

# Twin Cities Software Symposium

Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington Hotel

October 2 - 4, 2009

<http://www.nofluffjuststuff.com/conference/minneapolis/2009/10/home>

The No Fluff Just Stuff Java Symposium Series is proud to announce the return of the Twin Cities Software Symposium on October 2 - 4, 2009. TCSS2009FE will be held at the Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington Hotel.

Since 2002, the No Fluff Just Stuff Java Symposium has been regarded as the premier Java/Agility event series anywhere serving over 21,000 attendees with some 130 events. The popularity of the NFJS symposium series can be traced to the following:

- 1). Exceptional Speakers
- 2). Limited Attendance - capped at 250 people
- 3). No Vendors, No Sales Pitches, No Marketecture
- 4). Excellent networking opportunity with speakers and fellow attendees because of small size.
- 5). The Best Value in the Java conferencing space period.

You will have the opportunity to attend multiple sessions on variety of interesting topics covering core Java, Enterprise Java, Web 2.0, Dynamic Languages, Architecture, Security, Testing, CI and Agility.

## **The Registration Fee Includes:**

3 Day All Access Pass to TCSS2009FE

All Meals/Snacks - duration of the symposium

Complimentary copy of "Career 2.0" by Jared Richardson

90 Day IntelliJ license compliments of JetBrains

Session Materials

Custom NFJS Binder

Great Giveaways @ NFJS including \$200 and \$400 Apple Gift cards

**Early Bird Registration:** \$825/person good thru 9/14/09 after \$925

**Excellent Group Discounts Available** - bring your entire development team to the show - no travel required!! Rate good thru 9/14/09

## **Registration Fees**

Attendees	Before Sep. 14, 2009	After Sep. 14, 2009
5-9	\$725	\$825
10-14	\$700	\$800
15-24	\$675	\$775
25+	\$650	\$750

Go to <http://www.nofluffjuststuff.com/conference/minneapolis/2009/10/home> and register today!

# Twin Cities Software Symposium

## -Session Schedule-

(event schedule as of September 30, 2009)

### Friday, Oct. 2

12:00 - 1:00 PM : REGISTRATION

1:00 - 1:15 PM : WELCOME

1:15 - 2:45 PM - Sessions

#### **Session #1 : The Busy Java Developer's Guide to Java7 by Ted Neward**

Even though the Java 7 JSR has yet to be formed, some interesting things are beginning to emerge from Sun about what Java7 may include when its formal release contents are finally made public.

#### **Session #2 : Groovy XML Ninja Skills by Scott Davis**

"XML is like violence: if it doesn't solve your problem, you aren't using enough of it." (Anonymous) XML is everywhere. Whether you are dealing with local configuration files (web.xml, struts-config.xml) or remote web services (SOAP, REST, RSS, Atom), the modern software developer needs to be able to request, slice, and dice XML with ease. That requires a set of razor-sharp tools that reduce the inherent complexity of the problem, not multiply it. Once you see XML tremble in fear at the awesome power of Groovy, you'll wonder what you ever did without it.

#### **Session #3 : JSF 2.0: An Introduction by David Geary**

This session introduces JSF 2.0 fundamentals, with emphasis on new features in JSF 2.0. *Prerequisite: Familiarity with JSF, or other component-based frameworks*

#### **Session #4 : 10 ways to use Hibernate effectively by Brian Sam-Bodden**

Learn 10 tried and true ways to improve the way you use Hibernate today. In this session you would learn about a collection of 10 tips, tricks, practices and tools that will make you more effective at designing, implementing, testing and tuning your application's Hibernate-powered object-relational layer.

#### **Session #5 : Preproduction: Everything You Need to Do Before Iteration 1 by David Hussman**

Many agilists take little time to prepare for the first planning session of their first iteration on a new project. They dive right into the "work" and, sometimes, ultimately deliver software that lacks much value. Some newly formed teams believe that collocation breeds instant success and altogether ignore early planning. While sitting together always helps, it does not mean that people spontaneously collaborate to create sustainable value. Before holding the first planning session, preproduction helps communities learn about each other, the value they will deliver, and their newly forming ecosystem.

