

Ricardo Castelhana – WebDevelopment with Plugins

Title: Silverlight 101 – Tools

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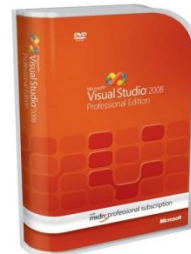
After a RIAPT – Portugues Community for Rich Internet Applications Development event, I decided that its content was adjustable to a small series of tutorials "101" (Level Iniciate). Thus, the series beginning here with the introduction to the tools needed to develop in Silverlight.

Currently we are in version 3 of the Silverlight technology, version 4 still in Beta but just around the corner.

The installation process of the tools follows a specific order, which must be respected to ensure that everything will be ready for use.

Visual Studio 2008

The editor of choice for developing Windows Client, Web, Microsoft Office System, .NET Framework, SQL Server and Windows Mobile (now with Windows Phone7, Silverlight will also get some legs). And with the "WebsiteSpark" and "BizSpark" programs all this software is free for a 3 years period.



After installing Visual Studio, it should be installed the Service Pack1 (SP1).

Visual Web Developer 2008 (free)



It is possible to develop for Silverlight with free tools such as Visual Web Developer 2008, thanks to packages like "Web Platform Instaler" which include:

- Internet Information Services (IIS)
- SQL Server Express
- .NET Framework
- Visual Web Developer
- As well as a number of "out of the box" solutions:
 - DotNetNuke Community Edition

- Umbraco CMS
- Joomla!
- mojoPortal
- nopCommerce
- Moodle
- ...

Expression Blend 3

This software is the visual editor of choice for the XAML code. A powerful tool for both designers and developers. Within the package comes included with the “**SketchFlow**” tool for quick prototyping, flow charts, screen layouts and User eXperience prototyping, always collaboratively with the team and the client.



Blend allows for an almost perfect workflow between designers and developers, and the solution is shared by both teams without the occurrence of overlapping.

Silverlight Toolkit



Microsoft®
Silverlight Toolkit

Controls and components package for Silverlight. This package adds new features for both designers and developers.

Interestingly, the package includes full open source code, unit tests, samples and documentation. A small controls list:

AutoCompleteBox	Calendar	ChildWindow
DataGrid	DataPager	DatePicker
GridSplitter	TabControl	TreeView
DockPanel	Expander	WrapPanel
NumericUpDown	Accordion	Charting
DataForm	TimePicker	TimeUpDown
TreeMap	Rating	11 Themes

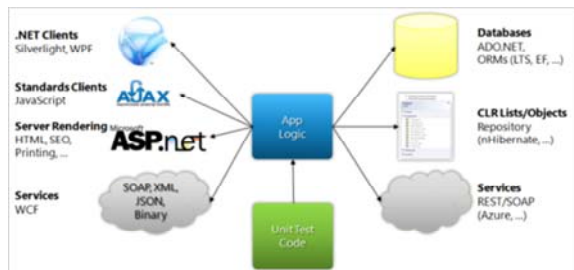
DeepZoom Composer

Famous projects like “HardRock Cafe Memorabilia”, “Playboy Cover to Cover”, “Zermatt Switzerland Tourism” were developed with this technology



providing high-resolution images with an incredible smooth experience over the web. As the name states, it is possible to have deeper zooms into the images, literally “entering” in them...without doubt, one of the tools required.

.NET RIA Services



The “*middle-tier*” of choice for communications between Silverlight and any type of persistent data, services “or Cloud”.

Uff...this whole installation process will take some time to be completed.

As I mentioned, Silverlight4 is just around the corner but for now we may tinker with the Beta version, and the tools required are:

- Visual Studio 2010 Beta2 (**caution:** RC version does not supports Silverlight)
- Visual Web Developer Express 2010 Beta2
- Expression Blend .NET4 Preview
- Silverlight Toolkit
- WCF RIA Services

Visual Studio 2010 Beta2 runs side by side with Visual Studio 2008, making possible the development of Silverlight3 solutions with the “stable” tools. However, .NET RIA Services and WCF RIA Services **can not** work side by side, so you either study .NET RIA Services with Silverlight3 or WCF RIA Services with Silverlight4.

UPCOMING

When the time comes to start a new Silverlight project, the first big question arises: “Which Visual Studio’s template should I choose? And what if I want to work only with Blend?”

In the next article I will provide some answers for these questions.

Any question or comment, please use the blog.

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