The NetBeans Rich Client Platform

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Abstract

Like Eclipse, NetBeans is an open source IDE and Rich Client Platform for Java applications. It was developed by a startup company in Prague, which was later bought by Sun Microsystems.

In the first part of the presentation we will talk about the NetBeans Rich Client Platform. Rich client applications share a common set of core functionality such as look and feel settings, configuration management and presentation, drag-and-drop, UI design, localization, management of menus and toolbars, wizards, help system integration etc. The NetBeans platform provides all this functionality and more. We will demonstrate how to use the NetBeans Platform to develop generic, rich client, desktop applications.

In the second part of the presentation we will introduce the NetBeans Graph Libray. Modern desktop applications are moving towards representing information visually rather than textually. For example, business processes, UML diagrams or reporting sheets can all be manipulated and displayed in various notations. We will introduce the concepts and the architecture of the NetBeans Visual Library. The library provides a set of reusable appearance and behavior blocks for creating a general visualization. Using these blocks a visual application can be built with features like drag-and-drop, in-place editing, animations, layouts, navigation windows, graph-oriented modeling and visualization. We will demonstrate available features on a rich-client application which can be built on top of the NetBeans Platform and the NetBeans Visual Library.

Speakers

Jaroslav Tulach is one of the founders of the NetBeans company (later acquired by Sun Microsystems) and designer of the overall NetBeans architecture, especially the core modules. He is interested in applying test patterns to assure the quality of code and APIs.

David Kaspar is the technical lead of the group developing the support for J2ME applications in NetBeans (aka Mobility). He is the author of the NetBeans Graph Library.

Petr Hrebejk is an engineering manager of the Java and Editor group of NetBeans. He formerly worked on many parts of NetBeans such as autoupdate, Javadoc, Beans, Core, MDR, Project System, etc.