JAOO
Today

Wednesday, September 26

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A Personal View, Erik Corry

For those who weren't knocked out by the party the day started with breakfast donated by Google. Hot croissants with chocolate in them and hot coffee with stimulants in it helped get us all rev up for the new day. And it was lucky we were thus fortified, because **Erik Meijer's** shirt set new standards for sartorial colourfullness in a keynote.

Under the title **"Democratizing the Cloud"** we were treated to a whirlwind tour of what's new from Microsoft, but I'm still a little unclear about the 'Cloud'. Is it the web? Perhaps the coffee hadn't kicked in yet.

A somewhat more concrete description was delivered by **Mads Torgersen**, our local boy on the inside of Microsoft's LINQ. It's an audacious attempt to blur the boundaries between code and data, thus allowing something rather like C# code to be downloaded to the database in the form of something rather like SQL. I can't decide whether it's tasteless or very useful or both.

After lunch, Google's, **Rajeev Dayal** presented Google's Web Toolkit. We saw this last year too, but now it's out of beta, out of closed source and begging to be used for Ajax applications large and small. In a way the most amazing thing about GWT is that not everyone is using it. Do people *like* programming complete reimplementations of the Lemmings game or complete email client applications in a language with no modules, no debugger and no classes? Of course, I share an employer with Rajeev so don't trust my opinion on this, try it for yourself!

After the break there was a chance to see **Trygve Reenskaug**, the inventor of Model-View-Controller, but it was one of those JAOO time slots where the need to clone oneself (or engage in short-term time travel Hermione-style) was particularly pressing. In the end I went to Chad Fowler's "Active Record - Easy Living on the Golden Path" talk. The title smelled a little of Zen Buddhism, and that might be the road to the sort of mind-over-matter transcendence needed to get beyond the shackles of time and space (or the vagaries of the JAOO talk schedulers).

There's something very relaxed about the **Ruby** crowd. No-one could acuse them of being clean-shaven, but they are definitely interested in getting the job done with a minimum of effort. And once you've realized (or David Heinemeier Hansson has realized) the proper way to build up an SQL database, then why not write an application framework that just assumes that the SQL database is set up properly? Is there real freedom in being allowed to use non-plural names for your tables? Chad doesn't think so anymore, having seen the wisdom in "surrendering to the whims of a 24 year old Danish guy".

They were less relaxed about things over at **Jim Coplien's** Scrum talk. The discussions afterwards around test driven development were certainly heated to the point where the scene reminded me of the atmosphere immediately preceeding school-yard fisticuffs. Still, we wouldn't enjoy JAOO if the speakers weren't passionate about their subjects. At the same time congratulations were in order at the Trifork stand as the organizers of JAOO completed another hurdle on their way to an IPO.

As I left the sound of Trifork's popping champagne corks behind on my way to the kindergarten I thought ruefully of the talks I was missing. Was "Muddle-driven Marketecture" somehow a good thing? Did "Heartbeat Retrospectives" involve rural English communities? Was I using the excuse of parental responsibilities to avoid running a Danish mile? Would there be any M&Ms left on the Google stand by tomorrow? JAOO always gives you a lot to think about.

Must See

Last day at JAOO, so now the pressure is on - this is the last chance to see some great talks this year. I'm putting my bets on these talks:

13:00-14:00: *Performance Ar*t
Optimizing performance is not exactly the easiest task, and sometimes we do it even when it isn't necessary. We might not even consider what performance is for our system. Kevlin Henney will make it all clear.

14:30-15:30: *History of B103 and ODF, OOXML*
The discussion of ODF vs OOXML has been heated, passionate, and at times even a little over the edge. Although a couple of personalities are missing, the panel session should be interesting.

16:00-17:00: *Panel: Does Architecture Quality Matter?*
I'm guessing the answer will be "yes", but I'm looking forward to hearing the arguments, and to see if there are good arguments as to why it shouldn't matter.

Joakim Recht, JAOO Today's Prediction Department

Joe Armstrong

Jonas Kongslund met Joe Armstrong to talk about Erlang and his experiences with programming languages.

Joe Armstrong is one of the lesser known programming language inventors. Having invented Erlang in the mid eighties he has so far remained relatively unknown in the industry although this may change in the next couple of years. Erlang is getting more and more attention due to its great support for concurrency, distributed systems, and soft real-time systems.

Armstrongs interest in computer science started in secondary school when he was 17 years old. There he got the chance to program punch card computers, and the fact that it took about a week before his programs could get executed did not matter so much at that time.

In 1975 Armstrong went to the university in Edinburgh to pursue a degree in physics but after getting acquainted with Donald Michie who was one of founders of the field of artificial intelligence, he decided that AI and computers were much more interesting.

A funny side story is that Armstrong and Michie got to play a lot of chess together and most of the time Armstrong won. The victories were extra sweet to him because Michie on many occasions had been able to beat the father of modern computer science, Alan Turing. Thus Armstrong could consider him relatively better than Turing at playing chess.

He moved to Sweden when he was 26 years old, and it was here that he invented Erlang in the mid eighties while studying at the Swedish Institute of Computer Science in Stockholm. Interestingly enough, he didn't finish his dissertation until 2003.

