Technical Excellence : Internet

Next►

Winner: JavaBeans

The JavaBeans Development Team

With the advent of the JavaBeans component standard, Sun Microsystems is finally able to shed Java's image as a toyware applet generator. The power and versatility of JavaBeans presents a good alternative to Microsoft's ActiveX for building business applications for the Web.

JavaBeans lets you share and reuse components easily and deploy Java-based components in new ways not possible before. This will accelerate Java development dramatically, letting developers get past the basics quickly and concentrate on advanced applications.

Keeping it simple was the guiding principle behind JavaBeans and is one of its most impressive strengths. Unlike what you find in ActiveX technology, Sun Microsystems designed JavaBeans to be used for components, making it easy for vendors to build beans that can be reused in many Java development tools. Telling the world about what properties, methods, are and events in JavaBeans is generally easier than with other component models because this information is built right into the control, and not separate (as with type library information in Microsoft ActiveX Controls, for example).

There are two approaches to building JavaBeans: You can publish what a JavaBean can do simply by conforming to certain naming conventions, or you can employ a more advanced method involving descriptor classes, which describe what properties, methods, and events a bean can offer explicitly by filling classes with this information. Either approach will result in an easily reusable JavaBean: A tool or application checks a bean's contents, then can instantly add it to a development environment or application by reading its methods and properties. This is a breakthrough because of its simplicity.

The JavaBeans component model includes a slew of additional features. These include the ability to archive, download, and execute JavaBeans remotely, as well as the ability to save and restore data--referred to as persistence. The JAR file specification lets you download beans to a Web page, then install and run them inside your browser.

Other features include security APIs, which ensure security over the Internet, and Remote Method Invocation (RMI), which lets remote machines invoke beans, thus making distributed computing on Java a possibility. These features, though not exactly new, have never been available in such a platform-independent way as with this new Java standard.

Sun Microsystems Inc., Palo Alto, CA; 650-786-7737; www.sun.com.

Finalists

Castanet

Castanet Development Team

An exciting offshoot of the Java development work of Sun Microsystems, Marimba's Castanet technology is a powerful application delivery mechanism that brings push content and software updates to your PC. Castanet stands apart from other push technologies with its intelligent handling of downloads and its ability to cope with a wide range of application types.

The way Castanet is structured offers superior performance and shorter download times. Since Castanet channels are Java applications and not applets, you download only the updated content, not the whole channel. This alleviates

Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0

Internet Explorer 4.0 Team

Considering how quickly the Web has become ubiquitous, it isn't surprising that Microsoft's once-humble browser Internet Explorer has matured into a full Web application suite, complete with the most technically sophisticated features of any browser. IE 4.0 integrates into your desktop, boasts significant leaps in Web navigation, and features the most complete dynamic HTML implementation available.

IE4's most significant achievement is True Web Integration, which lets you add browserlike functionality to your operating system. Windows folders can become minibrowsers, and the IE4

performance problems that plague other push solutions. Each application is stored on your hard disk, so channels operate locally without a live Internet connection. Castanet's technology was impressive enough to be incorporated into Netscape's Netcaster, where it provides some of its channel delivery and updates.

Castanet has expanded beyond a Java solution. Its UpdateNow technology lets Castanet deliver software updates not just for Java programs but also for those written in C, C++, and Visual Basic. The ability to distribute a wide spectrum of software in a fast and unobtrusive way makes Castanet the first push product that lives up to some of the hype.

***Marimba Inc.**, Palo Alto, CA; 415-328-5282; www.marimba.com.*

toolbar sits on the desktop, letting you surf your hard disk as well as the Web. The Active Desktop lets you embed all or parts of Web pages onto your desktop, transforming static bitmap wallpaper into a vital resource that primes you with news, stocks, or whatever interests you. By contrast, Netscape Communicator's Webtop limits you to one embedded Web page at a time and cannot integrate your browser with your hard disk.

IE4's implementation of dynamic HTML (DHTML) is much more complete than Communicator's. With it, Web designers can build interactive pages that can have elements scroll to their final position on each page, or allow the placement of the cursor to trigger additional information or some visual effect to appear.

***Microsoft Corp.**, Redmond, WA; 800-426-9400; www.microsoft.com.*

WHAT DO YOU THINK? CLICK HERE

If you use JAVA BEANS be prepared to lay JAVA FARTS!!! - El Kabong
IE 4.0 - David McCombs
Castanet???? We're hurtin' - Micheal Ross
No way... paid by Microsoft - $$$ buys PC Mag
IE???? Boooooooo - I love hating IE
RE: I.E. 4, the kiss of death - Josh
IE4 Phht.. Ack! - Geoff
IE4 should have received the award! - Nathan Hurtley
JavaBeans a winner? What a joke!! Choose IE4!! - Mark Welch
IE4.... could be worst?...UNA MIERDA - Toni Vaquer
MS Internet Explorer 4 - Mark Sewell
IE 4: Not worth an award - Peter
IE4 - Al
Another view on IE4 - Eric Bennett
IE4? Awww, bull.. - Jason
I.E. 4, the kiss of death. - Taloft
IE4 and Desktop integration - Peter
ie4 - darryl lepree
Good choice--not! - Dean Sies
IE is an interesting prototype but a hazard to your data - Barry Mosher