2:45 - 3:15 PM : BREAK

3:15 - 4:45 PM - Sessions

#### **Session #6 : The Busy Java Developer's Guide to Concurrency (Part 1: Threads) by Ted Neward**

Java's threading capabilities took a serious turn for the better with the release of Java5, thanks to the incorporation of the java.util.concurrent packages, a set of pre-built components for thread pooling and execution, synchronization, and more.

#### **Session #7 : RESTful Grails by Scott Davis**

"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage - to move in the opposite direction." (Albert Einstein) REST and Resource-Oriented Architecture (ROA) are popping up in technical discussions more and more frequently. Here, you'll see practical examples of adding RESTful web services to your Grails application.

#### **Session #8 : JSF 2.0: Advanced Topics by David Geary**

This session covers two of the most important features of JSF 2.0: composite components and built-in Ajax. *Prerequisite: Familiarity with JSF, or other component-based frameworks. Familiarity with Ajax. This session builds on the JSF 2.0 Introduction talk, so it is helpful, although not required, if you attend the intro talk before coming to this session.*

#### **Session #9 : Beginning Drools - Rule Engines in Java by Brian Sam-Bodden**

Drools is an open source pure-Java implementation of a forward chaining rules engine. Drools can be used in a J2SE or J2EE application and allows you to express rules programatically or by building domain specific rule languages. Learn how Business Rules with Drools can make your Java applications more flexible and robust.

#### **Session #10 : Coaching and Producing Agility by David Hussman**

This session speaks to the question being asked so often: "what is an agile coach" From guiding planning sessions to pairing with developers to helping teams groom backlogs, this session provides insight into coaching agile projects and fostering the agility that produces. Whether you are a manager, developer, or tester, if you are interested in leading the adoption or tuning agility, this session will help prepare you for your first coaching gig.

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4:45 - 5:00 PM : BREAK

5:00 - 6:30 PM - Sessions

### **Session #11 : The Busy Java Developer's Guide to Concurrency (Part 2: Concurrency) by Ted Neward**

Java's threading capabilities have been a part of the Java platform since its inception, yet for many Java developers, using Threads still remain a dark and mysterious art, and synchronization beyond the use of the "synchronized" keyword is almost unknown.

**Prerequisite:** *The Busy Java Developer's Guide to Concurrency (Part 1: Threads)*

### **Session #12 : Groovy Testing by Scott Davis**

"Tests don't break things; they dispel the illusion that it works." (Anonymous) In this era of "Test-First" and "Test-Driven" development, the modern software engineer knows that testing is no longer an optional part of the process. You need to have the best tools at your fingertips: a set of utilities that maximize your results with a minimum of effort. Groovy offers Java developers an optimal set of testing tools.

### **Session #13 : Flex for Java Developers by David Geary**

An introduction to Flex for Java developers. **Prerequisite:** *Familiarity with Flex and at least one other web application framework*

### **Session #14 : Advanced Rules Programming with Drools by Brian Sam-Bodden**

In this session you'll learn some of the more advanced features of Drools; a pure-Java Rule Engine. This session will walk through the construction of an advanced Rules application covering such topics as: - Fine control and monitoring of a Working Memory session - Using Decision Tables - Advanced Rule Language Features - Building Domain Specific Languages - Managing your Rules

**Prerequisite:** *Beginning Drools*

### **Session #15 : Discovering Real Value with Story Maps and Personas by David Hussman**

While actors and use cases often left users behind, personas and story maps bring the users to life and help mine real value. This session will teach you how to craft personas and use them to drive value into your development stream. The tools presented will help you better understand your buyers and users and build strong product backlogs and product road maps.

6:30 - 7:15 PM : DINNER

Keynote: \$presentation.title - Venkat Subramaniam

## **Saturday, Oct. 3**

8:00 - 9:00 AM : BREAKFAST

9:00 - 10:30 AM - Sessions

### **Session #16 : Third time's a charm: What's new in Spring 3.0 by Craig Walls**

In this session, I'll lead a guided tour through the latest that Spring has to offer. Whether you're a Spring veteran or a Spring newbie, there will be something new for nearly everyone.

