



## January 2008

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### **At the start of the new calendar year...**

First and foremost, at the start of this new business year, we want to wish all of our clients, partners, and professional colleagues a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

As this year gets started, we have some of our existing projects deployed in production and more new projects starting up. We are about to begin an interesting mix of 2 new projects for clients in Israel and 2 new projects for clients in the U.S. (including Microsoft Corp.) We are filling a variety of different roles, including consulting, sole responsibility for developing a new platform, and "hired guns" bringing needed expertise and manpower to give a big push to an existing project. As you would expect from us, who live on the leading edge of Microsoft technologies, these projects all involve Visual Studio 2008.

In order to make sure we have the necessary and best developers for these projects, as well as for the ones we have approaching in the future, we are actively looking to hire .NET developers, web developers, and a UI designer. Details about the positions can be found on our web site at <http://renaissance.co.il/careers.aspx>

### **Tools, Technologies, and Techniques – Our CodeRush Video**

One of the things on which we pride ourselves is our ability to develop high-quality software in short amounts of time. Part of this is due to techniques that we have developed ourselves, but some of it is also due to simply taking advantage of existing tools. One tool package that we use is CodeRush and Refactor Pro! for Visual Studio. A few months ago we posted on our web site a really cool video showing how to build a Model-View-Presenter (MVP) mail application with these tools. [Download this video](#) to see the step by step transformation and evolution of code for the MVP pattern, by our Senior Developer Kim Major, and see how quickly and easily it happens with the help of CodeRush and Refactor Pro!

### **Visual Studio 2008 – Released!**

Even though it was still November 2007, the final version of Visual Studio 2008 was released to manufacturing and we are now using it for all of our development projects. While the list of new and improved features is quite extensive, let me share with you what I see as the most compelling and exciting features:

- **Framework Multi-Targeting**– VS 2008 allows you to target your code for version 2.0, 3.0, or 3.5 of the .NET framework. This means that even if your application

was developed and deployed with VS 2005 and .NET 2.0, you can leverage VS 2008 for new development, while still compiling for and deploying on .NET 2.0.

To put this feature to the test, we took one of our largest projects and moved it to VS 2008. We were able to successfully compile and run the application on both .NET 2.0 and 3.5, without seeing any problems or incompatibilities.

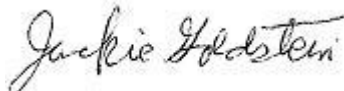
- **LINQ** – Language INtegrated Query is probably the most notable and significant language feature of this release. It extends both C# and Visual Basic with a (SQL-like) native language syntax for flexible querying of all types of objects. In the same way that the introduction of Generics in .NET 2.0 dramatically changed our coding practices, I believe that LINQ, in all of its variations, will have a similar dramatic effect.
- **New & improved designers for WCF, WPF, WF** – Following the release of VS 2005 and .NET 2.0, we saw the release of .NET 3.0, which includes WCF, WPF, and WF. There were also various CTPs and add-ons for VS 2005 that, at least partially, provided access to these new technologies. In VS 2008, the designers and support are far more integrated, extensive, and polished.

### **Conferences and Events – IVBUG, TechEd EMEA, VSLive!**

Renaissance employees have had quite a presence at developer conferences and user groups over the past few months. In September, Kim Major and I shared the stage at the monthly [IVBUG \(Israel Visual Basic User Group\)](#) meeting. Kim spoke about “Power Coding with CodeRush and Refactor Pro!” and I spoke about “SQL Server 2005 Compact Edition - Development, Deployment, and Synchronization”. In November, I did a session on tools and techniques for developing “mashups” at [TechEd EMEA](#) and a session focusing on developing applications with the Windows Live SDK at the [Microsoft Developer Academy II](#). At the [VSLive! Conference](#) in Austin, Texas, I did a pair of sessions on best practices for developing distributed database applications with VS 2005 and VS 2008, and also a variation of my talks on the Windows Live SDK and mashups.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you any of your current or planned projects. We can help you develop a technology strategy, lead your development team, or take full responsibility for your projects. As always, I will be happy to give you the names of other good resources if we are not available or appropriate for your immediate needs. I also welcome your questions and comments on any of the subjects covered in these mailings, any of my presentations, or our approaches to software development.

Sincerely,



Jackie Goldstein  
President

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