



# Developer Experience... Central to DevOps Success



*“DevEx - that’s more  
about the frontend user  
experience, right?”*

DevEx is *more* than your parent's  
software development lifecycle

# Jeremy Meiss

Co-Founder

*Stealth DevEx Startup*



# So what is DevEx?

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DevEx encompasses the journey of developers as they learn and deploy technology. When successful, it focuses on eliminating obstacles that hinder a developer or practitioner from achieving success in their endeavors.

# DevEx is about more than the traditional UI/UX focus



# The evolution of the IDE

## Before the 1990s



REF: O'Reilly "Learning the vi and Vim Editors"

# The evolution of the IDE

Before the 1990s



```
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iLE880j. :jD8888880j:  
.LGitE888D.f8GjjjL8888E;  
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;i E888, ,8888,  
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W88W: :8888:  
DGGD: :8888:  
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```

# The evolution of the IDE

## Before the 1990s



# The evolution of the IDE

## Before the 1990s

Conferences > IEE Colloquium on Architectur... ?

### HP SoftBench-support for distributed working

Publisher: IET Cite This PDF

R. Bark All Authors

16 Full Text Views

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<b>Abstract</b>	<b>Abstract:</b>
<b>Authors</b>	The paper introduces the elements of the HP CASE product SoftBench that are relevant to its support for distributed working. It identifies the degree to which the current product supports distribution and outlines some of the areas of related research being carried out in HP Laboratories Bristol. The HP SoftBench product is an integrated software development environment designed to facilitate rapid, interactive program construction, test, and maintenance in a distributed computing environment.
<b>Keywords</b>	<>
<b>Metrics</b>	

 Published in: IEE Colloquium on Architectures for Distributed Development Support

REF: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/182074>

# The evolution of the IDE

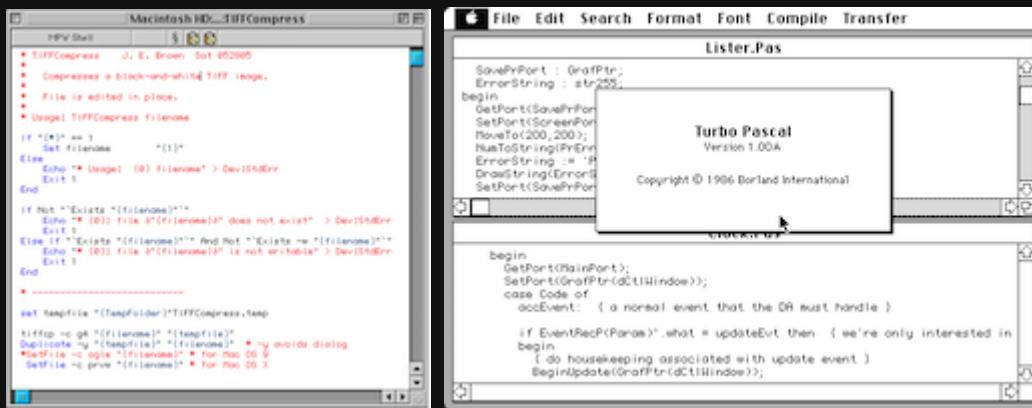
Before the 1990s

*“...the use of an IDE was not well received by developers since it would fence in their creativity.”*

REF: *Computerwoche* (“Computer Week”, German counterpart of American magazine *Computer World*), 1995.

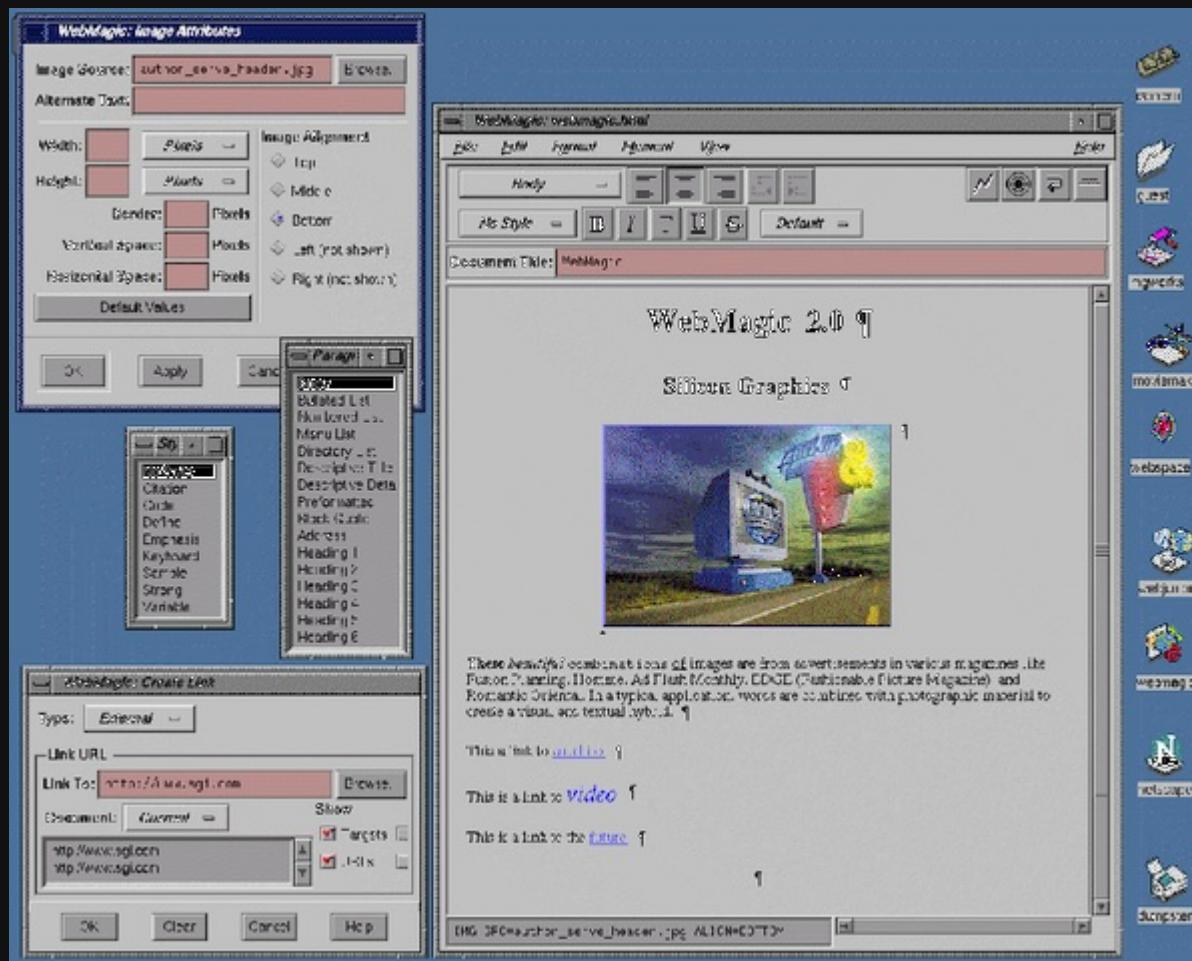
# The evolution of the IDE

## Before the 1990s



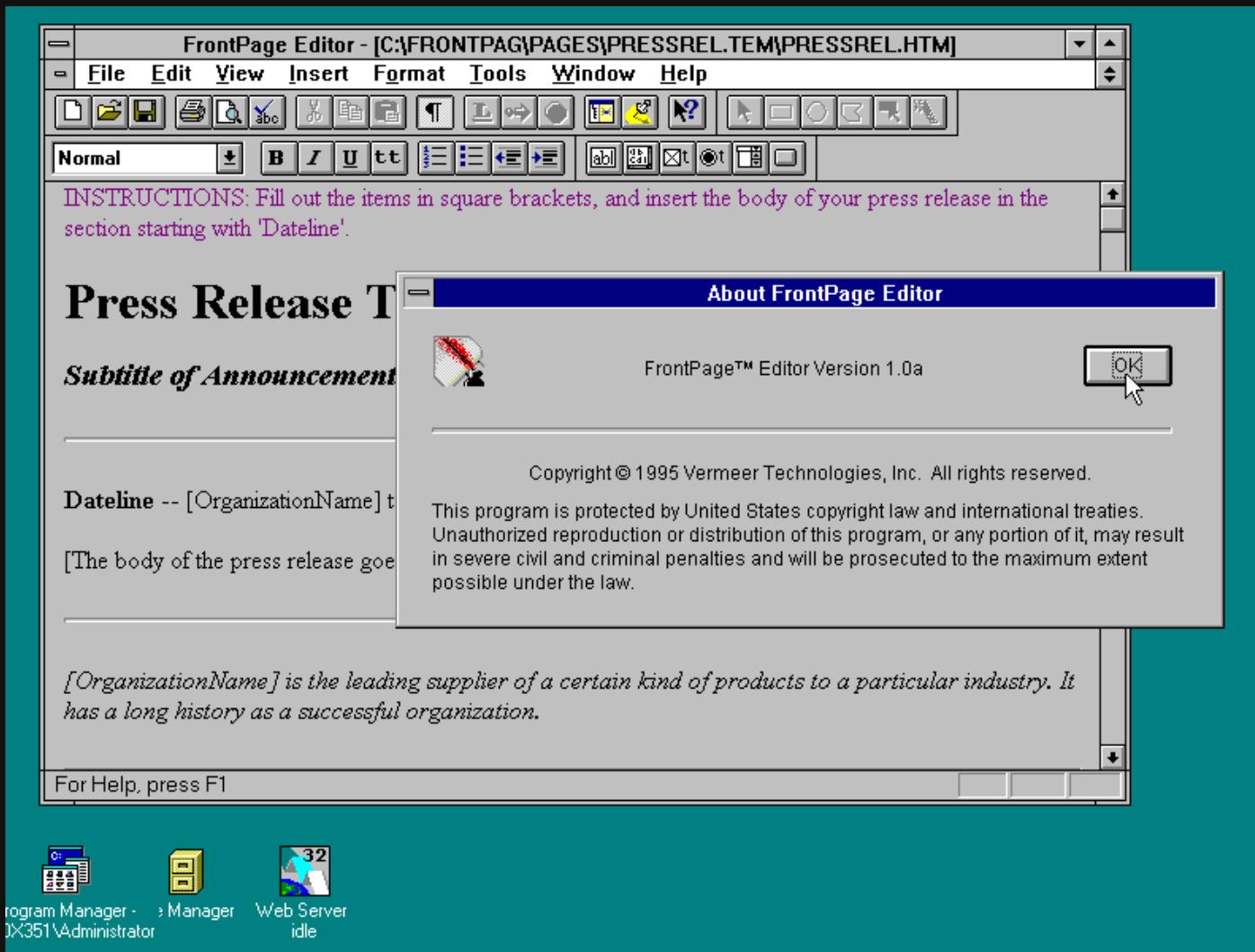
# The evolution of the IDE

## The Web and the 1990s



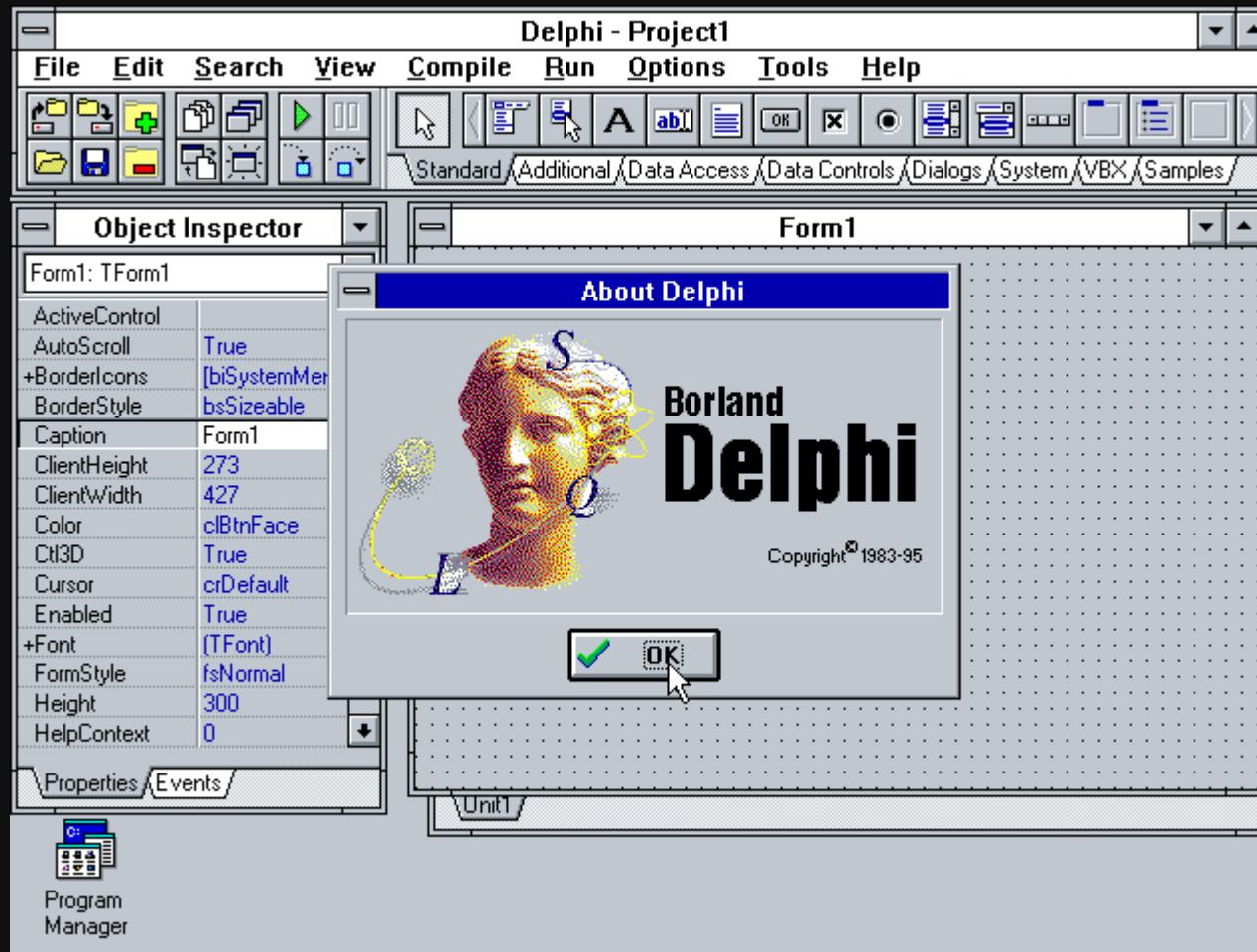
# The evolution of the IDE

## The Web and the 1990s



# The evolution of the IDE

## Cross-platform and the 1990s



# The evolution of the IDE

## Early iterations

(Late 1990s to Early 2000s)

- Macromedia Dreamweaver in late 1997 (what was it called before?)
- Visual Studio in late 1997
- FrontPage 2000 in 1999
- Netbeans in 2000
- Eclipse in 2001 (IBM kickstarted)

# The evolution of the IDE

## Feature & Usability Advancements

Mid-2000s to 2010s

- IntelliJ IDEA
- Eclipse
- Visual Studio

# The evolution of the IDE

## Lightweight and Cloud-Based

2010s to Now

- Sublime Text, Atom, VSCode (lightweight)