His current interests include Erlang multi core and network on chip architecture.

Armstrong is a strong opponent of object oriented programming. He doesn't like that everything is considered to be an object. Although he is willing to admit that objects are fine to some degree, he thinks that the abstraction breaks down as soon as we talk about passive and active objects. He also belives that a data structure should be a data structure, and not an object. In other words, data structure and functions should not be bound together.

It is Armstrongs belief that within the next 10 years Erlang will be influential. He has already observed this trend on the Erlang mailing list where more and more of the people asking questions are working on interesting applications and frameworks. Many developers in the Ruby world have become interested in Erlang and Ralph Johnson from the famous Gang of Four, have recently said that Erlang could be the next Java. Keep an eye on Erlang in the near future.

Sidder du

i et job version1?

Så find et nyt på

version2job.dk

Interview, by Aino Corry with crew member Steffen Sørensen outside Conference HAll 3, the modeling track.

How did you become a crew member?
There was a poster at my university, and there were references to the
JAOO conference on the internet.

What is your day job?
I'm doing master studies at the IT University in Copenhagen, and I am also
a software consultant.

What is the best part about being a crew member at JAOO?
The best part is getting the possibility to meet and discuss with the
rock stars of Computer Science.

What is the hardest part about being a crew member?
It's hard to be able to attend all the sessions I want to, while also doing my
duty as a crew member.

What is the best presentation you've seen, and why?
Beautiful Debugging by Andreas Zeller, because he managed to present a very
complex subject in an informative and entertaining way. Also, Testing Database
Code Pragmatically by Roy Osherove, because he was also very good at presenting,
and in the end he sang a song for us about databases while accompanying himself
on guitar.

What do you want to see tomorrow?
The Professional Developer track, becuause I think it's important for young
developers as me to get good ethics from the beginning.

Erich Gamma

Erich Gamma is widely known for both his work in the original Gang of Four Design Patterns book, on Eclipse and on JUnit and the entire unit testing movement.

These days, Erich Gamma works on IBM's Jazz project, which he presented at JAOO on monday afternoon.

Erich Gamma was interviewed by Martin Mosegaard Amdisen and Jakob Færch.

What is your favorite programming language?
These days? ... Java still is my favorite language. I feel very confident coding in Java, and then I must say it has some great tools like for example Eclipse.

However, I try to learn one new language each year, and Erlang is on my list for this year.

What is your favorite spoken language?
That has got to be Swiss German, which is not the same language as german. My mother taught me, so that will always be it.

However, I worked in the states for three years on Taligent, a large, ambitious project trying to create the next generation, purely object oriented operating system. Because of these years, english is also fine.

We know you from theoretical books like Design Patterns. Why the shift towards more practical things like Eclipse and lately Jazz?
I always enjoyed programming. The pattern work was actually grounded in coding, making software and then realizing a need for something to guide the development.

My work with unit testing was born from thinking about how to be more effective when programming.

Then you might say there was a shift in interest towards the team stuff, how teams deal with software, but it is still about getting more effective in shipping working software.

I love to ship software. Taligent was the only exception; it never shipped - but it was still a very good learning experience.

Which presentation will you definitely be attending?
Eric Meijer's keynote seems very interesting.

Monday, I missed Joe Armstrong's Erlang talk, but it was too close to my own Jazz demo, so I had to let it go.

If you were not into software development, how would you be spending your work life?
I'm sure I would be a Swiss banker. I studied economy, so I think that's where I would have ended up, in some middle management position... but then I started programming, and noticed that it was fun.

I might also have become a ski instructor. We have great mountains in the region of Switzerland where I grew up

IT-Run

An ordinary Tuesday night at 7 pm we - a group of seven running friends - met at Musikhuset ready to face the challenges of Jaoo IT run.

This is my second year of participation, and I find it to be a fun warm up for this weekends Berlin Marathon. Running through the city between parked cars and gazing people is definitely a special experience. Cars didn't affect my race but an official had his troubles with a driver, who tried to get through, even though he was in middle of the race.

The weather was fine. The dark clouds only let out a few drops on this cold fall evening. Some probably regretted not having stayed at home on the couch, but now there was no way back. We were lined up ready to cross the starting line.

The distance was one Danish mile (7.5 km) and the route had to be run twice. The route crossed Valdemarsgade and Brarandstien, and so I had home advantage. Individual runners started at 7.05 pm. The registered Jaoo participants started at 7.00. It could be fun if we could catch up with them we joked! But it wasn't as easy as one should think. I am sure they were faster this year.

Just when I thought that I had everything under control, I was passed by the front runner who was racing towards finish line in the opposite direction. They were out of my leaque. I changed my focus to the ones beside me

The breathing of some of the runners next to me indicated that the gave all they had and more the last few kilometers. When there was about 700 meters left I passed a heavy guy two meters tall He was not amused by that, and a wordless struggle began. On the stairs of Aros he passed me, but as soon as we got up, I had the most energy left and passed him just before finish line. My personal victory of that evening. Perfect! When I got in I met Ole – one of the IT nerds from TRIFORK - and another running friend Jørn. This evening Jørn was 30 seconds faster than me. He is also running Berlin marathon, so I am looking forward to the continuing story.

