

Original Post Comment Archive

Comments

Original URL <http://team.silverlight.net/announcement/standards-based-web-plug-ins-and-silverlight/>

As of: 7/8/2011 1:29:01 PM

1. May-01-2011 at 10:38 AM PST

[MichaelDBang](#)

Please sign: <https://dotnetfuture.wufoo.com/forms/open-letter-net-client-platform-future-vision/>

2. April-20-2011 at 11:43 AM PST

[Silverlight Dev](#)

I am happy to see the beta for Silverlight 5 and look forward to the RTM before the end of the year. I have been using Silverlight for over 2 and a half years, and find it to be a fantastic technology.

However, with all of the emphasis on HTML5, I wonder about the future of Silverlight. Due to this emphasis, I have recently gone back to ASP.NET, AJAX, JavaScript, and HTML. It didn't take me long to remember how painful it was to develop with them and how much easier it was to develop with Silverlight.

In order to plan for the future, I wonder if Silverlight has a future. Could you tell us if there is a future for Silverlight, what it is, what is the roadmap for Silverlight, and if there will ever be a version 6 of Silverlight, or is version 5 the end of the road for Silverlight?

Thanks for your help in answering these questions.

3. April-19-2011 at 10:09 AM PST

[besser](#)

Adobe can make Flash run everywhere, but Microsoft can't make Silverlight do the same. Who is making the decisions about Silverlight?

The way Silverlight was de-emphasized at MIX11 does not give me confidence that Silverlight has a future - to the contrary.

.NET/XAML is better than HTML/Javascript. What is Microsoft thinking?

Tragedy!

4. April-19-2011 at 08:41 AM PST

[Frank](#)

<http://www.geek.com/articles/mobile/moonlight-dev-crew-brings-silverlight-to-android-20110415/>

5. April-16-2011 at 02:31 PM PST

[Louis](#)

Currently three ecosystems do exist: Apple, Google and Microsoft. Microsoft should follow its mission from the past: Windows at your fingertips. That statement is true for servers and pc's. The next simple step is to have full Windows and its successors available at the tablets and smart devices. For a developer I only have to write my code once for a Windows platform and it will run on all Windows platforms. For the other ecosystems I will code in HTML5. Please stop the Silverlight stopgap and improve your WPF platform. Make it fast and superior in comparison with the other ecosystems.

6. April-16-2011 at 04:44 AM PST

[Silverlight Developers](#)

High performance gaming is also supported through the XNA Framework in Silverlight application development for Windows Phone 7. Very useful post for silverlight developers.

7. April-14-2011 at 09:19 AM PST

[Oliver Weichhold](#)

One question. Will Silverlight 5 continue to support Mac OSX?

8. April-14-2011 at 02:13 AM PST

[Pooran Prasad](#)

Printing with printer name pre-selected and access to just the printer list not the printer properties would be one feature I would be looking for very eagerly in Silverlight 5.

We are building a huge LOB which needs printing directly to printer without someone

selecting a printer. This is a huge, believe me it is really huge bottleneck for our application as of now.

9. April-12-2011 at 02:11 PM PST

[James Brown](#)

I have a Logitech security system at home, but in order to look at system when away from home must be able to download silverlight on Itunes and Ipad2. Is there anyway that I can do this. Help

10. April-11-2011 at 06:25 AM PST

[neville](#)

To HTML 5 advocates, can HTML 5 do this?

<http://advertboy.wordpress.com/2011/04/10/silverlight-kinect-apps-of-tomorrow/> :)

11. April-09-2011 at 10:14 AM PST

[HTML5 Stinks](#)

I agree with many of the comments to this post: HTML5 lacks a mature application framework, and only the common denominator features will be cross-browser compatible. Technologies such as Silverlight and Flash will continue to push the rich client development envelope. To the executives that believe HTML5 is good enough for their apps, be prepared to play catch up to your competitions year to year. To those developers that want Silverlight supported on iOS and Android, you might as well switch to Adobe AIR and Flex. At the end of the day, Microsoft is only interested in advancing the Windows platforms. Trusting Microsoft to provide you with the best RIA development support is like trusting your users to continue using PCs and Windows phones. To Microsoft, your platforms are losing market shares. If you want to retain your leadership as one of the best software tooling vendors, buy Adobe.

12. April-08-2011 at 12:34 PM PST

[MeniOpenStandards](#)

I hope this post clarify my position on SL.

I do not hate Silverlight. It's a great proprietary technology. I hate it when Microsoft sold Silverlight as a _web_ development tool. I hate it when banks make public-facing Silverlight sites(because Microsoft encouraged them to). If you want to mire your clients _intranet_ site with Silverlight, go ahead who cares. I only pity your clients when they'll

rewrite everything in standard-based tech (which for LOB is most likely to be plain old HTML4, not even 5).

13. April-08-2011 at 11:23 AM PST

[Mark Shaw](#)

@Marc Roussel I agree 101%

I sincerely hope that microsoft deems Silverlight worthy of being pushed HARDER than it is now.

14. April-08-2011 at 10:28 AM PST

[GajaK](#)

With 2 Corporate VP and 1 SVP, all you could come out is we dont know. Come on guys, why cant you come out and say directly that "HTML5" for Web and "SL" for LOB applications and declare gap between SL and WPF is closing so WPF=SL and kill that old Win Forms. Your blog will make sense and give direction for people that are looking for a strategy. Currently you are hurting your reputation and developers are flocking to platforms that provide clear direction.

15. April-08-2011 at 07:52 AM PST

[Ronald Woan](#)

Another one of the position statements that just make normal developers go huh? 90% obscure carefully worded marketing fluff, 10% guidance buried inside.

How much research is a developer to do to choose a platform? Segmenting and saying Silverlight is the best plug-in experience basically only says, we think Silverlight is better than Flash, not where you should choose it over HTML 5 other than the Windows Phone 7 scenario (how much HTML 5 support there?).

9 times out of 10, you can implement in any of these or Java... platform compatibility and distribution scenario probably define the pragmatic choice beyond normal skills/tools availability...

16. April-08-2011 at 07:25 AM PST

[Thorne](#)

Pure and simple from an Architects point of view. If you want a nice web site that is searchable by google use HTML 5, however if you want a LOB app that is not searchable (read secure from search engines), and is Web or desktop capable then use Silverlight.

Two totally different worlds. Trying to address both with either will lead to work arounds that are painfull.

