Stanford eCorner

The Java Standard (and Competing Technology Standards)

Ann Winblad, *Hummer Winblad Ventures*

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Winblad explains that companies use both a .net and a Java standard and neither has taken over. Most likely, neither will. Customers like to have a blend of technologies and programmers like to be looking at the new latest thing so there is currently no force to change to a single standard.

Transcript

Well, I think you might be asking a question why Sun is not making any money on Java but I think that's obvious. Java, it really is a race. When we talk to companies, they don't have just a dot-net, C# environment or a J2E environment. They have both so neither one has taken over the world. There are as many Java programmers out there at the enterprise level as there are dot-net and Windows programmers. So neither one is going to take over the world. The question is, are there opportunities? If you look at the app servers, for example, both BEA and IBM who dominate the app server market, to program in those app server environments which dominate all enterprises, you're programming in Java primarily. If you look at some of the other environments, the ecommerce area, go across all the ecommerce companies, some of those companies have a complete stack that's dot-net C# and some of them have a complete stack that's Java, depending upon where they're competency got built in their programming staff. But I don't think either one is going to take over the world and there appears to be a nice competitive dynamic going on right now. There are a lot of new companies getting funded.

A company, DotSquare, gave an A round to one called Agitar. Agitar just will soon announce their B round of funding. We did not do that round because it wasn't our A round. That is a development environment for code quality in the Java environment arena. That company was funded in a heartbeat and it's a very good team that originally had the genesis at Sun. I don't think that you're going to see any one company dominate any one segment. Customers don't like it. They like to have a blend of technologies. Programmers don't like it. They like to be looking at the new latest thing whichever it is.

So I think the real question is if you're asking Sun related to Java, Sun does not have the DNA of a software company and therefore, they don't make money off of software. They're a systems company and it's too bad that they have never really loved software. Otherwise, they would be making a lot of money off of Java but there are plenty of other vendors who are and they're very successful. Many of our companies are programmed completely in a Java environment; some of them programmed completely in the dot-net C# environment; some it's a mix because they have to serve many different customer deployments.