

Telerik RadControls for Silverlight World Premiere

Question & Answer Follow-up

1. Would it be better to design the UI in Blend, then drop into VS to do the code? or is VS better than Blend and will do everything anyway? Will this only work from a website hosted with IIS? or will it work with Linux and Apache (PHP) webserver? Should we use Expression Blend or Visual Studio with Telerik?

It depends on what you're trying to do. Blend will provide more tools for complex editing of the XAML markup (oriented towards "designers" – or developer designers) and Visual Studio will provide basic tools for manipulating the XAML. As a developer, you'll probably spend most of your time in VS 2008.

No, Silverlight does not depend on IIS to work. It runs completely in the client browser via the Silverlight plug-in. The backend server does not strictly matter to Silverlight.

Telerik will support both Expression Blend and VS 2008 workflows with the RadControls for Silverlight 2008.

2. Will databinding to these Silverlight controls be just as easy or similar as your standard ASP.NET controls?

Databinding in Silverlight is still an evolving concept (at the framework level). Telerik will do everything we can to make databinding as easy as possible in Silverlight, including tight integration with Microsoft's "Astoria".

3. Which plugin will be required to see the previews next week?

You need the latest Silverlight 1.1 alpha plug-in to play with the RadControls for Silverlight QSF next week.

4. These controls seem to replace functional components but don't really touch on the visual side to Silverlight. (No sound so sorry if this has been answered). How will Telerik take advantage of Silverlight's animation and vector capabilities?

Sorry about sound. Don't miss the on-demand version available online now. Telerik is currently focusing on providing a full suite of business-oriented components in its Silverlight offering. The goal is to create a full toolbox of controls that eliminate the barrier for business considering one

platform over another (like ASP.NET vs. WinForms vs. Silverlight). If demand for richer media controls (similar to our RadMediaPlayer for Silverlight 1.0) grows, we will definitely address that demand.

Telerik is already taking full advantage of Silverlights animation and vector capabilities. Check-out the online demos next week to see how animations and vectors are used.

5. Is there a concept of a "Web Page" in silverlight, and if so, how big are those pages in KB or MB?

Yes and no. Silverlight controls are hosted on web pages (something as simple as an HTML page), but they don't directly have a page concept (like ASP.NET). Instead, they're like WPF with a Canvas that controls are added to. I'm not sure at this point how big the average Silverlight "page" will be. It will depend largely on how the application is configured.

6. Pretty impressive stuff. Where can we get the offline version?

Thank you very much! I'm sure our Silverlight devs will love to hear that. The offline version of the presentation is available now online. Check my blog (<http://telerikwatch.com>) for a link. The controls will be available for download in the Spring.

7. Are these controls based SL 2.0 or 1.1 code base? If the controls are based on SL 2.0, and SL beta is not available from MSFT till March 2008, then how do we play with your beta?

These controls are based on the 1.1 code base (though it has been renamed to "2.0"). Our demos work with the latest Silverlight 1.1 alpha plug-in.

8. Will the controls leverage Volta to retarget where things like autocomplete run?

Volta is very experimental at the moment and Microsoft is pretty clear that project is years away from an actual release. Telerik will definitely watch its progress, though, and provide integration when possible.

9. Thanks, Todd! BTW....great job on your presentation! Will Radcharts be implemented and if so, when?

Thanks for coming! Charting is in the future for our Silverlight controls. Watch for more details early next year.

10. I'm having trouble seeing the distinction between the current RadControls and the new Silverlight ones. Perhaps a bit more flash, but what am I gaining by using Silverlight vs. the current controls?

The RadControls for Silverlight represent a new product line from Telerik that will join the existing RadControls for ASP.NET, WinForms, and (soon) WPF. It is designed to give developers the tools they need to develop for Silverlight if that's the technology they choose to use in their apps. If you don't decide to develop with Silverlight, Telerik's other component suites will serve your .NET needs.

11. Hi - will Telerik stop releasing traditional HTML+Javascript new controls? Thanks.

No. Silverlight controls will have no impact on our plans or development of traditional ASP.NET/ASP.NET AJAX controls.

12. Will a recording of this presentation be made available after the show?

Absolutely. In fact, it's available now. Check my blog for a link.

13. Is Silverlight/Telerik client size aware? (e.g. different client resolutions)

Good question. You can definitely adjust the size of your UI based on the client's resolution, but I'm not sure how easy that is to do in the current framework version. You can be sure that whatever support for resolutions exists in the framework, though, Telerik will pass along in its controls.

14. What are Prometheus controls used for? Will Silverlight controls come instead of ASP.NET controls?

RadControls "Prometheus" is Telerik's next generation ASP.NET suite built directly on top of ASP.NET AJAX. It leverages all the new capabilities and features of that framework to deliver previously impossible controls and UIs. You can learn more by visiting <http://www.telerik.com/prometheus>.