17. April-08-2011 at 07:07 AM PST

[George Birbilis](#)

IE9 should be released for WindowsXP too, this is a main issue behind press articles against IE9 release

18. April-08-2011 at 03:10 AM PST

[ISSAM](#)

17772

19. April-07-2011 at 09:07 PM PST

[neville](#)

As K.Kong put it. Its in the tools. What tools do we have for developing HTML5 applications now? MS just came out with a browser IE9. So to use all those advanced features that HTML5 brings to the table, do I need to go open Notepad??. or do I check out Dreamweaver again, or maybe frontpage!!

For all their talk supporting HTML5, their VS2010 service pack 1 doesn't mention anything about generating HTML5 code when compiling and running a web project. Its still generating HTML 4 code. They haven't even mentioned future versions of visual studio doing the same. Is all this talk so that people download and use IE9?

20. April-07-2011 at 04:46 PM PST

[Marc Roussel](#)

I love this blog.

I see a lot of people loving Silverlight as I do. I want to stay positive. Time will tell and meanwhile I'm enjoying developping Silverlight for customers. It's so rich and wonderful. There's nothing wrong or negative in SL + Expression. It just needs a little push for the world to see without having to face a wall like SORRY, SILVERLIGHT ISN'T AVAILABLE ON YOUR DEVICE.

Any browser and any device whatsoever needs to be able to run SL for me there's no other future.

End of my speech !

21. April-07-2011 at 04:41 PM PST

[Marc Roussel](#)

I think there's only one thing left here. HOPE !

22. April-07-2011 at 12:57 PM PST

[Mark Shaw](#)

... how long to show a post?

23. April-07-2011 at 12:54 PM PST

[Mark Shaw](#)

When silverlight broke... it was love at first sight for us devs. It is by far the most advanced client development kit on the planet. It became an emotional attachment.

The fuss is that... well... MSFT often the ball with marketing and we would be heart broken to see Silverlight fizzle out.

To see Silverlight fall into these cracks would be a major letdown.

HTML5 still is DHTML w/ new tags. Silverlight was a step forward... hate to go 2 steps back.

24. April-07-2011 at 11:43 AM PST

[Copperlight](#)

We invested a lot of time and money learning Silverlight and working on a lot of projects with it. One day the company leaders told us to stop all work on Silverlight and start looking for alternatives because Microsoft said it was moving towards W7 phone and practically abandoning the use of SL for regular web apps. Just like that. Awful. I know you can say "well, change company" (would you do it?). This was an irresponsible move from Microsoft and really speaks badly about them. It should never have happened.

25. April-07-2011 at 06:26 AM PST

[D.Bedarf](#)

It would be nice to run silverlight on android os.

26. April-07-2011 at 06:24 AM PST

[JoeDeveloper](#)

Why is this message news worthy? For our apps, we need to deal with reach, tooling, technology selection, etc. based on our business needs. That's common knowledge in development. Also, HTML 5 will evolve thanks to likes of Firefox and Chrome and perhaps faster and better than plug-in technologies.

27. April-07-2011 at 05:34 AM PST

[Massimo](#)

Microsoft: Don't bother with the explanations. People comprehend what they want. If it is good technology (i.e. SL), then just keep improving it. Developers will pick the right tool and time will put everything in its place. All these HTML5 advocates, what are they basing their arguments on?

As an example, we wanted to create a fancy registration wizard for a public web page that should work on Desktops (PCs/MAC/Linux) and Mobile devices (Android/iOS etc) . HTML5 was out of the question, since only a small percentage of people/devices have HTML5 browsers (IE6 is still out there for god's sake). SL was out of the question for other similar reasons like iOS excluding Plugins. So the only real choice was to do it in HTML4/Javascript. And we all know what cross-browser hell that is. At the end, we ended up having to create a very non-fancy watered-down version of the registration wizard with many hundreds of dirty tweaks to make it remotely equivalent on most of the devices/browsers. It took us 20 times the time to create it (than if done in SL) and with only 10% of the original fancy design ideas in it; and it is a nightmare to maintain.

And this was just a small piece. We cannot even imagine what a full-blown application would require. if at all possible (e.g. Facebook web pages on the iPad DO NOT work).

Microsoft: Just keep improving SL and there will always be many scenarios it will be used in and with great success (Does not mean it has to be good for ALL scenarios).

28. April-07-2011 at 04:32 AM PST

[neville](#)

Looks like Microsoft themselves dont know which technology to push. They want to stay ambiguous so that in the future, if questioned, they can cleanly say.. thats not what we meant! They want *us* to take a decision on whatever they know as of now, so that we can only hold ourselves responsible for investing in the wrong technology...

29. April-07-2011 at 03:13 AM PST

[TriSys](#)

With Mix '11 next week and rumours of the 'Jupiter' touch screen interface for Windows 8, coupled with this article plus comments, I am compelled to make a suggestion to Microsoft: Buy Visual Web GUI or architect something similar. The architecture of this

product is much better than anything MS has come up, or coming up with. Developers can design web apps like WinForms and have them render in any browser - no HTML or Javascript code anywhere - the delivery engine takes care of that for you. If MS made this investment, it would greatly please all MS VS developers and would be a game changer. Please consider this request. I do not work for Gizmox (developer of VWG), but do know a good architecture when I see one.

30. April-07-2011 at 02:49 AM PST

[albsure](#)

The only reason there is confusion is because MS have a history of killing things that people rely on. Other companies stick by their products regardless (Progress, Java, Delphi) whereas MS are so big they can just stop it dead. So the worrying comes from MS's previous attitude to this industry.

The reality is, SL is solving problems NOW for enterprise, banking etc.. These solutions are not consumer facing but tend to be internal or B2B. The problem for MS is that without the consumer facing publicity of web apps like Flickr/Spotify etc.. using SL, it seems like SL is not succesful. That just isnt the case.

The reality is, MS telling these business/enterprise programmers to code in javascript vs C# or Java is NUTS! These guys are not hackers putting up web sites in a few hours. These guys have business processes with complex business analysis that has to modelled in something more.. show we say.. robust than in some hacky javascript. Further more they dont want to spend there time positioning things with .em of px in CSS blah blah.. Its just too time consuming and too hard to debug, a nightmare to maintain and extend. Its just not enterprise/business software development as we know it in 2011. HTML5 CAN NOT be the answer for client side enterprise development.