### **Session #17 : Web 2.0 Checklist: Deconstructing Modern Websites by Scott Davis**

"The challenge of modernity is to live without illusions and without becoming disillusioned." (Antonio Gramsci) There are plenty of sarcastic "Web 2.0" checklists out there -- be perpetually in BETA, when in doubt add rounded corners, etc. While we can all laugh at the superficial aspects of the Web 2.0 revolution, there are plenty of serious aspects to it as well. Is your website mash-up friendly or hostile? Do you tell your visitors when things change (via RSS or Atom syndication), or do you expect them to check in daily for updates? Is your website a silo or a part of a larger ecosystem?

### **Session #18 : Building External DSLs by Venkat Subramaniam**

Domain Specific Languages (DSLs) are languages targeted at a particular problem and domain. They have context and are fluent. They help users of applications at various levels to easily communicate with your application. Developing DSLs, however, are not easy. You could easily get dragged into using parsers and tools with steep learning curve.

### **Session #19 : Tools and Techniques to build Smart Java Applications by Brian Sam-Bodden**

In this session we will explore the Java tools, techniques and algorithms that enable us to filter, classify, relate and discover patterns in our data that might not immediately obvious. With the emergence of social networking applications a great deal of data and hidden connections that can be leveraged to build better and smarter applications.

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### **Session #20 : Selling Agility: Experience from the Trenches by David Hussman**

People ask me all the time, "How do you get people to buy in the use of agile methods?" While this is easier than it once was, there are still many challenges, and agile snake oil sales are on the rise. If you are looking to sell agility or deeper your agile investment (or your sales force), this session will provide you with tools that will help you frame your sell points, select your sales tools and communicate the value (of a practice) over the mechanics.

10:30 - 11:00 AM : BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 PM - Sessions

### **Session #21 : WAR and Pieces: Breaking down monolithic web applications with Spring-DM and OSGi by Craig Walls**

In this session, we'll explore modular web application development using Spring-DM and OSGi. I'll dispel the myth that OSGi is hard and show you tips and tricks that make Spring-DM and OSGi development easy.

### **Session #22 : Lizard Brain Web Design by Scott Davis**

"There's an old story about the person who wished his computer were as easy to use as his telephone. That wish has come true, since I no longer know how to use my telephone." (Bjarne Stroustrup) The "lizard brain" is the oldest part of the human brain -- the part responsible for autonomic functions like breathing, heart rate, and navigating websites. OK, maybe not that last part, but your website should be easy to use. Stupid easy. Lizard brain easy. Any time your user spends figuring out how to do something -- even for a split second -- is wasted time due to poor design. Inspired by Steve Krug's book "Don't Make Me Think", this talk answers the question, "Why is that website so hard to use?"

### **Session #23 : Architecture and Scaling by Ken Sipe**

Scale... what is scale... how do you applications that are scalable. How do you know if the application scales?

### **Session #24 : The Busy Java Developer's Guide to Collections by Ted Neward**

For so many Java developers, the `java.util.*` package consists of List, ArrayList, and maybe Map and HashMap. But the Collections classes are so much more powerful than many of us are led to believe, and all it requires is a small amount of digging and some simple exploration to begin to "get" the real power of the Collection classes.

### **Session #25 : Testing with dependencies by Venkat Subramaniam**

Testing is a key ingredient to the success of a project. However, testing becomes awfully hard when your application deals with dependencies and that is often the reality.

12:30 - 1:30 PM : LUNCH

1:30 - 3:00 PM - Sessions

### **Session #26 : The Busy Java Developer's Guide to Functional Java by Ted Neward**

Much noise has been made in recent years about functional languages, like Scala or Haskell, and their benefits relative to object-oriented languages, most notably Java. Unfortunately, as wonderful as many of those benefits are, the fact remains that most Java developers will either not want or not be able to adopt those languages for writing day-to-day code. Which leaves us with a basic question: if I can't use these functional languages to write production code, is there any advantage to learning about them? The short answer is yes, for the fundamental premise--"I can't use functional code on my Java project"--is flawed. Java developers can, in fact, make use of functional ideas, and what's better, they don't even have to reinvent them for Java--thanks to the FunctionalJava library, many of the core primitives--interfaces that serve as base types for creating function values, for example--already exist, ready to be used.

