

The Developers Group Meeting

at Microsoft in Reading
[click here for map and directions](#)

on Monday November 10th 11.30 - 6.30
with leader Pete Sykes

Agenda in progress

- 11:30 Registration (with tea, coffee and bacon or egg rolls, if you're early enough).
- 12:00 **Welcome, News and Interactive Discussion - Pete Sykes and You**
- 1:00 **QuickReport - Ray Hall**
Ray writes: Quickreport has been much maligned (especially by Jim Cooper) but for many developers it does exactly what is needed. I received an early 'lite' version from Borland but quickly realised that only the 'Pro' version would cut the mustard. For a low upgrade price I have received point-release updates through versions 2, 3 and 4 as well as virtually personalised modifications. The USP is that, as a set of Delphi components *all* of the coding is pure Object Pascal whether within a component or in the main program. Examples will be shown to demonstrate this and to show its flexibility.
- 2:15 **Microsoft ASP.NET MVC & ECO in Visual Studio 2008 - Scott Price**
Scott writes: Microsoft have released previews to a new ASP.NET Enhancement, ASP.NET MVC (MVC standing for the Model View Controller approach to development). This is something that is of great deal of interest to many, as not only does it make websites more easily automatedly testable, it's also faster than standard ASP.NET, but it does break from the usual ASP.NET model of development, requiring the developers to have a little more understanding of the way the HTTP protocol and webserver works. However, don't let that put you off. The speed benefits alone, let alone combined with the increased automation testability of the software, can make this one handy addition to the toolkits. As I'm a bit of a fan of ECO (Borland Enterprise Core Objects), throw in the fast model driven development into a more reliable and robust development approach, and I will try to show you how the two can be put to work together, and give a result that is in my opinion easier to maintain over time, providing better feedback as to its functional state before you deploy the application.
- 3:30 Tea/coffee and cake
- 4:00 **How to help an IT Department Join the Modern World of .NET & SQL Server 2008 - Trevor Hilder**
Trevor writes: There are many IT Departments trapped with legacy applications which are hindering the evolution of the businesses they work for. They are under pressure to migrate to a bought-in packaged software solution, but this is expensive, dangerously high-risk, and makes it hard for the business to keep control of its destiny. This presentation explains how we are working with the IT Department of one of the top sixth-form colleges in England to migrate their legacy applications to .NET and SQL Server 2008, in an orderly, low-risk manner, in order to fulfil the college's vision for its future. Points covered include: How to sell this as the way forward for the business. How to go about making the transition without any dangerous Big Bang moments. How this could represent a business opportunity for members of the Developers Group. Why this approach can work in any arena of business, not just in education.
- 5:15 **Multi-platform .NET development - Joanna Carter**
Joanna brings a demonstration of Oxygene (formerly Chrome) from RemObjects to create applications that can run on Windows, OS X and Linux. Oxygene has been described as everything that Delphi for .NET should have been. Using a Pascal-esque syntax, it is possible to create, not only applications using Microsoft's own .NET framework, but also applications that use the Mono version of the .NET framework. Because Oxygene integrates into Visual Studio, it is possible to create Mono-based applications that can re-use existing C# or VB libraries, thus saving the effort of having to port legacy code. Come and see Windows development on a Mac as well as Mac development on Windows on a Mac!
- 6:30 End (and voluntary adjournment for a drink).



Please book your place as soon as possible by **contacting us** at bug@richplum.co.uk, and no later than Monday November 3rd. Attendance is free to members of the DG and other participating user groups, £25 + VAT to guests.



We regret that meeting venues cannot accept phone messages on our behalf, and that mobile phones, pagers, etc, must be turned off during all DG events.