Silverlight controls will not impact the development of ASP.NET controls at all. They will simply be another control suite that we offer.

15. Do you guys ever sleep? This is absolutely awesome!

Occasionally, but not this week. We've got a big release coming-up next week! Thanks for coming and I'm glad you liked the show.

16. What integration is planned with server databases --- e.g. for grid population & editing?

The whole concept of accessing and editing data is still being refined in Silverlight. As the concept matures, Telerik will work hard to make data access and editing as easy as possible

(similar to what we've done for other platforms).

17. What will the cost of these components likely be?

The pricing has yet to be determined. The betas will be free, though, so stay tuned for those!

18. will the beta of the Telerik controls include a "go live" license?

Not sure at this point. Check back in the March timeframe for more information on that.

19. Will the Integration Demo be online in addition to the controls? The reason I asked is because I'd like to try and view the Integration Demo with other browsers (Firefox, Safari)

Absolutely. In fact, for most of the week I've been using the demo in FireFox. It looks and behaves just like it does in IE.

20. thank you, very cool, good job :)

Glad you like it! Thanks for coming.

21. Can performance be expected to be similar to win forms eventually in the browser?

That remains to be seen, but it's certainly an issue that needs to be addressed at the framework level. As Microsoft improves Silverlight in 2008 (headed towards the official release), we should see significant performance improvements.

22. Does this control have the 100 MB limit that Flash apps do?

Great question and one that I can't answer.

23. ok with audio, because calling in from the netherlands is quite expensive

Apologies to the international crowd for the audio. We'll see what we can do to deliver future webinars with audio via the web.

24. Can i use this with an existing Telerik ASP.Net 2.0 application? Will it be possible to operate outside of the sandbox? For example, i would like to interact with a client's local twain device. I have read that this will not be possible - but i wanted to hear Telerik's point of view. WTF is item virtualization? In otherwords, can i have 1 page use silverlight amongst my many standard pages? Where's the RadGrid? When?

Phew...a lot of questions. First, you will be able to use Silverlight controls with ASP.NET

Applications. They are different platforms, obviously, but there will be integration points where you can combine the two on a single page.

I do not think it will be possible to work out of the browser sandbox with Silverlight. Microsoft is working hard to keep Silverlight as secure as possible and avoid the problems ActiveX introduced.

Item virtualization is the ability to create one UI item in memory and then reuse it multiple times. This affects controls like Grids, Treeviews, Menus, etc. because it significantly reduces the amount of memory required to render the UI. When it is introduced to Silverlight, it will allow all complex controls to work much faster.

A grid for Silverlight is definitely in the works. Watch for more details early next year.

25. Will your text controls have an auto-grow property, whereby the text box grows as the user types. What kind of animations will you guys be releasing?

I am not sure about auto-growing textboxes, but there will be a complete animation framework built-in to the RadControls for Silverlight. When the online demos release next week, look for the Animation demos that show-off the different animation types.

26. When is Silverlight expected to be ready for production code?

That depends largely on Microsoft's progress on the framework itself. If things progress as expected, look towards Summer 2008 for real production ready Silverlight development.

27. Does the RADListBox include autocomplete features? Does SilverLight 2.0 require a download from the user's perspective? (web browser) what is item virtualization?

RadComobox and RadTextbox for Silverlight both include great autocomplete support. RadListBox does not really have a model for input, but it does have other cool features like keyboard support with auto list looping.

Silverlight does require users to install the Silverlight plug-in in their browser. It's a one-time download, though, so once it's installed it does not need to be downloaded again.

See answer 24 to address the virtualization question.

28. What is the timeframe of the Silverlight 2.0 beta? Can the controls easily be styled using CSS? Can the controls easily be styled using CSS? Are there any plans on building Adobe Flex controls?

Silverlight 2.0 beta is probably going to drop in the Spring 2008 timeframe (look towards Mix08).

Silverlight controls use XAML to render their UI, so CSS doesn't apply. The styling of Silverlight controls will be more closely compared to WPF than to ASP.NET.

Telerik is primarily a .NET shop, so we do not currently have any plans to address Adobe Flex.

29. Is the RadEditor targeted for a SilverLight Version?

There is no RadEditor version in the current Silverlight previews, but stayed tuned next year for more details about new controls that will be added to the suite.

30. What is WPF?

WPF, or Windows Presentation Foundation, is Microsoft's next generation platform for developing Windows applications. It relies on XAML to provide the UI markup and delivers entirely new ways for applications to render on the desktop. A quick Google search should help you learn a lot more about that topic.

31. Will these silverlight controls be sold along with the current .NET RAD controls? or will they be purchased separately

The licensing for the RadControls for Silverlight is still undecided. Check back next year for more details on how that will work.

