

Google, Cloud, Tablets, Smartphones – You are Future-Proof With BASIS

As we look to the future, there are ongoing challenges and opportunities that the ever-changing technology landscape presents to us such as the Cloud and mobile computing. Hence, it is a good time to pause, take stock, and strategize our next steps. It's what we do continually at BASIS, and I'd like to share our current vision with you – our partners and customers – the BBx® community.

BASIS has morphed over time from a company with the single focus of producing the best Business BASIC on a choice of operating system platforms, into a company that now delivers a much broader BBx eco-system. This environment of technology components serves as the platform for modern business application solutions, fully cloud-enabled and mobile capable, all from a single code base. Specifically, BASIS has evolved from a Business BASIC eXtended world to a Java-made-simple world with BBJ®, the latest generation of BBx. BBJ embraces the Java environment's cross-platform capabilities while augmenting and extending Java with a simple eco-system of System Administration & Deployment, Language & Interpreter, Database, and Development Tools components. BASIS takes the best that current and future Java versions have to offer and simplifies the complexities of the environment while retaining backward compatibility for all BASIS applications.

BASIS and Java share a commonly held goal for application developers to "write once, run anywhere." The great and valuable exception is that BASIS doesn't fall foul of the "write once, debug everywhere" criticism of Java since BASIS provides a layer of abstraction that overcomes the issue. In a truly revolutionary move, this layer of abstraction has allowed BASIS to further extend the "write once, run anywhere" term to include the browser environment. We have achieved this remarkable feat by interpreting BBJ code into *either* code that executes in a JVM or into HTML5 and JavaScript that executes in a browser on either a desktop or a mobile device such as a tablet or a smartphone. This feat is an impossibility for a pure Java application. Our new Browser User Interface (BUI) is equally remarkable for the simple fact that most existing BBJ graphical applications will run, unchanged, in this new environment. Naturally, developers need not stop there. With CSS (Cascading Style Sheet) support, they can graphically enhance the application in either very subtle or very dramatic ways.

So, what does this all mean?

Not only have we dramatically extended your existing investment in our technology for the new mobile world, but we have added an amazing number of new features and components to our technology stack. For ease of deployment of your new BUI-enabled applications, your Web Services, and your desktop applications on Web Start, we include the Jetty Web Server with every installation of BBJ. BASIS also delivers, *for no extra fee*, application building blocks, utilities, and sample code for emailing, faxing, language translations, geolocation determination, signature capture, patch-deployment, integration with WYSIWYG-designed reports, Google Docs integration, a customizable installer, and data replication. The data dictionary-based RAD tool, Barista®, is continually being enhanced and now includes a notable new multi-table SQL-based Query Design feature.

The list doesn't stop here. The AddonSoftware® ERP modules are the customizable functional application building blocks for vertical market development. BASIS customers can jumpstart the process of creating and refining applications in their area of expertise. Building applications upon the foundation of proven accounting modules means that developers eliminate the need to 're-invent the wheel' and can invest their resources in coding what they know best. This edition of *The BASIS Advantage* includes articles on many of these features and functions.

How does this all fit into our strategy and yours? In a nutshell, we strive to simplify your lives while future-proofing your applications. Our strategy is to enable you, our partners and customers, to be more efficient in delivering your solutions to your end users. BASIS is adding more and more features and components to our eco-system so that you can focus on your specialized knowledge while knowing that whatever the future brings, BASIS will ensure that you will be technologically-enabled to meet the challenges and leverage the opportunities, be they on the server or client, desktop or mobile, terra firma or in the Cloud. ■



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