



**WELCOME** to the winter issue of the Que/Sams Microsoft User Group Newsletter. Our goal is to use this venue to keep you updated on Que and Sams' activities within the Microsoft Community. You'll learn of our travels with regard to tradeshows and other events in addition to where our authors can be found. You'll also get the opportunity to learn a little more about our authors in an author profile section. This month's feature is C# and authors Joe Mayo and James Foxall. We'll keep you up-to-date with what books are forthcoming and those that are worth a second look.

Likewise we want to know what is going on in your group. Keep us

posted on your events and activities. Let us know how we can make our books better and which ones just cannot be topped. If there is anything that you would like to see appear in these newsletters, drop us a line on that as well.

Be sure to visit [www.sampublishing.com/dotnet](http://www.sampublishing.com/dotnet) for the latest on Microsoft technologies from Que and Sams.

Happy holidays from the Que/Sams team! We wish you a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

#### AUTHOR EVENTS

##### JASON BERES

Atlanta .NET Users Group  
12/8/2003

##### JASON BERES

Wisconsin .NET Users  
Group  
1/10/2004

##### DOUG SEVEN

Alberta .NET User Group  
1/15/2004

##### STEVEN SMITH

Groupe d'utilisateurs Visual  
Studio Montréal  
12/10/2004

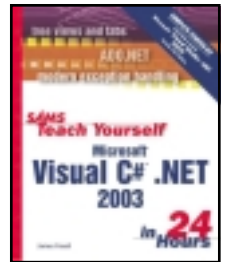
##### INETA

(<http://www.ineta.org>)  
sponsored events.

#### JAMES FOXALL EXPLAINS THE 24 HOUR APPROACH

James Foxall's latest offering is *Sams Teach Yourself Microsoft Visual C# .NET 2003 in 24 Hours Complete Starter Kit*. In a recent interview with Stephen Ibaraki ([www.stephenibaraki.com/pearson.htm](http://www.stephenibaraki.com/pearson.htm)), James provides some insight into the thinking and the set-up of Sams' 24 Hour series.

"The Sams Teach Yourself books are interesting in that they have a very specific structure and are aimed at a very specific group of individuals: those new to a technology. The books are broken into 24 chapters, each taking roughly an hour to complete. My book isn't designed to make you an expert, but it is designed to make you productive. I've tried to distill a LOT of information down to useable information. I truly want a reader to be able to write programs – albeit not commercial applications, as soon as they finish the book. The format of my book teaches you the material much in the same way you'd use the knowledge. First, you learn about the Visual Studio .NET environment. Then, you move on to designing an interface, then adding code, debugging, using databases, and then finally how to distribute a .NET application. In the last chapter, you actually build a complete working application using all the skills covered in earlier chapters – it's a great way to end the book. The information in the book is practical and approachable. I think a lot of readers get turned away when an author talks down to them, or when an author tries to show off to the reader. When I write a Teach Yourself book, I have to operate under the assumption that a reader doesn't know much or anything about the topic at hand. This doesn't mean the reader is an idiot, however, and I don't treat them like one. I try to clearly and concisely cover a topic without being condescending, and without too much technical fluff. When you read my book, you should feel that I really want you to learn the material, and you will find an organization and cohesiveness of thought that will help you move through what can often be a confusing topic. That's my goal at least!"



#### ASP.NET EXPOSED

Rob Howard, Program Manager on the Microsoft ASP.NET team and co-author of *ASP.NET Developer's Cookbook*, and Scott Guthrie, co-founder the ASP.NET Team, are bringing their tour to a city near you! This is a opportunity to experience a 3.5 hour workshop that delivers the technical knowledge you need to start developing secure, next generation Web applications with ASP.NET and Visual Studio .NET. For more information visit ASP.NET Exposed (<http://www.asp.net/roadshow/>).