It is far cheaper to tell your client to load a SL plugin in their browser than to spend a year doing javascript when u can spend 2 months doing it in SL. Its just not cost effective.

MS should just say what they are struggling to come to terms with. SL is the .NET development platform of choice for Enterprise and devices (xbox, phone etc..). WPF is dead, Winforms is dead. HTML5 is for thing that aren't important (games, web blogs and fluff). The real issue is MS likes ubiquity and monopoly but cant have it. That's fine with me, they should just get used to not being in total control any more and stop crying and dropping tools because they cant get their way.

31. April-06-2011 at 10:14 PM PST

[Virgil O](#)

From my experience, since I've worked with both, Silverlight is in sooo many ways superior to html5 - except reach. So - for any serious LOB app I would go definitely with Silverlight. LOB are used by people while working - in their offices - on a PC or a MAC, with Office and all. There are another types of applications - presentation type - with text and images and some javascript interaction which are used on devices like smartphones and iPads. Nobody does serious work on the smartphone or on the iPad! You can't have complex controls, hierarchical grids with thousands of rows, treelistviews, drag and drop which work well in html. Imagine a team working on an rich interface app with millions lines of code written in html, javascript, css and a server-script language. Worst nightmare!

32. April-06-2011 at 08:32 PM PST

[K.Kong](#)

Why does it take so long for Microsoft to realize that it's in the tools. I still haven't found out what HTML5 is, but I am not interested in it until I have the tools to develop for it.

Is HTML5 still dynamic HTML with Javascript? AJAX? What sort of developer model is there to allow us to develop/debug/test an app that runs partly on the web server and partly on the browser? ASPX.NET is great if it is 99% server, but is poor the moment I have to venture to browser scripts for more user interactivity. That was why I turned to Silverlight, which is 99% browser.

33. April-06-2011 at 05:49 PM PST

[laissez faire](#)

Android ... is the next big thing.

34. April-06-2011 at 04:30 PM PST

[SIMJO](#)

MS have no choice but to go hard at HTML5 as there are plenty of scenarios where this is the best technology. However for serious application development this crumbles under it own weight. Silverlight is the best platform for serious application development and will eventually be the front end to the cloud. If MS could get out of it own way and see that Silverlight as a true multiplatform technology (Win/Mac/Linux/Android/iOS) the game would be over.

35. April-06-2011 at 03:15 PM PST

[Jules](#)

Well I cannot see Flash packing up for HTML5. Hopefully Mono and Moonlight will continue to deliver the .NET stack, onto Android and other platforms, long after Microsoft have abandoned their baby.

All this fuss on promoting HTML5, with dodgy Javascript coding, when the mobile world is moving well away from the Browser and into Apps on native code, because the web browser experience will never deliver the user experience.

36. April-06-2011 at 02:33 PM PST

[MeniOpenStandards](#)

"I agree with neville. We are working on a full featured Internet banking which will be used by tens of thousands of customers in my country. One of the biggest advantage of Silverlight over html is that we don't have to worry about cross browser compatibility. We run once, and run everywhere. Well this is just one reason, and there are dozens of them."

FACEPALM

Microsoft, see what you created?!

37. April-06-2011 at 02:16 PM PST

[Frank](#)

After studying C# and XAML i cannot use Javascript anymore. I CANT. I'm depressed. Please Microsoft help us, there are thousand of devs out there that will follow you. I want to choose what technology use for my project. Invest in Script# mono or something that permit use to write once in C# and run everywhere. Please became leader again.

38. April-06-2011 at 12:59 PM PST

[MScizzy](#)

Because I do not feel the same as many of these posts, I feel like I am missing something. The negative remark, I can cosign is about MS becoming more of a follower than a leader. If that change does not come from within, it will definitely come with a change in leadership. Right now, it makes more \$\$\$ for them to follow. I cannot knock that hustle.

39. April-06-2011 at 11:49 AM PST

[David](#)

I agree with neville. We are working on a full featured Internet banking which will be used by tens of thousands of customers in my country. One of the biggest advantage of

Silverlight over html is that we don't have to worry about cross browser compatibility. We run once, and run everywhere. Well this is just one reason, and there are dozens of them.

40. April-06-2011 at 11:00 AM PST

[George Durzi](#)

I don't understand what the fuss is about. It's all about the right tool for the right job; Silverlight is not going anywhere.

41. April-06-2011 at 10:30 AM PST

[Reg Barnes](#)

As someone states below this looks like it has been written by a committee and passed around with no-one pushing a message, just that you have choice. As a company that is about to invest heavily in Silverlight development we need to know what future lies for Silverlight. If its being aimed at LOB applications in Windows environments then fine, but I wish MS would just come forward with this.

42. April-06-2011 at 10:25 AM PST

[mtcoder](#)

So what I really don't understand is why MS doesn't take the mono concept and explode the heck out of it? I mean really if the mono team can get .net to run on just about every device out there in some form or fashion, you would think MS could do the exact same thing. Heck even Flash has portability to Iphone now. Make the application in Flash have it compiled into an iApp. Stop going in a round about way and just crush the competition. Yes I know you can never really build once run everywhere, but you can take the concept of recompiling and allow for seamless use. Meaning have some html and javascript pick the device, select the code option to use. IE a language that auto degrades, instead of having so many different ways to do it. Only problem is this will never actually happen cause of competition. So we will as developers just suffer.

43. April-06-2011 at 07:36 AM PST

[Aaron](#)

I really don't understand why everyone is all up-in-arms over this. It has always been the case where depending on clients needs, one has to choose which is the best path to follow.

It was not long ago that the MS path (based on a UI perspective) was much clearer based on clients needs (Win Forms vs. ASP.NET). Admittedely, things have become a bit more

overwhelming, as we now have Win Forms, WPF, Silverlight, ASP.NET, and ASP.NET MVC, to choose from (each one with their pros and cons). As overwhelming as our choices are, however, we have even more flexibility in what we deliver to our clients. Personally, I think that's a great thing.

I personally don't see my commitment and investment in SL as a technology as a waste. On the contrary, I've done some things with SL that still cannot be done with any other technology out there (except for WPF, but installing WPF apps was not a compelling option either as our company has satellite offices that run win and macs). IMO, SL is still and will remain an awesome tool to leverage given specific client's needs.

