FLEX VS. GWT SMACKDOWN
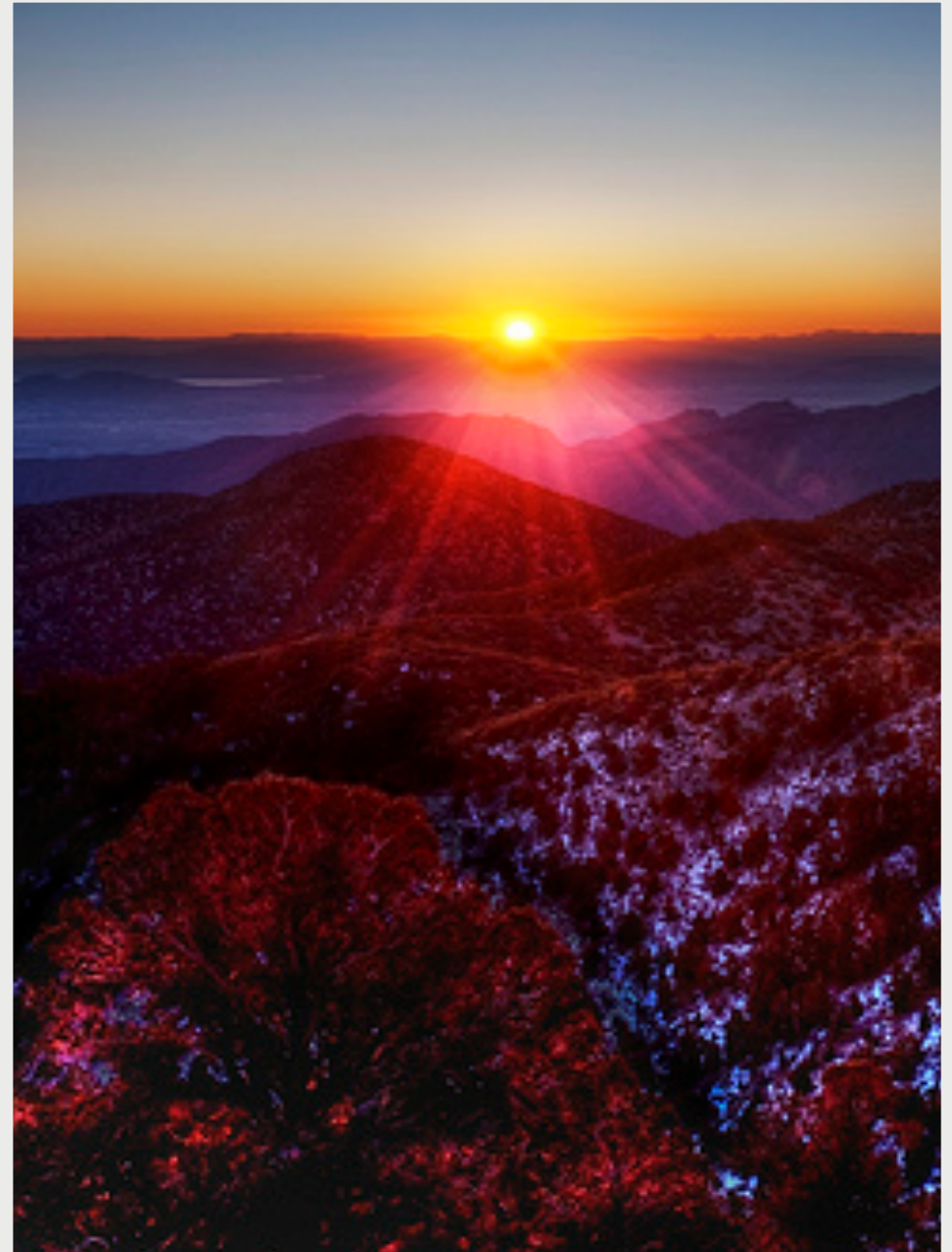
With Matt Raible and James Ward

INTRODUCTIONS

- Who is Matt Raible?

- Who is using GWT?

- Who is James Ward?

- Who is using Flex?

