

A Look at Flex and PHP

Central Florida PHP

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- Background Information
- Flex: “Flash for Developers”
- MXML
- Building an Application

Background Information

1985

Bill Atkinson builds HyperCard

1991

Tim Berners-Lee Proposes HTML

1993

Mosaic surfaces. Changes the world.

1994

HTML 2, Netscape, W3

1995

HTML 3, Tables, IE, Frames, Standards

1996

Scripting Introduced

1997

XML Introduced

Today

Flash + XML = Flex

Flex: “Flash for Developers”



Authoring
Environment





MXML

MXML vs. XHTML

- MXML is to Flex as XHTML is to WWW
 - XHTML is *interpreted*
 - MXML is *Compiled (into SWF)*

MXML vs. XHTML

- In MXML and XHTML you can
 - Define *structure* of data and layout
 - Define *behavior* or logic
 - Define *presentation* of information

MXML is XML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<mx:Application xmlns:mx="http://www.adobe.com/2006/mxml"
  backgroundColor="#FFFFFF">

  <mx:WebService id="srv"
    wsdl="http://coenraets.org/services/ProductWS?wsdl"
    showBusyCursor="true"/>

  <mx:DataGrid dataProvider="{srv.getProducts.lastResult}"
    width="100%"
    height="100%">

    <mx:columns>
      <mx:DataGridColumn dataField="productId" headerText="Product Id">
      <mx:DataGridColumn dataField="name" headerText="Name"/>
      <mx:DataGridColumn dataField="price" headerText="Price"/>
    </mx:columns>

  </mx:DataGrid>
  <mx:Button label="Get Data" click="srv.getProducts()"/>
</mx:Application>
```

MXML Makes Rich UIs

The screenshot displays the Adobe Flex 2 Component Explorer interface. On the left, a tree view shows the component hierarchy, with 'DateChooser' selected under 'Date Controls'. The main area shows a 'DateChooser Control Example' with two calendar widgets. The first is a 'Simple DateChooser control' showing August 2007 with the 25th selected. The second is a 'DateChooser control with disabled dates' showing August 2007 with dates before June 1, 2006, disabled. Below the examples is the MXML code for 'DateChooserExample.mxml'.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!-- Simple example to demonstrate DateChooser control. -->
<mx:Application xmlns:mx="http://www.adobe.com/2006/mxml">

  <mx:Script>
    <![CDATA[
      // Event handler function to write the selected
      // date to the Label control.
      private function displayDate(date:Date):void {
        if (date == null)
          selection.text = "Date selected: ";
        else
          selection.text = "Date selected: " + date.getFullYear().toString() +
            '/' + (date.getMonth()+1).toString() + '/' + date.getDate();
      }
    ]]>
  </mx:Script>

  <mx>DateFormatter id="df"/>

  <mx:Panel title="DateChooser Control Example" height="75%" width="75%"
    paddingTop="10" paddingLeft="10" paddingRight="10">

    <mx:Label width="100%" color="blue"
      text="Select a date in the DateChooser control. Select it again to clear it."/>

  </mx:Panel>

</mx:Application>
```

MXML Makes Rich UIs

The screenshot displays the Amazon.com search interface for the keyword "flex". At the top left, the Amazon logo is visible. The search bar contains "flex" and is followed by a "Search" button and a "Books" category dropdown. Below the search bar, there are two horizontal sliders: one for "Publication Date" ranging from 1983 to 2008 (set to 1984 - 2007) and another for "Price" ranging from \$0 to \$131 (set to \$-1 - \$132). The page is powered by "digital positions".

The featured book is "Programming Flex 2: The comprehensive guide to cre ...". The author is Chafic Kazoun and Joey Lott. It has 502 pages, costs \$54.99, was published on 2007-04-16, and has a sales rank of 14882. A "Buy Now" button is present.

The search results section shows "Search Results: 1-25 of 799 at Page 1". It includes tabs for "Cover Art" and "Text List", a "Sort Results" dropdown, and navigation buttons for "Previous" and "Next". The results are displayed in a grid of 25 items. The first row includes "ActionScript 3.0 Cookbook", "Flex 2 TRAINING MANUAL", "Flex 2 with ActionScript 3.0", "Flex 2.0", "Flex 2", "GOLF FLEX", "Apollo...", "OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT", and "Flex 2 Advanced". The second row includes "Flex 2", "FLEX", "Flex 2", "SURF FLEX", "ActionScript 3.0 Design Patterns", "PLAY OR BE PLAYED", "Flex-shaft", "THEY BEYOND MAGIC", and "ActionScript 3.0 in Flex Builder". The third row includes "Cooking with Flex", "Sorry... no image", "FLEX ABILITY", "Sorry... no image", "Flex 2", "SkiFlex", and "Sorry... no image".

