Original Post Comment Archive

Comments

1. February-04-2011 at 01:31 PM PST

   [Bhaktavatsal](#)

   Just support Android (Silverlight for Android) and we are done, don't need anything, not even HTML5 for media delivery. YES, We love Silverlight and the media framework with IIS 7 Media Extensions. Its ok HTML5, you can come but Silverlight will remain with us, How about that, cheer up people.

2. January-24-2011 at 06:03 PM PST

   [mmiller](#)

   I just got my Silverlight 4 book in the mail- 600,001.

   Nonetheless c'mon Microsoft- get Silverlight on Android! Use Google to get back at Apple a little bit would ya? That just makes sense.

3. January-22-2011 at 01:53 AM PST

   [inventory pos system](#)

   I appreciate your post, thanks for sharing the post, i would like to hear more about this in future

4. November-12-2010 at 01:42 PM PST

   [Brian Goldfarb](#)

   @MikeS
   Fair comment. There is a wide range of questions/comments and we know you all want clear answers. The feedback has generally been that "words" are not enough to show our commitment. You want a roadmap. To see investment. Actions, therefore, speak louder than words. Feedback has been heard. We are continuing to bring to market Microsoft

products with Silverlight -- the latest being the debut of "Crescent" and "Atlanta" and a few others from the SQL team that use Silverlight. We are 100% focused right now on pulling all of this together for the Silverlight Firestarter -- where you can tune in to learn all about the next version of Silverlight and get insight into where we are coming from and where we are going.

Register today: http://bit.ly/92xPxl
Tell your friends. Come in person if you are in Redmond, or watch it streamed live.

Thanks,
Brian Goldfarb (bgold@microsoft.com / @bgoldy)
Director, Web & Silverlight Marketing

5. November-11-2010 at 11:32 AM PST

[Rachel Appel](#)

@johan.
That's not what I said at all. I said that we love HTML 5, but that Silverlight is a viable platform for Desktop/phone AND WEB apps. Anything otherwise is someone else misquoting what I said. Also, I've NEVER been interviewed about HTML 5 or Silverlight, so if you're referring to the Infoworld or Macworld articles, don't take them at face value, they weren't interviews and people were paraphrasing my statements.

6. November-11-2010 at 07:18 AM PST

[Another Annoyed Developer](#)

Recently before going on vacation I had sold the silverlight/RIA Services technology to the IT department, as a rich platform that made it easier to design, develop and unit test components far better than the other proposed HTML5 , JQuery and AJAX solution. Silverlight was much more advanced and faster, had less holes than the other proposal, more browsers adapting Chrome, iPhone rumours etc. Even the f# had added another dimension and the future was bright.

Basically Microsoft was investing heavily, had huge commitment, and there was real determination to go after a competitor and change the how internet apps were built.

I then arrive back world has changed, and which ever way you say it Microsoft making Silverlight defunct. I googled round, plenty articles saying it is dropped or a "change in direction" which is PR spin for the same thing. No clear statement to say there was a mistake or that in fact they were committing more to it.

So like everyone else, I now have no trust in any Microsoft "future technology" and am dropping my Silverlight/RIA Services crusade. One used always get the .1 version or more of an MS product because of bugs or lack of support. Now you'll have to wait until

about version 10 of a language before you know if MS will commit to it. The way I feel now is MS flip flops so much, they could remove Entity Framework or PLINQ in next release so I am not going to bother to try sell that. Bob, is the future Python and Java because from where I sit its the only technology that seems to have any commitment now?

7. November-10-2010 at 11:11 PM PST

[Bertonio1](#)

Like many developers I pay no attention to rumors. Silverlight is a great tool and technology and thats all. Regardless HTML/CSS is a technology of choise for a vast mayority of developers Silverlight offers a bundle of capabilities if we consider its short life against HTML. Why we couldn't expect more from Microsoft around this issue?. I'm sure the spark around this situation will be more productive than expected.

8. November-10-2010 at 03:55 PM PST

[ITheTerrible](#)

I think that Microsoft will need to do a bit more than an email campaign to repair the damage. I think this message is not coming only from Bob, but from many other MS employees. I just got back from a conference in SF and I got a similar message from other MS presenters.

Here are some ideas that could help you to repair the damage:

- Make it clear to all your employees that SL is a top MS project.
- To make it crystal-clear, put more R&D resources on SL and have even more frequent dev. cycle.
- Release Silverlight on Linux and other platforms
- Integrate Silverlight in IE9
- Work with your browser competitors to make Silverlight plug-in default part other browsers (Safari, Chrome, Firefox, etc). For example, Google integrated Flash as a part of Chrome.
- Market more aggressively against Flash (The feeling is that SL is losing the battle with Flash as a preferred plugin).
- Open-source Silverlight runtime so that it can be ported on more platforms (similar to what Apple and Google are doing with WebKit and their browsers).

9. November-10-2010 at 09:19 AM PST

[Johan](#)

Why are you allowing Rachel Appel in a recent interview to say that HTML5 will be the companys technology for the web and Silverlight will have it's uses in WP7 and the

desktop? This only adds to the confusion among us developers. We need to make people realize that SL is great for web based applications as well. Otherwise, why would my customers choose SL instead of Html5 for certain tasks?

10. November-10-2010 at 07:42 AM PST

[David](#)

OK, THE DEAL IS QUITE SIMPLE INDEED, ON NOVEMBER 2 THE W3C DECLARED THAT IE9 WAS THE BEST HTML5 COMPLIANT WEB BROWSER OUT THERE, EVEN BETTER THAT CHROME, SAFARI, OPERA AND FIREFOX, AND HONESTLY, BY MUCH. THAT SAID, WAS CLEAR TO ME BOB MUGLIA'S WORDS, THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO POSITIONATE IE9 AS THE LEADER, ABSOLUTE BROWSER BACK AGAIN. SINCE IT'S NOVELTY IS HTML5 THEY NEED TO "FLASH" IT, SORRY FOR THE EXPRESSION, BUT... ANYWAY, FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE SILVERLIGHT WILL SHIFT, THEN WE THINK, OK THEY ARE EITHER GOING TO FINISH SILVERLIGHT, OR LEAVE IT ONLY AS A MOBILE PLATFORM. NOOOOO SILVERLIGHT WILL CONTINUE AS IT IS, ACTUALLY EVEN BETTER, THE ONLY DEAL IS THAT MICROSOFT IS TRYING TO GIVE IE9 SOME SPACE TO BE A SUCCESS, THAT ALSO MEANS, I'T'LL BE LAUNCHED SOON, IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS SOMETHING BAD, ACTUALLY IS BETTER, WE KNOW SILVERLIGHT IS FAR BETTER THAT HTML5, FLASH/FLEX AND JAVAFX, SO? WHY SHOULD WE WORRY? WE ARE THE STATE OF THE ART DEVELOPERS.

HOPE YOU ALL PEOPLE RAISE YOUR MOOD, CHEER UP, HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!!!!!!!!!

11. November-10-2010 at 07:20 AM PST

[Brian](#)

So when our government customers say: "Sorry, no Silverlight, but we do want the same experience as Silverlight and we don't like plugins, oh and broad platform coverage." We have to tell them: "HTML5 is not consistent across platforms, not fully standardized, not even available as much as SL, incapable of delivering the same experience as SL, and...everyone will have to upgrade their browser instead of installing a plugin!" They're more open to it after that

12. November-10-2010 at 03:08 AM PST

[Marc Roussel](#)

My future is to develop in Silverlight X for the rest of my carreer. All I need is to make sure that my apps can be viewed by the planet Which mean no barrier between W3C and MS regarding xaml+xap and html5 + js All this is a BIG loose in the scene. If HTML5 +

js is there to live forever than, you need to transform the end result of your compiled app to the best technology available but keeping the tools and the way developer works with them like C# + xaml + VS20XX + Blend

Long live to Silverlight.....

13. November-09-2010 at 01:36 PM PST

[Christoph](#)

I dont feel that bad about MS wants to be on the HTML5 party, what really worries me is that they did not yet commit to support Websockets/SSE. IE 9 has not implemented it (where the competitors have) and in WCF they are not sure yet (await response of the community).
To everyone that want to build high performance business applications with Silverlight, your vote on
http://wcf.codeplex.com/Thread/View.aspx?ThreadId=232919
towards implementing Websockets/SSE in WCF counts. Because if Silverlight won't have this extra power with WCF, the HTML5 solutions of the 'others' maybe look not as silver, but are faster. And this is something that would kill Silverlight.
Silverlight must be a first class citizen, whatever priority it's been given.
WCF must have Websockets/SSE.

14. November-09-2010 at 12:18 PM PST

[Mike S](#)

And the response from Bob and the Silverlight team to the many heart felt responses from developers on this blog posting is..... deathly quiet.

Come on Bob and Silverlight team, if people have spent the time and effort to comment why don't you at least respond to some of the questions right here?!?

15. November-08-2010 at 03:17 PM PST

[Jeff Lewis](#)

I have to be straight up honest here. Whether deserved or not, Microsoft has a reputation for capriciously abandoning technologies with little warning. It might be cost effective or practical for MSFT, but for all the developers who have bought into the technology - and their customers, it's simply unacceptable.

And I'm not talking small players - I got into a yelling match with Adobe over their lack of support for Ink in Photoshop. They're still using the antiquated and proprietary WinTab interface. Their arguments were twofold: Ink couldn't do what WinTab did (I proved that wrong with a few simple code snippets) and that MSFT had a tendency to

abandon this kind of tech. I counterargued that Ink has been around since at least 2002 and is integrated in Vista and Win7. But it took a LOT of arguing to get them admit it's not a flash in the pan tech.

So, when a comment like Bob's shows up - everyone runs for the hills thinking 'OMG - I was the guy who recommended Silverlight and now they're abandoning it - I'd better start looking for a new job!'

That's why when and if such a slip happens - it's *vitally* important to come out and say 'I misspoke - I absolutely did not mean we're going to use Silverlight for WP7 and phasing it out for the Web - we're not only going to keep on supporting Silverlight for the Web, but make it an even more central component in future platforms, especially the Web." and send it to people like Mary Jo Findlay and other tech reporters who focus on Microsoft.

In this industry, where things change SO fast, impressions are everything.

16. November-07-2010 at 04:17 PM PST

[mjddinc](#)

Html 5 and css 3 specs resolves all the media and presentation problems but does not resolves the javascript performance problem. May be its better to write full crosss platform managed browser. And javascripts is will be the javascript.net . Currently marshalling between SL and browser has perfomance penalty. Running a compiled javascript is the key of the future. May be in the w3 could add interop standart with browser and native os.

17. November-07-2010 at 12:42 PM PST

[TraGaff](#)

Bob, stop pussyfooting around and just build it. Create a killer platform. We will do the rest. Build a platform so elegant and so powerful that each and every device maker will have to have Silverlight. And then give device makers the means to have it. Don't wuss out Bob, change the world!

18. November-07-2010 at 06:33 AM PST

[Russ B.](#)

It's been a rough few days, but I'm happy to hear you guys are as committed as we are. We have invested a lot of time and effort with Silverlight on several projects, and this gives us confidence to continue with Silverlight.

My associates who has been programming for as long as I have (decades) are all extremely excited about Silverlight. We agree that the name should be "SilverBullet" as someone suggested here, because it is orders of magnitude more powerful than HTML/JS. You can't even compare the two, because SL has the abridged .Net library built in, which gives you enormous client-side power for biz apps, and the performance difference is surreal. SL is best development tool I have seen in decades, and the results blow the competition out of the water.

I think MSFT should make a strong official announcement with regards to SL commitment to repair the damage caused.

19. November-06-2010 at 09:49 AM PST

[Fernando](#)

Great News!
It should continue to increase compatibility with other browsers and the ability to cross patform, for example to work on "Android Tablet" and the famous "iPad" that are constantly growing

HTML5 will be able to increase power but it will take many years to achieve the capabilities have Silverlight

Go ahead we must continue empowering Silverlight.

We are many millions of developers around the world who bet on this technology

20. November-05-2010 at 05:55 PM PST

[Can You Unring a Bell?](#)

The effort needed to restore our confidence in Silverlight is tantamount to unringing a bell. You have a huge job on your hands.

Even the appearance of Microsoft backing away from Silverlight makes people nervous about spending time and money on stomething that might become sort of an afterthought for Microsoft.

As a developer, talking to programmers, many were excited about the Silverlight technology and just starting to "put their foot in the water". Some common concerns were about Microsoft's commitment to this technology and the traction that Silverlight would gain. I believe that Silverlight was just on very edge of really taking off. Now, the image of Silverligth is tarnished, badly!

So many developers have been waiting for something like Silverlight, nice, clean solutions written entirely in a .Net language. HTML is just one big clumsey work-around with "mishmash" solutions. My vote is for Silverlight!!!

21. November-05-2010 at 04:59 PM PST

SLDev

http://channel9.msdn.com/shows/Going+Deep/Erik-Meijer-and-Team-Cloud-Data-Programmability-Connecting-the-Distributed-Dots/

22. November-05-2010 at 11:46 AM PST

Monique

Arggh! It was fustrating, these past few days.
Yeah!!!!!

Now I can continue my 100% committment to Silverlight. It is the best. Also for even more clarity http://weblogs.asp.net/scottgu/archive/2010/11/04/silverlight-questions.aspx

Great! Now back to SL4.

23. November-05-2010 at 11:34 AM PST

bryanrmorris

What we have here is a fundamental conflict between the desire for standards (although how anyone can call HTML a standard is beyond me since even simple stuff renders differently in different browsers) versus the desire for productivity. Given enough time, resources, and patience, you could create and maintain just about any piece of software using just about any environment and tools. However, creating increasingly complex RIAs with the brain dead HTML/CSS/Javascript/4 million libraries stack strains the time constraints and resource that companies have and exceeds the patience of professional developers used to working with even modestly productive development environments. Silverlight should be more correctly call Silverbullet because it massively overdelivers on the productivity and capability needed to create RIAs. If standards are a problem, why not just turn the future definition Silverlight over to a standards body like Netscape did with Javascript and whoever did with HTML? Then the standards people would have their objections undercut and those of us who actually do development could get on with our work.

24. November-05-2010 at 10:17 AM PST

Lukeren5

I don't understand this sudden love of H5/Javascript. What's so good about it? Sure it has the broadest reach, but it's a REACH FOR MEDIOCRITY not technical superiority. Bob seriously, when was the last time you coded a non-trivial Javascript program and then try it in SilverLight/C# to see the difference?

Javascript is a SUB-PRIME programming language. The only apps you can build with it are mediocre sub-prime, sub-5000-line apps. Large-scale apps written in Javascript are a pain in the rear to QA, maintain, evolve and so on. Just look at Google Docs and then tell me how miserable it is in comparison with any version of Office. Why does Microsoft want developers that have for almost a decade trusted in the .Net solution 'shift' to such an inadequate platform?

As someone has pointed out, Steve Jobs would never bother to bow down to such "open standard" hype should he have anything as good as SilverLight at hand. He would give it full-blown support rather than send out mixed signals to discourage his developers and, worse, scare off those the CIOs / CTOs that barely understand the technical nuances. I bet Apple is right now laughing all the way to the bank seeing how a little shutting SilverLight off iPhone could throw Microsoft into panic mode. Come on now, stick to your gun. Stick to what is right.

25. November-05-2010 at 09:18 AM PST

[teamsilverlight](#)

ScottGu blogs on "Silverlight Questions"
http://weblogs.asp.net/scottgu/archive/2010/11/04/silverlight-questions.aspx

26. November-04-2010 at 05:18 PM PST

[James](#)

@Thorne

the capabilities of silverlight are far beyond that of HTML5. You cant just convert it on-the-fly from the server, it may be possible for some things at build time but you certainly couldnt convert some of the stuff I do at work and in my spare time. It wouldnt even get close.

27. November-04-2010 at 03:11 PM PST

[Hidden War](#)

When you buy a PC or a car, you own it. You are free to use it the way you like and you can install any extension/software you want without asking the manufacturer. The mobile phone market is different. Think of it as a car you paid for in cash, however every year you have to pay a license fee and for every drive you have to pay-per-use for the steering

wheel. Not to mention the payment for the manufacturer's OK for 3rd party tires... This is exactly the Apple business model for the iPad/iPhone. You buy it, yet Apple owns it/controls its usage.

Now Microsoft obviously failed in coming up with a similar or competing business model. Option a) entering the hardware market, controlling the devices, with full power offends all hardware partners and option b) controlling the application market through a license check in the SL runtime fails, because Silverlight (legally) cannot be installed at the majority of mobile devices.