32. What is the difference between Silverlight 1.1 and 2.0 or by 2.0 do you mean 1.1?

This is the unfortunate effect of Microsoft's "re-naming" of Silverlight 1.1 to 2.0. Anywhere I use the term "Silverlight 2.0" in the presentation, I am referring to Microsoft's next version of Silverlight (previously called Silverlight 1.1).

33. will these controlls be usable within Expression WEB?

Absolutely.

34. Have you thought of doing a webcast with Microsoft? You could show how easy it is to drop these controls from Visual Studio 2008. The viewer that you're using to view the controls in -- is that what will ship with the tools? It's really cool!! If we have a Telerik license for the ASP.NET controls, will that also give us access to the Silverlight controls?

We've definitely done webcasts with Microsoft in the past and we look forward to doing more in the future. When Silverlight does get VS 2008 design-time support, perhaps we'll do another event showing the behavior you described.

The viewer will be part of the RadControls for Silverlight Quick Start Framework (or QSF). That means you'll be able to play with its code when a download is eventually made available in the Spring.

See answers 17 and 31 for licensing.

35. Really cool actually.

Glad you like the controls!

36. Will the controls be available in Blend 2.0 and Visual Studio 08? Great Job!

Yes, the controls will work in both environments. Glad you like the presentation!

37. what about silverlight with safari

Not a problem. Microsoft has created a Silverlight plug-in for Safari, too.

38. Will the RadUpload control support byte arrays?

The RadUpload control exposes an UploadServiceUrl property that allows you to set the URL to where the uploaded file bytes will be sent. This would typically be handled by an HttpHandler on your server.

39. Suggest you have an internet phone to call in at no cost via Skype or equivalent.

Great idea. We'll look in to this for future presentations.

40. Will this be licensed separately from the other RadControls?

See answers 17 and 31 for licensing details.

41. When components fire .NET events can they be handled by XAML such as {TemplateBinding} properties? as a note, I don't think it'll be *replacing* any existing functionality. It will definitely be supplementing our work!

Good question. I'm not sure off the top of my head if that support currently exists, but if it is a supported feature of the framework it will be a supported feature of the controls.

Great point on the replacing poll, too. I wanted to make "won't replace" an option, but I

assumed people would use "Other" for that.

42. Will these tools be supported for only VS 2008 or will VS 2005 included as well?

Designer support (when available) will only be provided in VS 2008. You can use the tools in VS 2005 (or any code editor), but VS 2008 will definitely deliver the best experience. That's the way Microsoft has decided to handle Silverlight in general.

43. intersstingthat www.telerikwatch.com is dead seems like an oversight

No oversight, just the bane of using Blogger and custom URLs. Google has complete control of the Blogger DNS, so I can't get [www](http://www.telerikwatch.com) to map correctly. It's definitely a problem I am aware of, though, and one that I hope to fix soon.

44. this need to use conference call bridge makes gotowebinar presentations very inconvenient. A note for citrix company

I agree. Unfortunately, this the way most online webinar services work. We're definitely going to be looking for ways to supplement audio in the future.

45. I don't want all these controls for Silverlight. I want Rad tools that will help me write NEW KINDS of we apps like diagramming tools, etc. I want to use Silverlight for things that RadControls for ASP.NET CANNOT do like, example, a diagramming tool. Will RadControls for Silverlight help me do that? Create objects, connect them with lines, allow user to manipulate them on the screen, etc? I'll continue to use RadControls for ASP.NET but will use Silverlight for:

I understand completely where you're coming from. These controls definitely only represent our first steps in to Silverlight. As an industry, everybody is trying to determine what applications will be built with Silverlight (remember, *none* exist today). Right now we're focused on delivering a toolbox that is complete so business developers can consider Silverlight when building apps, but were keenly watching to see what demand exists for "new types" of controls.

46. Will the new controls have the same API as the existing web controls?

The APIs won't be 1-to-1 since they're obviously different technology platforms, but properties that do similar things will be named similarly and behaviors/features will in many ways imitate the web controls.

47. Why dont you add the drop hints to your existing controls? Is the API for the silverlight controls the same, substantially the same, or different from the traditional controls APIs?

I hope we do. It's definitely something I'm pushing for with the other product teams!

See the above question for your answer.

48. when is this version going to be available for download

You'll be able to play with this version next week. The download will sync with the release of the Silverlight 2.0 beta (expected in the Spring).

49. The checkboxes are mirrored or is it just me

I can understand your confusion since the "up side" of the checkbox is not much taller than the down. They are normal, though, I promise. We'll take a closer look at this UI.

50. what's the size of the control library? (kbytes?)

Currently it's just about 1.4 MB for everything, but the number is very likely to change up or down depending on how the Silverlight framework changes.

51. Will it work in other browsers, such as FF and Netscape, Safari?

FireFox, yes. Safari, yes. Netscape, don't think so. Microsoft is currently only building the plug-in for IE, FireFox, and Safari.