#### CATCH ASP.NET EXPOSED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

Denver, Colorado	December 2, 2003
St. Louis, Missouri	December 4, 2003
Seattle, Washington	December 8, 2003
Chicago, Illinois	January 12, 2004
Orange County, California	January 15, 2004
Portland, Oregon	January 29, 2004
New York, New York	February 4, 2004
Boston, Massachusetts	February 5, 2004
Houston, Texas	February 10, 2004

#### EXTRA

Amazon offers some great ways to keep on top of what important members of the community are reading and recommending. Many of our Que/Sams authors have created Listmania Lists, Sou You'd Like to...Guides, and profiles on Amazon. These can be a quick and easy way to check on what you should be reading next! Stephen Walther, author of *ASP.NET Unleashed* among others, offers his suggestions here:

[http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/cm/member-glance/-/AUFNE747WY5EC/ref=cm\\_fp\\_rc/002-3772766-1314469](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/cm/member-glance/-/AUFNE747WY5EC/ref=cm_fp_rc/002-3772766-1314469).



## AUTHOR FEATURE: JOE MAYO



Joe Mayo is an author, independent consultant, and trainer, specializing in .NET technologies. His books include *Borland C#Builder Kick Start* and *C# Unleashed*. He opened the C# Station Web site on July 4, 2000, and has been working with C# and .NET since the first pre-beta version of the .NET Frameworks SDK was released during the same month. Joe has been programming computers for over 17 years and is currently an independent consultant, serving customers in the Denver, Colorado area. You are welcome to contact Joe via email at [jmayo@MayoSoftware.com](mailto:jmayo@MayoSoftware.com).

Here is a bit of the interview with Joe courtesy of Stephen Ibaraki ([www.stephenibaraki.com/pearson.htm](http://www.stephenibaraki.com/pearson.htm))

**Q:** Describe your latest book.

**JOE:** The title, *Borland C#Builder Kick Start*, conjures up images of a book about an IDE, but once you open it, you'll find much more between the cover. My goal was not to simply enumerate tool options and mechanics, but bring language, platform, and tools into focus so readers may be proficient at building .NET applications using C#Builder. Most people can run a wizard, type some code, and press a button to run a program, so I left things like this up to the reader to figure out. Instead, I talked about the .NET platform, the CLR, the C# programming language, and integrated these things with how the reader could be productive programming in this environment with C#Builder.



It is my firm belief that presenting simple facts is not enough. The value to the reader is in understanding the foundations their environment is based upon. They need to know "Why?" They need an explanation of the right way to do things and an understanding of the associated trade-offs. Borland C#Builder Kick Start, at 416 pages, packs a lot of information in a small space that helps developers get started in the right direction with building .NET applications with C#Builder.

**Q:** What advantages can be gained by using C#Builder?

**JOE:** C#Builder has several benefits that make it an attractive tool that increases developer productivity. Firstly, it has all the productivity tools that allow a developer to create almost any type of .NET application, including Windows Forms, ASP.NET, ADO.NET, Web Services, and more. The reason I say "nearly" is because C#Builder doesn't support mobile development and lacks the Compact Framework, which is included in Visual Studio .NET. Additionally, C#Builder has great integration with other tools such as UML Modeling, Caliber RM Requirements Manager, Star Team Code Management, OptimizeIt Profiler, and others. These tools fit an integrated concept that Borland has where tools and process meet, called Application Lifecycle Management (ALM). Another tool that ships with C#Builder Architect is Enterprise Core Objects (ECO) which is a runtime modeling tool. Besides being a very nice IDE for the developer, through ALM, C#Builder offers features that are attractive to architects and managers.

**Q:** Which features of the C# language do you find most useful, and where do you still see that it's lacking?

**JOE:** I like C# because it is both simple and powerful as an object-oriented language. It feels very natural to C, C++, and Java programmers, all languages I have experience with from pre-C# days. Because of its type safety and component oriented features as first-class concepts, C# is a productive, best-of-class language for present and future software development.

There isn't much I don't like about C# because it allows me to do everything I want. The next version of C# will introduce new features that I am looking forward to.

**Q:** How will C# evolve in the future?

**JOE:** Microsoft has announced four significant new features to C# v2.0 that will help developers be more productive: generics, iterators, partial types, and anonymous methods.

- Generics are forms of parameterized type that help developers build type safe data structures. They're similar to Templates in C++, but have a different implementation, performance characteristics, and additional features.

- Iterators will help make it easier for developers to create enumerations over a type. Today, with IEnumerable types, things can get tricky, but iterators will simplify this.

- Partial types will be valuable for use with development tools and people doing code generation. They are essentially a way to split a type into pieces, where each part can reside in different files and contribute members to a single type.