The only guy helping in this situation could be the European Community. However the EC is currently busy fighting Google about Streetview, Facebook about privacy issues ... not enough resources to take on Apple. And all the bureaucrats in Brussels own and love their golden iPhone. Sure Microsoft Mr. Andreas Ebert, chief Microsoft lobbiest in Brussels, is busy day in day out.

So dear fellow developers, this is not about SL, this is about losing the first big battle on the mobile phone operating theatre. We're the collateral damage.

Microsoft has enough cash for scraping another phone platform; happened early this summer didn't it? However what about you and me?

And I hope: Microsoft buys Nokia.

28. November-04-2010 at 01:58 PM PST

[I'm convinced](#)

I think I'm convinced. After reading some forums where MS devs share their thoughts, I change my mind. My next project will target SL (happy)

29. November-04-2010 at 10:39 AM PST

[SilverlightHero](#)

Show commitment to Silverlight by integrating into IE 9. Nothing short can restore confidence back.

30. November-04-2010 at 09:21 AM PST

[Handheld Device Suggestion](#)

Perhaps MS should consider releasing a lightweight SL runtime for low power handheld devices. This make great sense, because these small screen interfaces normally use fancy animations with just a minimal input control set, and a lightweight runtime would allow MS to easily port SL to a large number of low power devices.

The apparent problem now is that SL is rather weighted with features -- many of which are appropriate only in larger screen environs, and this limits the potential device audience. This is likely why WP7 required a more robust engine. Perhaps a simple solution would be to offer WP7 with the full runtime, but publish lightweight runtimes for the rest of the mobile universe. This would give WP7 a control set edge, and at the same time, would allow most (efficiently coded) apps to cover the bulk of the device universe.

The iPhone and other market-significant proprietary boxes will quite likely be pressed by market forces or lawsuits into support other runtimes, such as Flash and SL. A lightweight runtime option makes SL more palatable to these vendors, since they wish to protect product performance perceptions, but at the same, wish to enjoy revenues from app sales.

Worth considering?

31. November-04-2010 at 08:16 AM PST

Matthieu DUFOURNEAUD-RAVEL

Silverlight is not dead !!!
Now that Silverlight is in 4th version, it's not unsual that Microsoft reduce slightly the pace, it's not a sign of illness but of maturity.
At the beginning people asked "Why using Silverlight we already have Flash ?", and now it's "Why using Silverlight we'll have HTML5 ?", while those technologies don't answer the same problem.
So if your purpose is to build a web site with little or no work on the client machine, then Silverlight may be oversized, but if you have to create a business application with an heavy use of the client power then go with Silverlight.
Indeed, the client framework of HTML5 is ECMAScript, and although is works well for simple tasks, it does not allow to exploit the full power of our current multi-core processors, while Silverlight makes such tasks easy thanks to its threading and asynchronous API.
Silverlight has also another quality, it brings statefullness back, which permits a more OO way of coding.
Finally, Silverlight leverage the .NET competences, so you don't have to mix HTML, ECMAScript and server language to have something done.

32. November-04-2010 at 07:21 AM PST

Thorne

Come on folks. This is a server problem. No, wait.... It really is. Your web server can detect what browser is running and it's capabilities. Simply have the server do an on the fly conversion of Silverlight to HTML5 depending on what the browser supports. Then the world returns to normal. We can write in the language of our choosing and let servers

deliver the UI interface that is appropriate. With that we can now Develop apps that will run "Out of browser", "In browser", "On the phone" and "On WhatEver", we just detect the UI environment and have the code adjust. So HTML5 is not the end all be all that is being touted, it is just one that does not require a plugin.

33. November-04-2010 at 04:24 AM PST

[kaseciu pildymas](#)

To be honest I didn't hear anything other than common sense. Silverlight is not and never will be the one tool to use for all situations but it continues to be a very useful tool for many situations.
I'm typing this on a iPad and so I cant use many of my own Silverlight apps in the same way that Flash isn't available to me.
After lunch I'll go back to my desk and continue to work on my current Silverlight project which is the best tool for that particular project and environment with some support software being written in MVC2 for the web.

To get angry for being told Silverlight won't run on iPads and some other environments is madness, we already know this. If you want to hit every environment, use an open standard like H5 and accept the limitations that come with it. Judge on a project by project basis.

34. November-04-2010 at 04:23 AM PST

[Teisines paslaugos](#)

Silverlight is very important and strategic to Microsoft.

35. November-04-2010 at 04:07 AM PST

[Exit Plan](#)

Bob, have you read all of these comments? I have.

I'm sorry, but I don't think you truly understand the damage you've exacted. As a former college IT instructor, and 20+ year developer, I was enamored by Silverlight, and I viewed it as a brilliant tool for creating incredibly compelling and robust business apps. It is (was) the WINNING TREND in Visual Studio driven IT departments.

It takes time to re-engineer existing business apps, and so many of us were well underway on that road. Now we have zero confidence, not only in your intentions for Silverlight, but arguable worse, your understanding of it's power, market advantage, and rapidly emerging IT acceptance. On your words we have hence wasted precious resources, and in this economy, that is simply unforgivable.

Bob, Silverlight is not merely about producing pretty screens, it's about incredible leverage in creating concise, ultra high performance, solid, stable, and consistent business applications across all the major platforms. HTML5 will not and can not provide this... not today, and not five years from now. The HTML5 architecture is inherently flawed by it's interpretive nature. Even mildly interesting HTML5 apps will perform poorly on the plethora of low power devices now flooding the market. When the complexity and breath of the new HTML5 spec is fully implemented, liabilities in performance, stability, and cross-browser consistency will likely heighten invitations for smarter solutions for example, Silverlight.

I'm sorry Bob, but that PR piece above is horribly insufficient to mend the mass hemorrhaging of your developer ranks. The media has frenzied on the death of Silverlight, all at your slight of hand. Frankly, I've heard suggestions that you perhaps should consider stepping down for that horrible gaff and intentional discard of your loyal developer base. Either that or Microsoft MUST, in a clear and convincing way, take action to remedy the anger and discord you have generated. Another option would be to sell Silverlight to another organization who would be proud to assume custodianship of what is the unquestionably the best web development ace on the market.

I sincerely and respectfully hope that you can remedy this injury.

36. November-04-2010 at 03:56 AM PST

   [Martin](#)

   @Kevin

   I understand your point and your choice of client side technology is the most reasonable choice given the platforms you are targetting. However that does change nothing about Javascript not being suitable for complex client application development. I believe that the main reason for the choice has nothing to do with Javascript qualities as a language and development technology rather than the simple fact that Javascript is available on all those platforms and Silverlight is not. And I believe you would seriously consider Silverlight or other technology based on statically typed language, full cross-browser and cross-platform compatibility etc. if it was supported on all those platforms.

   My understanding of Microsoft's message is "we are not able to put Silverlight on every platform so we are moving to HTML5/Javascript". And my fear is that it will slow down and with time maybe even stop Silverlight development and expansion because Microsoft "already has a strategy to get you everywhere" so why invest to Silverlight. Or at very least "why invest to Silverlight in a pace like last years", which is also disappointing.

   HTML5 is a must have, there is no doubt about it, but it should not affect Silverlight in any way.

37. November-04-2010 at 03:33 AM PST

Long live Silverlight!

I hope this isn't a politically correct answer. I really hope Microsoft continues to develop Silverlight and bring greater innovations to a good web app platform.

38. November-04-2010 at 03:23 AM PST

I always thought and still think that this whole "WPF and Silverlight dying" thing is too exaggerated.

Come on guys, did you really think that MS would be so stupid to abandon WPF and Silverlight and start developing some new framework???
Where is logic in that???
What would be the alternative for desktop apps development?
What would be the alternative for RIA LOB apps development?

This whole crap started with that stupid "bark" from some ex-MS who needed a little attention. The worst thing is that everyone else started barking with him. Herd psychology I think.

Calm down and use your brain to think about what would you do if you were MS and if you had all that technology stack? No, you wouldn't throw it away.

Now, open your Visual Studio and start enjoying endless possibilities that we all share and love :)

39. November-04-2010 at 02:46 AM PST

I am a fully adicted Microsoft Developer since 18 years now. However 6 years ago I had to "extend" the .NET "Client" Framework with Flash and Flex because MS had nothing similar to offer.
Since Silverlight 2.0 I have tried to "switch" back to 100% MS but - from my own experience - when you have got really professional in the RIA world, Silverlight just feels - compared to the Adobe tools, like the students trial and error scratchbook that - whenever you have but something together got massively changed with the next versions, so that a lot of things we alraedy had in place had to be redone over and over again.
So I am happy we have decided to do all large customer projects with Flash, last but not least because we really can build now on our experience, components and a professional Flash/Flex-Frontend - MS Backend workflow we have never managed to achieve with Silverlight due to its always changing nature, limited features, limited cross-platform

support and sometime really bizar behaviour.

I think we are able to really claim - for the Frontend/Client Layer - the benefits of the Flash/Flex development platform over Silverlight, because we have been down to the bits and bytes on both ends.

So for us Silverlight vs. Flex is not just about marketing but more about trust to have build on something that a) complies with our expectations what RIA really could be and b) is stable enough to generate revenue on a large scale.

So when you are a student or you do small 1-2 manyear projects, Silverlight vs. Flex either does not make the difference, or - when you are a MS developer - Silverlight has its advantages for sure - no doubt.

BUT when you have to provide large, complex projects and you have to guarantee long-term service and support, I am not sure, whether Silverlight has and will continue to put your projects at risk and your company out of business.

So, in a nutshell I think HTML 5 is a safe but limited bet (RIA is much, much more than HTML on stereoids and much more than Silverlight can offer in its current release).

Maybe the best thing to happen may be that Microsoft buys Adobe or at least tries to cross-sell or integrate Flash/Flex technology into their development framework - then - this way- my vison - finally the best of the two worlds would finally be together - the best tools from design to large scale enterprise (cloud) services, from mobile devices to superserver.

40. November-04-2010 at 02:33 AM PST

   [KlausObd](#)

   Hi Bob,
   as my first comment was eaten by bit pauli, a second attempt.
   I frankly don't believe your marketing "correction" but your original post. MS marketing too often promised things which never have been held (to say it politely), like J++ and VB6 etc etc ... So why should i believe you ? Your company is acting very consequent.
   Now you deleted SL from Bing. What comes next ?
   In germany we say " paper is patient".
   What counts is ACTION. And the first action (killing SL from bing) shows not in the "right" direction.
   So SL and Lightswitch is "a dead horse" ?
   Your future actions will prove. At the moment it looks not very promising despite all marketing blurb.
   best regards from Germany
   Klaus

41. November-04-2010 at 02:06 AM PST

   [More for us](#)

   I am actually relieved that so many developers up here are turning away from SL, it means more for us, SL is the best thing ever and we will happily play in the 5% market

share for WP7 and continue to write the best small footpring rich applications possible. Also exstatic that our applications will be available on XBOX soon. So for the guys running scared, you going to miss out big time!

42. November-04-2010 at 02:02 AM PST

[Adriano](#)

First of all, sorry for my bad english. I'm an italian software developer and in last months I've spent a lot of time in studying and developing with Silverlight. My company has realized some LOB applications with this technology, convinced by Microsoft efforts and investements in Silverlight. And now you say we have to use it mainly for Windows Phone 7? I can't believe you have changed your plans just now after two years spent in convincing the development community about Silverlight' goodness. I think this is the begin of the Microsoft end. With managers like you at the helm can not be otherwise.

Adriano

43. November-03-2010 at 11:33 PM PST

[Vijay](#)

Hello

However you spin this, the strategic move away from Silverlight is perplexing.

Silverlight could easily be the new Windows API, except that it's fit for the 21st century (I'm still a fan of the classic Windows API, but that's another matter.)Silverlight could so easily become Windows Everywhere.

Apps are moving away from the desktop to the browser (and the cloud) and on to devices (phones, tablets etc.) - Silverlight gives Microsoft a chance to lead from the front in this brave new world.

I hope there is a serious rethink on this issue - this is a make or break issue for Microsoft and everyone else who has bet their futures on Microsoft technologies.

Thanks

44. November-03-2010 at 10:04 PM PST

[SL_DEV_for_now](#)

Silverlight got just some repeated content on MIX2010 and some key announcements/releases were pushed to the VS conference.

Maybe my senses are impaired, who knows, but it did not look good at that moment. It looks very bad now.

I think one of the biggest mistakes MS makes is to continually talk about SL as just a UI/Media enabler. SL is much more than that.

The dev environment is great and the app deployment/updating story is even better. You can build a professional "ok" looking SL app with little effort. And best of all, deployment/update is almost as easy as deploying/updating an ASP.NET app. For most users having a "clear" and responsive UI is much more important than a sexy one.

Please stop playing this message about rich UI and Media. Most companies cannot pay for all this richness, or just don't care enough about it.

MS should have pushed SL on intranets way more than it did so far. If an app require global reach and "run-everywhere" capability, html/css/Javascript is a sure bet, probably the only one.

Most internal apps don't need that. Many public apps don't need that either. Many companies and users would be happy to have an "ok" looking app that can run on Win/Mac and requires little deployment/updating effort.

The only real weakess on SL is that it creates yet another "non standard" type of user interaction model. Just like Flash does.

Maybe future versions will better mimic the "interaction way" in the running environment.

45. November-03-2010 at 08:45 PM PST

[Monique](#)

Silverlight is here to stay. You are not wasting you time investing in it. Its very awesome and does things HTML can't. Remember that Silverlight renders into HTML and Javascript so that make HTML support important.

46. November-03-2010 at 08:16 PM PST

[AtulV](#)

A lot of verbiage here but no clear direction! Anyone who has dealt with the nightmare of developing serious business applications using plain HTML + JS + CSS knows just how frustrating and painful the process is. Silverlight changed all that. Finally, it became possible to develop, debug and deploy business applications on the web in a 21st century kind of way.

Now with one statement you appear to have done your best to kill SL. I note that you are not coming back with a clear answer to this - Will SL be integrated into IE9?

I dumped Microsoft development tools way back in 1997. After using Delphi, then moving to Drupal + HTML + JS +CSS and seeing my hair turn grey I was thrilled to discover Silverlight. Without SL in IE9 I think I will just switch to developing for iPhone and for Chrome.

47. November-03-2010 at 06:40 PM PST

[Disappearing Edge](#)

Too bad. I think these bureaucrats at Microsoft don't even have a clue as to what they had. After having coded for seven+ years in HTML/Java, it was so wonderful to work with such a concise programming model. Silverlight business logic performance was easily 100x faster than Java, and the rendering sooo smooth, not to mention ***reliable***. HTML/Java is prone to failure and performance neutering with very large pages and scripts, and drag-drop becomes experimental. I wish they'd take Silverlight and sell it a company who would appreciate and capitalize on owning it... like Apple or Google!

48. November-03-2010 at 05:12 PM PST

[Raj Raj](#)

I loved silverlight, I lived in SL from last One and Half year, Worked hard day and night, I am not getting sleep by listening all these statements and frustated, I dont want to trust microsoft any more. Thanks Microsoft for awakening me earlier, instead of leaving me in the middle of the sea.

Now I am leaving not only Silverlight but also .NET too.

Moving to other technologies, it will cost me another 6 months, i dont bother by staying with inconsistent technology

With Tears

EX Silverlight Developer

49. November-03-2010 at 04:52 PM PST

[SLDev](#)

There's really only one simple and effective way to prove MS's commitment to SL beyond any doubt: Bake it into IE9! Google is building Flash into Chrome so there's a

precedent (i.e. should be no antitrust issues there) and it's even a great marketing message: "Get IE9 and Get HTML5 AND Silverlight at once!"

50. November-03-2010 at 02:55 PM PST

[Dimitris (again)](#)

--Sorry for the bad english--
I was long time away from the microsoft camp, for personal reasons. When I got back, I saw another Microsoft. A company innovating, still "serious" in its job, but more and more flexible and not fearing to experiment. The combination of WPF + Silverlight seemed amazing, once i grasped its potential.

Now, I cannot understand this move. As I saw from the online sessions WPF still has its position, but silverlight will loose it. Sorry, but the above article says nothing to me. What we have is: the very serious and trusted DirectX, and WPF.
For the web the situation becomes unclear.

