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NetBeans
magazine

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New Horizons

Release 6.0 is finally here, and the NetBeans Community continues to grow both in the programming and the natural language dimensions. This issue showcases the ever-expanding scope of the IDE and Platform, covering topics from Web 2.0 development to module construction and IDE translations.

One of the main highlights in the roster of new 6.0 features is Ruby development support, which is already attracting major new blood to the NetBeans community. The opening article gives you a thorough overview of the many features already available, which have been making quite an impression among Ruby developers.

However, you don't need to wait for new releases to use other languages in the IDE. There's always the Generic Languages Framework, or Project Schliemann. A new article by Schliemann's most enthusiastic evangelist shows how this once exploratory but now production-quality framework is being used to add language support in areas varying from essential to niche.

As I write, there are NetBeans releases localized to more than 15 languages, and the number is growing. Though English is the modern lingua franca, non-English speaking developers feel much more at home in an IDE in their native language – especially those from developing countries or regions, who in general have less access to foreign-language instruction. An article by one of the leaders of the localization efforts at Sun shows how this is happening, the challenges encountered, and what you can do to help out.

This issue also brings two articles from world experts on the NetBeans Platform. You'll see how the new Visual Library API is being used in the Platform-based blueMarine application as the basis for sophisticated image management components. And another in-depth article covers all you need to know in order to use the IDE, Maven 2 and plugins to build your NetBeans modules – an alternative to the standard Ant-based harness.

Finally, don't miss the detailed article on profiling. By analyzing aspects of a complex project, the author shows how to use the NetBeans Profiler (including its top new features) to gain insights into the workings of your Java applications. You then see how to use this information to identify optimization opportunities and act on them, while keeping tradeoffs and potential problems in context.

Happy coding!

Leonardo Galvao

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