### **Session #27 : That old Spring magic has me in its SpEL: DI Wizardy with the Spring Expression Language by Craig Walls**

Spring 3.0 introduced the Spring Expression Language (SpEL), an extremely powerful yet succinct way to wire non-trivial values into Spring beans. In this presentation, we'll explore SpEL in great detail and see how SpEL opens up a whole new realm of bean wiring possibilities.

### **Session #28 : So you want to be an Architect by Ken Sipe**

This session is a quick look at all aspects of being a corporate software architect. Whether you are a developer looking to move into the role of architect, needing to have an understanding of what is expected or already in the role of software architect looking for new and interesting ideas, this session is for you.

### **Session #29 : GWT fu, Part 1 by David Geary**

Learn to implement web applications with GWT. *Prerequisite: Familiarity with a component-based framework, preferably a desktop application framework*

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### Session #30 : IZero: Starting Projects Right by Stuart Halloway

If an iteration is the heartbeat of an agile development process, then Iteration Zero (IZero) creates the heart. While you can (and should) retrospect and adjust throughout the software lifecycle, few things are as valuable as a good start. In this talk, you will learn how we run Iteration Zero at Relevance.

3:00 - 3:15 PM : BREAK

3:15 - 4:45 PM - Sessions

### Session #31 : The Busy Java Developer's Guide to Advanced Collections by Ted Neward

Once you've learned the core Collections classes, you're done, right? You know everything there is to know about Collections, and you can "check that off" your list of Java packages you have to learn and know, right? **Prerequisite:** *Busy Java Developer's Guide to Collections*

### Session #32 : Beyond JUnit: Powertools for Test-Driven Development by Craig Walls

Writing tests is more than just writing JUnit test cases and hoping that they'll pass when your project is built. If you want assurance that your code is sound and provides the desired functionality, then you'll want to test it from every angle and run those tests as frequently as possible.

### Session #33 : 7 Habits of Highly Effective Developers by Ken Sipe

Thoughts lead to words, words lead to action, actions lead to habits. In this session we'll sharpen the development saw in the process of understanding what makes a hyper-productive programmer. The focus will consist of developer habits and development processes.

### Session #34 : GWT fu, Part 2 by David Geary

Learn to do amazing stuff with GWT. **Prerequisite:** *GWT fu, Part 1 is not a prerequisite for this session, but it will help if you have some familiarity with GWT.*

### Session #35 : Taking Agile From Tactics to Strategy by Stuart Halloway

Teams adopting agile should begin at a tactical level, but they shouldn't end there. The Agile Manifesto operates at many different levels. Learn to apply the principles of agile at a strategic level. Otherwise you can have a great agile ground game and still lose.

4:45 - 5:45 PM : BIRDS OF A FEATHER SESSION

## Sunday, Oct. 4

8:00 - 9:00 AM : BREAKFAST

9:00 - 10:30 AM - Sessions

### Session #36 : REST : Information-Driven Architectures for the 21st Century by Brian Sletten

There is a shift going on in the Enterprise. While still used and useful, the promises of the SOAP/WSDL/UDDI Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) stack have failed to live up to their promise. A new vision of linked information is enveloping online and Enterprise users. The REST architectural style is squarely behind this thinking as a way of achieving low-cost, flexible integration, increased data security, greater scalability and long-term migration strategies. If you have dismissed REST as a toy or are unfamiliar with it, you owe it to yourself to see what is so interesting about this way of doing things.

### Session #37 : Programming Scala by Venkat Subramaniam

Scala is a static fully object-oriented, functional language on the JVM. While taking advantage of the functional aspects, you can continue to make full use of the powerful JVM and Java libraries.

### Session #38 : Making Web Apps Suck Less by Nathaniel Schutta

We've all used web applications that had us screaming at their creators - unfortunately sometimes we're the ones being cursed. Believe it or not, there are some simple steps we can take to ensure that our users have a great experience.