By anyone thinking that their investement in SL was a waste, do you also think your past investments in technologies such as Win Forms and/or ASP.NET were a waste? Did you find yourself complaining when WPF or ASP.NET MVC came out that your investment in Win Forms or ASP.NET Web Forms were a waste too?

If so, I question whether some of you are in the right field...

44. April-06-2011 at 07:16 AM PST

[besser](#)

Microsoft's partnership with Nokia is a great first step to prevent Windows from being an also ran in the mobile device market, but I don't think it's enough. Right now, as is obvious from the comments to this recent Silverlight pronouncement, developers are still confused and angry about the future of Silverlight. Many of us don't want to develop in HTML. We much prefer .NET and XAML. For Microsoft to get back in the mobile device game, they need developers to develop apps. Silverlight running on Android, is beneficial to Android as well as Windows Phone, at the expense of iOS. With Silverlight on Android, Google might be a bigger winner than Microsoft, unless Microsoft can compete by making their OS better, and by improved partnering with device makers and carriers, and by better marketing. The biggest winners will be developers and users. I believe that making Silverlight run on Android is more important for the future of Windows on mobile devices than the Microsoft/Nokia partnership, and that failure to do so will ensure the irrelevance of Windows Phone. There will be two dominant mobile operating systems. Will it be Android and Windows Phone, or will it be Android and iOS?

45. April-06-2011 at 07:01 AM PST

[John Henry](#)

I'm so glad I didn't invest in Silverlight. Javascript and HTML5 will dominate for years to come. Microsoft saw this coming years ago; that's why .Net rips off many of javascript's features. I've been a MS developer from the beginning, but they have fallen way behind on the web client. I changed my emphasis and direction towards javascript and HTML a

long time ago. I'm still using MS on the server but am now starting to question the wisdom of that decision and exploring other technology and tools. They can 'lead' the charge with HTML5 by finally updating their editor for chrissake! How about going back 10 years ago to Macromedia's Homesite and adopting the features in its editor.

46. April-06-2011 at 06:34 AM PST

[neville](#)

This has been done before. Every vendor says their browser is the best and supports the latest standard. All of them end up supporting those standards differently. In the end the developer is left with the same old problem we gotten so used to; making a version of the site that works on all browsers or making a separate version for the more popular browsers. HTML 5 with all its new capabilities will be no different in this. Why is Microsoft not giving more time and money to Silverlight?

In this day and age we dont need browsers. We are not only reading documents online. We need an application host to run full fledged banking applications, payroll applications, etc. So why are we still stuck with the browser where you have to store user activity in javascript variables???

47. April-06-2011 at 06:17 AM PST

[Telmo](#)

Just FYI, this web site keeps giving me a Line: 4598
Error: Object expected using your HTML 5 browser IE 9 error each time I see it.

It works well in Chrome and Safari though.

Now what was the big annoucnement about again?

48. April-06-2011 at 06:11 AM PST

[Frederic](#)

The way I see it is that Silverlight will replace WPF as the platform of choice for client development and HTML 5 will be pushed againt Silverlight for web (broad reach) development.

Since I am more on the client side right now, I am suffering more from the Silverlight - WPF "witch one to choose" problem.

I hope Mix will clear up things on this at least.

49. April-06-2011 at 05:49 AM PST

[quash](#)

So SL is over?

50. April-06-2011 at 05:11 AM PST

[Another unhappy camper](#)

Just wow!

Good thing MIX is around the corner so that the clarification of the clarification can come soon.

And they thought Muglia's statement was misunderstood. Cant wait to see the fallout and spin put out on this one. Who will take the fall for this?

Not everyone is a consumer side web developer. The little thing called the enterprise needs some damage control and quick.

51. April-06-2011 at 03:28 AM PST

[Marc Roussel](#)

Even though Silverlight could die (don't know how and when) I will continue to work with it and probably with it.

I think there are some facts we all don't know and we are there talking but not knowing what's really going on up there.

I'm wondering at which point we could gather the best of us to make a simple tool, DESIGN and CODING that would make every single action we do with BLEND and VS today to really lightening the web everywhere.

No thank you, I will never write any HTML or JAVA by hand It's out of question. I don't even write a single xaml letter and yet I do excellent web site and application in Silverlight. These words should even disapear and never be seen again. They just need to be behind the scene as when we go to a show, we don't want to see the guys working behind moving the lights around.

52. April-06-2011 at 03:14 AM PST

[Heiserg](#)

To all those people crying about Silverlight being dead, nope. Silverlight just ceased being WPF/Everywhere, and become pretty much WPF/Safetorun, and this is exactly what MS has been saying about it ever since this debate arose.

It might have looked possible for MS to provide a competitive, fully cross-platform environment 3 years ago, but the market became WAY more diverse since. Even if MS could take care of the legal stuff completely, and could legally make Silverlight run on every single platform, it simply couldn't compete with native applications, that only have to run in their own environment. It would take multiple-multiple times more effort to get a feature implemented in Silverlight (compatible on every single platform), than it takes to Apple or Google to get one implemented in their respective native platforms.

It would be doomed to fail.

No company can defeat all other one-by-one on their very own grounds.

Instead, MS says they will improve HTML5 for cross-platform development, and make sure MS platforms provide the best HTML5 cross-platform experience.

This doesn't mean Silverlight is dead.
Not at all.

It's getting very close to WPF in functionality, even surpassing it already in certain aspects, and this will obviously continue to improve.

If you want to provide the best Rich Internet Application experience to your customers, go with SL. If reusing great part of the code base for other platforms is more important than functionality, or robust developer environment, choose HTML5.

This doesn't even mean you should necessarily avoid Silverlight if your application must run on every Apple, Google and other platform, it just means that for true cross-platforms development, your LEAST EXPENSIVE way will be HTML5.

You can make separate applications for every single platform in their best native environment, or you can use cross-platform HTML5 for all, sacrificing a lot of functionalities and development power, or you can use a hybrid approach, making native for the most important platforms, and cross-platform (i.e. HTML5) for the less important ones.

SL will be turned into an MS (and possibly desktop Mac) native environment from a truly cross-platform one, for reasons that were way outside the scope of Microsoft.

No company is going to be able to provide you with such framework in these days.
Get over it.