After the run we got a seat be one of the tables in Ridehuset. Here we enjoyed some delicious pasta salad and bread.

If I should criticize one thing about the race it would be that the runners were not allowed to sit at the many tables in the hall, because they were reserved for later use.

Speaker's View

Katrine Hofmann Gasser and Joakim Recht met Alexandru Popescu for a talk about computers, languages, and how Rumanian can help with the girls.

How did you get started in Computer Science?
I started in economics, but got tired of it and switched to a small computer company. I can sometimes use my economics background, but it's always hard to go from theory to practice. I learned CS myself, and picked a Masters degree at another university later.
I'm now involved with InfoQ.com - they call me architect, but I like the term technical leader better, as I like to get down to the code and keep the technical focus

Why do you think there are so few women in Computer Science?
It depends on the culture. I come from Rumania, and there are a couple of women working with CS. CS doesn't sound that sexy when you start looking for your future education. I've always been happy having women on my team, and I find that they're quite extraordinary to work with.

What is your favourite programming language?
I have mixed feelings about this. I'm mostly involved in the Java platform, but I also like Python and Ruby. The .NET platform doesn't really interest me, as it's pretty similar to the Java platform. Haskell is my secret wish-language, which I'd like to get more familiar with. However, I'm not very familiar with functional programming, and this could open new perspectives for me.

What is your favourite spoken language?
I'd love to say English, but I'm not very good at it. So, I'm going to stick with Rumanian since it's my mother's tongue, and it's better when picking up girls (laughs). I am married, though.

What is your best idea regarding software?

It's hard to say - I usually don't promote my ideas very strongly, but there is one project, which I'm pretty glad about. It started a new movement in the Java world - the project is TestNG which I created together with Cédric Beust, and we've had a lot of fun with the project. Also, I'm proud of the stuff we're doing with InfoQ and the community.

Do you have a special relationship to Denmark?
Yeah, I think it's special, and every year I try to go to JAOO. I've had the opportunity to spend some extra time in Denmark, and like that the people are warmer here than down south.

Who is your role model?
I've never really thought about this, but I belive I can pick out some names from our field. However, somebody like Gandhi because of the overall culture he was creating.

Which track have you enjoyed the most?
I've spent most of my time on the Programming Experience track. I'm very interested in other languages, so this seems like the place to be.

There is one area, where I'd like to see more activity, namely with interoperability between platforms. I'd be very happy if I could build a .NET system communicating with Java and the frontend in Python. We've done some stuff with SOA, but I don't think it's the solution we're looking for. Unfornutately, I don't have the solution - if I had, it would have been on the list of my best ideas. I'm not very good at predictions, and I don't to gambling - at least not anymore. I nearly lost my univeristy degree because of playing bridge. At some point, I realized that I'd lost all of my exams, so now I'm not playing anything anymore.

JAOO Moments

Blogging

Blogging about JAOO or taking photos?
Then tag your content with JAOO2007 to share it with the rest of JAOO.

Tuesday's top 3 most popular talks*

Luca Bolognese: "The .NET Language Integrated Query (LINQ) Framework".

Christophe Coenraets: "Building Rich Internet Applications for the Browser and the Desktop with Flex and AIR".

Chad Fowler: "Active Record - Easy Living on the Golden Path".

*measured as percentage of green cards

Results for IT Companies

1. Chucks Drenge   (1:33:00)

2. Trifork 1   (1:37:08)

3. EG Sprinters   (1:37:39)

Schedule Change

Ekstra:
GWT 1.4. Rajeev Dayal
Solution Track, 16:00 - 17:00

Location:
Scrum Case Studies in Conference Hall 2
Scrum Open Space Discussions at the Balcony

Slides

The slides from the speakers will be available on-line after the presentations. You will find them at each speakers page at jaoo.dk
Username: XXX
Password: XXX

Wireless Internet

The wireless network is provided by TDC and Trifork.

TDC Hotspot in Concert Hall
The covered areas are all places where TDC Hotspot is available. This includes Musikhuset (JAOO 2007), Tirstrup Airport, Comfort Hotel Atlantic, Helnan Marselis, etc. See http://erhverv.tdc.dk/hotspot for more information (in Danish).

1. Associate your Wireless card with the network "TDC"
2. Open your Internet browser and open a public web page
3. Log in with jaoo@tdchotspot.dk / 2007

Trifork Hotspot in Radisson SAS
The covered areas are all tutorial rooms and most of Scandinavian Center.

1. Associate your Wireless card with the network "jaoo"
2. Open your Internet browser and open a public web page
3. Log in with jaoo / 2007

Important security note:
We strongly recommend that each user take all possible precautions when using the network. Remember to keep your operating system updated, use virus protection software and use a personal firewall.

The JAOO Devil says:

"JAOO - The eternal feeling of learning something important, only to go home and continue as nothing has happened. Basically, we know there's a better world out there, but why change now?"

See you at JAOO 2008

September 28th - October 3rd, 2008