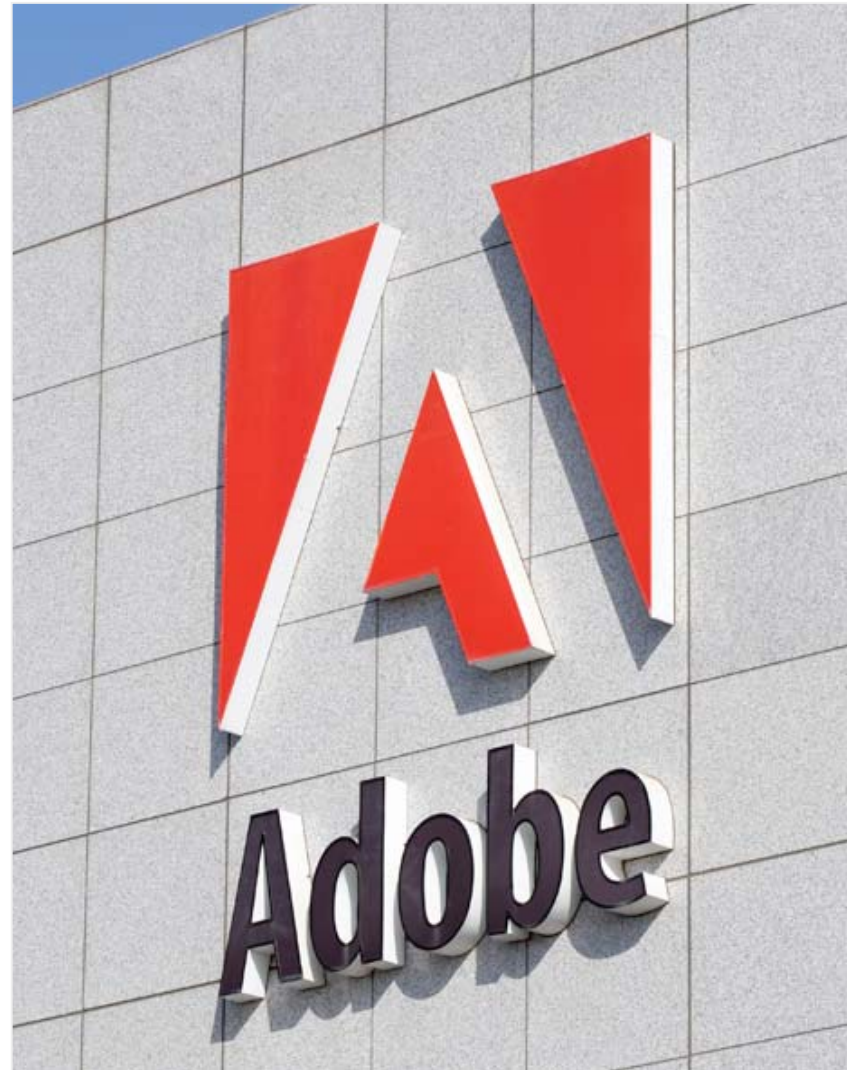


# Using Adobe Flex with Rails

Aslak Hellesøy - Bekk Consulting  
Børre Wessel - Adobe

RailsConf Europe 17.09.2007



# Who are we?

- Aslak Hellesøy

- Chief Technical Officer at Bekk Consulting AS
- Based in Oslo, Norway

- Background

- Accenture (yuk), Bekk, Thoughtworks, Bekk
- Open Source (Java+Ruby)
- Consulting since 1997
- Enterprisey stuff

- Børre Wessel

- Senior Consultant at Adobe Consulting
- Rich Internet Applications, EMEA
- Based in Edinburgh, Scotland

- Background

- J2EE Enterprise Software Development
- Agile Software development
- Rich Internet Applications
- UI development since 2000

# What is Adobe Flex

- Cross platform development framework for creating Rich Internet Applications, RIAs
  - Component based
    - MXML
    - ActionScript 3
      - Object Oriented
      - Strongly typed
      - ECMA Script
  - SOA client
- Flex Builder
  - Design and code view
  - Code completion/hinting
  - Debugging
- Seamless integration with other development and design tools
  - CS3 integration with Flash, Fireworks, Illustrator, Photoshop

# Flex and the future

- Flex 3
  - Flex framework cached on the client
  - Flex Builder
    - Refactoring
    - Memory and Performance profiler
  - [Flex 3 on Adobe labs](#)
- Open Source
  - Flex SDK
  - Tamarin, ActionScript VM (Donated to Mozilla)

# Flash Player

- Installed on more than 97 % of all Internet enabled PC's
- Flash Player 9
  - 90.3 % (June 2007)
  - High performance cross-platform runtime
  - Integrated support for text, graphics, animations and audio/video



# Rails and Flex

- Rails and Flex - best friends
- Flex, a better choice then AJAX
- Rapid prototyping
  - Develop compelling prototypes
- Connectivity
  - HTTPServices
    - XML
    - JSON
    - Flashvars
  - Remote Objects
    - WebORB
  - FABridge Flex AJAX Bridge

# The conference application

- Ruby On Rails (server)
  - CRUD conferences
  - User authentication
  - Personalised conference list
  - RESTful
- Flex (client)
  - Uses Rails app's XML REST endpoints
  - The rest is just plain Flex
  - Implements the same UI as the RoR app
  - Thin client (all business logic in Rails app)
- Source code: <http://code.google.com/p/attender/>

# From prototyping to production

- Cairngorm
  - Micro architecture, MVC pattern based
  - Developed, maintained and used by Adobe Consulting
  - Separation of Control
    - Model (State bucket), keeps all your shared data, and common methods for manipulation
    - View, only view logic and UI components
    - Controller, register all commands
      - Services are stored in a single service-locator
  - Maintenance
- Flex modules, RSLs and SWCs
- Flash/Flex component kit
- Testing



# Testing Flex

- Unit testing
  - [FlexUnit](#), similar to JUnit
  
- Functional testing
  - [HP \(Mercury\) QuickTest Professional](#)
  - [FunFX](#), Open Source Ruby based tool, Peter Motzfeldt Bekk Consulting
  
- Load testing
  - [Flex Stress Testing Framework](#)
  - Coming soon:
    - [HP \(Mercury\) LoadRunner](#)
    - [Borland SilkPerformer](#)
    - [Radview Webload](#)

# Competition

## SilverLight

- SilverLight 1, comparable to Flash Player 6
- SilverLight 1.1 (alpha) adds RIA capabilities
- Closed source
- No proper design tools

## Java FX

- Early Alpha...
- No proper design tools

## AJAX

- It is JavaScript... and the bugs are still present
- Cross platform/browser problems
- Lacks good design and developer tools

# Links

- [Adobe Flex](#)
- [Flex 3 on Adobe Labs](#)
- [Cairngorm](#)
  
- [WebORB for Ruby on Rails](#)
- [FlexOnRails](#)
  
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