RELATED LINKS

- JavaBeans 1.0 -- In PC Labs
- IE 4 vs. Commuicator -- In PC Labs
- The Push Is On -- In PC Labs
- JavaUser -- ZDNet Products
- BrowserUser -- ZDNet Products
- Sun Microsystems -- Company Finder
- Marimba Inc. -- Company Finder
- Microsoft Corp. -- Company Finder

Next►

SPONSORED LINKS

Software The Answer to your software needs - BUYDIRECT.COM
Finance Save Now, Save Later, Fixed 9.99% APR Everyday
Investing **E*TRADE**:free real-time quotes, IRAs, 4000 mutual funds!
Software **X10.com** - FREE Socket Rockets: Available **Next 24 Hours!**

ZDNET FEATURED LINKS

Freeware It's a software free for all - **100 free downloads!**
Shop Smart Find the **perfect gifts** with our Holiday Shopping Guide
Shopping Visit the ZDNet Bookstore for **easy holiday shopping**

MAGAZINE OFFERS

Demo Discs 12 **exclusive** playable demo discs for Sony PlayStation

A ZDNet Site
ZDNET HOME | SITE MAP | SEARCH ZDNET | WHAT'S NEW | AD INFO
Copyright (c) 1997 Ziff-Davis Inc.

Winner: James Gosling and the Java Team

It's hard to imagine a product that has had more influence on the way we think about personal computing than Java. But while computing and the Internet are now givens in any discussion of Java, that's not how the product started out.

In the early nineties, a group known at the Green Team was formed at Sun with the initial idea of coming up with a simple way for various household appliances to connect and work together. Prominent on the team was James Gosling (above), who had previously designed the cMacs editor and NeWS, a windows-based interface for Unix. Gosling had originally intended to work with C++ and make it more portable. Instead, he resolved the portability issue by placing his language in a "virtual machine." He named the language Oak. Oak was designed for *7 ("star-7"), a remote device for controlling smart appliances throughout the house. The group was renamed First Person, and it started working on interactive television.

With the advent of the World Wide Web and the need to create applications that would run on any Web client, the language was recast as a way of writing applications that would run on any platform. Gosling was responsible for the original language and VM, and many others were also involved, including Bill Joy, Richard Koch, Tim Lindholm, Jonathan Payne, Arthur van Hoff, and Frank Yellen. The language was renamed Java in 1995 and released to widespread acclaim. That year, PC Magazine recognized Java with a Technical Excellence Award.

Since then, the basic Java concept has been enhanced and improved, with such items as JavaBeans--a method for tying together Java applets--and new procedures designed to make the original platform-independence of the language come closer to reality. As a programming language, a virtual machine, and a platform for applications development, Java has emerged as an alternative to the standard Windows-based client/server model. Java plays a major role in almost every discussion of where computing is heading. With that in mind, we name James Gosling and the Java Team as our Persons of the Year.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? CLICK HERE

You should have just said "James Gosling" - One who knew the team.
The Original "Solution without a Problem" - John Logan
Java - Last Hope against Empire of Evil - Brodie Chree
James Gosling as Person of the Year - William Liederbach
Javasoft buys Chorus - Richard Temple
A little accuracy wouldn't hurt...the hype I expect. - gaj
Re: JAVA - Ed Bigornia
I think Microsurfs post here - Russ Riker
Congradulations James Gosling - Dale Putnam
Java - how you can fool most of the people most of the time. - dyl
Re: Java - Get Realer Guys!
cMacs => Emacs; Gosling=>Stallman - Paul McJones
Java - Bruce Eckel
A recycled appliance language is best for computers??? - Get Real Guys
Java - R. Rich

Next►

SPONSORED LINKS

Software The Answer to your software needs - BUYDIRECT.COM
Finance Save Now, Save Later, Fixed 9.99% APR Everyday
Investing **E*TRADE**:free real-time quotes, IRAs, 4000 mutual funds!
Software **X10.com** - FREE Socket Rockets: Available **Next 24 Hours!**

ZDNET FEATURED LINKS

Freeware It's a software free for all - **100 free downloads!**
Shop Smart Find the **perfect gifts** with our Holiday Shopping Guide
Shopping Visit the ZDNet Bookstore for **easy holiday shopping**

MAGAZINE OFFERS

Demo Discs **12 exclusive** playable demo discs for Sony PlayStation

Copyright (c) 1997 Ziff-Davis Inc.