Skybound Software Delivers Professional Web Developer Tools on Windows and Mac with Mono

Overview

Skybound Software, based out of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, is the creator of Stylizer, a powerful CSS editor designed to help web designers of all skill levels produce higher quality CSS in less time. Stylizer has a loyal user base, with many thousands of users spanning the entire range of web designer skill levels. The product is heavily focused on using interface in clever ways to automate and abstract the trivial technical details of the Cascading Style Sheet language. For a cross-platform application running from a single code base, the UI delivers a surprising level of native operating system look and feel, on both Mac OS X and Windows.

Business Challenges

As a small company, using a single code base to target both platforms was the only feasible option. Fortunately, with the depth of the .NET framework combined with C#'s modern language features and strong IDE support, development was not only feasible – it happened with fewer bugs and in less time, when compared to C++, Objective-C, Java, or any of the dynamic languages.

Novell Solution

To implement the user interface concepts the software demanded, Skybound developed its own UI framework from the ground up. The framework is built on .NET, and Mono is the bridge that brings it to other platforms. Paul Young, the company's CEO, says that the framework allows them to explore interface concepts not seen in other desktop applications, and certainly not other cross-platform desktop applications.

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>
> Paul Young
> CEO
> Skybound Software

Results

Stylizer is visually attractive and highly productive. Paul said that without Mono, Stylizer would have remained a Windows-only application for the foreseeable future. He has a strong confidence in the the Mono platform: "Every time you turn around, someone else has Mono running on a different device or operating system. This gives us great comfort that no matter what the future holds, the code we've invested in will come with us."

Novell.