



May 2008

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New Clients, New Projects, New Challenges

Over the past few months we have begun working on projects with two new clients, one based in Israel and the other based in the U.S. The development is with VS 2008 and .NET 3.5, and includes ASP.NET and AJAX, MSMQ, WCF, SQL Server, and a few others further down the road.

We are developing a Medical Practice Portal for *Micro-Office Systems (Cleveland, Ohio)*, who is a leading software firm specializing in enhancing medical practice management systems. Established in 1985, Micro-Office provides interfaces, conversions, reports and add-ons to help practices get the most benefit from their practice systems. See the press release at

<http://www.renaissance.co.il/PressReleases/MOCS-RenaissancePressRelease.pdf>

Qoof (Israel) is a video commerce platform that bridges the world of Online Shopping, Internet Video, and Direct Response TV to create a distributed, targeted, and personalized video commerce network. We have three Renaissance developers in key roles working together with the Qoof management and development teams. See the press release at <http://www.renaissance.co.il/PressReleases/Qoof%20PressRelease.pdf>

Tools, Technologies, and Techniques – SQL Server 2008 With Visual Studio

An internal challenge that Microsoft always faces is that of keeping all of its different technologies and tools in sync with each other. One of the latest examples of this issue is that of support for SQL Server 2008 (currently still in Beta/CTP) with Visual Studio.

Since Visual Studio 2008 (and 2005) was released before SQL Server 2008, the various designers within Visual Studio are unaware of SQL Server 2008 and are unable to connect and communicate with it. This is quite frustrating for those developers eager to get a head start on the new benefits offered by SQL Server 2008. In order to address this, Microsoft has been developing a set of updates to both VS 2008 and VS 2005 for SQL Server 2008 support.

Following a meeting in Redmond in January, Microsoft contracted with **Renaissance** to develop a White Paper documenting the additional functionality provided by each of the four (4) releases of these support updates. This entailed working closely with both the SQL Server and Visual Studio development teams, in order to investigate, understand, and organize all of different features across the different releases. The final paper can be found on MSDN at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc440724.aspx>

Conferences and Events –TechEd Israel and VSLive! San Francisco & Orlando

In April, the bi-annual TechEd Israel conference was held in Eilat, Israel. This is a wonderful event – it includes fun, catching up with old friends and colleagues, and also excellent technical sessions. For my presentation at this event, I did a session on *Sync Services for ADO.NET*. This is a new, but shipping, technology for caching and building occasionally connected applications, with basic support tools in Visual Studio 2008. You can find the slides and video recordings at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/israel/techedevent/list.aspx#e>

I have also been busy presenting at the annual VSLive! conferences in [San Francisco](#) and [Orlando](#). I did a pair of sessions on best practices for developing distributed database applications, focusing on some of the new features in Visual Studio 2008.

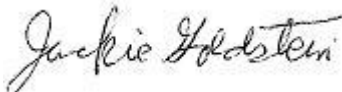
On the Lighter Side...

As I watch our teams work long, hard, and intensely to meet our clients' deadlines, I know that a short break and some good humor is a great boost to morale and productivity. Of course, as software professionals, it would be an added bonus if it was "geek" humor. For them, and for the hard-working members of your software teams, I offer the following links:

- (1) VB on Prime Time TV – a short scene from a recent episode of CSI New York
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ni_rAamVP2s
- (2) Bill Gates last day at Microsoft – a star-studded parody, starring Bill himself.
<http://www.istartedsomething.com/20080107/bill-gates-last-day-microsoft-video/>

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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