

Back From Flex Training @ Adobe

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Friday was the last day at Adobe. The conference was great and I met a lot of people. It took a while for me to get re-oriented to my normal life, but I think I am readjusted now.

Adobe also provided two days of fast-paced Flex training. From what I have seen so far, I am really impressed with Flex.

Although I think that most web sites and even most administrative sections would still be better served with a mostly HTML interface, I think that Flex is an impressive tool for applications that benefit from a Flash interface (where a highly dynamic interface is needed, for example).

It is interesting to me that ColdFusion has long been criticized by proponents of other languages for its tag-based syntax. This format, however, has been popular and is becoming increasingly so.

For example, Flex uses an XML-based declarative language (MXML) with a scripting language (ActionScript) as well as CSS for styling. This is basically the same approach as good HTML which uses HTML (or its XML-based cousin, XHTML) with a scripting language (JavaScript) as well as CSS for styling. ColdFusion, for its part is a tag-based language that includes its own scripting counterpart (cfscript). Of course, it can output HTML or many other formats.

JSP has even added a tag-based format. XAML looks like it will be an XML-based format.

I guess ColdFusion isn't too far off-base after all.

In any event, the structure of Flex seems to be very well thought out. The class itself was very good. I don't envy the instructor his challenge. He was teaching a class of more than sixty and trying to cover five days of material in two.

Coincidentally, [CrystalTech](#) just announced that they have upgraded to ColdFusion MX 7.02, so you can now do Flex development on sites they host (though not with Flex Data Services, of course).