### Session #39 : Mastering Maven 2.0 by Matthew McCullough

Maven has been on the Java build tools scene for quite a number of years, but the adoption rate in enterprises is now going through the roof. Maven can seem daunting, but this presentation will equip existing Maven users with more efficient techniques and tools to overcome the biggest perceived Maven hurdles and build issues with ease. We'll examine tools to help you find artifacts in central repositories, manage your corporation's internal Maven artifacts with a proxy tool such as Nexus, view and override dependency graphs, dependency management and multi-module best practices, create OS specific profiles, and leverage the latest Maven plugins for the top Java IDEs. **Prerequisite:** *Basic Maven knowledge*

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### Session #40 : Agile Retrospectives by Stuart Halloway

Agile teams manage change and risk by adapting. But to adapt, you must identify opportunities for change and take them. Retrospectives are a fun, cost-effective way for your team to learn and change.

10:30 - 11:00 AM : MORNING BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 PM - Sessions

### Session #41 : Rich Web Pages : Publishing Semantic Content with GRDDL and RDFa by Brian Sletten

The human web is reasonably well in hand by now. We are getting pretty good at building systems that people find valuable and entertaining. We have not spent as much time concerned about our software friends. There is a ton of rich content available on the web that is too difficult to extract in automated ways using just XHTML, the meta tag and microformats. This talk will introduce you to some emerging technologies from the Semantic Web camp to enrich your web pages with useful information for both automated extraction and improved browsing experiences. **Prerequisite:** *The Semantic Web: The Future Now would be helpful, but not required*

### Session #42 : Tackling Concurrency on the JVM by Venkat Subramaniam

In this presentation we will take a quick walk through the issues with concurrency and how the solutions provided in Scala and Clojure help address those.

### Session #43 : Java Memory, Performance and the Garbage Collector by Ken Sipe

You are using Java, whew!!! No need to worry about memory, the garbage collector will handle that. Those who have had a memory issue in Java are not so naive any more. Often memory utilization and heap sizes are an after thought and are not recognized until the application is in production, often caused by application uptime, production request volume or production sets of data. When the OutOfMemory Error occurs, often the science of development seems to brake down and knobs are turned. First the (-mx) maximum heap space gets adjusted... More is better right. The next OutOfMemory, heads start scratching, code reviews start in earnest, and Google gets several new hits. Did you know that it is possible to get an OutOfMemory error without running out of heap space?

### Session #44 : Project Bootstrapping by Nathaniel Schutta

Ah, that new project smell, it's intoxicating! Full of hope, we trek off in pursuit of technical greatness. In this talk, we'll cover some of the important first steps of a new project including continuous integration, creating a testing culture and establishing low ceremony process.

### Session #45 : Open Source Debugging Tools for Java by Matthew McCullough

This session will survey a wide range of tools across the Java space. We'll look at utilities such as VisualVM, jstatd, jps, jhat, jmap, Eclipse Memory Analyzer, jtracert, btrace and more. Open Source is not just a suite of libraries you consume within your application, but now reaches into the space of tools to help you troubleshoot and improve your applications. The price of these tools eliminates barriers to their use and their open source nature allows you to mix and match them into compositions that work well for your application's unique debugging needs.

12:30 - 1:15 PM : LUNCH

1:15 - 2:15 PM : EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION

2:15 - 3:45 PM - Sessions

### Session #46 : SPARQL: Querying the Data Web by Brian Sletten

The human-friendly Web is about nicely-formatted, accessible content for users to browse. There is an emerging Data Web that relies on technologies from the Semantic Web stack to link increasingly rich connections between various data sources. SPARQL and RDF are the main tools for expressing and using this connectivity. This talk will introduce you to one of the practical and accessible aspects of employing these ideas on the Web and in the Enterprise. **Prerequisite:** *The Semantic Web: The Future, Now and Rich Web Pages : Publishing Semantic Content with GRDDL and RDFa would both be helpful but are not required*