- AWS Cloud9, GitHub Codespaces, Gitpod (cloud-based)

# IDEs are a result of DevEx

Things we never knew we needed...

- Code completion
- Syntax highlighting
- Debugging
- VCS integration (no more FTPing files around)
- Multi-language support
- Framework integration
- Pair programming



## DevEx is a Key Differentiator

- Critical differentiator for attracting & retaining top talent
- Ensures high levels of team performance and product quality
- More engaged and productive development team
- Demonstrated commitment to DevEx enhances brand reputation + CSAT
- Directly impacts bottom line by enabling quicker time to market

# Dev Environment Setup

## Manual configuration

Late 1990s to Early 2000s

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# Dev Environment Setup

## Manual configuration

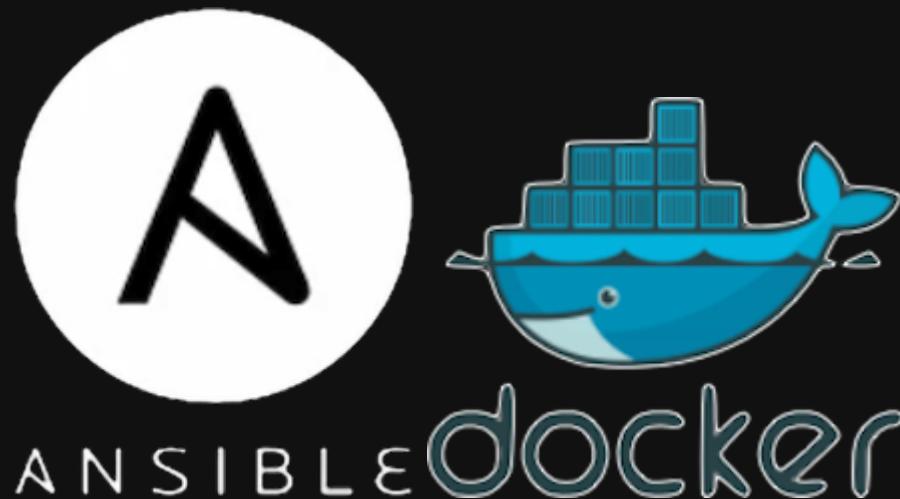
Late 1990s to Early 2000s



# Dev Environment Setup

## Config Mgmt & Containerization

Mid-2000s to 2010s



# Dev Environment Setup

## IaC and DevOps Integration

2010s to Present



# Broader Impact of DevEx

- Deployment Pipelines
- Infrastructure as Code (IaC) Practices
- Developer Efficiencies

# Good DevEx ≡ Good DevOps

- Facilitates smoother transitions between Dev and Ops
- Minimizes bottlenecks with enhanced collaboration
- Ensures feedback loops are efficient and productive
- Enables DevOps principles to take hold within an organization

# What is DevOps?

*the combination of practices and tools designed to increase an organization's ability to deliver applications and services faster than traditional software development processes*

