

Which WinForms CompositeUI framework to choose?

Asked 15 years, 7 months ago Modified 15 years, 7 months ago

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4



my team is minutes before developing the head application for our company and we ran into roadblock in our design. my team develops WinForms application in C#, .NET 3.5.

The first thing we need to do in our design is to decide which CompositeUI framework to use. Well, first we were sure that we are going to use CAB. but is it the right choice considering P&P are not into it any more?? What about Acropolis? Is it stable enough and going to be here for the next few years??

So this is my question: what is the framework that is stable enough and is right for an application that will lead my team for the next 3-4 years?

your help is needed. thanks!

c#

cab

acropolis

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edited May 23, 2009 at 20:37



marc_s

753k ● 183 ● 1.4k ● 1.5k

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asked May 23, 2009 at 20:24



Dizzy

41 ● 1 ● 2

3 Answers

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3



If you're going to do WinForms, the [Smart Client Software Factory](#) is the way to go. From what I've seen in the market, most people are going away from WinForms and moving toward WPF. I'm in the process of evaluating what it will take for my company to move from WinForms to WPF at the moment. I love the support for WinForms right now, but if your time horizon is 3-4 years, I would strongly recommend you take a look at [WPF](#) instead.

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JP Alioto

45.1k ● 6 ● 90 ● 112

Its true that WPF is the next thing, and i did consider it. but it seems like the study curve is too big and the enviroment is not stable enough. so for now we will stick with WinForms. thanks for advicing. – [Dizzy](#) May 23, 2009 at 20:46

Dizzy, yup very valid decision ... one I might make myself. :) – [JP Alioto](#) May 23, 2009 at 20:59

Note about SCSF from the products' website: This project is no longer being maintained and no future releases are planned. – [Mathieu](#) Nov 5, 2013 at 16:54



3



If you want to stick to Winforms by all means, there are quite a few third-party solutions out there (for instance [Empinia](#) or the Genesis Hybrid Smartclient Framework being shown on [CodeProject](#)) as well besides the Smart Client Software Factory. The question here remains whether they're stable enough and have enough stamina to still be around in 3-4 years.

On the other hand, if you're looking at this fairly long time frame, considering WPF might really pay off. Yes, it's a learning curve, and yes, the tool support in VS 2008 isn't quite up to snuff just yet. But things will get a lot better with VS 2010, and Microsoft will be investing a lot of manpower in WPF - VS 2010 itself is written in WPF.

For WPF, there's P&P guidance in the form of [Prism](#), which is very promising and looks very well thought out. Going into WPF also brings you additional benefits of basically knowing Silverlight "for free" (it's a subset of WPF, at its core). So that might be an additional benefit.

Marc

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answered May 23, 2009 at 20:50



[marc_s](#)

753k ● 183 ● 1.4k ● 1.5k

but as for WinForms there is no appropriate framework? CAB is history? – [Dizzy](#) May 23, 2009 at 21:44

CAB has "replaced" or superseded by the Smart-Client Software Factory – [marc_s](#) May 24, 2009 at 8:14



Glenn Block posted some [guidelines](#) a while ago that could be of interest.

1



And Brian Noyes actually did a [port](#) of parts of PRISM to WinForms but I don't know if it's good and stable enough to be used as your platform for the next couple of years.



=)



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answered May 24, 2009 at 8:35

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[Erik Hellström](#)

1,166 ● 7 ● 12
