

Building RIAs with Flex & OL My Experiences

Nirav Mehta



RIA?

Rich Internet Application



unity Portal

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it changes

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article discussion edit this page history

Rich Internet Application

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Rich Internet Applications (RIA) are a cross between web applications and traditional desktop applications, transferring some of the processing to the client end.

RIA's typically:

- run in a web browser, or do not require software installation.
- = run locally in a secure environment called a sandbox
- can be "occasionally connected" wandering in and out of hot-spots or from office to office

The term "Rich Internet Application" was introduced in a Macromedia whitepaper in March 2002, though the concept had been around for a number of years before that under different names such as X Internet and Rich Clients.

- What's RIA?
- Why RIA?
- Why Flash?
- Why not AJAX?

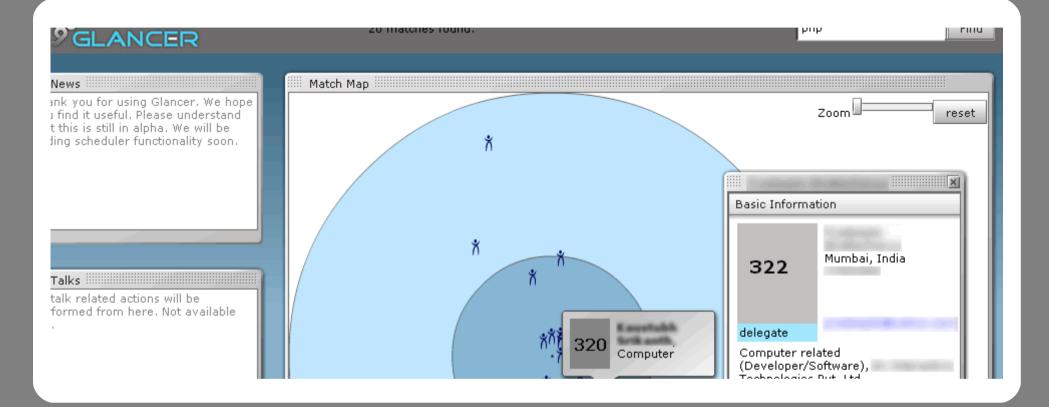
What's OpenLaszlo? Flex?





- XML based languages / platforms for RIA development
- Flex from Adobe / Macromedia
- OpenLaszlo from Laszlo Inc open source / GPL

Glancer



- Friend Finder & Scheduler app
- Used in foss.in/2005

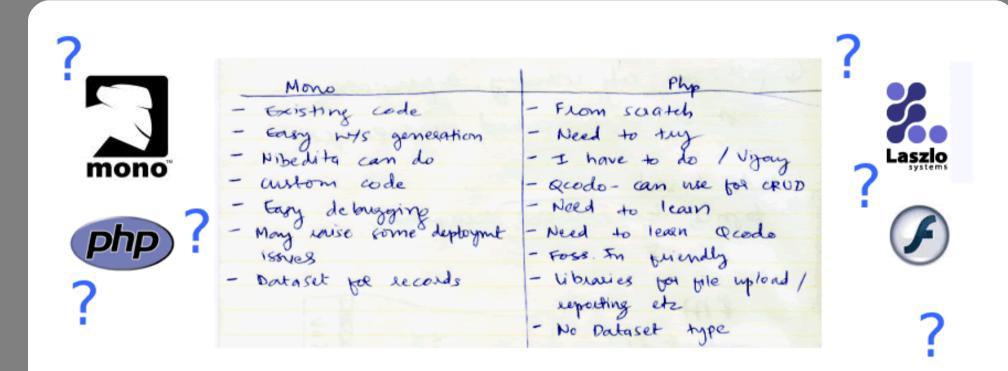
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6	6	Großbritann	United King		
4	4	Italien	Italy		
7	7	Niederlande	Netherlands		
2	2	Österreich	Austria		
3	3	Schweiz	Switzerland		
9	9	Spanien	Spain		

- Pressfile award winning RIA
- PFAdmin experiment with Flex 2

Tech Choices



- Cutting edge technology
- Flash vs Flex vs OpenLaszlo
- PHP vs Mono vs ColdFusion

OpenLaszlo & Flex

<canvas> <mx:application>

- XML Based, SWF output
- Eclipse connection
- Attributes, Events, Fundamentals
- Speed!

Workflow

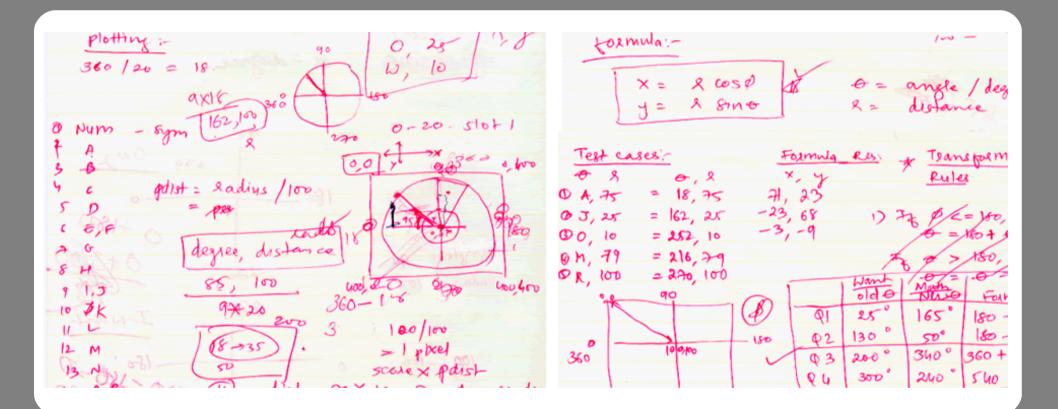
- LaszloIDE / FlexBuilder
- LZX / MXML
- SWF
- Solo / Server / FDS