53. April-06-2011 at 02:54 AM PST

[Shahzad Sarwar](#)

I prepared a related tech note last year at:

<http://softarchitect.wordpress.com/2010/07/25/software-architecture-what-is-future-of-web-with-reference-to-html-5-will-it-devalue-current-presentation-layer-technologies-for-web-like-flash-silverlight/>

54. April-06-2011 at 12:51 AM PST

[OpenSourceSL](#)

Here's the solution to the Silverlight problem - Open Source Silverlight.

If you believe the future direction is HTML and Silverlight only has a small part to play then give Silverlight to the Novell folks and let them run with it.

Then stand back and watch as they show you how strong a platform it can be once someone takes all the politics away from it.

55. April-06-2011 at 12:41 AM PST

[Lygren](#)

This article reads like political talking points with lots mixed signals rather than addressing technical details in a clear and incisive manner. After reading it those CIOs / CTOs are still not clear about "to SilverLight or not".

Let's face it: HTML5 is OK as a mark-up language for contents presentation but a bad choice as an app platform no matter how you slice it. Whenever trying to build something as rich as a desktop app with it you'd have to hack it and settle for perhaps 50% as rich as desktop experience (if it is doable at all). The resulted code looks like unmaintainable nightmare with so many hacks in it.

A pig is a pig. HTML5 simply does not come with an app framework gene in it so it's a pig with a birth defect. It's a fatal flaw, and dropping some "tooling" lip-stick on it ain't gonna make it fly. So exactly why do you focus so much on a platform that is not very appealing, b/c it's cross-device? The only thing gets across is the lowest common denominator mediocre part.

Don't take my words for it. Look at what Aapl and Goog are doing with HTML5: Aapl only talks about supporting H5 while their stance of iOS never waivers, do they? Goog was promoting ChromeOS big time but what did they get at the end? That hyped-up ChromeOS notebook turned out a dud. As dud as KIN!! Goog has far more success with Android, and the words out of their own camp are they wanna merge ChromeOS with Android.

So exactly why does Microsoft seems to be the only one still riding with so much enthusiasm on this HTML5 bandwagon that has not gone anywhere?

You know what frustrates us MSFT platform developers most? It's seeing that you not sticking to what is right. If Steve Jobs were to have SilverLight at his hand he'd go with it. He'd never settle for some HTML5 mediocrity just for appeasing the public. He'd never send out so many mixed signals to confuse his followers about the future of a fantastic platform such as SilverLight.

56. April-06-2011 at 12:11 AM PST

[h d w](#)

Silverlight vs HTML is the least of my worries (thanks for the clarification) . What happens to WPF now? with more and more features being added to silverlight WPF's relevance is diminishing. I think MS should just ditch the WPF effort altogether and focus on silverlight.

Also I would like to see Silverlight being ported to Windows phone and Xbox as a coherent dev platform

57. April-06-2011 at 12:11 AM PST

[Kirk C](#)

Some people's refusal to accept any message from Microsoft which isn't perfectly black and white is just comical. Three VPs got together to craft a message which effectively says "Microsoft is committed to supporting both Silverlight and HTML5", and yet some people are still reading "Silverlight is dead" between the lines.

HTML5 can't completely replace Silverlight/Flash/Java for the simple fact that it lacks features. If you think it can, you either haven't read the HTML5 spec or have never touched code in your life. Maybe HTML6 or HTML7 will be able to do all the things that SL/Flash/Java can do today, but not HTML5.

It makes perfect sense that Microsoft would continue to support both Silverlight and HTML5. Silverlight is powerful, but its reach is limited to PCs, Macs and Windows Phones - though through no fault of Microsoft - it's not like Steve Jobs was begging them to put it in iOS and they turned him down. HTML5, on the other hand, will soon be able to go anywhere - but lacks advanced features. So until a better standard comes along, it makes perfect sense to support both "plugin" based technology as well as "standards" based technology.

P.S. Why is it such a surprise that Microsoft is supporting HTML5? Did anyone think they were going to stick to HTML4 forever?

58. April-05-2011 at 11:24 PM PST

[Henri](#)

After reading the article, I feel that the investments I have made in silverlight (time and money) were a bad decision. I have the impression that it is going to be phased out. I am going to have a good look at Adobe's offerings. Which by the way is much more accepted or known by my customers.

59. April-05-2011 at 10:33 PM PST

[AlexM](#)

I somehow feel strange when people say: Microsoft should port Silverlight to other platform and we can run the same code on different platform.

Guys you forget some facts:

1. HTML is much simpler as infrastructure then Silverlight and it is still hard to make it work in the same way on different platforms with different implementations.
2. Did you forget Java experience? Which main paradigm was: same code runs everywhere. Did they achieve this goal good? Not as far as I am aware off. And don't forget Java is not so tight bound with any platform as Silverlight is to Windows.

Forget about Silverlight cross platform sweet dream.

60. April-05-2011 at 07:44 PM PST

[leandro](#)

Seriously, are you going to make me do html and javascript again ? It doesn't matter if it's html5 it can be html87 it's still the same mess.

disappointing!!!!

61. April-05-2011 at 06:57 PM PST

[beautifully written](#)

"..the clarity of feedback and the emphasis our customers want us to place on these tools for the professional toolbox is clear".

"The market momentum behind adoption of HTML5 as the path forward for broad cross-platform reach continues to gather momentum,.."

Yeah. The clarity of feedback is clear and the market momentum continues to gather momentum.

I couldn't have said it better myself.

62. April-05-2011 at 06:00 PM PST

[MichaelD!](#)

Wow... how incredibly lame. Microsoft used to be leaders, but now they are soundly a flock of followers, to a "standard" that doesn't even fully exist yet. Who is running this show?

Microsoft: get a clue and buy Novell, who are now clearly the technology leaders since you have left a vacuum by your incompetence and inability to seize a tremendous market opportunity. They are doing exactly what you should be: continuing leadership through innovation, and propagating your superior technology to as many platforms as possible.

How sad is that? Another company doing the work you should be doing? Wow.

.NET is clearly the superior technology stack. Novell is continuing the tradition of superior technology and innovation that Microsoft has now lost. I still hope for the best at Mix '11. Maybe Microsoft will turn it around with a surprise announcement, but as "Again" said earlier in this comment list, this announcement (while also sounding incredibly vague, disjointed and confused -- what PR firm allowed this to be published?!) sounds like the death to what was once a superior vision.

Go Novell. You are now our only hope.

