

The Developers Group Masterclass

Silverlight Essentials

with Richard Costall and Chris Hay

on Saturday January 24th

at the Village Hall (Parish Reading Room), Upavon, Wiltshire SN9 6EB

Microsoft Silverlight 2 (previously referred to as version 1.1) is a development framework targeting the next generation of Rich Internet Applications (RIA). Released in October 2008, Silverlight 2 includes a version of the .NET Framework, allowing developers to build applications using languages such as C# and VB.NET. In this one-day (PowerPoint Free) Masterclass Richard Costall and Chris Hay take you on an informative and fun journey, exploring the vast array of features of Silverlight 2, providing you with the knowledge to get started with this truly amazing tool.

Agenda

09:30 Registration, tea/coffee and calories

10:00 **Welcome - Let's Get Started**

Richard gets you up and running with Silverlight, explaining its constituent parts, building a Hello World application and even diving into Expression Blend for a bit of designer stuff.

10:30 **XAP File Explored**

Chris asks what is a Silverlight application? What is a XAP file, how is our content deployed and what is our best strategy? In this nugget, we dive deep into the XAP file, showing how a Silverlight application is exposed in a web page, and how we can dynamically load assemblies.

10:50 **Layout**

Grid or canvas? Richard takes on an introductory tour of the basic layouts, which to choose and how to configure it.

11:10 Tea/coffee and more calories

11:30 **WCF Communication (networking 1)**

Silverlight is all very nice and all, but Chris would like to talk back to the server, thank you very much. We communicate with WCF and look at the most important stuff you need to know - generating a client, asynchronous calls, cross domain calls.

11:50 **Silverlight Sockets (networking 2)**

Chris messes around with network communications via sockets and WCF duplex messages. Support for these features allows us to do chatty things in applications, and we dive straight into it.

12:10 **Application Services**

Silverlight communicate with the ASP.NET provider model? Of course it can! Join Richard on his voyage of discovery to utilise authentication, roles and profile in a Silverlight application.

12:30 Lunch at the pub

13:30 **Styling/Templating**

From a simple font change to redesign of the controls, Richard shows you how to refactor styling information and build a control with any visual style you wish.

13:50 **Images and Media**

Chris looks at images and MediaElements. At the end of this nugget you should be able to use images and media effectively in your apps. We build a Media Player and build a media map. You should have a good idea of what's supported and what isn't.

14:10 **Brushes, Transforms and Animation**

At the heart of every good Silverlight application is the ability to animate things, rotate things, and make things look funky with nice gradients. Chris does rich stuff with XAML.

14:30 **DataBinding**

Databinding is a first class citizen in WPF and Silverlight is no different. Richard introduces you to the basics of databinding.

14:50 Tea/coffee and yet more calories

15:10 **Using Isolated Storage (1)**

This nugget is all about understanding Isolated Storage and how you can interact with it. Isolated Storage is the only place you can store data locally. It's probably one of the key features of Silverlight apps and Chris shows you how to use it.

15:30 **Using Isolated Storage (2)**

Chris takes a deep dive into Isolated Storage, where it is on disk, how it is represented internally, how to clean things up when it goes wrong. At the end of this nugget you will know everything you need to know about Isolated Storage (and probably stuff you didn't need to know either) but hey, knowledge is power.

15:50 Gaming (optional session)

Silverlight has a great future as a viral gaming platform. Richard shows you how to utilise a gameloop and the basics of animation, before demonstrating a true gaming classic.

16:10 User Controls

XAML, like HTML, can be very verbose. Richard shows you how easy it is to build user controls and then utilise them in your applications.

16:30 Fidget break

16:40 Silverlight Encryption and Compression

Wow, is Chris still going on about Isolated Storage? This is really about encryption and compression within Silverlight. You don't really want folks peeking at your hard-earned data, after all.

17:00 Everything we haven't covered so far

There's still so much Chris and Rich haven't crammed in: here they cover everything they've missed out.

17:20 Any more questions?

17:30 Home time!

Things You'll Need to Know

Cost and booking

The price for members is £150 + VAT. (Non-members please contact us.) All places must be booked and paid for in advance. Please book as soon as you can - bookings are open NOW - and make sure that we have payment by bank transfer, cheque or credit card no later than Friday January 16th.

The price includes refreshments and lunch. It does not include drinks at the pub, your evening meal or accommodation if you're staying overnight, or your taxi.

Getting here, food, accommodation, parking etc - ask if you need more info

Upavon is at the crosroads of the A342 (Andover to Devizes) and A345 Swindon to Salisbury.

The hall is on the A342 between Andover (East) and Devizes (West), near the river bridge, just to the East of the junction of the A345 between Salisbury (South) and Swindon (North).

Regrettably getting here by public transport isn't easy and it's generally easier to drive. **Parking** is at the Ship Inn in the High Street (A345) just round the corner from the hall. Our lunch is at the Ship too - they don't provide accommodation but

Accommodation very close to the hall is available at Upavon Manor (isabelbgreen@hotmail.com or 01980 635115) and the Antelope Inn (01980 630206). There are other b&bs a very brief drive or walk across the fields away - ask if you need more information.

Please also ask if you need **train information and for us to book you taxis** (booking is essential) from and to local stations (Paddington to Pewsey infrequent trains + taxi 10 minutes/£12, or Waterloo to Andover about every half hour + taxi 40 minutes/£30).

Please remember that **phones** must be switched off during the class (signal is poor here anyway) and you won't have internet access at the hall or (most probably) at your accommodation. The class is not hands-on and, if you bring a laptop, there won't be anywhere for you to plug it in.