Glancer - WSDL Blues

```
84
85 E
         /**
                                                                  </xsd:complexType>
86
          * Authenticate a user
                                                                  <xsd:complexType name="UserInfo">
87
88
                                                                      <xsd:all>
          * @param string $email
                                                                          <xsd:element name="fullname" type="xsd:string"/>
89
          * @param string $password
                                                                          <xsd:element name="result" type="xsd:string"/>
90
          * @return UserInfo Details of this user
                                                                          <xsd:element name="session id" type="xsd:string"/>
91
          # /
                                                                          <xsd:element name="user id" type="xsd:integer"/>
92
         public function login($email, $password) {
93
                                                                      \langle xsd:all \rangle
94
             $userInfo = new UserInfo();
                                                                  </xsd:complexType>
95
                                                                  <xsd:complexType name="stringArray">
                                                                      <xsd:complexContent>
96
             if ("" == $password) {
                                                                          <xsd:restriction base="soapenc:Array">
97
                 return $userInfo->result = ResultCode::Invali
                                                                              <xsd:attribute ref="soapenc:arrayType" wsdl:arr</pre>
98
             }
                                                                          </xsd:restriction>
99
             try {
                                                                      </xsd:complexContent>
100
                 $arrRes = $this->objUsers->Login($email, $pas
                 if (is array($arrRes)) {
                                                                  </xsd:complexType>
101
                                                                  <xsd:complexType name="PersonSummary">
102
                                                                      <xsd:all>
103
                     $userInfo->setData($arrRes);
                                                                          <xsd:element name="fullname" type="xsd:string"/>
104
                     $userInfo->session id = uniqid();
                                                                          <xsd:element name="occupation" type="xsd:string"/>
105
                     // Insert this session info into the tabl
                     $strQuery = "REPLACE INTO gcr user sessions (second/vsd;element.pamemUnbotp; type="xsd:string"/>
106
107
                                   WALTES (1" CuserInfo_Neeggion id "1 1" CuserInfo_Nuger id "1 1" & SEDVEDFIDEMOTE ADDULT "1
```

- Mono / PHP Webservices
- WSDL Generation
- Security

Glancer - Map Plotting Logic



- Trigonometry?
- $x = r \cos \theta$, $y = r \sin \theta$
- Shift of origin, shift of quadrants

PFA - DataGrid

Fullname	Username	Pwd	Role	Active	Logins
Regime Degler	Brights Displor	-grant	2	1	23
Braine Laborat	Brune Lakas	source.	2	1	18
	Ehrs Huttineck	thatlers.	2	1	0
month or Papersolited.	Horika Norrdick	10766	2	1	8
	Nataca Fordner	mate	2	1	6
	Practicant	intram.	2	1	244
	Part Durney	friedfool	2	1	11
Case Property	Diver Preper	formals.	2	1	38

Email addresses for					
User Pagel					
Email	Account				
underer rend	ter: Use				
Add	Delete				
Legends : Secur	ity				
0 No Acc	cess				

- Editing in place
- Synchronizing the data with backend
- Focus issues SelectedIndex etc

Version mismatches

null is undefined

- Flex 2 beta 1 vs beta 2 vs beta 3
- OpenLaszlo 3.1 vs 3.2 vs 3.3

Debugging

- Laszlo's Debug window
- Flex ?

You will hit bugs!

<!-- Basic variables --> <attribute name="action" value="login" type="string" />

```
<!-- Enable debugging window -->
<debug width="400" height="350" x="800" y="50" />
```

<!-- Resource used --> <include href="resources.lzx" />

```
<!-- Style for the UI -->
<whitestyle name="mystyle" isdefault="true" />
```

```
<!-- Datasets -->
<include href="datasets.lzx" />
```

<!-- View and other Classes --> <include href="class.person.lzx" /> <include href="class.personInfo.lzx" />

```
<include href="webservice.lzx" />
```

- I am not talking about bugs in your app!
- It may bleed if you are on the cutting edge
- Difficulties will come
- You may not be able to solve them

Glancer Response



- Cool, Amazing
- Talk of the town
- You should take this to more people

What I am not happy with



- Speed
- Uncertainty

What I am happy about



- Ease / Power
- Coolness / UI
- Coders can do RIA now!
- Ecosystem / Community is building

Thank you

- Nirav Mehta
- nirav@magnet-i.com
- www.magnet-i.com
- www.mehtanirav.com
- www.glancer.net