51. November-03-2010 at 02:45 PM PST

[Ken Smith](#)

@Brad M. - For any technology, I commit to learning it and developing applications with it because it feels like it has a reasonable chance of being state-of-the-art for at least another five years or so. In this respect, .NET, IIS and SQL Server have been very good bets. DAO, RDO, ADO, Visual J++, COM/ActiveX, DNA, and many others have been less so. Jobs' stranglehold over the iPhone environment would make me very hesitant to start coding in Objective C were it not for the fact that Apple is making so much money from the iPhone that they'd be insane to drop it. Conversely, one of the main reasons for switching to RoR or Python would be because they're open environments, and can't be held hostage to a single executive's decision to change strategies. Up until Muglia's comments, I thought Silverlight had an ~80% chance of still being an actively developed and maintained platform five years from now. Between the MJF interview and this blog post, I was giving Silverlight only a ~10% chance. After this blog post, I'd say that I've raised my assessment of that likelihood back up to ~50%. In other words, I'm at least planning to finish out my current project. But unless I see some real investment from MS in Silverlight, I'd still recommend against anyone starting any new projects in it, and I'd discourage new developers from specializing in it. And from the comments on this post, I suspect that lots of other developers feel the same way. If MS did any one of the follow things, though, they could still easily change that perception: (1) Announce that Android will henceforth be a fully-supported platform; (2) announce a release date and feature set for SL5; (3) announce a rough set of features for SL6; (4) in SL5, catch up to Flash in terms of webcam and microphone encoding/streaming support; (5) announce some big architectural shift in SL that will take several releases to fully implement (such as providing a strongly typed DataContext<> for databinding). And I could go on. It would

be easy for Muglia to fix this. But he needs to do something instead of just saying something.

52. November-03-2010 at 02:13 PM PST

[falken](#)

XAML! This acronym is only 7 times used in all of those screaming comments until now. SL is subset of WPF and they both are APP UI building (rendering and event catching) technologies, not whole webpage content languages, never was and never will be. IF really(?) HTML5 will ever have good superset of UI building features someday, yet exposed at lower level, why simply not to server-side generate HTML5+JS from SL XAML even on-the-fly, staying compatible with native SL and its XAML powered tooling ... With properly forced separation of models, viewmodels and views, everything is about declarative language, so XAML! It was here, it is here and it will be here. Model centric runtimes matters...

53. November-03-2010 at 01:07 PM PST

[IT Fachbereich](#)

Hope all what is written in this blog is true. Otherwise it would be a waste of money and time people invested in Silverlight. To renounce to this great technology, just because Apple or Google decided to shift to HTML5 is stupid. HTML5 is still HTML, is Browser depended and necessitate even more JavaScript code. Don't think of Silverlight as a multimedia feature, or another Flash. Think of it as a RIA Cross-Browser and Cross-Platform technology.

54. November-03-2010 at 11:46 AM PST

[Gutemberg Ribeiro](#)

Nice post Bob. It clarified a lot my minde.
One point still unclear for most of us is: Where is WPF on this world?
Due to Silverlight limitations(even OOB with Elevated Privs), like for sample, DVD player, compressed video player(like AVI for sample) and other things, most of us are going to use WPF to archive those tasks. So, my question is, will Silverlight take the WPF slot in the market?
We are questioning it cause we dont want to invest so much on WPF if it will not be continued, or replaced by SL.

We are developing a device the is based on Windows Embedded Standard 7. It supports both SL and WPF. The problem is for most of media stuff, we cant use SL cause it dont has support to it.

Please let me know if is there a position about those questions, you can just ping me on email if you want discuss more. We have a lot of problems with SL limitations and we need a position from Microsoft to know on which technology we are going to invest our efforts.

Thanks!
Gutemberg

55. November-03-2010 at 09:01 AM PST

arson

Prediction time!

Next platform to support Silverlight Is

XBOX

Aren't I clever ?

56. November-03-2010 at 08:00 AM PST

Perfect example of why Loose Coupling is critical

The purpose of MVVM is to separate the data and business logic from the UI. We can continue on this line of development and make absolutely sure that the View is genuinely separated from the rest of the app - significantly reducing the impact if we decide to move to HTML5 or simply WPF. All the data and business logic can remain there, its just a shift of what the target UI is.

But Microsoft, you have become a weak-knee'd puppy - cowering to the whims of the open source crowd and have rolled over and played dead. That is *not* the model that that made you rich. I was a Clarion (Softvelocity) developer and made the shift to Microsoft in case Clarion went away. Well - looks like I made a mistake! Should have stayed with Clarion.

57. November-03-2010 at 07:09 AM PST

Ross Wozniak

OK Microsoft, it should be very obvious by now that you've seriously shaken the confidence of your development community (and probably a lot of your internal dev teams). So what are you going to do about it?

Days are passing here, and we're all waiting to find out what your level of committment is to Silverlight.

We're in a holding pattern. We need you to make decisions and do something about this. We can't wait around until MIX next year. We need to know *now*.

58. November-03-2010 at 07:06 AM PST

[Russ Bresarte](#)

With MS denouncing commitment to Silverlight as a web solution, developers won't develop Silverlight apps just for the Windows Phone 7 because it's a small/non-existent market. Thusly, WP7 will likely die as result of this announcement.

Silverlight was a fantastic tool that gave developers an edge against the HTML "standard". Standards are a joke. Innovation wins every time. Look at the iPhone, a totally non-standard interface that took the market by storm.

This is just crazy. If MS had any foresight, they would port SL to any platforms THAT BECOME SUCCESSFUL (there aren't very many).

59. November-03-2010 at 05:54 AM PST

[Darren Oliveiro-Priestnall](#)

To be honest I didn't hear anything other than common sense. Silverlight is not and never will be the one tool to use for all situations but it continues to be a very useful tool for many situations.
I'm typing this on a iPad and so I cant use many of my own Silverlight apps in the same way that Flash isn't available to me.
After lunch I'll go back to my desk and continue to work on my current Silverlight project which is the best tool for that particular project and environment with some support software being written in MVC2 for the web.

To get angry for being told Silverlight won't run on iPads and some other environments is madness, we already know this. If you want to hit every environment, use an open standard like H5 and accept the limitations that come with it. Judge on a project by project basis.

60. November-03-2010 at 05:44 AM PST

[Still Skeptical](#)

Not fully convinced. This doesnt clarify your statements at PDC, it contradicts them. Which statement are we to believe?

Silverlight is good but still needs more maturity. Memory leaks are an issue, and client/server communication is still being standardized. Many developers in this

community invested large amounts of time practicing and mastering the paradigms of SL development, and now we are left wondering if youre telling the truth or not.

Please supply a roadmap on the "next steps" of silverlight technology looking out at least a year.

61. November-03-2010 at 03:56 AM PST

[Dimitris](#)

This uncertainty about silverlight, can make great damage in windows phone 7 also.

62. November-03-2010 at 01:40 AM PST

[james](#)

You should make it clearer:

* that you are committed to Silverlight (and WPF) for RIA Windows based development, and it will be actively developed and NOT just in maintenance mode
* that HTML5 is JUST a parallel thing and will not cut off Silverlight's air supply
* that Silverlight and WPF will get EQUAL or BETTER resources devoted to it than HTML5
* dedicate marketing resources/special conferences to Silverlight / WPF - get the message out
* define clear UI guidelines, and better LOB support, so that developers can easily create LOB applications

Failure to make this clear, will mean there will be a lot of angry developers developers developers, whose millions of hours of investment in the MS platform will have been wasted.....and MS remember where your roots are.....it's the developers that are the bedrock of your companies success.....piss them off (or continue to use mealy mouth words) and slowly watch yourself wither and die. Get your (rewritten) statement on MICROSOFT.COM front page...that's how important this is.

63. November-02-2010 at 11:44 PM PST

[Several Questions](#)

Just one question, why you didn't develop Office 365 on SL, or why we don't see SL port even today?
Why you can't be more specific about SL and it's roadmap. Your post gives us even more questions than it answers.
If you want to let us believe that SL is not dead, you should prove it by porting office 365 to SL, or supporting some other platforms such as Linux or android.
Could you be more specific about your plans please?

64. November-02-2010 at 09:50 PM PST

[XAML_RULES](#)

As a web developer of 15+ years, it is clear to me that Silverlight is the ultimate platform for developing service-oriented applications. Nobody will ever convince me that writing thousands of lines of non-compiled, dynamically-typed javascript to output a user interface onto a canvas is better than a declarative, strongly-typed, compiled application which is delivered, with dlls, inside of a zip file. Thank you Microsoft for giving me the most incredible platform (Silverlight) for developing applications which are well-defined and service-oriented.

65. November-02-2010 at 09:02 PM PST

[Wilson Guerra](#)

Hey guys, take it easy with Bob, Anyone can make a mistake and everyone deserve a second chance. MS has many smart people who have gave us many tools to exploit software development. (Microsoft is Microsoft) Taking silverlight in rails again shouldn't be problem, of course will cost some $$ that were not budgeted. Bob just don't do it again.

66. November-02-2010 at 08:57 PM PST

[Brad M.](#)

@Ken - Do you require the same long-term strategy and product roadmap from Apple and Google as you do from Microsoft? Your perspective is shared by enterprises who invest now on projects that might not bear fruit until years later. It's a perspective that MS understands and addresses. Apple and Google provide no such insight or roadmap, yet are lauded for their bold innovation while MS gets clobbered by analysts and over-stimulated bloggers for its lumbering pace. Will that iPad/iPhone app you developed be supported on future generations of those devices released 2 or 3 years from now? How about that Google Apps project you started? If your mentality is shared by the bulk of developers, then I think developers should stand up and be open and clear about what they want instead of letting the tech media paint backwards-compatibility as a bad word while stock market analysts reward secrecy and enterprise apathy.

67. November-02-2010 at 08:31 PM PST

[One ideea](#)

If the target is not mainly enterprise, to help easier adoption Microsoft needs just to make some good free Silverlight games :)... Or free radio, free music, something interesting and free using silverlight. Just invest a bit smarter in some promotion. I feel like nothing was done in that area, some marketing needs to be done...

68. November-02-2010 at 08:12 PM PST

[Guilherme](#)

Well the purpose of PDC is to inspire and show the future directions for your developers, Incredibly you managed to do the opposite, as demonstrated buy hundreds of posts here,you created confusion and misdirection.

Now you can just shrug and believe the many backstage handshakes you got, or realize the mistake of alienating your developer base by shaking a trust that is not easily attainable. That very base was created on PDC 2007, 2008, 2009.

Don't insult us with PR control, what we all need now is assurances and solid road-maps because as of now all we have is PDC 2010, and its lack of direction and inspiration.

As a final note you may also think that all this was just a comment blown out of proportion, and you are partially right, in the other hand, we developers got your unfortunate remark + PDC totally lacking in Silverlight, showing that although your comment was exaggerated its content and tone remain true and Silverlight was indeed getting de emphasised and that made all of us disappointed.

69. November-02-2010 at 08:03 PM PST

[Rick1973](#)

What HTML5 tools should I use to build a Rich Internet App today?

You just put all Silverlight developers in limbo, and all managers will really wonder if they should build on Silverlight.

Damage has been done.

70. November-02-2010 at 07:51 PM PST

[P. Louis](#)

Is it possible that Bob Muglia has just killed WP7?

Why would anyone develop apps purely for the WP7 market, when that market simply doesn't exist. Silverlight developers building business apps would have ultimately offered WP7 versions, and that would have increased the app inventory --- and hence the success potential for WP7. Unfortunately, there will be precious few apps for WP7.

Not good. Not good at all.

71. November-02-2010 at 07:46 PM PST

Javascript... NOOO!
I want Silverlight for all over my life!! Please let us decide what technology use !

We want Office 365 in Silverlight! We want Silverlight in IE9 and as required Windows Update! Let destroy iOS market share with WP7 apps!
I want to do this BUT i, we, need certainties.

A terrified Silverlight programmer investing all this life in this technology.

72. November-02-2010 at 07:29 PM PST

Frank

Bob, please, hoping you're reading this.

Your comment is not enough for people and dev out there. You have to do something STRONG to retrieve the trust and your credibility.
You have to implement Silverlight into IE9 , and give use a timeline on SL strategy in the years. You have to support HTML5 AND Silverlight , SO TO LET Developers choose what technology use for their websites and projects.
If you don't improve Silverlight compatibility for other platforms and desktops in the upcoming years, or if you'll cut budget, Windows Phone WILL FAIL.

I'm writing on behalf of all my dev friends and collegue.
We will write WP7 apps ONLY because we are already trained in the use of Silverlight, because we use it for Websites, Desktop and Business applications. SL is the only way we have to develop for the Mac also.
My company is investing 1 million dollars in a Silverlight website with games and social features, for you and MS 1mln are pennies, but for us not, we are invoving all our lives in this project.
Because the plugin is needed for the games, the ENTIRE website will be done in SL. If this technology will not be supported in future, we will abandon all MS environment, Visual Studio, SQL server, Azure, and all your products and use Flash because we don't want, we don't like Javascript, we do not want to use that MESS that is JS, AJAX and CSS3, without an environment and coherent ecosystem like VS2010 and SL/Blend have yet.

So, the summary is:
IF in he upcoming Years, you'll cut the budget, you don't improve, or you cut off Silverlight, MICROSOFT will loose trust from about 90% developers, and will lose the battle on mobile phones. I know 300 developers that will not learn Silverlight ONLY for WP7. SO please, please, please! Give us a STRONG signal to shut up all the crazy posts all over the internet.

73. November-02-2010 at 07:05 PM PST

[Oh man..](#)

Way to alienate your developer base! MS needs some more long term commitments, and less bandwagoning, remember losing your devs trust sometimes can't be fixed with PR control.

74. November-02-2010 at 06:36 PM PST

[Mark S](#)

I echo most of the comments here. Silverlight is fantastic and was really beginning to gain momentum, but there was always the specter of it dying on the vine like so many other MS development technologies (cf. CardSpace, v1 of Workflow Foundation, LINQ to SQL, etc).

Now, in one fell swoop you have turned what should have been a tremendously successful strategy and investment into the realization of its skeptics' greatest fears. You could have let people crowing about HTML5 while you gradually took on Flash and gradually realized the dream of controlling the internet (if only from the development side) but no, once again MS displays cowardly, shortsighted, fickle leadership (cf. Plays4Sure vs. Zune, WinMo). Perception is reality and oft-burned MS developers know how to read between the lines; we've read this book before.

75. November-02-2010 at 06:31 PM PST

[AvatarJohn](#)

I'm still not clear on what this means for the future of Silverlight. To me, the key at this point is cross-platform, and that means bringing Silverlight to mobile web browsers. Mobile Safari, Firefox, Skyfire, whatever the heck is on Android devices. Sooooo... The question you don't answer here is, are there efforts afoot to bring Silverlight to mobile _browsers_ or not? This is pretty much everything. If we as developers are to know how to proceed, this is the one and only question we need to know the answer to.

76. November-02-2010 at 06:20 PM PST

[Max Christian](#)

Bob, here's your chance to prove you're still committed: *** Build SL into IE9. ***

77. November-02-2010 at 05:43 PM PST

[Aleximo](#)

I am not sure why so many people blame Microsoft for their commitment to Silverlight. It was quite clear from the beginning that Silverlight will be only available for Windows platform. I don't think this decision changed to much. If you stick with Widows platform you will be fine in any case. If you wanted to have a cross platform solution Silverlight was never a good choose or did some of you naively think that it will be ported to other platforms?

78. November-02-2010 at 05:43 PM PST

[Really??](#)

You're "shifting strategies" from Silverlight to HTML5??

The ONLY thing MS has left for me as a developer is a better Flash than Flash - which is Silverlight. If I'm going to be restricted to HTML, I'll go with GWT or something else.

I just can't figure out what you guys are thinking.

79. November-02-2010 at 04:36 PM PST

[What would Steve Jobs do?](#)

If Steve Jobs had something as good as Silverlight, he would wet himself.

Steve made a billion dollars on a platform he didn't create, using the sweat of thousands of developers he didn't hire, without barely lifting a finger. The app store.

Steve suckered the world into H5 hype BECAUSE he didn't have anything of his own like Silverlight, and MS ate the bait.

Microsoft's incompetence in this matter will cost them billions of dollars. It is one of the worst decisions in corporate history, because of the trickle down effect of appearing to pull the rug out of Silverlight just when it was maturing. Announcing 'The Shift' when they don't have Tool One to show.. and at least 2 years before anyone can seriously put a decent H5 app out to masses, is inconceivably stupid.

The die is cast. It's done. Our company was founded on the promise of Silverlight, but due to adoption rates we've had to expand to other inferior platforms while we waited for SL to mature. I thought that day was here.
Good bye. No one will develop now for your stupid phone, because you hacked out the reason to be in that dev space to begin with. No one will start a team just for WP7 and your measly 5% market share, but they might well have used some of their existing SL devs to crank out apps. SL is dead, WP7 is dead. And both died by your own hand.
We will use Flex exclusively now while we wait the 2+ years before H5 is borderline useful. At least Adobe won't cut and run.

80. November-02-2010 at 04:19 PM PST

[Bijan](#)

Is the decision related to what happened for JavaFX (in JavaOne)?
" JavaFx will support HTML5 rendering but that is expected only sometime in 2012."

