

ScriptWorx.NET

Product Guide: Developers

This product guide is intended to assist developers in evaluating ScriptWorx.NET and focuses on new and improved features, which will be incorporated across all ScriptWorx releases.

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In planning the development of ScriptWorx.NET, the existing ScriptWorx architecture was replaced with an improved codebase, designed to run faster and deliver ScriptWorx.NET to as many users as possible. Paramount to the development of ScriptWorx.NET was the continuing focus on developer productivity, ensuring that solutions were timely, reliable and accurate.

User feedback was critical in the development of the product, with a collection of issues to be resolved and areas for improvement. With the advent of web services, users also required rapid and user-friendly access to new technologies, such as UDDI, XML and the .NET platform. Input from users on business challenges, development environments and pricing was used to create a productive development suite.

- Challenges in Business – From a single developer to a whole team, a product was required that could be used by both. A scalable solution was required as standard, with an easy way to extend and customize core elements of ScriptWorx.NET.
- Development Environments – A user-friendly interface is essential, looking and behaving like modern, Windows applications for an easy migration path. Productivity tools were required to reduce the time taken from development to deployment, producing output requiring little adjustment by developers.
- New Technologies – Web services are becoming increasingly popular, with developers seeking platform-independent ways of producing such services. XML, SOAP and UDDI were a top priority for developers, requiring a uniform interface.

Key Design Goals / New Features

ScriptWorx.NET was developed to offer a flexible, efficient way to work for a variety of developers. Many new and improved features are suited to new developers, whilst power tools are included for the seasoned developer. Reliability, security and recovery issues have been addressed, making ScriptWorx.NET a trustworthy development environment.

XML and Web Services

The fast-growing evolution of XML and web services an extensible, dedicated development environment, designed by developers looking to produce as little manual code as possible, whilst providing control over the output produced.

Feature	Description
Visual XML Editing NEW	New to ScriptWorx.NET is a fully integrated XML development environment, providing structured and code-based views of XML documents for fast, easy editing. Full support for namespaces is also included, allowing development of reliable, functional XML files. ScriptWorx.NET's DOM implementation conforms to the DOM Level 1 Core specifications and includes most of the new features available in the DOM Level 2 Core specification, for the production of standards-agnostic output.
Live XML Transformations NEW	Live XML transformations provided a fully integrated XSL/XML merging facility, producing documents in HTML, XML, RTF and plain-text format. A key feature of the transformation environment is that no external libraries or programs are required, saving time by eliminating the need for downloads and installations.
XML Inspector NEW	Similar to the HTML Tag Inspector, the XML Inspector provides context-sensitive, real-time attribute editing of XML nodes within the editing window. Intuitive editing commands and GUID generation requires little effort on the part of a developer, with a simple point-and-click mechanism.
XML Tree IMPROVED	The XML Tree provides a structured, collapsible overview of any XML-compliant document, with cascading nodes for fast document navigation. Nodes can be moved up and down through the hierarchy, or promoted and demoted with one click of a toolbar button – no recoding of the document is required.
SOAP Debugger NEW	A fully integrated SOAP debugger for tracing errors in XML-based web services is included, polling services in real-time with user-supplied data. Raw data or formatted XML results are returned, with a number of error handling routines designed to make debugging a simple process without an intricate knowledge of SOAP clients and servers.

Web Design Environment

Developers frequently work with more than one language, which is why ScriptWorx.NET provides several new and improved features to make dealing with a myriad of technologies as simple as possible. Several such features are new to the ScriptWorx Family, which will be included in updates for all other ScriptWorx Family members.

Feature	Description
Layout Mode NEW	Layout mode is a pseudo-WYSIWYG editor, providing full support for HTML 4, Web Forms and CSS for optimal page production. No external programs are required for visual editing, as layout mode makes it easy to watch page development, visually and in real-time – with no need to click "Preview" every few minutes.

Web Forms Support IMPROVED	For .NET developers, ScriptWorx.NET offers support for the full range of standard ASP.NET Web Forms components, from data controls to form handling. Tag editing for Web Forms makes it easy to set and change properties of Web Forms controls, just as easily as editing standard HTML controls. Layout Mode will also render Web Forms.
Active Script Debugging NEW	Developers can benefit from integrated Active Script debugging for VBScript and JavaScript, without requiring specialist or expensive software. Time is saved with integrated debugging, with changes being made in real-time for production-level testing. Breakpoints, watches and expression evaluation all feature as standard.
Function Insight / Object Insight IMPROVED	VB.NET and C# coders can benefit from Function Insight, which provides inline, tool-tip parameter passing completion – making sure the right variables are always passed to functions and alleviating the effort of coding larger code files. Object Insight is also an in-line tool, with a drop-down list of properties and methods for VB.NET and C# objects for rapid assembly of reliable code.

Data-driven Architecture

ScriptWorx.NET connects natively to ADO.NET and SQL datasources, making it easy to produce data-aware solutions using an integrated interface. Wizards reduce coding time by implementing large volumes of work, with minimal input from the user required to produce data-driven applications quickly and easily.

Feature	Description
ADO.NET/SQL Connectivity IMPROVED	Developers seeking live, real-time data connectivity will find ScriptWorx.NET a revelation. Point and click tasks quickly assemble ASP.NET for connecting to datasources, whilst results of queries can be tested before generating code to ensure perfect page development and generation.
Database Explorer NEW	The hierarchical Database Explorer makes navigating ADO.NET/SQL databases easy, by expanding and collapsing tables and fields to source information quickly and easily – ready for insertion into ASP.NET web applications or for testing purposes.
Database Action Wizards IMPROVED	ScriptWorx.NET automates the production of ASP.NET pages for inserting, updating and deleting database information. With a reusable database architecture, new pages can be produced in a matter of seconds to work with both traditional HTML and ASP.NET pages.
Reusable Database Connectivity IMPROVED	ScriptWorx.NET benefits from a reusable connectivity architecture, saving database connections for future use. Existing connections can serve as templates for data handling and manipulation, using the simplistic database manager designed to store as much information about each connection as possible – no more recoding of new pages is required, as a few clicks reproduces a connection.
Import from Excel/CSV IMPROVED	For developers working with data held in Excel 97/2000 and CSV format, ScriptWorx.NET offers native import facilities to produce HTML documents quickly and easily. The "Table" wizard now also exports data to XML format, ready to share with SOAP clients but reducing conversion time for write-once, use anywhere access to your data.

Recovery and Reliability

The protection and recovery of data is crucial in business, especially when two months work can be lost so quickly. ScriptWorx.NET addresses these problems by providing a series of tools, working together to protect and recover data – making ScriptWorx.NET an extremely reliable and robust solution for web application and services development.

Feature	Description
Recovery Wizard IMPROVED	The Recovery Wizard loads in the event of a critical failure, providing developers with the opportunity of saving any files currently open before closing the program. A crash no longer means the loss of data, even if the program needs to be closed. Upon restarting ScriptWorx, the Recovery Wizard will display a list of recovered files, ready to continue editing with minimal disruption.
Error Reporting Wizard IMPROVED	Reports of errors can be sent directly to SoftLite, allowing the development team to track and trace errors and produce fixes as quickly as possible for the end user. For privacy, a secure connection is used to SoftLite-owned servers, providing SoftLite only with a copy of the error message, product version and operating system name.
Timed Backup IMPROVED	In the event of a system-wide failure, timed backup takes regular backups of open files at preset intervals. Should the program close unexpectedly, more recent copies of files can be recovered reducing the time taken to recover from a serious crash