Building an Application

Step-by-Step

1. Download Flex
2. Install the Framework
3. Write the Code
4. Compile
5. Execute

Downloading Flex

- <http://www.flex.org/download/>
- You need the “free Flex SDK”
- FlexBuilder is cool too

Installing Flex

- Unpack the SDK to a permanent location
- Install the Debug Player
- Add the compiler to your PATH
 - Windows: `bin/mxmlc.exe`
 - Mac: `bin/mxmlc`

Write the Code

Binding.mxml

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<mx:Application
    xmlns:mx="http://www.adobe.com/2006/mxml"
    horizontalAlign="center" verticalAlign="center"
    >

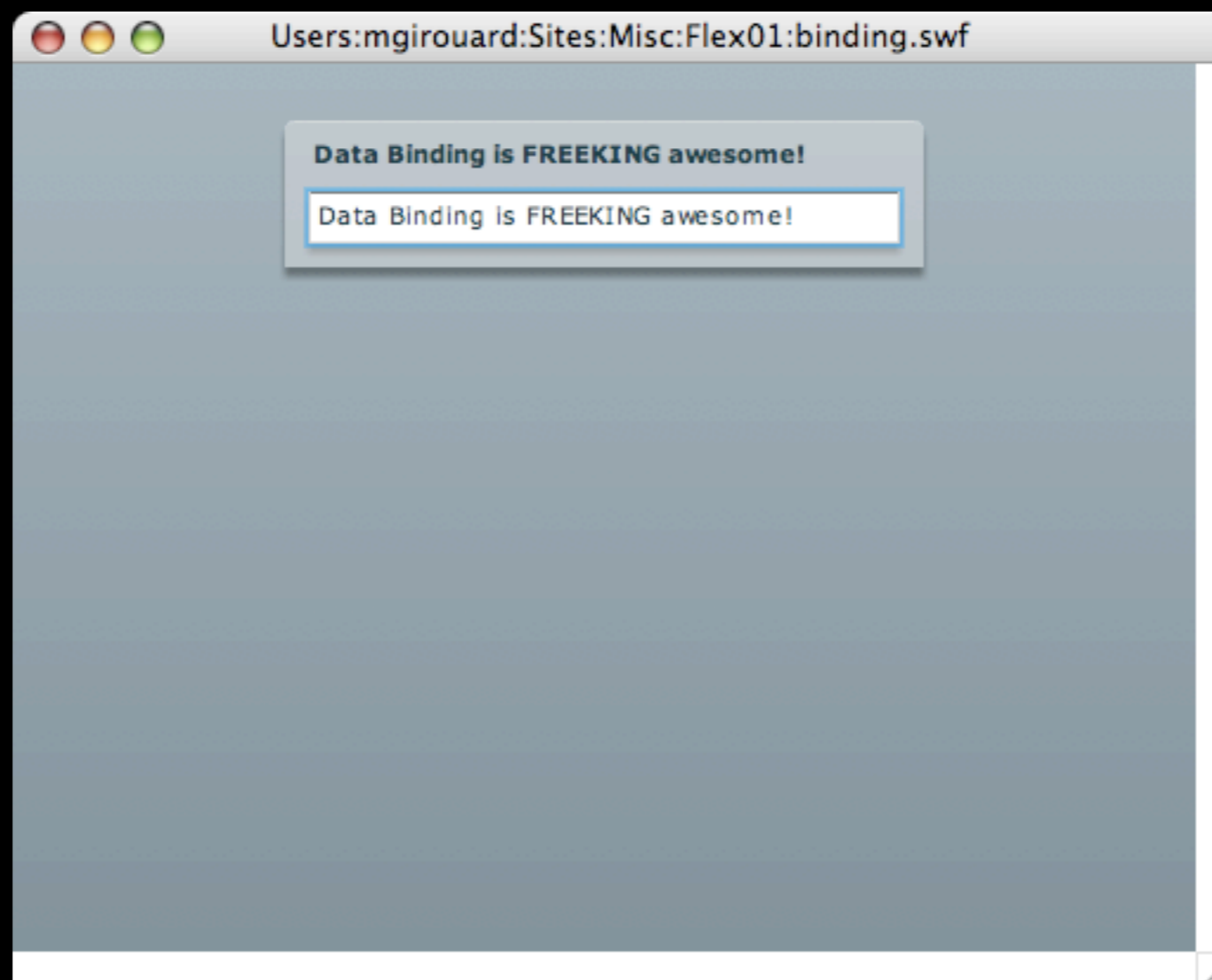
    <mx:Panel title="{textInput.text}">
        <mx:TextInput id="textInput" width="250" text="Data Binding"/>
    </mx:Panel>

</mx:Application>
```

Compile

- `mxm1c path/to/Binding.mxm1`

Execute



Useful Links

- Flex.org
 - <http://flex.org/>
- Flex Documentation
 - <http://www.adobe.com/support/documentation/en/flex/>

Useful Links

- Flex Quickstart Tutorials
 - <http://www.adobe.com/devnet/flex/?tab:quickstart=1>
- Try Flex Online
 - <http://try.flex.org/>
- Flex Labs
 - <http://labs.adobe.com/technologies/flex/>

Useful Links

- Adobe Developers of Greater Orlando
 - <http://adogo.us/>
- RIAPedia
 - <http://www.riapedia.com/>
- Flex Team Blog
 - <http://weblogs.macromedia.com/flexteam/>