

The Developers Group Masterclass

Visual Studio.NET & C# Masterclasses for Delphi (and other Win32) Developers with Scott Price

on Monday 20th July and Tuesday 21st July 2009

at the Village Hall (Parish Reading Room), Upavon, Wiltshire SN9 6EB

Day 1 - .NET Fundamentals

09:30 Registration, tea/coffee and calories

10:00 **Welcome – So Why .NET?**

A quick starter as to why Microsoft provided .NET, what its place is in the grand scheme of things, why it is important to you all, and a general idea of the pros and cons.

10:30 **.NET Class Library Basics**

The .NET Framework has some fundamentals that are very important to know before trying to understand their use and the associated impact further.

11:00 Tea/coffee and more calories

11:20 **C# - The base .NET Language**

Whilst not entirely accurate, it is the chosen language for most of the .NET framework class libraries and examples. Although it is not the only language, understanding it and how to use it are important to using .NET examples and documentation.

12:00 **Assemblies**

What are assemblies? Why are there multiple types? What are the benefits of signed and unsigned assemblies, and what are their uses? Security in .NET applications and the framework at work in a website.

12:45 Lunch at the pub

13:45 **Code Converters**

Code converters can help migration of existing Delphi source code to C#/VB and aid in any migration that might be necessary for your existing source code.

14:15 **Getting to know the IDE**

Getting to know the important aspects of the Visual Studio development IDE, how to create and manage projects, forms, code and other important files. This also includes shortcuts, customization and add-ins that may help productivity.

15:00 Tea/coffee and yet more calories

15:20 **Trying to Convert Some Existing Code**

We can try to convert some existing code into a new .NET Application.

16:00 Fidget break

16:20 **Trying to Convert Some Existing Code cont.**

16:45 **WinForm and .NET Applications**

Learn a little about the way that .NET Windows desktop applications work, and how things have changed since Anders and his team created the VCL.

17:20 **Time for a Little Practical**

Here we hope to fit in a period of time when you can try some of the things learnt today in practice, to see how things work.

18:20 **Any more questions?**

18:30 End - voluntary adjournment to the pub.

To take advantage of the practical sessions, you'll need a laptop with:

Visual Studio 2008 or Trial Version

<http://www.microsoft.com/visualstudio/en-gb/try/default.aspx>

Either Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express or better:

Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio Express

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?displaylang=en&FamilyID=c243a5ae-4bd1-4e3d-94b8-5a0f62bf7796>

Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Edition

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?displaylang=en&FamilyID=220549b5-0b07-4448-8848-dcc397514b41>

or Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Express or better:

Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Express with Tools

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?displaylang=en&FamilyID=7522a683-4cb2-454e-b908-e805e9bd4e28>

Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Management Studio Express

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?displaylang=en&FamilyID=08e52ac2-1d62-45f6-9a4a-4b76a8564a2b>

Day 2 - More .NET and Putting it to Use

09:30 Registration, tea/coffee and calories

10:00 Database Integration and Data Retrieval/ Manipulation

Let's face it, everything in the modern world revolves around data. Using and interacting with this data is the most important part of any software you are probably using or thinking about creating. Sadly .NET is kind of like Delphi in this regard, in that there are multiple ways to interact with your data, not just one standard Microsoft method. Each has its pros and cons, and each has a wealth of additional focus and benefits.

11:00 Tea/coffee and more calories

11:20 Debugging and Testing Applications

Using the IDE and what we have learnt so far to perform some debugging tasks on a simple application to get familiar with the workings of things together.

12:30 Lunch at the pub

13:30 ASP.NET Websites

This is probably the most important thing for many of you wanting to use your data with a real life website that can benefit your business/customers.

This is a huge topic really, but will hopefully give us grounding in some of the key and important points that make this the biggest useful change for many developers in Microsoft based websites.

15:00 Tea/coffee and yet more calories

15:20 Time for a Little More Practical

Putting together things we have learnt today, we can work together to start and work with some projects to try to keep the memory fresh about things we have spent time trying to get to know.

17:20 Any more questions?

17:30 Home time!

Things You'll Need to Know

Cost and booking

The price for members is £175 + VAT per day or £300 + VAT for both days. (Non-members please contact us.) All places must be booked and paid for in advance. Please book as soon as you can - bookings are open NOW - and make sure that we have payment by bank transfer or cheque no later than Monday July 13th.

The price includes refreshments and lunch. It does not include drinks at the pub, your evening meal or accommodation if you're staying overnight, or your taxi.

Getting here, food, accommodation, parking etc - ask if you need more info

Upavon is at the crossroads of the A342 (Andover to Devizes) and A345 Swindon to Salisbury.

The hall is on the A342 between Andover (East) and Devizes (West), near the river bridge, just to the East of the junction of the A345 between Salisbury (South) and Swindon (North).

Regrettably getting here by public transport isn't easy and it's generally easier to drive. **Parking** is at your b&b or just outside the hall. You can also park at the Ship Inn in the High Street (A345) just round the corner from the hall. Our lunch is at the Ship too - they don't provide accommodation but

Accommodation very close to the hall is available at Upavon Manor (isabelbgreen@hotmail.com or 01980 635115) and the Antelope Inn (01980 630206). There are other b&bs a very brief drive or a walk across the fields away - ask if you need more information.

Please also ask if you need **train information and for us to book you taxis** (booking is essential) from and to local stations (Paddington to Pewsey infrequent trains + taxi 10 minutes/£12, or Waterloo to Andover about every half hour + taxi 40 minutes/£30).

Please remember that **phones** must be switched off during the class (signal is poor here anyway) and you won't have internet access at the hall or (most probably) at your accommodation. Bring your laptop fully charged - you'll be able to recharge at lunchtime.



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