IT Training Seminar Report

.Net Community of Practice event

C#/Mono with Ben Last

9/29/2011

Challenger Institute of Technology

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# E-mail

Original informative email to get confirmation:

The IT seminar/training session that I will attend is a .NET Community of Practice user group event.  
As you probably already know, they hold an event every month at the level 3 Seminar room Enex 100 starting at 5:30pm. The event that I will be attending is on a Thursday.  
  
The topic is about C# and Mono, mono being used as a .NET platform. It is being presented by Ben Last who is a Software Engineer and Architect.

The link to the page from the .NET Community of Practice is below:  
[http://perthdotnet.org/Default.aspx](https://pod51003.outlook.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=rj8xntqNikaIkbSIsA_SZ8udHc64Us4IOmGCu6_Ot32vTMFJhXyVdk4LCSmNEVde6ySrgWea-RU.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fperthdotnet.org%2fDefault.aspx)

# About the organization

.NET Community of Practice holds monthly events on the first Thursday, at the Level 3 Seminar Room, Enex 100, usually starting at 5:30pm. This group is the Perth .NET user group.

## Presented by

Ben Last. A software engineer and architect with more than twenty years’ experience in the design and implementation of large-scale software systems. He joined NearMap which is a is an Australian provider of high resolution aerial imagery (and not satellite imaging), in April 2009 and is the Development Manager for HyperWeb which delivers very high volumes of image data via the nearmap.com website and over the Internet. Before joining NearMap, Ben was R&D Manager at EMCC Software in the UK, leading product development teams for mobile enterprise and consumer applications and consulting on mobile and networked software development.

## Topic

A discussion of a real world application using C# and Mono.

## Synopsis

* **What is Mono?**

Mono is a software package that enables the use on .NET framework, Windows. Forms and Microsoft Windows based programming techniques to be used multi-platform. The following examples are some of the major platforms are supported by Mono:

* Linux systems (Ubuntu Server/Desktop etc.)
* BSD
* OS X

This enables cross platform development and runtime capability with the .NET framework. This saves time and money when working with theses software.

* **Why use Mono?**

They use Mono because nearmap.com is a startup company and Mono was an effective and cost saving alternative well suited to their purpose. Ben use’s C# on the .NET framework, and the ability to apply those skills in developing nearmap.com infrastructure were crucial.

* **How do we use Mono?**

Ben Last uses Mono in his development of the nearmap.com infrastructure. They have numerous servers that store Terabytes of information that must be maintained and retrieved efficiently. They use Mono for .NET development on the Linux operating systems in the company. Any Windows servers that are used are run as Virtual Machines (Windows Server 2008 R2 is used by nearmap.com).

## Research

**Mono**

Mono is a software platform designed to allow developers to easily create cross platform applications. Sponsored by Xamarin, Mono is an open source implementation of Microsoft's .NET Framework based on the ECMA standards for C# and the Common Language Runtime. A growing family of solutions and an active and enthusiastic contributing community is helping position Mono to become the leading choice for development of Linux applications.

**C#**

C# is a programming language featuring string typing, imperative, declarative, functional, generic, object-oriented, and component-oriented programming.

Developed by Microsoft in the .NET Framework. C# is one of the programming languages designed for the Common Language Infrastructure. The most recent version of C#, C# 4.0 was released on April 12, 2010.

## Leant from this Seminar

I have learnt about the various uses and benefits, as well as some drawbacks, about using Mono in the development and runtime of server and client side applications written in C# using the .NET framework. The ability to develop in alternative systems other than Microsoft has many advantages and unique uses, which can be applied to many different scenarios in the IT Business and/or learning environment. I have also leant some interesting information about the uses of Mono and programming languages such as C++ and C#.

## Location

The venue is located at:

Enex 100 Seminar Room, Level 3, 100 St Georges Street, Perth

Perth's only .NET user group meets at this venue, so it could be said that is their headquarters. Their website is far more informative, so the main source of information about them is there.

## Duration and Date of Event

Thursday October 6th, between the hours of 5:30pm to 7:30pm (2 hours)

## Cost

The event is free and all are welcome to attend.

## Attended

About 28 people attended, counting myself. Unfortunately there was no food or drink available at the meeting.

## Discovered

I found out about this Perth .NET user group event through Challenger TAFE and at the Rocky VB wikispaces site:

<http://rockyvb.wikispaces.com/>

# Resources and Links

.NET Community of Practice website (list of events including Perth .NET user group):

<http://perthdotnet.org/Default.aspx>

NearMap.com home:

<https://www.nearmap.com/welcome-new>

HyperWeb website:

<http://www.hyperweb.com.au/>

Wikipedia definition on C#:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C_Sharp_%28programming_language%29>

Wikipedia definition on Mono:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mono_%28software%29>

Mono official website home:

<http://www.mono-project.com/Main_Page>