

# Flex 4 for Flex 3 Developers

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# Agenda

- Introductions
- What's new in flex 4
- Namespaces
- Layout
- States
- Styling/Skinning
- Whats not in Flex 4
- Summary



# Who Am I?

- Jeff Tapper (jtapper@digitalprimates.net)
- Senior Consultant – Digital Primates
- Building Internet Applications since 1995
- Authored 11 books on internet technologies
- Adobe Certified Instructor for all Flex, AIR, Flash, and ColdFusion courses
- <http://blogs.digitalprimates.net/jefftapper>



# Who Are You

- Developers who:
  - Have some experience with Flex 3
  - Want to know more about Flex 4
  - Have a sense of humor
- If this isnt you, you should just leave



# What is new in Flex 4

- Namespaces
- New Philosophy about components
- New States Model
- New Styling/Skinning
- New Layouts



# Namespaces!

- Flex 4 works with 3 default namespaces
- MXML 2009      `xmlns:fx="http://ns.adobe.com/mxml/2009"`
- Spark            `xmlns:s="library://ns.adobe.com/flex/spark"`
- Halo             `xmlns:mx="library://ns.adobe.com/flex/halo"`



# New Philosophy about components

- Composition over inheritance
- MVC within components
- The days of bloated containers are gone!
  - s:Group – lightweight container
    - Contains, doesn't style
    - Layout determined by layout property
  - To allow scrolling, wrap in a Scroller
  - For a styled container use SkinnableGroup



# Layout

- Provided by layout classes.
- Flex 4 includes:
  - BasicLayout (Canvas)
  - VerticalLayout
  - HorizontalLayout
  - TileLayout
- You can subclass `LayoutBase` and build your own



# DataGroup not Repeater

- All the fun of a repeater with none of the hassle.
- Supply a dataprovider
- Use an itemRenderer for children (like Lists!)
- Uses a layout object



# One List to Rule them all

- No longer a need for separate List, HorizontalList and TileList
- Provide a layout to the list, and it can be any of these.



# New States Model

- Less Verbose
- Easy to read
- Apply inline
- Declare states in states property
- Define changes where they occur



# Improved Styling

- Multiple Class Selectors:

```
<s:Button id="myButton"  
styleName="standard large" />
```

- ID Selectors:

```
#myButton { fontSize: 14 }
```

- Descendant Selectors:

```
s|Scrollbar #myButton { baseColor:  
#FF0000 }
```

- Pseudo Selectors:

```
s|Scrollbar #myButton:over  
{ baseColor: #0000FF }
```



# Skin Classes

- Look of a component separated from its functionality
- Functionality in component
- Look in Skin class
- Allows for easy and rapid customization of components look and feel



# And lots of other stuff

- FXG
- TLF
- New IDE
- Catalyst
- AIR 2
- CSS Improvements
- And much much more



# Whats missing

- DataGrid
- Tree
- AdvancedDataGrid
- ViewStack/TabNavigator/Accordion
- Don't worry, you can still use them all



# Conclusion

- Flex 4 is a whole new approach to Flex Development
- New Philosophy makes for smaller / more responsive applications
- New layout improves flexibility
- Easier to use states
- Improved Styling/Skinning
- Flex 3 components still available
- Flex 4 is better than ever.



# Questions?