63. April-05-2011 at 04:40 PM PST

[WhatsThat](#)

This announcement reeks of writing by committee. The gobbledegook could have been condensed to three sentences: "Microsoft changes direction at the will of its leadership and it changes its leadership often. When Microsoft finds a true leader, Microsoft will again lead the market. Until then, be careful of who you follow."

Over the next 5 years we will have a set of tools to allow for multiplatform development that will output HTML. It may look a lot like the development tools for Silverlight with Script# thrown in. It will allow for good architectural modeling. And it will not require three Vice Presidents to make the point.

64. April-05-2011 at 04:09 PM PST

[Clinton Gallagher virtualCable.tv](#)

The impact of Cross-OS Framework app generators has changed the way apps are designed and deployed forever in a world where "developers" are needed less and less as this trend matures.

I contend the trend will become fundamental as "Web 3.0" emerges and .NET developers in particular will continue to lose more and more work to "business analysts" in many application development scenarios because app generators have become reliable and robust and are getting better and better. Furthermore, the best of the existing Cross-OS Frameworks are --not-- supporting Silverlight or Microsoft per se yet we have the best tooling all things considered; tooling that remains pre-occupied with our .NET Framework and line-at-a-time coding (so to speak).

Anybody that does not have their head stuck up their @ss knows --MICROSOFT-- developers have lost and continue to lose work at an incredible rate the exception being "the enterprise" where Sharepoint remains strong.

Visual Studio LightSwitch must be made to function as a Cross-OS Mobile Development Framework or more .NET developers are going to be looking elsewhere for employment.

65. April-05-2011 at 03:30 PM PST

[Marc Roussel](#)

Ah so good to see someone having the same idea as me. I've read it after I posted my comment :) Thank you Andrei for that as having Silverlight being converted to html 5 is what the world needs because we love our Silverlight but we love the world too and right now it seems that they dislike each other.

Andrei

I wish someday Microsoft comes with a kick-ass dev toolkit and tool for HTML5. Something which has the power of .NET framework (SL, WPF), somehow. Maybe a Silverlight to HTML5 converter. Maybe a new awesome javascript\HTML5 toolkit \ framework for HTML5 dev. Something. Something which will be the new way of HTML5 dev.

Microsoft is good at creating dev tools \ frameworks. I hope to see something awesome for HTML5.

That doesn't mean Silverlight has to die at all. That doesn't mean Windows has to suffer. Not at all. Just like in SL, I am sure there will still be some bits which will work only on Windows.

And obviously those dev tools will be on Windows anyway :)

66. April-05-2011 at 03:25 PM PST

[Marc Roussel](#)

Is there any possibilities to develop like we do right now with C# + Silverlight and what we code is what we see and vice versa which Silverlight is so good at to make our eyes explode when using the web but when completed and published, it does it in HTML 5

and no one notices the conversion and everybody are happy, making it possible to see our application started in Silverlight and being able to push it as a standard to make the app viewable everywhere on any kind of device ?

If the need ins't the world wide web but intranet, a simple push button that keeps the publish as a Silverlight app and not a HTML5 app.

67. April-05-2011 at 03:19 PM PST

[Marc Roussel](#)

Oh my God, I'm so favorable to this comment :

Supportign HTML 5 is great. However, as browser wars continue, the developers will be forced to settle for a common subset of features if they want to be cross-platform/cross-browser. This will reduce their productivity and ability to develop innovative applications for the web.

If you (Microsoft) provide cross-platform support for Silverlight (ability to run under Android, and other OS), it will help developers use their .NET skills to develop great business applications.

HTML 5 support should be a secondary option than being the primary option.

68. April-05-2011 at 02:42 PM PST

[JohnC](#)

I love the tool kit and am looking forward to Silverlight 5. I personally have been using a hybrid approach of mixing Silverlight, jQuery, and HTML 5 / 4.x. Silverlight (and Flash) will always be a few steps ahead of the standards implemented in the browsers in wide use. On MyOnlineBand, our default media playback is done in Silverlight which provides, in my opinion the richest playback options for the widest variety of formats. For people who do not have Silverlight or are running on an unsupported platform such as iOS, we fallback to HTML 5. If that fails we will try Flash.

The majority of the site uses standard web development techniques enhanced with jQuery and HTML 5 with graceful fallback for legacy browsers. I reserve the use of Silverlight for pockets of richness and for adding capabilities that are difficult or impossible to do in HTML and JavaScript. Some examples of how we use Silverlight include, multiple file uploads by allowing files to be dragged into the browser window, chord chart editors, wav form amplitude graph generation, and full screen media playback.

69. April-05-2011 at 02:07 PM PST

[Again](#)

Here we go again. So HTML 5 is the focus... until it's not. This article reads like the death of Silverlight. I cannot believe Microsoft cannot get Silverlight on Android and iOS. Adobe is doing it with Flash. I am really disappointed. So does it really matter that a Silverlight 5 beta is going to be released?

70. April-05-2011 at 01:41 PM PST

[SilverlightDev](#)

Will there be any versions of Silverlight after version 5, or will Silverlight go into maintenance mode, and become a legacy product? In other words, will there be a Silverlight 6 or 7 someday?

71. April-05-2011 at 01:24 PM PST

[Getafix](#)

Supporting HTML 5 is great. However, as browser wars continue, the developers will be forced to settle for a common subset of features if they want to be cross-platform/cross-browser. This will reduce their productivity and ability to develop innovative applications for the web.

If you (Microsoft) provide cross-platform support for Silverlight (ability to run under Android, and other OS), it will help developers use their .NET skills to develop great business applications.

HTML 5 support should be a secondary option than being the primary option.

72. April-05-2011 at 12:45 PM PST

[MattP](#)

So, you won't build functionality that allows silverlight on an iOS device or android, but you will build special functionality into IE 9 for HTML 5. Once again, locking developers into a single browser on a single platform?

How is that progressive?

73. April-05-2011 at 12:32 PM PST

[Pedro](#)

xna integration in silverlight would have been the right thing to do, so we can bring gaming to the browser. unity3d does it and flash will do it with massive 3d support from this summer. the full xna set (2d and 3d) integrated into silverlight would have been microsofts right answer to make silverlight the best experience for developing browser

based games and by that make silverlight a valuable browser plugin on every consumer pc where games are played. in the process, xna would have received silverlight as one of the greatest ui frameworks available.