81. November-02-2010 at 03:35 PM PST

[Pavel](#)

After those "shifting" news I was sooo pissed of that I actually grab much closer look on other RIA technologies. Alright HTML5 si future!...yeah great!...but wait...isn't today stated as NOW not FUTURE?...JS for enterprise application?...seriously?...you must be kidding me...yes I know I know "most of entrprise ria runs on html+js" and I know "we have jquery!"...but people who said that probably never ever done any serious application development and if yes they are worryingly blinded by all HTML5 hype so It's not worth to go to technical explanations...OK ...so I want to build RIA NOW...hunderds of thousands lines of code?..unit testing?...refactoring?...design patterns?...who going to give me that with H5?...Yes I'm learning it but do serious H5 business this+next year? forget it(and for serious multiplatform RIAs I don't thik ever so). Now from this frustration I actually had a look on Doomed Flash...or better said Flex...nice entrprise tools, server integration, AS3 is rubbish in compare with C# but is actually looks like pretty mature one..and also has MXML which looks like XAML....same with IDE...and looking on latest Adobe MAX videos ...I was really impressed...Full 3D, AS3->H5 conversion tools,gret Designer-developer workflows, Support for Win,Mac,Linux,Android,TV(!?),WebOS soon Symbian,Blackberry,Meego...you can even create stuff for iOS...WOW....at least one company delivers on its promise "multiplatform"....If it comes to backend I still diehard for .NET...but on front-end...well my next learning challenge is pretty clear...on the end that's what this job is about...explore new ways....I will miss you SL but life goes on....
regards
exSilverlight developer

82. November-02-2010 at 03:27 PM PST

[No Longer Trust Microsoft](#)

I commited our development team and reputation to Silverlight. And now I have been left high and dry ! I am not really convinced by this Blog Post. The message is out there, Microsoft is adopting HTML5 in preference to developing Silverlight further. Microsoft are just going to let Silverlight die, after a couple more weak releases. Shopw me the Silverlight Roadmap for the next 5 years, on the Main Microsoft.com page, and maybe you will convince the Developer and their bosses that we have all not just adopted a turky technology.

I should have learn't from the J++ experiment.
I will never trust MS again.

83. November-02-2010 at 03:27 PM PST

[ChrisC](#)

I think some of you are missing the big picture. Whether or not Silverlight's direction has "shifted" or whether or not HTML5 is a full replacement is tangential at best to the point Bob made in his original quote.

Many of you have been saying Silverlight is "cross platform". If we were in the 90s, this would be right, it covers multiple browsers on the two largest operating systems.

Bob's comments are simple: web development is not about cross browsers, and it's definitely not about two operating systems. The ecosystem of web applications on a broad scale is widening greatly to include many new OSes, hardware types, form factors, screen sizes, hell even bandwidth assumptions are up in the air at this point.

If you wanted a "cross platform" web site or web application, Silverlight isn't and never was the right answer. The only difference between last week and this week is that Bob pointed out that it is infeasible to port Silverlight to all of these devices, form factors, and platforms. That should have been obvious to anyone knowledgable enough to be on this thread; him saying it is just a rubber stamp on something intuitively true.

This was true last week and it'll be true next week: If you're trying to come up with a desktop application that is loaded through a web interface, and you're okay with only supporting two operating systems, Silverlight will give you some nice bells and whistles for grander application. However, if you're looking to make a truly cross platform web solution, you need to be using HTML and its related standards and technologies.

84. November-02-2010 at 03:00 PM PST

[dglazer](#)

Just go and try chalk.37signals.com. it's a neat little HTML5 whiteboard web app designed for the IPad . It's really nice to experiment this new cross-platform experience on my PC!! A whole new world!! Woo-hoo !!

85. November-02-2010 at 02:56 PM PST

[All-In](#)

Bob

I want to echo all of the other concerned, irritate, agitated and otherwise upset posts on this site.

I hope this gets straitened out soon and someone in the MS Organization will take note of the tremendous response to this and make the appropriate decisions to protect those that have put so much into a platform MS so dutifully sold to us.

As a manager I make tough decisions and judgement calls, I sell my opinions and conclusions to executives and users and I know that there is always some element of risk in all of these activities. I've been around web development for 12 years now and have seen a lot of change and understand that in order to be able to do more sometimes you have to sacrifice existing technology. With Silverlight I and many other managers have made such a judgement call based on months/years of observing Silverlight and still knew it would be risky but felt encouraged by progress and positive adoption of the platform. What you've said is very troubling and I believe short sighted. I agree that HTML5 will be the future... for HTML developers. Why should that have any bearing on Silverlight and its future? Not everyone wants to stream video but actually write a cross-platform, professional and usable Apps for the web.

86. November-02-2010 at 02:42 PM PST

    Inj3cted

    As a recent graduate who has spent alot of academic time learning Silverlight, expression blend etc and smart device development, this news is "lets say" extremely disappointing.

87. November-02-2010 at 02:30 PM PST

    amazed

    The number 1 requested feature for Silverlight 5 is more cross-platform support. And your answer is to defer people to a technology that won't be ready for years.

    Silverlight is an amazing tool for LOB / Enterprise applications, with great tooling support in Visual Studio. The 3rd party libraries and even Microsoft extensions like RIA Services / Azure are finally getting mature enough to have widespread adoption of SL as an online application platform. Can Microsoft not see this?

    If a clear and definitive answer on support for Silverlight does not emerge soon, my company will most certainly switch to another platform. We can't afford to chase Microsoft technologies that are created and forgotten in 2 years. Certainly for Enterprise level software, it often takes at least that long to get to the market with a reliable product.

88. November-02-2010 at 12:27 PM PST

anthonyfranco

The reports of Silverlight's death have been greatly exaggerated : http://goo.gl/o5wB

89. November-02-2010 at 12:04 PM PST

CGomez

You have to be nuts to think Silverlight is dead. Is Flash dead? HTML will always be playing catch up to plugins. That's why MSFT created Silverlight in the first place. Muglia is talking about DEVICES. You aren't going to see Silverlight on an iPad or iPhone and probably not on Android.

But you can still see it on web browsers as long as there are plug ins. And there will always be Flash, so there will always be Silverlight.

How that isn't plainly obvious by reading the quote, I don't know.

90. November-02-2010 at 11:52 AM PST

Matthew Slyman

Silverlight developers should grow up. Anyone would think, based on the outcry, that Microsoft was throwing a "kill" switch on all existing Silverlight installations.

Microsoft is far from perfect (I purchased "Visual J++" in 1998 on the strength of the Microsoft marketing department's false promises of full Java compatibility plus some extra goodies; and instead I found that it was so broken it couldn't even compile the "hello world" Java example program MS printed on the "quick start" card - NO exaggeration - it even rendered rectangles with the wrong coordinates - and there was no practical method for customers to contact Microsoft and report the issues).

However, in their favour:
1. No software environment is going to be around forever without emulation;
2. There is no company or committee that can predict future trends perfectly (so all software environments eventually need to deprecate features or else deprecate the entire language);
3. Microsoft is good at providing platform continuity for legacy code (it's against their policy to remove existing features without good reason, unlike certain other platform suppliers...)
4. Microsoft now includes support as part of their standard developer partnership programmes (e.g. MAPS.)

Can you imagine if MS never took any strategic decisions to reduce new investments in a dead-end technology? They'd still be pushing Visual FoxPro, VJ++, VBScript and

IE6.9726... We'd all be on Windows 98 R5 SP15... Should we start a petition on Mr. Muglia's blog to resurrect these products?

How about this for a team that doesn't know where they're going:
http://schlueters.de/blog/archives/128-Future-of-PHP-6.html
The article ends with the reassuring words,
"PHP is alive and kicking!" - This must be for those who were wondering, after reading the article. And this isn't based on a strategic decision; they just went down the wrong development road and they have to backtrack.

W.r.t. Silverlight itself, is there any serious developer who didn't already know (when they migrated to Silverlight in the first place) that Silverlight is fighting for a crowded and well established part of the technology landscape?

We shouldn't criticise Microsoft's key people for being honest about necessary strategic decisions. We should encourage them to be open; by telling them when they GENUINELY mess up, but otherwise taking the bitter with the sweet and praising what they do right (plenty, it seems.) The sooner we learn the truth, the better; so kudos to Mr. Muglia for his honesty - if anything, this episode has made me MORE likely to look at Silverlight in the future for broadcasting DRM-protected media over the web.

91. November-02-2010 at 11:49 AM PST

[Bijan](#)

Is the decision related to what happened to JavaFX (version 2.0) at JavaOne conference?
" JavaFx will support HTML5 rendering but that is expected only sometime in 2012."
"ability to deploy / compile to HTML5 like GWT"

92. November-02-2010 at 11:42 AM PST

[Soulhuntre](#)

I am pretty lost as to what all the panic is about.

Silverlight was NEVER going to replace HTML / HTML5 as the primary platform if you want to hit the widest possible group of devices and tools. If you need to be broad, but not deep, you go with HTML and deal with all that pain.

However, if your building a line of business application, or for a targeted audience, you get much better user experiences (not to mention much faster development times) from a Silverlight application.

This hasn't changed, so all the panic about a "shift' makes little sense.

Ken

93. November-02-2010 at 11:30 AM PST

[Kevin](#)

@Martin...

The hotest projects I'm working on right now are mobile web projects. While you may scoff that JavaScript "will never be suitable for serious client development", I'm currently working on a project that targets iPhone, Android, BlackBerry and BlackBerry/OperaMini. With my current architecture, we're getting usability nearly as fast as native apps, leveraging existing ASP.Net developer skillsets.

Until it can target all those platforms, it is not up to the standards of JavaScript.

94. November-02-2010 at 11:25 AM PST

[James Hancock](#)

In my view the only way that MS can fix this is to do the following:

1. Be clear that you're agressively support Silverlight and that the app store coming with Windows 8 will only support Silverlight applications just like WP7 and that your tablet system will be silverlight only as well. That way we have a reason to keep developing for you give that the desktop OS is on borrowed time.
2. Be clear that we're going to able to build silverlight stuff for the next version of Media Center and xbox to compete with Google/Apple TV.
3. Clarify what you're going to give us, even if it's an early CTP for HTML 5 support in VS.net so that we see what we're going to actually be able to accomplish. I HATE javascript but if Silverlight is going to go away on the desktop and the only thing it's going to be used for is WP7 then guess what? I'm out of here.
4. Announce that we're going to see Android, Linux and Black Berry OS 6 run times within the next 60-90 days. Android version supporting the same features as WP7 so that we can cross build. I could care less about Iphone if I have WP7, BB and Android, but I need to know that I'm not going to be deving the same app 5 times with Silverlight being just one of them. Otherwise I'll go HTML 5 and let them run it in the browser on their smart phones...

This is what you have to do to fix this mess. Anything less will result in a massive jump ship.

95. November-02-2010 at 11:20 AM PST

[Steven](#)

You severly weakened my standpoint. For the last year I tried to promote Silverlight as a serverbase/browsercentric solution (I hate Javascript) inside my company.

Everything my execs read from your statement was: "Silverlight is DEAD, don't invest in a dying technology, Silverlight is HD-DVD, RUUUUN!"
Thanks for that.
Well, at least you have a superb toolset for developing rich HTML5 based business applications....oh...wait.....

96. November-02-2010 at 11:06 AM PST

[Davita](#)

As the most of other developers out there, I'm too very disappointed with your move. First of all, I'm a MS developer for more than 8 years. I choose MS tools because MS was best at listening to developers. Beside the fact that SL is mature enough for some time, I just started a new ambitious project with SL, and imagine my reaction when I saw this article. I want your to re-shift your roadmap and make SL number 1 priority for web based, cross platform app development, because:
1) It's RIA. I can do the things that I can't do with HTML.
2) It's better for devs. Instead of working with HTML + Javascript + CSS + ASP.NET WebForms/MVC, I work with familiar C# + WCF.
3) I don't have to care about browser compatibility hell :@
4) It can do things that JS can't, saving a lot of postbacks and improving performance
5) It's better designed for dev and designer collaboration than standard HTML approach IMHO.
and lots of more.
I don't need Microsoft to start working on HTML5 (in 2020, I even don't know if i'll be alive that time), but I need MS to work with Silverlight and if you stop supporting it or put lesser and lesser effort in it, as many other developers, I'll move to Java or any other open source platform.
Despite the fact that SL is here some years now, it's still a new technology, but if you continue to invest, you'll have the results you wished to see. just give us some more time to move to SL. Don't throw it away.

97. November-02-2010 at 11:05 AM PST

[Sudesh Sawant](#)

I dont think MS should continue much on Silverlight. HTML 5 should be the standard and it should be supported more strongly so that the draft becomes final sooner. Silverlight definitely gives more features than HTML 5, but eventually HTML some or other standard would come in for many of those things. Browser would become more like an open platform that has to be targeted. This will take time, but over the past couple of years things are moving very fast. My opinion is that such standardization will help companies like MS, Google, Apple as well as developers, not to mention the IT staff.

98. November-02-2010 at 10:20 AM PST

[Sam123](#)

We need at least another proven mobile platform with Silverlight support.
As other people commented, Android makes a lot a sense, this may also put more pressure on Apple to reconsider.

99. November-02-2010 at 10:01 AM PST

[SLDeveloper](#)

This hurt. I committed to SL, championed it in my company over the last few years, and have the bruises to prove it. It was going great. Now MS is all but dumping it.

Once burned....

100.   November-02-2010 at 10:00 AM PST

[DaveC](#)

HTML5 solutions still don't have the nice separation of UI and logic that XAML and C# provide in Silverlight. Building a rich UI in HTML5 today means a lot of UI layout, presentation, and animation code goes in your script. The separation of concerns in Silverlight makes a much nicer development model and speeds delivery and maintenance of rich UI's, even if it means the rich UI won't run everywhere.

Not many rich UI's transition easily from a 15" screen with a keyboard and mouse to a 4" touch screen anyway, so if you want to support both desktop and mobile, you probably want to plan for two UI implementations, regardless of the technology you choose.

Speaking of Silverlight, how about binding to DLR members, as in those defined at runtime via IDynamicMetaObjectProvider?

101.   November-02-2010 at 09:32 AM PST

[Michael](#)

I wonder if all 600K Silverlight dev's will show up here to bitch @ Bob. One thing I know is that Microsoft is in a world of pain right now. I don't know what is right or wrong for Microsoft at this point, but I can clearly see they are getting hammered by the dev community on the social networks.

A little pragmatism goes a long way here folks. Silverlight is a niche product because it was late to a party that had shut-down and moved to another location. Microsoft dev's know this deep down. Microsoft used to be the place to party and that paradigm has shifted to Apple and Google despite the success of Windows 7.

Tablets are going to change the mood and venue of the party once again... Heck, I see better opportunity for Winform dev's on a Win7 tablet than trying to compete with iOS and Android. By the time WP7 rolls out, the iPad will have solidified its user base while the Android tablets are fashionably late with plenty of excitement, anticipation and willing partners. Where will WP7 be?

I see great things for the cloud in general. However, if I can write to Azure in a plethora of languages (Java, Ruby, PHP, etc.) why would I choose C# and target one platform? I wouldn't and I'm not. My strategy like many others is attempting to target the MOST popular platforms first and target the little guys for beer money in later versions.

What happened to MSFT?

102.   November-02-2010 at 09:26 AM PST

YAPOD

I think the anonymous poster at November-01-2010 at 02:03 PM PST said it all. I think I'd take up farming rather than doing any script or markup based development!

103.   November-02-2010 at 09:15 AM PST

WayneB

Thanks a lot Bob Muglia. You've just taken the wind out of the sails of all the people that really like using Silverlight and who defend the use of it for web apps.

104.   November-02-2010 at 09:10 AM PST

Joe White

What is a "three-screen strategy"?

105.   November-02-2010 at 08:56 AM PST

Standards?

> Wow! Microsoft finally decides to hop on the standards train and they get trashed.

What you don't realize is that standards are great in theory...but developing them via a committee of egotistical people from rival companies doesn't work. History has proven that. It takes too long, and we need a better way...and have it...now! Not in 2022.

106.   November-02-2010 at 08:36 AM PST

pat brazel

Maybe there's a silverlining to this cloud. This screwup makes it much easier now for MSFT to defend bundling SL with IE9 and Win7..

And thats a commitment to SL which would have definite market penetration payoffs and would say more about genuine intent than any amount of waffle.

107.   November-02-2010 at 07:09 AM PST

[Thanks](#)

Wow! Microsoft finally decides to hop on the standards train and they get trashed. I'm not a huge fan of Microsoft but "Thank you Microsoft." For those of you that "bet on this technology," it's not going away, but the shift should be a wake up to start learning what "cross-platform" really means...

