

## **The Truth About Cats and Dogs**

You've got your cat people and your dog lovers. Libertarians and liberals. Urban warriors and hayseeds. Mac lovers and Windows users. J2EE programmers and .NET developers ... wait, scratch that last one. Mainsoft has actually managed to bridge those worlds! With their Visual MainWin for J2EE, developers can make use of EJBs without ever leaving Visual Studio.

As anyone who's used it can attest, Visual Studio is a terrific environment, and the .NET framework contains a ton of prebuilt, tested code that developers can use. But until now, as my father-in-law says, "you buy the premise, you buy the bit": .NET development was pretty much limited to greenfield projects, and once you bought in, you were committed. You could commit to the Java platform on various architectures, or you could take advantage of .NET's multiple languages, but only on Windows. (Yes, I know about Mono and wish them the best—but is anyone deploying enterprise applications on it yet?)

Now you can have your J2EE cake and eat it too with Visual Studio application development. Recall that in order to make that multilanguage stuff work, Microsoft invented the Common Language Infrastructure. Mainsoft simply wrote a compiler that accepts Microsoft Intermediate Language binaries and compiles them to Java bytecodes. ("Simply?" you ask. Hey, the idea was simple—I have no clue how they actually pulled it off.)

They did it right, too—developers can use the ASP.NET and ADO.NET libraries for Web applications, Web services and data access, along with Visual Studio's excellent debugger. Mainsoft also says that you can import existing Java classes into Visual Studio .NET, not to mention the JDK 1.4 libraries. Whew!

Visual MainWin for J2EE runs on Windows XP and 2000 (Obviously, you'll need Visual Studio .NET, too: Version 7.1 or better, with the J# language for debugging). The price is \$5,000 per developer seat.

*Mainsoft, 224 Airport Parkway, Ste. 300, San Jose, CA 95110, Tel: (408) 200-4000, Fax: (408) 200-4044, [www.mainsoft.com](http://www.mainsoft.com).*