- Anonymous methods allow developers to declare methods in-line, when they are assigned to delegates and events. It will simplify event handling and produce less code.



## NEW AND UPCOMING TITLES

### MICROSOFT VISUAL C++ .NET 2003 KICK START

Kate Gregory  
ISBN: 0672326000

### MICROSOFT VISUAL BASIC .NET 2003 KICK START

Duncan Mackenzie, Andy Baron, Erik Porter, and Joel Semeniuk  
ISBN: 0672325497

### MICROSOFT VISUAL C# .NET 2003 DEVELOPER'S COOKBOOK

Mark Schmidt and Simon Robinson  
ISBN: 0672325802

### MICROSOFT .NET KICK START

Hitesh Seth  
ISBN: 0672325748

### ALISON BALTER'S MASTERING MICROSOFT OFFICE ACCESS 2003

Balter  
ISBN: 0672325500

### MICROSOFT EXCHANGE SERVER 2003 DELTA GUIDE

David McAmis and Don Jones  
ISBN: 0672325853

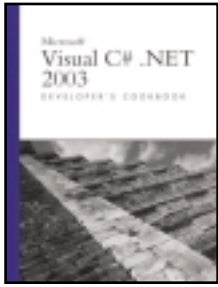
### MICROSOFT EXCHANGE SERVER 2003 UNLEASHED

Rand Morimoto  
ISBN: 0672325810





**FEATURED TITLE: MICROSOFT VISUAL C# .NET 2003 DEVELOPER'S COOKBOOK**



This C# offering takes a unique approach to help it stand out among the numerous .NET programming titles available. The format is well suited for developers that already understand the basics of .NET programming and want a practical reference for various programming tasks. Each chapter consists of a brief introduction to the topic at hand, followed by a number of "recipes." Each recipe will consist of a brief descriptive name, followed by a longer but brief description of the task, followed by the technique itself, and finally concluded with a "comments" section where the technique is discussed.

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

Mark Schmidt is a software engineer at Hewlett-Packard. His current research is in the area of advanced custom user interfaces. He has written articles on C# for Visual Studio Magazine and VBPI. At HP, Mark has used C# in many areas from quick UI prototypes to fully functional ASP.NET enabled Web Servers. His breadth of knowledge is the result of a constant search for information that leads him down several different technology avenues.

**QUE'S BUSINESS TRAVEL ALMANAC FLIES ONTO SHELVES**



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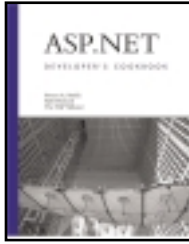
the fingertips of the busy business traveler. With a combination of travel advice, reference material, directory information, and city guides, this book is a unique tool for the traveling professional.

It is packed full of info, with airline comparisons, hotel details, and rental car options. The city section focuses on 15 major U.S. cities and includes airport and city maps, convention center info, restaurant reviews from Gayot.com, and much more! Cities include: New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Detroit, Boston, Dallas, Washington DC, Houston, Atlanta, Miami, Seattle, Phoenix, and Las Vegas.

The book includes special features for the technology business traveler, including a companion Web site ([www.businesstravelalmanac.com](http://www.businesstravelalmanac.com)) with important links, phone numbers and updated travel information. Also, purchasers of the book are able to download the book to their laptop or PDA for easy accessibility on the road. Visit [www.businesstravelalmanac.com](http://www.businesstravelalmanac.com) to purchase your copy today!

**WORD SEARCH: CODE?**

ACCESS	W W C F G D K X U X Q N P S D
ACTIVE	N K A C G N O L A V A W A F T
AVALON	V Y G G E V I T C A T M E V Y
BASIC	E K G R P P Q H C F X F L R I
CACHING	R R S V G O S A C R O R O A Q
DIRECTORY	A Q E J M V I S U A L T Q K C
FRAMEWORK	K V Z H I S S W I M C H T H Y
INDIGO	F B I D B S N N X E X S J N B
LONGHORN	C C Y S E R V E R W W S Q Y I
ORCAS	Q I J C T V K I H O Q D O L E
SERVER	N S C N D U D I D R H Q S W X
SQL	V A N O G I D N I K Q G F U B
STUDIO	N B A K S B I I H V C T N M R
VISUAL	R Y O U E W Z P O R Z Q I O S
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