74. April-05-2011 at 12:28 PM PST

[james t](#)

To those who are saying, "Well why doesn't Microsoft just put Silverlight on Android and iOS?", you need to understand that this is something out of Microsoft's control. They can't go where they are not wanted. Do you think MS wouldn't have already put Silverlight on the iPhone if it were actually possible? They can't force Steve Jobs to do that, especially when it would break his app store business model.

75. April-05-2011 at 12:16 PM PST

[sipank](#)

Web(HTML5) applications are not so important.
Look at all these devices you are talking about.
Android - native Java applications, iPhone & iPad - native ObjectiveC applications.
You'd better spend your energy, time, and money to support MonoTouch and MonoDroid,
so far they are the only way to have shared codebase for all actual platforms.
Also Moonlight 4.0 is coming, and it will be portable to any platform, Android for sure and perhaps iOS (with jailbreak :-)
So who actually needs this "particularly demonstrative of our emphasis on HTML5" ?
And how can I get running this wonderful IE9 on my WinXP 64bit?

76. April-05-2011 at 11:49 AM PST

[Had Enough](#)

Putting increased tooling around a fundamentally deficient platform like HTML/Javascript/jQuery is like putting lipstick on a pig. It's still a pig. The developers who really do that kind of development tend to be MS haters anyway and no fancy new tools from their least favorite company is going change that. They're still going to manually type in all their markup and scripts in some non-MS editor. MS stack developers want to see that stack extended to support more platforms like iOS and Android. They don't want to have to abandon that stack, which is clearly superior, after all the time and expense that they have put into learning it and move to a one they see as frustratingly inferior and unproductive. Honestly, I cannot understand why MS is surrendering in a war that involves its core strength - software development platforms. If they had exhibited this kind of behavior in the past, we'd all be stuck with IBM TopView on OS/2 today.

77. April-05-2011 at 11:18 AM PST

[Pierre](#)

I find it sad and frustrating to go backward again with an half baked standard as HTML5 we are back again with the cross browser compatibilities headache from the early 2000. Just when Silverlight reached critical mass, the popularity of iPad and Android tablets is removing it from being a commercial viable choice. Please make Silverlight run on those platforms, silverlight is a much better choice for building rich applications.

78. April-05-2011 at 09:08 AM PST

[Had Enough](#)

Programming in HTML, Javascript, and the nine million amateurish jQuery libraries needed to get anything done in the browser is the web equivalent of programming in assembly language for the desktop: incredibly unproductive and prone to hacking. Just try to implement a modern architectural pattern like MVVM across that mish-mash. All the hoopla around HTML 5 doesn't change the fact that it's still HTML. And don't give me any of that "write once, run everywhere" baloney. More accurately it would be "write once, debug forever because it runs differently in every browser". MS platform developers should be pushing MS to make Silverlight available on iOS and Android, not to dumb down development by making everyone do lowest common denominator web hacking. I don't see Steve Jobs pushing everyone to do that on the iPxxx platform. Nope, it's native development or the highway there.

79. April-05-2011 at 08:21 AM PST

[Hamranhansenhansen](#)

The thing that developers have to realize is that plug-in development is native development, not Web development. If you make a Silverlight app, say for Windows Phone, then running it in Silverlight plug-in may be great, but don't pretend that is the Web. Don't fool clients into thinking it is the Web, they will be angry later when it doesn't run on iPad or BlackBerry. We have seen this with FlashPlayer, which has a larger installed base than Silverlight. So if you want to develop an app for the Web, that is HTML5. It's exactly the same as making an iOS app. That is for iOS users, it is not the Web. If you want Web users, not just iPad users, or Silverlight users, you make HTML5. It's the only universal solution.

80. April-05-2011 at 07:44 AM PST

[Taufik](#)

Hi SL team,
My application is building in Silverlight 4 and with many memory leak so it can't release

at the time. One of these leak is Binding to subentities like described here:
<https://connect.microsoft.com/VisualStudio/feedback/details/562236/memory-leak-garbage-collection-issue-with-binding-to-subentities-in-silverlight-4-rtw> and here:
<http://forums.silverlight.net/forums/p/220074/526053.aspx>
I want to ask you is this already fixed in beta Silverlight 5 at MIX ?

Thanks and best regards.

81. April-05-2011 at 07:24 AM PST

[BrightSide](#)

WebGL! Please support WebGL, and preferably support tooling like Script# so we can write in C# and compile down to the web in a cross-platform way.

82. April-05-2011 at 06:08 AM PST

[Denny Tampa](#)

WHAT THE ?? this sounds like you guys are killing off Silverlight!! I *HOPE* this is just a failure to word this better.

83. April-05-2011 at 04:55 AM PST

[Rui Marinho](#)

Firs congratulations for the awesomework with Silverlight, for me was/is a game changer in the world of plugins.

The thing is, totally understand that developeprs should choose wisely, but looking at the market, and thinking in making interactive website, you can't go with silverlight.. or even flash. the iOSs is now and every day getting stronger and we can't make a website that't doesn't look awesome in the Iphone or Ipad. And to build 2 sites one for ios devices and otehr for normal browsers deosn't make sense.

So i hope HTML5 is really the choice to make when developing websites, and i hope you guys can help us with the tools for html5 and i don't know if it would be possible, but having something that takes on for exampe sivlerlight animations and translate themto css 3 animations in html5 would be a awesome add on to the toolbox. OR e event just translate stules from our xaml to css styles... would increase a lto my productivity.

Good work!

84. April-05-2011 at 04:23 AM PST

[David Roh](#)

Thank you very much for delivering a Silverlight 5 beta at Mix 11 - please, please include a go live license!

The problem faced by Silverlight is market penetration of desktop and mobile systems. Because Microsoft has indicated less support for Silverlight, with essentially no marketing of Silverlight, and more support for HTML 5, projects have been cancelled and many developers are looking for other technologies.

Silverlight has many benefits - one of the important features is that were ever Silverlight runs it runs the same (no tweaking needed); whereas, HTML 5 will never run the same and will always require tweaking because it will be implemented by many different teams on many different platforms.

Microsoft can solve the Silverlight/HTML 5 issue by:

1. Working very hard to insure market penetration of Silverlight on desktops and smart - mobile systems (including Android support)
2. Strong marketing support for Silverlight which will provide confidence for both developers, customers, and consumers to use Silverlight.