# Core DevOps Principles

- Collaboration

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- Collaboration
- Communication

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- Collaboration
- Communication
- Shared Responsibility



# DevEx & DevOps Alignment

- Enhanced collaboration *via tools and processes*

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- Improving communication *via streamlined info sharing and feedback*

# DevEx & DevOps Alignment

- Enhanced collaboration *via tools and processes*
- Improving communication *via streamlined info sharing and feedback*
- Shared responsibility *by empowering all teams with access and information*



# DevEx and DevOps are One

# Platform Engineering

## The rise of Platform Engineering

- Creation of specific, integrated environments that devs need
- Abstract away complexities of infrastructure & backend services
- Ensure devs have access to robust, scalable, easy-to-use platforms
- Streamline development processes and reduce setup time

## **Self-Service Platforms**

- Empower developers to control their needs with necessary tools
- Leverage automation, templates, policies with agility
- Accelerate development, enhance productivity, and foster autonomy and innovation



# Better Practices

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Empower with the right tools

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Encourage Cross-functional Teams

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Implement Feedback Loops

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Focus on Automation

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Focus on Automation

Invest in Training and Development

# DevEx Impact

## Productivity

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Streamlined Development Environments

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Streamlined Development Environments

Integrated and Automated Toolchains

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## Productivity

Streamlined Development Environments

Integrated and Automated Toolchains

Efficient Collaboration Platforms

# DevEx Impact

## Morale

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## Morale

Autonomy and Empowerment

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Recognition and Achievement

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Recognition and Achievement

Reduced Frustration and Burnout

# DevEx Impact

## Morale

Autonomy and Empowerment

Recognition and Achievement

Reduced Frustration and Burnout

Learning and Growth Opportunities

# DevEx reflects an organizations values

Jeremy's got a #NewThing 🇺🇸🇺🇦

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If your company does not already have a process for gathering feedback (internal & external) on your product and/or the tools you use, you will not have a good Developer Experience, and I seriously question your commitment to it.

8:57 AM · Jan 25, 2024

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# DevEx is...

*“ruthlessly eliminating  
barriers (and blockers)  
that keep your  
developers from being  
successful”*

# Thank You.



<https://bit.ly/DevWeekSF-DevEx-Talk>



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