### Session #47 : Git Going with Distributed Version Control by Matthew McCullough

Many development shops have made the leap from RCS, Perforce, ClearCase, PVCS, CVS, BitKeeper or SourceSafe to the modern Subversion (SVN) version control system. But why not take the next massive stride in productivity and get on board with Git, a distributed version control system (DVCS). Jump ahead of the masses staying on Subversion, and increase your team's productivity, debugging effectiveness, flexibility in cutting releases, and repository redundancy at \$0 cost. Understand how distributed version control systems are game-changers and pick up the lingo that will become standard in the next few years. **Prerequisite:** *Basic understanding of Subversion or similar version control system*

### Session #48 : Java.next: Clojure, Groovy, JRuby, and Scala by Stuart Halloway

In this talk, we will explore and compare four of the most interesting JVM languages: Clojure, Groovy, JRuby, and Scala. Each of these languages aims to greatly simplify writing code for the JVM, and all of them succeed in this mission. However, these languages have very different design goals. We will explore these differences, and help you decide when and where these languages might fit into your development toolkit. For more information see <http://blog.thinkrelevance.com/2008/9/24/java-next-overview>.

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### **Session #49 : Cleaning up Code Smell by Venkat Subramaniam**

Projects often start out simple, but soon become complex and turn into a lose cannon. Organizations are struggling to maintain and evolve software. Poor code quality is a significant part of that problem. Improving the quality of code is critical to success of enterprise projects.

### **Session #50 : Seven Habits of Highly Dysfunctional Teams by Nathaniel Schutta**

Being on a high performing team is a transcendent experience - unfortunately, many of us find more dysfunction than function. In this talk, we'll take a look at some of the common issues that face teams and discuss some ways of working towards a happy crew.

3:45 - 4:00 PM : BREAK

4:00 - 5:30 PM - Sessions

### **Session #51 : Semantic SOA : Meaningful Service Strategies by Brian Sletten**

The goal for web services was always to reduce our burden by increasing the potential for reuse of business functionality. Somehow, we got lost along the way in a morass of confusing, unfulfilling and downright broken technologies. While we are interested in pursuing REST-based systems for managing information, we need some strategies for tying it all together sensibly. If we abandon WSDL, SOAP and UDDI, what do we replace them with? This talk will walk you through combining resource-oriented strategies with technologies from the Semantic Web to describe, find, and bind to services in dynamic, flexible and extensible ways. **Prerequisite:** *The Semantic Web: The Future Now, Give it a REST and SPARQL : Querying the Data Web would all be helpful talks to have attended*

### **Session #52 : iPhone Objective-C with Java Web Services by Matthew McCullough**

iPhone development is all the rage both in the mobile entertainment, social networking, and productivity application spaces. As a Java developer, prepare yourself to be a participant in aspects of this new breed and platform of development. Hop on board with a quick start to iPhone application coding in Objective-C and integration with some of our favorite Java web service back-ends such as RESTful Grails.

### **Session #53 : Programming Clojure by Stuart Halloway**

Find out why Clojure is Java.next: \* Clojure provides clean, fast access to all Java libraries. \* Clojure provides all the low-ceremony goodness you know and love from dynamic languages such as Ruby and Python. \* Clojure includes Lisp's signature feature: Treating code as data through macros. \* Clojure's emphasis on immutability and support for software transactional memory make it a viable option for taking advantage of massively parallel hardware.

### **Session #54 : Effective Java by Venkat Subramaniam**

Java is a well established language, that has been around for more than a decade. Yet, programming on it has its challenges. There are concepts and features that are tricky. When you run into those, the compiler is not there to help you.

### **Session #55 : Hacking Your Brain for Fun and Profit by Nathaniel Schutta**

The single most important tool in any developers toolbox isn't a fancy IDE or some spiffy new language - it's our brain. Despite ever faster processors with multiple cores and expanding amounts of RAM, we haven't yet created a computer to rival the ultra lightweight one we carry around in our skulls - in this session we'll learn how to make the most of it. We'll talk about why multitasking is a myth, the difference between the left and the right side of your brain, the importance of flow and why exercise is good for more than just your waist line.