108.   November-02-2010 at 06:56 AM PST

[Giorgio Galante](#)

I'm not convinced. Sounds like typical well-worded & meaningless PR. Silverlight is dead in my eyes. WPF for desktop apps, HTML5 for the web / media...what's that leave for Silverlight - a small niche for "flash" intros, fancy nav menus?

I think Microsoft's ready to cede the in/out-of-browser application space to Adobe AIR.

If it wasn't for the base .NET framework, & Visual Studio - I'd have zero faith in Microsoft's development division. They continue to chip away at that faith however with stunts like this, and dismal efforts like the Entity Framework (how long did we wait for this turd?)

109.   November-02-2010 at 06:50 AM PST

[arson](#)

looks like my earlier comment didn't get posted
So I'll post it again

@ Brian
You say 'Windows & Mac' . but silverlight is more than that ,we have silverlight for symbian for instance.

Does Microsoft have plans to port silverlight to Android ?

How commited is Microsoft in making silverlight cross platform ?

I think we deserve some answers

110.   November-02-2010 at 06:35 AM PST

[t e e k](#)

As already eplained by some, it would be really nice, if Microsoft would commit to write some kind of Silverlight-To-html5 compiler for the future.
This would give us developers an very good development environment (visual studio with silverlight + c#/vb as language) along with the knowlage, that our software would run everywhere even if MS drops support for the silverlight plugin.

111.   November-02-2010 at 06:23 AM PST

[Dean Chalk](#)

The great thing about Microsoft is that they focus on high quality tools that enable us developers to create rich applications with speed and efficiency.
I don't doubt that any new tools relating to HTML5 will be equally impressive.
We had the same 'pitchforks at dawn' when MS launched WPF and suggested that Winforms would eventually become legacy --- who cares.
As a pro developer it isn't the end of the work to move with the times with respect to the underlying technologies. Ive done ASP (classic), ASP.NET, Winforms, Silverlight, WPF - what next - HTML5 - bring it on !!

112.   November-02-2010 at 06:16 AM PST

[Feverfunk](#)

Thanks for the 'clarification'. Here's my easy solution that let's Microsoft and the SL community both put a little skin in the game. Why not open source the SilverLight platform? The OS community can take the platform in whatever direction needed. the MS internal battles can go on and hopefully not affect the outside devs who depend on this platform.

113.   November-02-2010 at 06:16 AM PST

[James](#)

Microsoft is just recognizing the obvious. HTML5 is the future of Web development. To the Silverlight developers who are gripping, every software developers should know in advance that when they gamble on adopting bleeding/leading edge technology, that that technology might be beat by a competing technology. HTML5 has won; Silverlight has lost on the web. But that doesn't mean your Silverlight skills have gone to waste. You can now switch over to Windows Phone 7 developers or become Windows desktop developers using WPF.

114.   November-02-2010 at 05:22 AM PST

[Axel Schmidt](#)

What I'm missing is a public strategy on how to bring customer AND business application on one platform! Bob's interview with the focus on WP7 for Silverlight has not brought any clarification here. Where are the extensions, like device access over Bluetooth, serial connections..., which are actually only possible over out-of-browser designs and then only on Windows. An integration of HTML5 into Silverlight, nice, but not useful for non-browser implementations.
Where are local data handlings mechanisms, like datasets?
Why is the competition of WPF to Silverlight?
Please make your general strategy clear, because as a developer you are not able to devide between business-only and customer-only!

115.   November-02-2010 at 04:58 AM PST

[Martin](#)

Sorry for the tone, but I really wonder who in Microsoft came with this "bright" idea. Dynamic languages like Javascript was and will never be suitable for serious client development. Even with HTML5, even with HTML20. Silverlight was a light at the end of the tunnel for rich client development and it was evolving in a really nice pace. I was hoping that at this PDC Microsoft will announce new SL5 with improved text rendering, increased performance, more platform support and extended functionality for rich text editing. I even expected a showcase of Office Web Word based on Silvelright which is responsive and actually usable not only for short and simple documents.
It's nice that Microsoft wants to support HTML5 and it might be viable rich client development alternative for platforms which do not allow browser plug-ins like iOS (for project which really need to target them). But for platforms with SL supported, there is no sane reason to drop to Javascript and fight with browser incompatibilities.
The "shift" statement is tremendous disappoitment and this blog post doesn't help much. Please, show us long-term SL comittment, roadmap for SL5 and future versions, use it in Office Web Apps etc.

116.   November-02-2010 at 04:09 AM PST

[Pete Austin](#)

The leading mobile OSs are
* Java Platform, Micro Edition (Java ME)
* Apple iOS
* Android
http://gigaom.com/apple/report-ios-driving-apple-market-share/

Is Silverlight going to support any of these?

117.   November-02-2010 at 03:59 AM PST

onof p

It's still not clear for me. What about a new project starting now? Is it safe to plan to use silverlight? Or are we likely to loose every support within 5 years? Maybe J2EE + GWT will give us more warranties to be supported in the next future, isn't it?

118.   November-02-2010 at 03:54 AM PST

Joe Castle

I think the direction should be pretty clear by now, although it is delivered in a very clumsy way: Silverlight is for WP7 and "desktop/LOB" (ms will most likely merge WPF and SL) but use html for web. If this is clearly visible in a roadmap I'm ok with it - I would never use SL for a web site that targets everybody anyway.

119.   November-02-2010 at 03:42 AM PST

Peter

Please also clarify the future of WPF and detail the announcement of Silverlight and WPF convergence.
I wish Microsoft would finally merge the two and start building interesting controls.
What we have now is if you start with either you miss out on a lot from the other.

120.   November-02-2010 at 03:41 AM PST

Mike Graham

This really reminds me of OS/2. My favorite tag line for OS/2 is: "yesterdays technology tomorrow".

Your comments are sure not helping me with my insomnia and anxiety about Microsoft's apparent confusion and lack of consistent technical direction.

Like so many in this comment section, I have invested (way too) heavily in the Microsoft technology stack.

I've been asking myself how I reach the Android and Apple devices. On the surface, I can sure see how Microsoft would look at the situation and say: "HTML5" is the common denominator.

Do a simple search and you will see how fragmented the supporting infrastructure for HTML5 is. The most obvious point is that there are actually two HTML5 specs being developed.

Microsoft is clearly vulnerable. If you really want to build a rich App for Apple or Android, HTML5 is not the way you actually do it - you use their compilers and libraries of components.

Its a pattern that has repeated itself many times. Only this time, Microsoft is the one trying to get the guys with the hot platform to support standards so they can play too.

I fully expect that Android and Apple will give the appropriate lip service and 2nd tier support to these standards, but the reality is this: their business motivation will be better served by providing 1st class support in their "core" developer tools.

I'm not saying that I know what you should do, because I truly do not know what you should do.

I really bought into the WPF / Silverlight story. I love the technology. I really feel like the platform and 3rd party controls have matured and are ready for prime-time.

I actually thought that you guys would identify "Silverlight" as the new OS and port it everywhere. When I saw Office 365, it seemed like things were tracking nicely for this.

But maybe Silverlight is too slow or porting is too hard. Maybe without a single, charismatic, fully powerful technical leader, its just not possible to achieve a coordinated vision across a giant company (with nicely organized business units). Who knows?

This much I'm fairly certain of: promoting HTML5 at this stage when NONE of the key Microsoft revenue generating products support it can only produce drag on the existing products. I seriously doubt that it will even help the ailing IE browser market share (which is not a revenue generating product, if I understand it correctly).

Probably exposing the HTML5 debate outside Microsoft was not helpful towards ANY Microsoft objectives that I can see.

121.   November-02-2010 at 03:30 AM PST

[sayWhat](#)

This statement doesn't instill any more confidence in the Silverlight strategy. Just damage control PR garble. Who are you taking cues from...Lebron James marketing company? The Silverlight PR strategy seems to be a comprised of a set of boneheaded bait and switch signals to SL Devs at precisely the moment when SL confidence and adoption needed even more stability and enthusiasm to slam home how powerful the technology is to the non-initiated. That is why there is such a strong reaction....listen instead of discounting it as trivial.

122.   November-02-2010 at 03:12 AM PST

[charty](#)

Thank you

123.   November-02-2010 at 03:01 AM PST

[albnig](#)

Microsoft has a big dilemma: it was at 90% of desktop operating systems in the world, but tomorrow the world will be mobile. And in mobile os, Microsoft is loosing the battle with apple and android. Making a silverlight applet for android is like to push android to win. So Microsoft need to use SL to boost his mobile os exclusively, WP7. Here is the next Microsoft big problem: to be a future leader in mobile OS throught WP7, or have a SL technology ubiquitous and loose the battle of mobile OS.

124.   November-02-2010 at 02:45 AM PST

[Unbelievable](#)

Can you really grasp what you've done Bob?

You've demoralized an army of developers that believe that Silverlight (and Microsoft) is the future, probably demoralized your entire SL dev team. Two of your top Silverlight guys have to write blog posts about how they gave up everything to come to Microsoft with the hopes of building the future platform for web applications. And, you do this just as the Windows Phone commercials have begun airing. Nice timing.

All because you wanted to create some hype about how IE9 is the best buddy of a technology that's not supposed to be complete for 12 years (and I'm sure that date won't slip).

Standards are great in theory, but they take way too damn long cuz no one can agree on them! Screw standards committees and just build something better yourself. Oh wait, you already did.

125.   November-02-2010 at 02:07 AM PST

[disappointed](#)

The main issue is what will the strategy be like in 2 years time, if there has been such a major shift between now and 2 years ago. That is the main concern.

126.   November-02-2010 at 01:39 AM PST

[Jens Peter Kleinau](#)

Bob, can you make a boiled egg liquid again? I feel sorry for Microsoft, but the damage is done and my confidence is pretty low down.
Remember "Cardspace"? We were about to design a virtual card bonus based on Cardspace with the second-largest companies for bonus cards in Europe . That would have been THE breakthrough for Cardspace. As others would have followed and so Microsoft would set their standard. In February 2007 Microsoft announced the collaboration with the OpenID. Then all the client projects subjected to STOP. Though there were the "updates" that Cardspace would not be dead. But check it out today. A single stupidity in a communication strategy can destroy the "Trust" sustainable.

I was an MVP for Expression and I am an expert on WPF / Silverlight. We as a company have always remained with Microsoft technology. Not because we like Microsoft, but because Microsoft kept the innovation engine always running. We are technology experts who are at the front of the Bleeding Edge, because we simply enjoy it. But now we have Mac developers in our ranks and write applications for the IPhone. We will continue to be at the edge of the innovations, even if Microsoft will not be found there more often. Not because Microsoft engineers and product developers have become less innovative, but because the Microsoft strategists rather chase instead create hypes.

Best regards,
Jens Peter Kleinau

127.   November-01-2010 at 11:45 PM PST

angrydeveloper

Future will be a post pc world ruled by connected devices. I'm sure microsoft has great potential and opportunity to make this technology for writing awesome native apps in some of the top platforms. Android, iOS, RIM and yet to get any fame - WP7. just imagine a world that a developer could write an app and the same code can run on all the major mobile platforms. I'm sure that will be greatest gift and service to the dev community who made .NET platform insanely popular. I,m really not sure on HTML as a platform when we need to leverage the core platform capabilities and not just interoperability. I think Microsoft has a chance to make Silverlight as "the development platform and tech" to write amazing apps on all the future post pc world devices.

128.   November-01-2010 at 11:26 PM PST

Alexander

SilverLight is not dead, yeee :)

129.   November-01-2010 at 11:18 PM PST

Irakli Lomidze

Of Course Microsoft Will Continue Developing Silverlight until HTML5 wide adoption, after that SL will die. HTML 5 is Multiplatform by design, SL Not. HTML 5 has more functionality in their big specification and is it standardized, SL Not. Only Advantage on SL is C#.
P.S. if you note one more interesting fact, that Parallel Adobe in MAX Conference show tools for Flash to HTML5 Conversion. When MS Do same? I think nearly.
Relay SL has a future but very short period of time max 2 year.
I Understand SL Team and its positions, Yes SL not die and there will SL5 and SL6 but, until SL needed. But in Near future not today HTML5 will replace SL and Flash too.

130.   November-01-2010 at 11:04 PM PST

[Paula](#)

Dear Bob,

An equally clear statement for WPF developers is long overdue and would be welcome.

Thanks, Paula

131.   November-01-2010 at 11:02 PM PST

[MikeFarinha](#)

Today I read from Paul Thurrott: "Silverlight on the web, for all intents and purposes, is dead."
http://www.windowsitpro.com/article/paul-thurrotts-wininfo/Microsoft-Embraces-HTML-5-Deemphasizes-Silverlight.aspx

If this is true then Microsoft is one messed up company. As far as I can tell Microsoft has invested heavily in Silverlight with some very impressive talent and has created a great framework for the times.

If your intent is to kill Silverlight for the web, as Paul T put it, then that is one major unforgivable sin for the company. This will haunt Microsoft for years and years to come.

132.   November-01-2010 at 10:47 PM PST

[blaize](#)

Thanks for clarifying...this ZDNet ruffled a lot of feathers on our dev team!

133.   November-01-2010 at 10:40 PM PST

[Light](#)

My company too is investing huge money and formation on Silverlight since SL3. Silverlight 4 and RIA services are also "the boost" for other great projects and videogames. We will develop applications, lob app, and entire websites too with that fantastic technology. We decided to invest on it PRIMARY for the cross browser/platform capability and also for the incredible PRODUCTIVITY and tools; Ria services are fantastic!
And so because our team is already well trained, we will develop a lot of WP7 apps too.

If Silverlight will lose the multiplatform support in the future, or will be WP7 only focused, we will definitively abandon it for other technology like Flash, and we will abandon WP7 too.
Please Microsoft, do the best choice foryour developers.

134.   November-01-2010 at 10:37 PM PST

[Kishor Gurtu](#)

Not sure what the fuss is all about. Bob just stated some hard facts - it is impossible to port Silverlight to every platform out there - always was, and always will be. SL is still the best solution for LOB apps where the client side environment is known and controlled.

135.   November-01-2010 at 09:42 PM PST

[Duncan Muir](#)

So there is no "shift" in the strategy for Silverlight? (I don't see it in Bob's explanation above)... So it was just the mistake of expressing the shift in the strategy for HTML5 in the context of Silverlight? Is that what has happened here? Is it?

Silverlight was never intended as a replacement for HTML as Bob says above, and that hasn't changed.

So is there a shift in strategy for Silverlight? It's not yet clear...

136.   November-01-2010 at 09:12 PM PST

[still pissed](#)

Great, MS just screwed last few MS developper left. Wonder what is going on with the post Bill Gates batch in MS. Do you want to be just a company to sale dev studio for HTML5? Bob, if you claim still support SL, let's here your investment in the team, head count cut, budget cut? by how much?

137.   November-01-2010 at 08:48 PM PST

arson

@Brian
You continue to say Windows & Mac. But we also have silverlight for symbian. and I was hoping for silverlight on android atleast .

Are you planning on porting silverlight to android ?

How committed are you to making silverlight cross platform ?

Please we would like (deserve) some answers

138.   November-01-2010 at 08:44 PM PST

somebody

but how many core MS products use Silverlight? Office? Windows? A slow death is worse than a quick one.

139.   November-01-2010 at 08:00 PM PST

So...

...after years of promise, you *finally* deliver XAML all the way from Surface through desktop, web, and devices with good designer tools, great developer tools, a wonderful programming language, a largely consistent programming model and framework, and big plans for growth to new scenarios beyond that - and the message you deliver at your premier developer conference is that "Silverlight is great for our phone, but HTML5 is the future?"

Now, you're leaving us to do the dance explaining how "that's not what they really meant" while trying to clarify your position. If I'm the CTO or CIO or ISV looking at a big capital investment in Silverlight (or other Microsoft platforms), I have hard time believing that. Things shift way too often and aren't stable or clear enough for me to feel comfortable betting on it - heck, your top execs can't even articulate it consistently from conference to conference.

Why don't you guys dispel all that by presenting a roadmap that shows you're thinking long-term and sticking by a strategy years in the making and with many years still ahead before it fully unfolds?

140.   November-01-2010 at 07:53 PM PST

Chui Tey

As a developer I need to see Silverlight run on more than just Macs and PCs. At the very least offer some kind of graceful degradation on ipads and android devices. HTML can do that, but Silverlight is an all or nothing proposition.

