very quite room and definitely was able to help prep some of my presentation, that's for sure.

Richard Campbell: Hey, Randy, thanks very much for coming on the show and talking to us about the show.

Randy Walker: Thanks, it's always a pleasure.

Richard Campbell: Mr., Franklin, I'm going to pass the microphone back to you.

Carl Franklin: Thank you, Richard. We're having a good old time over here talking about software quality and talking about Reverend Billy, talking about Reverend Billy Hollis and how much we admire him. Looking at these new Silverlight chips --



another round is coming so I think we're going to sign off.

Male Speaker: Who are we admiring?

Carl Franklin: We were talking about Reverend Billy.

Male Speaker: Oh, a true icon.

Carl Franklin: Yes, a true icon, ahead of his time and all that. I think we're going to sign off because another round is coming. The karaoke is heating up and...

Male Speaker: That's okay, Thompson Twins.

Carl Franklin: Thompson Twins and Tiffany comes on karaoke. It's time to turn off the microphone.

Male Speaker: You mean because you're anxious to turn off your geek microphone and launch yourself into the impressive musicians karaoke experience that is about to happen.

Carl Franklin: No, there are two things. That's right, it's not Thompson Twins, it's Pet Shop Boys, yeah, West End Girls, whatever. All right, touché, touché. You're a better man than I ganged it in. So Richard, there are two things I don't do, dance fast -- slow dance with the right lady, but dance fast, no and karaoke.

Male Speaker: Which in your case means hug and stand still.

Carl Franklin: Touché, touché, very good. All right, guys, thank you very much for being on the show. Live from devLINK, Carl and Richard here at Fanatics Lounge. We're signing off.

[Music]

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