85. April-05-2011 at 03:57 AM PST

[Mark T](#)

So I guess the idea of WPF/E(verywhere) is gone and I should not expect Silverlight on an Android device any time soon (or anytime). And I should not expect to be able to leverage .Net languages in HTML5 and I'm stuck with javascript. Disappointing.

86. April-05-2011 at 03:53 AM PST

[Andrei](#)

I wish someday Microsoft comes with a kick-ass dev toolkit and tool for HTML5. Something which has the power of .NET framework (SL, WPF), somehow. Maybe a Silverlight to HTML5 converter. Maybe a new awesome javascript\HTML5 toolkit \ framework for HTML5 dev. Something. Something which will be the new way of HTML5 dev.

Microsoft is good at creating dev tools \ frameworks. I hope to see something awesome for HTML5. That doesn't mean Silverlight has to die at all. That doesn't mean Windows has to suffer. Not at all. Just like in SL, I am sure there will still be some bits which will work only on Windows. And obviously those dev tools will be on Windows anyway :)

87. April-05-2011 at 02:59 AM PST

[Koistya `Navin](#)

"The market momentum behind adoption of HTML5 as the path forward for broad cross-platform reach continues to gather momentum, and with Internet Explorer 9 Microsoft is chief among those leading that charge."

I can't believe you call IE9 a "chief" while it has the less amount of HTML5 supported features among the other browsers.

88. April-05-2011 at 02:55 AM PST

[kettch](#)

Please understand that there are some of us who have no interest in HTML5. No matter how good the browsers are, it's a pain to develop in. In my shop Silverlight is always going to be the preferred development platform for RIA web sites. There really isn't any comparison between the two.

89. April-05-2011 at 12:21 AM PST

[Ian Walker](#)

Well said.

As a predominantly Silverlight developer my concern is with what I would term the 'higgledy piggedly' nature of HTML development. There is a lot of history to HTML (making it unwieldy to support) and too many disparate technologies that make up the HTML5 picture as a whole (HTML,XHTML,JavaScript,CSS,ASP.Net etc.). You know what? I don't really want to embrace all the crap but feel I am being forced to. Can we really not get our act together as an industry and settle on a more sensible future technology while letting the sleeping lions of current technology be?

90. April-05-2011 at 12:15 AM PST

[open-standards](#)

"we have probably not emphasized enough the tooling for HTML5". Read: we banked heavily on the failed SL and DOTNET. We were dragged into HTML5, bear with us as we change course. Yes, everyone else lead the way into HTML5, but have you seen how fast IE9 is?
;-) -meni

91. April-05-2011 at 12:10 AM PST

[open standards](#)

Oh, so that's it! And I thought it was "hey, we tried to rule the net with SL, it didn't quite work, so here: we (suddenly) love html5, sorry about that".

92. April-05-2011 at 12:01 AM PST

[sam taylor](#)

Mobile phones is where HTML makes most sense; I hope this HTML support is applicable to Windows Mobile

93. April-04-2011 at 11:06 PM PST

[SilverlightDev](#)

Will there be any versions of Silverlight after version 5, or will Silverlight enter a maintenance mode and eventually become a legacy technology?

94. April-04-2011 at 09:46 PM PST

[sipank](#)

Web(HTML5) applications are not so important. Look at all these devices you are talking about. Android - native Java applications, iPhone & iPad - native ObjectiveC applications. You'd better spend your energy, time, and money to support MonoTouch and MonoDroid, so far they are the only way to have shared codebase for all actual platforms. Also Moonlight 4.0 is coming, and it will be portable to any platform, Android for sure and perhaps iOS (with jailbreak :-). So who actually needs this "particularly demonstrative of our emphasis on HTML5" ? And how can I get running this wonderful IE9 on my WinXP 64bit?

95. April-04-2011 at 09:45 PM PST

[Joshua](#)

Well this sure sounds like some big HTML 5 tooling announcement at mix that's gonna make Silverlight look obsolete.

96. April-04-2011 at 08:41 PM PST

[Jonathan Allen](#)

And what about WPF?

97. April-04-2011 at 08:17 PM PST

[Kevin Sheen](#)

TL;DR: Forget SL, HTML5 is the future! Until we change our minds again and decide something else is the future. Either way, invest in what we tell you this week! Go team Microsoft!

98. April-04-2011 at 08:05 PM PST

[SmartyP](#)

I agree with the general view of today's marketplace in this post, and I appreciate the clarifications and well thought out commentary on HTML5 and Silverlight. As a developer I would rather code in Silverlight 100x over, but unfortunately Silverlight isn't an option on many of today's web browsing devices. HTML5 has ability limitations compared to Silverlight, but its breadth of reach is the deciding factor in today's mobile focused market for many projects. Where Silverlight is an option it is a killer platform that can create emerging experiences that aren't possible with HTML alone, and I would encourage companies to not always dumb down their experiences for the lowest common denominator, but instead target experiences to be the best they can be on the given device.

99. April-04-2011 at 07:37 PM PST

[Josh Einstein](#)

Hey, there's this cool thing called WPF I remember hearing about a few years ago. Supports native platform capabilities, separate rendering thread, zero-impact deployment with auto updates, 3D, full COM/Win32 interop, etc. Oh hey wait, isn't that what Silverlight has been building towards? But now that Silverlight is being relegated to "plugin based experiences" is it too late to stay the execution of WPF? It's already here *today*. Your post doesn't even give it the dignity of an acknowledgement.

100. April-04-2011 at 07:34 PM PST

[Joeyw](#)

As many have pointed out, the HTML5 toolset is severely lacking. There is nothing like Google's GWT and the SmartClient offerings. Support for Script# still looks to be minimal and there hasn't been any word of project Volta as a possible strategy for years now.

At some level there needs to be a bridge between the plugin world and the web. With the right abstractions this is possible with a level of reuse; reuse of code, styles and interface components. This is going to become increasingly important as the capabilities of the browser improves and the platform landscape becomes more fragmented.

101. April-04-2011 at 07:12 PM PST

[codputer](#)

Isn't it amazing how a CVP can stretch: We will do both, pick one that meets your requirements and or preference...

102. April-04-2011 at 06:22 PM PST

[Scott Barnes](#)

Feel's odd to type on this blog that I started..but... none the less.. basically this distills down into "HTML5 = Future bets with Silverlight queries please refer to the "IT DEPENDS" clause in your customer manuals"

:)