141.   November-01-2010 at 07:47 PM PST

[Dagaric](#)

I don't understand logic if silverlight developed for rich-applications why in it so there are not enough possibilities and so are badly implemented rich controls.
for example richtext(sl4) doesn't support many the useful things(background, margin, stroke, borders, etc), olap only for images, app with ria-authentication not supported OOB, etc.
As though all is written for a tick, instead of for real usage.

142.   November-01-2010 at 07:37 PM PST

[Ivan (Software Architect)](#)

Bob,

I'm glad to hear that SL is not dead. One thing to note is that even though HTML 5 is coming and looks great. The investment to develop in that environment can be very difficult and hard compared to .Net. .Net development is has become so productive that any platform that utilizes it can create powerful apps very quickly as the WP7 is a testament of that. Now doing something similar in HTML 5/Javascript is not the same. No 1. no compiling or error checking. No 2. No way to truly unit test. No 3. limited in file sizes. No 4. Each browser will have its nuances, its the nature of the beast. With SL, that allowed developers to overcome those things. If SL gets the 90% marketshare of PCs, then I'd see more and more SL apps coming in. Last I heard SL was growing rapidly. And thats great. People forget how hard it is to do certain things in Javascript and HTML.

I hope that Mix brings some good news in this front.

A concerned Architect.

143.   November-01-2010 at 07:16 PM PST

[Real Commitment](#)

If you really were commited to Silverlight instead of just appeasing the developers, you would already be on this with channel 9 video and a presspass and hone up to that fact that you made a huge mistake which we all know and the financial folks know this already gaffs happen it's how you fix them versus saving face that matters with people. So far you are alienating your base. That's why we are losing business and you will be to,

you just don't realize it yet. You should be addressing CFOs and CIOs and money people who make decisions that already think silverlight is dead and have cancelled much enterprise adoption plans just as the platform finally had momentum. Did you read the article in the WSJ ? In the Nov 1st wall street journal that says essentially silverlight is dead.

Pay the piper and man-up as political ads say these days. This besides costing your developer base tons of money in potentential revenue.. You all have lost our trust and faith.

It's okay that you look like a flip flopper now because you have already shown your own people that you are at home.. With no tooling ready from Microsoft with HTML 5, this is just not appropriate.. I don't believe you are a good leader as you have just reinterated instead of promoted an overall vision.

Whether we survive it all comes down to this, you have shot yourself in your own foot. You basically said that the only thing important about Windows 7 is the web browser and that is where all the applications should be. That is counter to all the .NET developer community doing Windows applications for the last few years. What is Silverlight if it's not an extension of the Windows .NET framework to the Web including the Windows UI..

If you are going to sell windows and push the web browser only why would someone choose Windows over a Mac or even an iOS device.. Or a free linux system.. Honestly it wont be long till these other systems have the same acceleration that IE 9 has and since it's all HTML where's your advantage ? Not everyone wants office as a pay for service on the cloud, some people want locally secured systems.. Or the fees associated.. It's back to Vax terminal systems and pay per use models as a way to inch out every money of profit necessarily..

Suddenly with this strategy instead of being ahead and offering something unique and innovative that no one else had as an advantage you are running to compete with someone who doesn't sell nearly as much as you do just to make yourself look forward thinking with the press. Is that a profitable strategy?

Think about all that has been said here and man-up and do the right thing. Get out in front with this with the financial people before they and the competition start ridiculing you guys for going HTML 5 without the tooling to support the experience that the W3C even says wont be ready for a year..

Ready shoot aim continues at Microsoft.. We can't afford this in this economy no one can..

144.   November-01-2010 at 06:58 PM PST

[jcraigue](#)

OMFG - If you kill SL because of a WinPhone, you're completely insane!
SL is *vital* for cross-platform business development.

You should just GIVE UP on the phone market, already - you LOST.
One of the nice things about SL, is it puts a slightly different spin on IIS/ASP.net, IMHO
- I'm coming to absolutely *loath* IIS... SL outside the browser is much more in line with
what I'd like to see (even with some minimal dependencies on IIS for asmx etc.)

145.   November-01-2010 at 06:58 PM PST

[xamlamadingdong](#)

Part 2

So what's a Silverlight developer to do with such a lack of expressed commitment? My
roots are in html/CSS. I guess I could go back to doing HTML and jump on the HTML5
bandwagon, but guess what? I learned HTML in notepad. I learned CSS in notepad. I do
all of my graphics in photoshop. I don't need a huge IDE for that. I can just go back to
writing webservice applications in WCF, http handlers or plain ol WSDL and then calling
them with simple http requests. IE9's got a fast rendering engine now, so it will handle all
the animations I throw at it. Some things will get harder. SVG's not even close to where it
needs to be to match up to Silverlight functionality, but why even bother anyway? It's
going to to feel like dating someone because they remind you of the awesome person you
were with before. Silverlight is something I can point to and say "I'll use SVG when it
can do half the things SL can." In that way, it's improving the prospect of what HTML
can become. It's also pushing Flash to become better, which not even Steve Jobs has been
able to do. It's healthy competition in the market place and your developers have loved
you for it.

In my mind, unless you express support for Silverlight in no uncertain terms, you're
going to set back the careers of all 600,000 of the Silverlight developers you mentioned,
the future of web development and rich internet applications as a concept.

146.   November-01-2010 at 06:57 PM PST

[xamlamadingdong](#)

Bob,

I've been developing Silverlight for about 2 years now. Three months ago, I staked my
job on the technology in a shop that was heavily leaning toward HTML 5 because most
of them are from open source backgrounds and don't trust Microsoft. A couple of weeks
ago, the w3C released a statement saying that people and companies shouldn't build
platforms on HTML 5 because it's not a standard and won't be for several years. This was
very vindicating. Last week I presented a cutting edge UI using Silverlight that silenced
almost all doubters in the room. The power of Silverlight 4 made it possible for me to
create a completely dynamic data driven UI that interfaces seamlessly with our
webservice layers due to some awesome interoperability between Silverlight binaries and

the .net Framework. Coming into this week, I finally felt a sense of stability in that for our WEB application, I had championed the right software and it'd paid off.

You have now destabilized that completely. Before your speech, it appeared that Microsoft was in it for the long haul with Silverlight as a growing presence in web development and expanding nicely into WP7. Not it looks like Microsoft has, instead of continuing to foster what is an AMAZING set of tools for the web, AS WELL AS supporting the IE9 team's achievements with JS acceleration, decided to tie the fortunes of Silverlight to WP7 and the Microsoft Mobile strategy.

Microsoft's mobile and tablet strategy has been something akin to a hamster eating its own babies. Instead of innovating with something like courier or pink or a gesture based mobile platform (come on, touch is taken, but you still have the only consumer grade gesture recognition platform debuting in 3 days!), everything is hanging on WP7 which was embarrassed by not having the ability to cut and paste or multi-task within weeks of the initial press release. Additionally, I respectfully submit that Mr. Balmer's decision to stick with W7 as the tablet platform may may be incorrect. Why not use the Xbox platform as the next gen OS? It already knows how to handle social, video, the web and coming soon, Silverlight. But I digress.

As a Silverlight developer, it's hard to imaging tying my career to a mobile platform that didn't even aspire to surpass the iPhone in basic computer functionality (that the iPhone quickly made up for). I suspect that other Silverlight developers are going to feel the same way. Also, as others have echoed, it's not going to be harder than ever to a) convince people that Silverlight is something to build an application platform on and b) find jobs doing it.

147.   November-01-2010 at 06:44 PM PST

[zombieman](#)

use html4 not silverlight

148.   November-01-2010 at 06:42 PM PST

[alessandro](#)

Indeed, a lot has been lost. You are invested in too many things and it makes it very hard for us as developers to make decisions. In a time of uncertainty and doubt and you add fear. Most certainly it will take a lot more to repair the damage.

While I find so many use cases for silverlight, there have been way too many changes, asp.net 1.0, 2.0 (massive changes for developers invested in webforms) and then we have to jump ship to MVC. winforms/wpf and now silverlight. Seriously?

You have no idea about the kindof investments we make as developers and the kind of pressure we are up against.
This is all simply sad. I still have my hopes high on silverlight, I hope I'm not wrong this time. Enough with technology with such a short shelf-life. Make a commitment.

Alessandro

149.   November-01-2010 at 06:36 PM PST

[JiniShans](#)

@Brian Goldfar

"Silverlight is definitely alive and well and goes far beyond just WP7. " - How can you expect anymore Developers believe in any of you MS folks ? Same thing was told 2 yrs before about SL for PC's.

"It is the way to build Apps for Windows Phone 7" - No, it's not. You guys are trying to fool the Developer community. Already iOS, Android and WebOS supports HTML5, why not WP7, why the Developer community wants SL for WP7 alone, why not HTML5 for WP7.

"business applications both inside and outside the browser on Windows and the Mac" - Why would an Architect / Consultant / CTO / CIO wan't to invest on SL as already they've Flash & Flex penetrated 99% of the Windows & Mac market.

"that we see HTML as the technolgy that gets you *everywhere*" - Did you guys born yesterday to this World, did anyone denied HTML is not the technology we get everywhere. The whole DEV community across platform/devices knew HTML is the one available all over, then why the Heck DEV's need to learn, develop in SL for WP7, why would MS alone want to have a prop. technology for WP7, like iOS. Why not go for HTML5 for WP7 also.

"if want a richer, more tailored experience, on the devices and areas we support (and we are investing in this with Windows Embedded, Automotive, Desktop, Phone, and more in the future) both in and out of the browser than Silverlight was and continues to be your best solution" - Why would MS think we need SL in this case, when Android, Mac, iPhone, WebOS and all other browsers support HTML5 for desktops, why would anyone want SL.

If it's Desktop, people would go for Flash / Flex, if it's Smartphone, they'll choose HTML5. No one needs SL, except MS want SL in WP7.

So, there's no need to believe in your / any one else statement. No point in proposing SL for Enterprise.

Do you believe any CIO/CTO will believe us if we propose SL for an LOB app henceforth. They'll laugh at us and read the news.

Guys, you folks at MS killed already SL in the last 3 days, you can't recover. You've not only killed SL, but, you've killed WP7 development also, as other platform developers would wait for HTML5 support in WP7, Windows developers who does not know SL, will too wait for WP8, ultimately without App's, WP7 is going to fail due to this Viral news/decision.

jinishans
http://blogs.jinishans.com

150.   November-01-2010 at 06:36 PM PST

GajaKannan

@Bob, I just made up my mind last week to migrate WinForms / .NET solution to Out of the Browser RIA solution slowly. This would be a major shift for us and I hope your above clarifications are inline w/ your corporate strategy and execution wrt SL. Do you have a roadmap for SL that is ready for public consumption?

151.   November-01-2010 at 06:20 PM PST

John S.

This blog post is a step in the right direction but its not enough to repair the damage that has been caused. My CIO is still scared Microsoft is going to phase out Silverlight (for real or imagined reasons).

So, you say you are committed. That's fine and dandy. Now it's time to prove your committed. We need details about your strategy for the co-existance of HTML5 and Silverlight. We need a roadmap showing where Silverlight is headed in the future.

You are saying Silverlight has a future. Now we need proof that this is the case. We need reassurance that Silverlight's future will be long lived and that it won't be phased out.

If you want CIOs back on board with Silverlight after this hysteria, you HAVE to provide this information.

152.   November-01-2010 at 06:06 PM PST

jack43

http://visualwebgui.com/Developers/Forums/tabid/364/forumid/-1/threadid/43530/scope/posts/Default.aspx

153.   November-01-2010 at 06:02 PM PST

[Zman13](#)

Bob,
I thought Microsoft had finally got it right; a robust client side stateful development environment with cross platform reach (possibly the end of having to deal with JavaScript nonsense once and for all!). I have been following and recommending Silverlight as the platform of choice for many of my clients using Microsoft's "Strong Commitment" as strong evidence for adoption of this technology. I must say I feel less than comforted by the 3 points you made in your clarification. There is way too much wiggle room within these statements; that leads me to think that Microsoft is shifting the importance of Silverlight to Phone, but will be focusing on HTML5 for the desktop. This is very disconcerting news if true; I would like to see a more strongly committed statement that addresses these concerns; your silence will on this will do serious harm to the reputations of those that have tried to help Microsoft sell Silverlight the hardest.

154.   November-01-2010 at 05:52 PM PST

[Brian Goldfarb](#)

@Tugga

Silverlight is definitely alive and well and goes far beyond just WP7. I think that is pretty clear from Bob's post, but I'll reiterate it again. Silverlight will continue to be invested in across the board. It is the way to build Apps for Windows Phone 7, but it is also and will continue to be the best solution for premium media experiences and business applications both inside and outside the browser on Windows and the Mac. The key thing that has been clarified, is that we see HTML as the technolgy that gets you *everywhere*. In fact, for the broadest reach today the solution you should use is HTML4. But if want a richer, more tailored experience, on the devices and areas we support (and we are investing in this with Windows Embedded, Automotive, Desktop, Phone, and more in the future) both in and out of the browser than Silverlight was and continues to be your best solution.

Hope this helps!

-Brian Goldfarb (@bgoldy, bgold@microsoft.com)
Director, Developer Platforms
Microsoft

155.   November-01-2010 at 05:33 PM PST

[tugga](#)

Hi Bob,
We have heavily invested in SL technology for building our next gen browser based

apps. Now, when you say that your strategy has shifted, should we say that we were wrong when we believed in MS strategy a couple of years ago and we should let go off our investments in SL technology. We never believed that SL will replace HTML5. But, we believed that MS will continue investing in SL, not with a perspective of building just apps for WP7. Your statement earlier, PDC2010 and this post just reaffirms that MS wants SL to stay alive for WP7 development.

156.   November-01-2010 at 05:10 PM PST

[David Hanson](#)

Bob,

While I understand that making HTML 5 a first class development language on the windows platform is fundamentally important I see no reason why tech such as Silverligth which is breaking new ground and getting real traction has to suffer because of it.

You say...

"our goal was to provide the most consistent, richest experience across those devices. But the world has changed. As a result, getting a single runtime implementation installed on every potential device is practically impossible. We think HTML will provide the broadest, cross-platform reach across all these devices."

You are basically turning the HTML 5 support back over to numerous different browser vendors who will implement the specification differently and send us all back to the difficult days of cross browser compatibility. This is what Silverlight solved for so many of us.

157.   November-01-2010 at 05:03 PM PST

[AlanL](#)

Don't get the fuss. It is very clear. Silverlight is now and will remain one (of several) core development platforms for Windows. Silverlight is now and will remain THE core development platform for Windows Phone 7.

Not Microsoft's fault that the press chose to (as usual) jump way out on a limb and make guesses based on no information - guesses that were inaccurate. In fact this is par for the course with the tech press. Why anyone believes the rumors is beyond me.

THe only thing that actually changed is that Microsoft added HTML5 as a standard the company will support for Windows. This is a surprise?!

158.   November-01-2010 at 04:48 PM PST

I've been a huge fan of WPF since the start. I've successfully lobbied to have it used in a few new apps at my company and never pass up the opportunity to proclaim its benefits over the 'old way' of doing UI work for the desktop. I was a bit worried the past few years since SL seemed to be getting all the limelight over WPF (I'm mainly desktop), but I was holding out hope that the extreme SL momentum would be good for both and we'd see a convergence, maybe in the form of a down-the-road version of SL. I was happy when SL was taken out of the browser, as I think that convergence got a step closer.

But, and it pains me to say, these goings on have knocked the wind out of my sails a bit. I would like to believe that the future is still as bright as ever for SL and WPF, but I'm worried. I agree with others that if confidence is to be restored, it will have to come as a tangible sign that the momentum has not slowed.

159.   November-01-2010 at 04:36 PM PST

[Too bad...](#)

If people "shift" back to HTML stack it will not be with Microsoft technology. Google seems a far better candidate today. Collateral damage has been done too, because Silverlight was a good reason to go to Azure instead of EC2....

160.   November-01-2010 at 04:26 PM PST

[Details, please](#)

Bob,

The news report, which you agree was "accurately reported" quotes you as saying as Silverlight is maturing its "cadence changes"- presumably to something slower than the rapid pace to which we've become acustomed. But then, you also state that Microsoft will "continue to invest in Silverlight."

So - will you be investing less then? If so, h0w much less - a little less? A lot less? How much will the cadence slow? Should we expect yearly releases? Biyearly? Once every few years? Since anything greater than $0 counts as an investment and any release frequency greater than never counts as continued support, these assurances leave lots of wiggle room for you and aren't very comforting to us - especially in light of your statements about HTML5 (incomprehensibly timed just as Windows Phone 7 is coming to market.)

Your competitior isn't backing away from taking its technology to popular platforms - they're finding ways to reward developers and designers for their continued support and loyalty by making sure they have a path to run everywhere that's relevant. There's no questioning their commitment, and yet questions persist about yours.