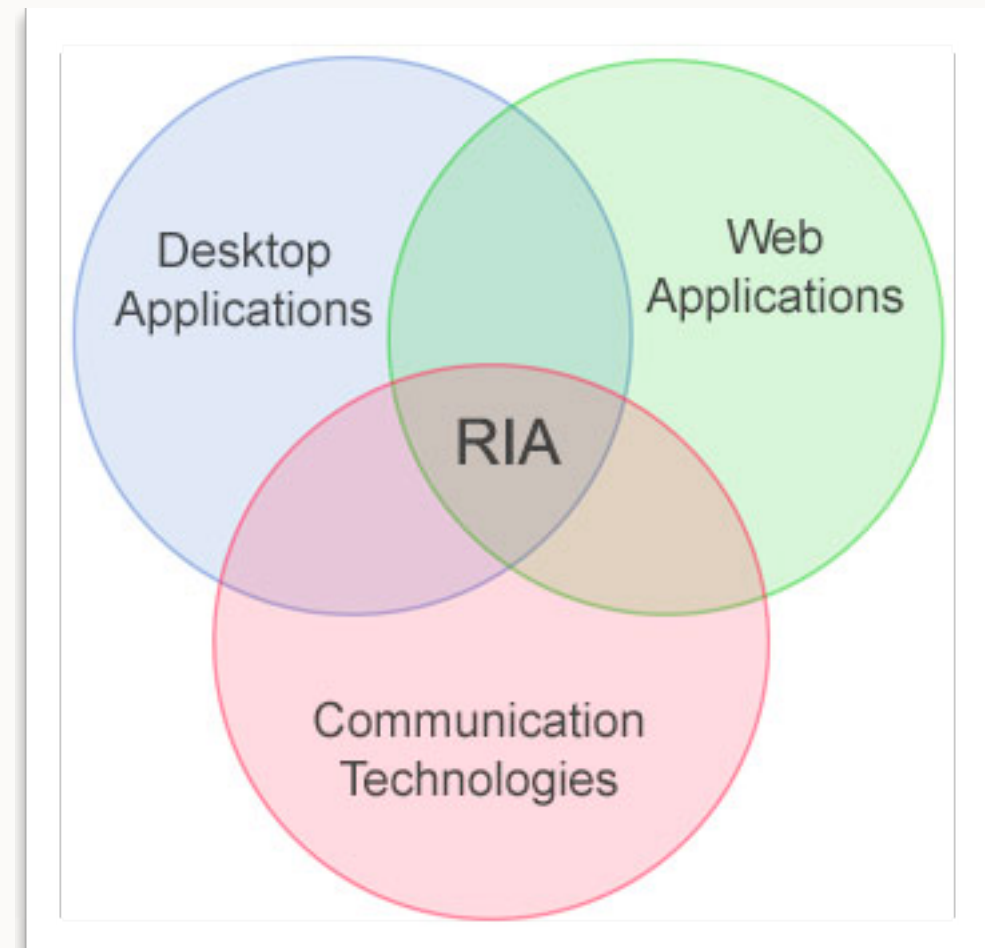- What do you want to learn today?

SESSION AGENDA

- What are Rich Internet Applications?

- The Smackdown

- Success Stories

- Pitfalls

- How to choose?

- Q and A

WHAT DEFINES RICH?

According to [Simon Whatley](#):

"[RIAs] combine the best user interface functionality of desktop software applications with the broad reach and low-cost deployment of Web applications and the best of interactive, multimedia communication."

WIKIPEDIA'S DEFINITION

Rich Internet Applications (RIAs) are web applications that have most of the characteristics of desktop applications, typically delivered either by way of a standards-based web browser, via a browser plug-in, or independently via sandboxes or virtual machines. Examples of RIA frameworks include Ajax, Curl, **GWT**, Adobe Flash/**Adobe Flex**/AIR, Java/JavaFX, Apache Pivot, Mozilla's XUL, OpenLaszlo and Microsoft Silverlight.

OUR DEFINITION

A one-page application that doesn't require a page transition.

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!

TEXT

Right-to-left languages
unsupported in Flex

DRAWING

Flex can draw

Fx

PRINTING

Flex has issues printing from the browser

DRAG N' DROP

Flex has easy drag n' drop support

Fx

CSS

GWT has CSS support, not like Flex's proprietary support

VALIDATORS & FORMATTERS

Flex has effects, form layout, validators and formatters

Fx

JSON SUPPORT

GWT supports JSON out-of-the-box

IE6 SUPPORT

Flex works across all browsers

Fx

IPHONE SUPPORT

GWT works on the iPhone

VIDEO

Flash Video is the absolute number one video format on the web

PERFORMANCE

Making your app "pop"

COMPONENTS

Tour de Flex

TOOLS

Speed Tracer
IDEs

PROGRAMMING MODEL

"GWT is nothing more than a JSP Tag Library"

-- Matt Raible

Fx

SUCCESS STORIES

- [Google Wave](#)

- [Evite](#)

- [Picnik](#)

- [Mercedes-Benz USA](#)

- [My Oracle Support](#)

- Others?

AVOID PITFALLS

- Don't load everything on the first page load.

- Slower machines can mean slower clients. Know your users!

- Don't use for sites, only for applications.

HOW TO CHOOSE?

- Prioritize a list of features that are important to your application.

- Pick 3-4 frameworks and do a 1-week spike with each, developing the same application.

- Document and rank each framework against your list of features.

- Calculate and choose!

CONCLUSION

GWT and Flex are great technologies, use them wisely.

QUESTIONS?

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Download Presentation

http://slideshare.net/mraible