Silverlight is hands down the best development platform you've delivered in the last decade. The team you've assembled to build the runtime, framework, and tools is perhaps the best in all of Microsoft. Their ability to provide features developers and designers need and to quickly iterate in their drive forward is certainly unparalleled.

The damage your remarks has done to them and to us is profound. You're not a GM trying to generate enthusiasm for a declining product - you're the President of Microsoft's Server and Tools Division. You can starve or kill Silverlight if you want to, and we all know it - that's why you're seeing this reaction.

Please provide the details we're asking for, or, please sell or open source the platform so that it can continue to grow and mature.

Thanks.

161.   November-01-2010 at 04:14 PM PST

My two cents

Funny how everyone is reacting to this particular "Commitment Speech". (http://techcrunch.com/2010/11/01/silverlight-silverlight/). It will take tremendous efforts to repare the damages. The FUD has been spread, it's too late. And it has been spread from INSIDE! Seems to me that it is not only Silverlight which is question here but more the whole MS speech (dare I say speeches) to the developers. From the outside, it seems that internal wars are blocking year after year this company from going forward. Regarding to my case , we were enjoying Silverlight as a very stable base to build a prototype for the next evolution of our LOB solutions (we are not only pushing Silverlight... think Azure). Now we'll have to argue again with the HTML/GWT/EC2 guys. And you've gived them a Silver bullet. If the choice is made to go back to the HTML stack our solutions may not use any piece of of Microsoft technology... except the fabulous IE9... for people who'll not use Chrome.
I think the position which resumes what should have been told is the Shawn Wildermuth's "Silverlight is good for Apps; HTML is good for sites". Period.

162.   November-01-2010 at 04:14 PM PST

angrydeveloper

We forgive this blunder. Give us the power of silverlight on Android.

163.   November-01-2010 at 04:10 PM PST

Phil jacobsen

Bob, the success of demise of Silverlight rests solely upon your ability to more clearly articulate Microsoft's commitment, and duration of commitment to it.

164.   November-01-2010 at 04:07 PM PST

[Phil Jacobsen](#)

Bob, your loyal base of MS fans will loath MS if you drop Silverlight after we have, in good faith, invested our futures in it. You need to seek help in properly articulating your commitment, if any, otherwise you solely have destroyed Silverlight's potential as an enterprise solution platform.

165.   November-01-2010 at 04:04 PM PST

[Nick Polyak](#)

Looking back at the whole commotion, one wonders if the top MS management really understand what a great product their architects and developers managed to design and create. Do they have any idea of what MVVM is, what attached properties, bindings, triggers, behaviors, XAML/C# separation are?
Do they really understand the advantage of using a great OO language like C# for code re-use and for team development?
How will all this concept could fit into HTML is beyond me.

166.   November-01-2010 at 03:54 PM PST

[Kevin](#)

I must say that this blog post is not sufficient to undo the damage and in fact reiterating the accuracy of the initial interview probably makes the damage worse. For companies that build LOB apps the H5 technology stack is insufficient, the spec is incomplete and the scope of testing across platforms, browsers and specific versions is huge. One of the advantages in using SL was the consistent UX across platforms, support for web services and the ability to leverage 3rd party components to reduce development time and build highly complex interactive applications.

If MS so quickly downgrades SL after promoting it heavily the previous year how are we to make development decisions knowing the rug may be pulled out from under us? MS needs to deliver a five year roadmap for SL and a statement of longterm commitment, otherwise the partner ecosystem and developer support will quickly erode and the premature announcement of the death of SL will become a self fulfilling prophecy.

167.   November-01-2010 at 03:45 PM PST

[La Ertes](#)

It's kinda impressive to see how one single statement in an interview is used by some "reporters" to foresee Silverlight's death. Maybe seduced by the idea to be one of the first with a breaking news article like that, mentioned "journalists" could have made their

homework before writing. Bob Muglia could have not been more cautious in what he said during the interview than he actually was, so it's not him to blame. A professional reporter should really be more responsible in her/his actions.
However now that the damage is caused, maybe it's time to clarify important points regarding silverlight officialy?

Is SL going to get almost 100 % penetration on desktops and will the framework be ported to the major platforms on mobile devices ?

Will there be an Android port?

Besides, is it really neccessary to have silverlight ported to every immaginable platform ?

The Android on mobiles is like exploding so why not just port SL on to that platform ?

With Android, Symbian, WinCE & WP7 there would be anough of mobile devices running SL to easily compete with the upcoming HTML5, which is years away, right? It would be just one more port. Or MS could support the moonlight team to do a port. Why would a consumer choose an iPhone or iPad if there're alternatives that run SL and Flash, that're here now?

Furthermore I never understood why MS is not simply pushing SL via a mandatory Windows Update on desktops. Of course they would get in trouble with Antitrust but couldn't they avoid that trouble by also pushin Flash through the mentioned update system?

P.S.: Like every other developer that has expirienced XAML/C# and HTML/JS, I really hope that Silverlight will become the defacto standard, since it simply is superior and will always remain to be in confront to JavaScript.

168.   November-01-2010 at 03:40 PM PST

[DaveFriedel](#)

This just really restates the confusing stance Microsoft has on the topic. I'm in a project where we have to make a decision between Silverlight and HTML5. We were leaning toward Silverlight, but then put the brakes on when we heard about the comments from the PDC. This blog post doesn't help Silverlight's case. It merely looks like you're trying to calm a panic. But the reality is that anyone deciding on Silverlight vs HTML5 for new applications, that will be supported years down the road, must seriously consider jumping into HTML5 as the safer path. Clearly you've admitted it's the best path for cross platform applications. In an iPad, Android, Windows and everything else world we are flying toward... how can we *not* pick HTML5. And I say that as a WPF/Silverlight developer. The shift seems very apparent now. Saying "600,000 developers currently build software using it" is just a defensive, calming statement that we developers see right

through. The writing is on the wall. If you made a way to code in XAML and have runtime output as HTML5, now that would sell me.

169.   November-01-2010 at 03:35 PM PST

[James](#)

It is the idiot moves like this that give Microsoft an inferior reputation in the real world to others like Google and Apple.
You have spent three plus years building the best Internet application framework out there, and then you basically piss on it over two over-hyped newcomers, HTML5 and mobile. Of course, EXTEND Silverlight for mobile. But why on earth would you shoot yourselves in both feet by letting the message get out that Silverlight on the web was dying in favour of a 'technology' that is 12 years from final spec. Silverlight even at 2/3 install is miles ahead of HTML5 real world adoption. At least it's actually written. Seriously...get Ballmer out in front of this and put an end to this news cycle, you are doing more damage every day with your wimpy response.
By the way, I started a company three years ago with hopes of exclusively doing Silverlight development, after just seeing the Alpha. Too bad I have more faith in your product that you do.

170.   November-01-2010 at 03:13 PM PST

[VicKlien](#)

Hi Bob,

I'm surprised by the commentors who see your post as a clarification. I see it as just a weak rehash of what you've already said.

Like many of the other posters I'd be much happier with detailed specifics. Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me.

If I came to my manager with a story like yours I would get reamed for lack of concrete detailed timelines and features. You are on the critical path my friend.

Vic Klien

171.   November-01-2010 at 03:05 PM PST

[BadStrategy](#)

To rectify this, I need to see an announcement that Silverlight will be ported to Android. Flash has. Yes, an iPhone port won't happen bc Apple policy, but Android is shipping on more phones and is more likely to be used by business people than iPhone. WP7 is starting from too small a base to invest in significant development. Right now develop for

iPhone bc it's got the buzz, Android bc it's got the momentum, and then WP7 if and when resources allow. An Android port of Silverlight means develop for Android/WP7 first which further deflates iPhone momentum. Think strategically.

172.	November-01-2010 at 03:04 PM PST

[Deluxe Web Concepts](#)

While I am glad that Mr. Muglia made the clairifications, I too, would like to see a continuing future commitment to Silverlight. I think we are glad to see html 5 evolving, and the role it will play as a cross platform standard, and the focus that Microsoft has put on it.

That being said, there are many of us who have invested lots of time in Silverlight technology, and are damn passionate about the platform, capabilities, and the role it has, which html 5 can never hope to touch.

Whether Mr. Muglia's comments at PDC were misconstued or not, I too, as others have stated, are worried about the impact they may have had. I think that Microsoft and Muglia both should do more to clarify the comments than just this explaination, to both the Silverlight Developer Community, and the industry.

It is hard enough as it is to convince potential clients of the advantages of Silverlight. We out here in the trenches, do not even need the preception that Silverlight is not being supported or is being dimminished by Microsoft. I am just a one man band out here in Southwest Kansas. I have been on the Silverlight bandwagon since version 2, when I switched from Flash, and invested money and much time in related products, such as Expression and Electric Rain. Microsoft should see that many of us are committed to this product and it's future, and I for one would like to see their commitment and plans for the future of this great product.

173.	November-01-2010 at 02:54 PM PST

[alYsa](#)

I don't understand why people were/are concerned about Silverlight. If someone likes writing code in Silverlight and know why they chose Silvelright - then they should not be acting like idiots if they hear a comment that they did not understand.
These enterprise freaks - they are the funniest - all they care is about perceptions...
Guys - write good code and stop complaining, cause if not Silverlight, you will be stuck in ridiculous environment like HTML5.

174.	November-01-2010 at 02:46 PM PST

[Nick Polyak](#)

thanks for the clarification. I do feel much better about SL now.

I understand that porting it to iPhone is beyond Microsoft's reach and depends primarily on Apple , but it would be nice to get it ported to Android. No one expects you guys to cover all of the platforms with SL, but it would be nice to cover the most popular ones.

175.   November-01-2010 at 02:45 PM PST

[sheva](#)

I can see why MS want to build the best implementation of HTML 5 for its products, but why such a focus on it from the developers side? Its just HTML after all, nothing special about it. There are dozens of vendors who do/will have great development tools for HTML, there is no way to differentiate.

Why not focus on what MS specializes in, such as Silverlight, MVC, Web Forms, WPF, Azure, SQLServer.....

176.   November-01-2010 at 02:34 PM PST

[Bob James](#)

I have spent the last 9 months convincing a large client to run with Silverlight as part of their future platform against many non Microsoft alternatives. They were convinced by the rich functionality and economic benefits that could be derived from using Silverlight as well as the perceived future protection from utilizing Microsoft technology. We have almost completed the prototype phase of a million dollar development project and the statements made have placed significant doubt on the project continuing and made my company look foolish to my client. The statement released today may be a retraction of the statements made at PDC but it does not tell a convincing story that will create the confidence required in my client. Put yourself in your clients shoes and consider the choice they have to make against the backdrop you have created with these statements. You either need to go further to define a clearer future strategy for Silverlight or admit it has a limited future. Straight talk is critical to supporting your development community and users of Microsoft products.

177.   November-01-2010 at 02:20 PM PST

[Daniel](#)

Mr. Mugula:
First off, I want to say I appreciate your attempt to ease the issues regarding Silverlight at hand. You're in a tough position between going down a set of conflicting paths, and you're clearly not going to make everyone happy.

However, I think Microsoft has failed to understand the impact their decision has on the development community that's invested in them heavily. As the "pissed off CTO"

explained, the decisions made recently have devalued Silverlight considerably. Not only in the eyes of die hard developers who have stood behind it and devoted a lot of effort and time, but the end users as well. Despite your colleague's chant of "Developers! Developers! Developers!" a few years back, I am beginning to think that your company doesn't really understand how developers actually think or work at all. A more accurate chant would have been "Dollars! Dollars! Dollars!"

Regarding your stated commitment to Silverlight...
Sadly, the desktop platforms you are committing to for Silverlight (Windows, Mac) already have good implementations of HTML5. So why is Silverlight a good choice on those platforms, especially given the spectacular demo of IE9 at PDC?

Other devices, such as Android (and your own WP7, which ironically doesn't support HTML5 at all) do not have a consistent HTML5 experience and the performance is simply awful. Good implementations of HTML5 on all devices are YEARS away. Our customers want solutions NOW, and the promises made of Silverlight were that one could count on it to being around for the long haul on multiple devices.

Which leads to your paragraph about the "breadth and diversity of apps"...

Basically you're saying that it's not a battle you want to fight, so you're giving up altogether. I don't think everyone expected Silverlight to be on every device. Heck, the top 10 would be more than enough to satisfy nearly everyone out there (including devices your company controls and owns, such as Windows, Zune/WP7 and XBox).

HTML5 certainly hasn't had a problem with adoption on several devices. Heck, even Android (an entire OS) hasn't. So why is Silverlight having such a challenge in doing it?

You know why. HTML5 is an open source standard.

So, with your attempt at damage control aside.. If your company's true intention is to kill this platform in a few years (either by terminating support, or simply making decisions like have already been made that will not make it a compelling solution to neither end-user nor developer), perhaps you should consider cutting it loose to the community while it's still worth anything to anybody. If Microsoft wants to maintain control, they could even go with the Android model and make it a "closed" open source. I'm willing to bet that if there was an official, non patent encumbered open source version of Silverlight (even if it was a version behind and didn't have the DRM bits in it), you would find MANY individuals and companies would port it to their respective platforms voluntarily.

I think a lot of developers will agree with me that this is a sad turn of events, no matter how you're spinning it.

178.   November-01-2010 at 02:18 PM PST

ArcMan

I've been building a website over the past 2 years that incorporates 20,000+ lines of Silverlight on the client side (and yes, it really does need to be that complex.). I've been completely trusting Microsoft's commitment to this platform, but I'm now very very worried indeed. I've just spent all weekend learning GWT, and I'm starting to think a port might actually be plausible. Bob's blog post really seems nothing more than a half-assed effort at damage control, and I'm afraid that where there's smoke there's probably fire. This time last week, I was silverlight's greatest fan. But unless you do a *lot* more to restore my confidence, I'm planning to spend the next month seeing how far I can get in migrating to GWT. I can't quite understand why you think this is a good thing for Microsoft.

Please do something more convincing. Your PR screw up was a massive one, Bob. The fix should be massive too. Otherwise I hope you'll be able to view my site just fine on your iPad....

179.   November-01-2010 at 02:14 PM PST

[Silverlight Rules](#)

There are lots of Silverlight haters out there...
You can not compare Silverlight to html5... We fought against javascript, css, html for years for a simple task... caused by 3 different worlds.

180.   November-01-2010 at 02:03 PM PST

[Anonymous](#)

By the way, this page throws a JavaScript error. Long live JavaScript and other standards-based junk!

181.   November-01-2010 at 01:59 PM PST

[Pissed off developer](#)

I've been flooded with Silverlight development opportunities lately. Things were really taking off, and it looked like my future was secured.

When my phone stops ringing and I end up in the unemployment line I hope you're standing right behind me Bob. Nicely done.

By the way, I'm really looking to the anticipated finalization of HTML 5 in 2022!

182.   November-01-2010 at 01:55 PM PST

[ckluis](#)

I'd like to see Silverlight and the Metro UI phone/tablet interface integrated tightly into Windows 8 the way iOS is being integrated into OSX Lion.

Microsoft should utilize Windows Phone 7 and the Silverlight implementation to create an install base of developers who can then populate a mobile, desktop, tablet, and web app store. It only makes sense then to include license options for apps that run across the different mediums the Silverlight can hit.

I think anyone who doesn't see Silverlight as an LOB/media tool is missing the boat. I would never build a website in Silverlight. I would build my media viewer or my backend system though. I would definitely build an app on Silverlight.

A big hurdle that Microsoft should be trying to solve is how to emulate all the touch screen (mobile) interactions into desktop situations via a camera. It's too bad Microsoft hasn't invested in that type of technology...

183.   November-01-2010 at 01:47 PM PST

sipank

> As a result, getting a single runtime implementation installed on every potential device is practically impossible.
It's absolutely possible, and moreover that's exactly what must be done. You can have platform specific extensions of course, but core must be the same for all platforms. And if you cannot implement SilverLight runtime for all possible devices, just open source it, and it will be ported to any "potential" device in few months, and we won't need to even listen this meaningless statements how "cool" HTML5 is.

184.   November-01-2010 at 01:39 PM PST

Jack Bond

As a .NET/XAML programmer I've been very disappointed that I can't target one of Microsoft's popular platforms, the XBOX 360. It has been difficult to understand this glaring omission, but Scott Barnes' explanation as to the internal unpopularity of WPF sure seemed to make a lot of sense. For the immediate future, say the next five years, these are the relevant platforms...

Windows
Mac
iPhone
Droid
WP7
XBOX
Playstation

You're already on three of the seven. After watching you guys for years supporting NT on x86, Alpha, and x64, you can't convince me that you can't easily port a 5MB runtime to four more platforms. The tools and silverlight groups have done AMAZING work, to "shift" strategies now would truly be grabbing defeat from the jaws of victory. I imagine your partners like Netflix would be delighted if they never had to do another port again and could rely on Silverlight. Seriously, if Sun and their grotesquely incompetent programmers were able to port java to so many platforms, you guys should at least be able to get it on seven.

185.   November-01-2010 at 01:36 PM PST

[Miroslav Parvanov](#)

I'm still trying to outgrow the bitterness of feeling betrayed. Thanks anyway for the clarification.

186.   November-01-2010 at 01:34 PM PST

[Jordan G](#)

Chicken shit. Seriously. Bet on Silverlight or don't, but be clear about it. I was refreshed that you guys had finally bit the bullet and faced the hard choice, but looks like I was wrong. Once again you're "committed" to Silverlight (the way you were to Play4Sure?). How is anybody supposed to believe a word you say?

187.   November-01-2010 at 01:29 PM PST

[jinishans](#)

Bob

To be frank You & MJ from ZDnet both put the whole world in peril. Conceded SL Community. Simply this doesn't make sense.

Who in the world would want to invest in learning and developing SL for WP7 if you're going to dump it in 2 yrs of starting it for PC's.

Who in the world people like us, is going to propose SL for an Enterprise LOB application, if you've already created the doubt.

Who is going tobe interested in WP7 app development at all, if SL is going to die, probably when WP8 comes out with HTML5 support.

Why in the hell, MS is pushing SL for WP7, if it's going to support HTML5 for PC, why not support it right away in WP7 based IE itself.

Why would anyone want to invest in WP7 development, if HTML5 is going to be the supported tech by MS.

Why would anyone want to develop for both SL & HTML5 now, if it's not even publicly available over web.

How would anyone in CTO/CIO/Enterprise level think of SL even for any intranet project, if it's not even going to be the supported platform by MS.

As I mentioned in my first line, you & MJ both killed the goose before it started hatching... :(

SL is Killed, it's plain and simple, by 2 guys, one from MS, one from outside.

Kudos for your effort. I'm telling you today, this is going to put WP7 development in peril before it picks up.

Regards
JiniShans

188.   November-01-2010 at 01:25 PM PST

jinishans

Bob

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Kudos for your effort. I'm telling you today, this is going to put WP7 development in peril before it picks up.

Regards
JiniShans
http://blogs.jinishans.com

189.   November-01-2010 at 01:21 PM PST

EFVincent

(Kevin Smith)++
The Mary Jo interview was crushing. Your comments did more than demoralize an entire community of enthusiastic developers, it one horribly illconceived stroke it's shaken CIO and CTO's confidence that Microsoft is serious about this technology. I'm a HUGE fan of Silverlight, even though I don't get to use it for production very often (spend most of my dev time on back end / server / database endeavors), and even I find myself wondering what how long it will take for me to master JavaScript.

For the sake of the technology (which is amazing), Microsoft as a company, Microsoft's customers who have committed to the technology and now (rightfully) doubt that decision, and more personally the masses of highly dissappointed developers who's ability to make a living is coupled to Silverlight, FIX THIS.

Fix it so it's better after this titanic gaff than it was before. FYI - this little bit of backtracking hasn't done it. How then? If only we had the president of a major division of a mega-corporation handy who could answer that question. Oh wait... you're the president of a major division of a mega-corporation, so that's your job. Do it.

190.   November-01-2010 at 01:19 PM PST

Arthur Dumas

How about announcing a Silverlight based Windows Applications store (ala Mac App Store)? Silverlight is the perfect development platform / delivery method for such an app store. Yeck, developers can even target Macs to reach that extra 5% :-). This would do a lot to convince developers that Microsoft will not abandon the Silverlight platform. With

the new Windows Phone app store and ad network, the billing / reimbursement system is already in place. Please do it Microsoft!

191.   November-01-2010 at 01:14 PM PST

[massguy](#)

I'm not sure this blog post can make up for the damage already done. As a devoted Microsoft developer who makes a living using Microsoft products I'm the first one to defend Microsoft from a developers standpoint but this is a hard situation to defend against. The past few years everything from MS has been Silverlight, the future of RIA was to be Silverlight and MS was committed to created the best rich user experience from a browser using Silverlight. Having faith in Silverlight I've invested thousands of hours reading all the books, attend training, viewing every available written and video tutorial on the web. Also invested my time in learning about Prism, Unity/MEF, WCF RIA Services and countless other areas to be able to create enterprise ready Silverlight applications and showcase this amazing technology. Now I'm not sure what to do...

192.   November-01-2010 at 01:01 PM PST

[mcmurrin](#)

The old adage is true: where there is smoke, there is fire. And there has been a lot of "silverlight-is-dead" smoke coming out of Microsoft.

I can't imagine anyone choosing Silverlight over Flash now (except for it's superior language, tools, development environment, performance, etc).

193.   November-01-2010 at 01:00 PM PST

[collaboration cloud](#)

I see silverlight as a better and lighter version of desktop runtime in replacing wpf which is so heavy and hard to deploy to people who don't have the latest runtime.

I found that even without html 5, the current javascript + html4 + css enable people to build much prettier and user friendly UI. Silverlight follows a desktop UI philosophy and doesn't really fit into the browser except some case of advertising oriented banner...

194.   November-01-2010 at 12:56 PM PST

[Dan Mullineux](#)

Silverlight is awesome, be good when it runs on Android and iOS etc...

195.   November-01-2010 at 12:54 PM PST

[manda](#)

I am really disappointed about Microsoft decision. I think the decision TO SHIFT Silverlight will clearly affects the Microsoft reputation among the developers. I wonder just how they can make such words, and how they can expect developers to trust them in the future.

196.   November-01-2010 at 12:46 PM PST

[Steve](#)

Do what should have been done in the first place - make Silverlight compile down to a html5 compliant web application. You know, sorta like how GWT does it. Write java, get all the benefits of it, but it produces minimized, best practice compiled javascript.

I think MS took the fight against 'Flex', and by the time it was ready, realized they missed the train because Apple and Google are attacking the web pieces, meanwhile MS went backwards and is now sitting in the same 'yucky' spot as Adobe.

Making browser plugin's is yesterday's technology.

Actually, what is odd, is that the MS team used Script# to build the online Office - not Silverlight - that alone should tell you the status of Silverlight. Wake up people. MS should be investing in Script#, not Silverlight.

Good luck!

197.   November-01-2010 at 12:43 PM PST

[Pissed off CTO](#)

Bob,
I am a CTO at a software product company that has made an investment to rebuild our award winning application on silverlight. First let me say that we think Silverlight is a much better environment on which to build rich internet apps right now as it provides a consistent and rich experience that HTML 5 and JS does not. A lot of our corporate Fortune 1000 customers are still on ie6 and 7 which have slow performing JS engines which makes a JS based approach not viable. With Silverlight runtime the performance is not dependant on the JS engine which gives a consistent experience to our user base. I understand the industry is going to HTML5 and it is a good future strategy, but it is not viable for many years until our customers have fast JS engines in their browsers.

My major concern about your comments are not that Silverlight will die...it is clearly a significant strategy for Microsoft, but has your comment hurt the adoption rate of silverlight as a pug-in or corporate desktops. If it has, then your comment has hurt my companies revenue stream. We need microsoft to make it easy for ISVs like ours to get

the Runtime on the desktop of our customers who don't have admin access rights to install it themselves and not rely on some corporate desktop standards rollout to get silverlight installed. We need alternative methods of getting the runtime bundled at least bundled with the "Desktop version" of our app if our customers will not enable the runtime to be installed by end users via a browser.

One very pissed off CTO.

198.   November-01-2010 at 12:36 PM PST

[SilverDark](#)

Actually Bob I believed you the first time. The lack of Silverlight discussion at the PDC is telling. Leaving developers in a lurch is a common theme with Microsoft.

199.   November-01-2010 at 12:36 PM PST

[David](#)

Silverlight is Not Dead, it's just Resting - right, got it.
So when IE9 comes to WP7 then the next Visual Studio/Expression will 'focus' on HTML 5 then. A bit like VS2010 still has winform support?
Fooled me with MFC, then ATL, then OCX, ActiveX, then Winforms plus then WPF and now Silverlight. Right, got it - good career plan...

200.   November-01-2010 at 12:35 PM PST

[djcata](#)

I hope and believe that silverlight is not dead.I think a roadmap would make some things clear.I love Silverlight and for me the future is ASP.NET MVC+HTML5 and Silverlight,all this +Windows Azure.

201.   November-01-2010 at 12:31 PM PST

[multithreading](#)

It would be more helpful if Microsoft would elaborate more on their strategy shift so us developers have a clearer understanding of when to use HTML5 vs Silverlight. I work for a company that does SaaS apps using Silverlight, should we focus on HTML5 instead of Silverlight?

202.   November-01-2010 at 12:30 PM PST

[Tad Anderson](#)

I cannot believe that this was handled in such a poor way. Upper management will not read anything but the headlines, and all I can say is that I can't blame them. This is exhausting.
http://realworldsa.blogspot.com/2010/11/have-you-googled-microsofts-strategy.html

203.   November-01-2010 at 12:20 PM PST

Duncan Muir

Hmm, it might take more than this to make up for the faux pas, Bob.
A lot of developers (like me) have invested a great deal in learning Silverlight and the associated technologies. Rather than wait for HTML5 and a Microsoft IDE to build it, I think a lot of us would switch to Flash and AIR etcetera if we thought Silverlight was in danger of being neglected now.

Convince us, please!

204.   November-01-2010 at 12:10 PM PST

Ross Wozniak

Your comments (or at least the snippets that appeared in print) may have done irrepairable damage to my career, and many others like myself that threw all of their eggs into the Silverlight basket. I *expect* you to fix this, and soon! As was mentioned in some of the other posts, it's going to take a *lot* more than this one article to repair the damage.

205.   November-01-2010 at 12:09 PM PST

Ben Maddox

I hope that all the writers of previous articles will be contacted about this. They may show an updated paragraph. That would show that Microsoft has a reasonable amount of commitment for this platform.

206.   November-01-2010 at 12:08 PM PST

Diego

Bob, thank you for the clarification.
What about publishing a Silverlight roadmap to help the developer community have more confidence on Microsoft's commitment to the future of Silverlight? Without a roadmap there will still be lingering anxiety and doubt about Silverlight's future and we might begin to see some desertion.

207.   November-01-2010 at 12:06 PM PST

[Honeywell](#)

Bob,
Is there any roadmap/timeline for WPF/Silverlight?

208.   November-01-2010 at 12:02 PM PST

[DanTheMan](#)

Moving forward, I wan't to know that I can create top-notch HTML 5 apps with C#, Expression and Visual Studio. Does this mean Silverlight will morph to generate HTML 5 standard apps, or that ASP.NET will, or both? Hard to imagine MS investing time and resources in both, so it sounds more like Silverlight becomes the odd-man out for web apps in the future.

209.   November-01-2010 at 12:00 PM PST

[JohnCz](#)

Thanks for bringing sanity back. @Mark_James, because there are a number of things that Silverlight enables today that HTML5 doesn't. As Bob stated, it was never meant to replace HTML but augment it. Simple as that.

210.   November-01-2010 at 11:54 AM PST

[Joe Nash](#)

I am in agreement with Ken Smith, the comments you made sent even the Microsoft die-hard fans in an uproar. Faith was lost in the platform regardless if you meant it or not. Even now, after reading this, I am thinking... perhaps it's time to learn a new skill. And I will think twice before jumping on a bandwagon so easily abandoned. If I was ever on a line between Silverlight or Flash... at this point you helped me make up my mind. And if I was considering pitting my business into that unknown new world of Silverlight, there is no question I would think otherwise. I need more than a correction in a blog I need to be shown the commitment... and I wouldn't wait till March.

211.   November-01-2010 at 11:54 AM PST

[Shaun](#)

Bob - thank-you for clarifying Microsoft's position regarding Silverlight for the web. For us, Silverlight for the web provides a more compelling user experience than HTML+JS.

212.   November-01-2010 at 11:52 AM PST

[Butler Reynolds](#)

Thanks. Sounds like the same message we've been hearing for a good while now. Glad to hear it.

213.　　　November-01-2010 at 11:46 AM PST

[Wim Bokkers](#)

Thank you Bob, for this clarification.
HTML5 is promising, but Silverlight delivers!

214.　　　November-01-2010 at 11:45 AM PST

[arson](#)

+1 for Ken Smith. I would like to ask you the question that I asked in the prevois blog post. What's Microsoft's vision for Silverlight ? Are you just going to push another version or two and let it die a slow death as HTML5 starts to dominate.
Or are you going contiune to innovate in the space irrespective of where HTML is headed?
The community will definetly like to see silverlight ported to more platforms. How commited are you to making silverlight cross platform?
I would definetly like to see some answers in the near future.

Cheers

215.　　　November-01-2010 at 11:42 AM PST

[talkravi](#)

That's good to hear Bob - it did surprise me to see why Microsoft would abandon Silverlight for web at a time when it is catching momentum and closing in on a multi-screen strategy (with WP7). But I agree with others that the spin taken by blogosphere on your initial comments have done undue damage and the only way MS could recover from it is to lay open the roadmap for the next 2-3 versions of Silverlight so we can go back to convince the CIOs and CTOs and angel investors about the viability of Silverlight as a platform to build rich web applications . I will be happy to share my experiences with Silverlight (still in Stealth mode) that are not remotely possible with HTML 5.

216.　　　November-01-2010 at 11:40 AM PST

[Ryan D. Hatch](#)

Crazy how one blog post can throw an entire industry off kilter.

Over the past 3 days - You have now seen how strong your Silverlight community truly is, and is to come. You must provide very strong & clear communication to your

Silverlight community. This post is a start in your trust recovery. More official announcements will be required to restore trust.

Silverlight is the single-most important Development and Deployment platform we have been dreaming of for years. We all know its for business apps - not webpages. We have architected our entire company around the Silverlight app model, as have hundreds of thousands of others.

We want a dependable Silverlight strategy & roadmap for years to come. Not uncertainty. Regardless of internal Microsoft team pressures / new-found hype - Please continue in your communication of your commitment to Silverlight & the Silverlight ecosystem.

217.   November-01-2010 at 11:40 AM PST

rodo1

So Silverlight is dead but we can continue using it, like Windows Forms.
And there are no ideas about when Silverlight 5 will be realeased and what features will be implemented.

218.   November-01-2010 at 11:40 AM PST

Denis

Thanks for clarification.

219.   November-01-2010 at 11:39 AM PST

Brian Genisio

Thanks for the clarification!

I wonder if we will see a plug-in free version of the Silverlight runtime any time soon? One that runs directly on top of HTML5/JS and allows us to compile our C# down to JS? That would be the best of both worlds... develop in the framework I know and love (Silverlight) but deliver directly to the browser.

http://houseofbilz.com/archives/2010/10/30/cross-training-in-silverlight-flex-the-future-of-rias/

220.   November-01-2010 at 11:37 AM PST

Mark_James

But, Bob, the bit question is why dont I just focus on HTML5. Microsoft is clearly focused on joining the standards. HTML5 is fantastic and it can run on iPhone, iPad, Android and other devices. So why Silverlight at all?

221.　　　November-01-2010 at 11:23 AM PST

[meekob](#)

Many thanks for this clarification.

222.　　　November-01-2010 at 11:19 AM PST

[Dan Vanderboom](#)

Glad to see some clarification from Microsoft on Silverlight's status! The press and blogosphere has been insane with irrational speculation about "the death of Silverlight" since the PDC keynote.

223.　　　November-01-2010 at 11:18 AM PST

[Boris](#)

Thanks for the clarification, for me it was important!

224.　　　November-01-2010 at 11:16 AM PST

[Ken Smith](#)

Bob, that's good, but I want more. As I've said elsewhere, I don't just need to know whether there's going to be a "next" version of Silverlight. I want to know what's going to be in it, and I want to know (roughly) what's going to be in the version after that. And I want to know that there's not just going to be a Silverlight 5, but a Silverlight 10. I want to know that you're going to continue investing in it at roughly the same rate and speed as you have so far. I need to know that the massive holes which remain in Silverlight are going to get fixed. I need to know that within a year's time, it's going to be on 90% of desktops, not just 60%. I need to know that you're going to continue talking about it and pushing it and evangelizing it. PDC 2010 was a massive disappointment in that regard, and your comments to Mary Jo were even more disappointing. We need something more than just a simple blog post: after your earlier comments, we need to *see* some real commitment.

225.　　　November-01-2010 at 11:12 AM PST

[arson](#)

WOW
This is All I wanted to hear
Thanks for the update Bob.