



ariaware™

presents

Hot Shots: Introduction to Flex

A one-day introductory seminar on Adobe Flex.

Authored and presented by
Aral Balkan

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About the course

Adobe Flex is the exciting technology used to build Web 2.0 Rich Internet Applications such as Buzzword, Picnik, and FineTune Desktop.

This one-day, seminar-style course will introduce you to building Flex applications using the Flex Builder tool, the Flex Framework, and ActionScript 3.

This is an introductory course and does not require previous knowledge in Flex. You will, however, be able to utilize any existing knowledge you may have in ActionScript, Flash, or JavaScript/AJAX development.

Although the scope of the course is introductory, I believe in teaching you correct practices from the start. As such, the course will touch upon good development practices and underscore the importance of clean architecture, including the separation of presentation and business logic and the implementation of MVC in Flex.

This course aims to give you the initial knowledge you need to get started in developing applications in Adobe Flex for deployment on the Flash Platform. You will leave with an understanding of the technologies and tools involved, and a best practices road map for how to further your study of the platform.

Note that the course does not go into detail on ActionScript 3. However, you will get bonus downloads of the course materials and examples from my Fundamentals of Object Oriented ActionScript 2 and Head Start ActionScript 3 courses, which should provide you with a good starting point for learning object-oriented programming and ActionScript 3 on your own.

For a good introduction to ActionScript 3, don't miss Colin Moock's free training course in London on March 3rd (<http://www.adobeas3tour.com/>).

The information in this course is equally applicable to Flex 2 and the public Flex 3 beta. The course includes an overview of Adobe AIR but does not go into detail on the specifics of creating Desktop RIAs with AIR.

Topics covered

- Overview of the Flash Platform and Flex
- Using the Flex Builder tool
- Creating and building a new Flex project
- Introduction to MXML
- The Flex Component Framework
- Containers
- The Application Container
- Controls
- Events
- Initializing components
- The Natural Entry-Point Method, code-behind, and other good practices in architecting Flex applications
- Collections
- Data Binding
- Data Validation
- Working with external data (XML, Remoting)
- E4X
- Working with external media (embedding and loading)
- Creating a state-based application using States
- Cell-renderers and cell-editors
- Styles, fonts and themes
- Skinning
- Behaviors
- Tooltips
- Cursor Manager
- Drag and Drop Manager
- Using the command-line compilers
- Roadmap for further study

About the instructor

Aral Balkan is an Internet entrepreneur, creative technologist, author, professional speaker and a Flash Platform veteran. He is the founder and coordinator of OSFlash.org, author of the pattern-based ActionScript framework called Arp, and the creator of the SWX data format (the native data format for the Flash platform.)

Aral is currently organizing the world's first online web conference, to take place from October 24-26, 2008 at Singularity08.com. The conference will last three days and feature sessions by over 100 of the world's top web visionaries, developers, designers, and creatives.

Aral is a published author and has contributed to several books and magazine articles. He is the author of the Adobe Flex 2 QuickStart Guides and has written six courses of his own that cover topics ranging from introductory Flash and ActionScript 2 to Flex 2, ActionScript 3, best practices and open source development.

Aral is a regular speaker at international conferences. In 2007 he spoke at Macworld, FlashForward (Boston), FITC (Toronto and Hollywood), Multimania (Belgium), Flash on the Beach (Brighton), FlashForum Konferenz (Cologne), and Adobe MAX (Chicago and Barcelona).

About the Hot Shots Seminar Series

The Hot Shots seminar series originally debuted in 2006 with a series of five trailblazing courses on Flash, ActionScript 2, ActionScript 3, Flex, Best Practices development, and Open Source Flash development.

Aral Balkan is now reviving the same format in 2008 with Hot Shots: Introduction to Flex and Hot Shots: Best Practices Flash and Flex Development.

The courses won universal praise from attendees in the past and you can read some of the wonderful feedback from past students below.

Praise for past Hot Shots courses

“Perfect introduction to the subject. Gave enough attention to all details – just enough to inform & wet the appetite . . . Obviously passionate about the subject and that transfers across . . . Really enjoyed the use of real(ish) examples. Allowed us to see the benefits of Flex development.”

Alisdair Mills, Mook.



“Approachable instructor . . . **IT MADE SENSE!!**”

Richard Atkins, Tribal DDB



“Aral’s presentation was very clear – great speaker in my opinion :) Easy to follow... actually quite entertaining . . . Great value”

Jörg Müller, Berger Baader Hermes (Germany)



“If you consider yourself an Actionscript Developer and value your craft, you can’t afford to miss the Best Practices course!”

Steve Buckley, Original Image



“Everything covered was valuable. . . relaxed, friendly, informative.”

Neil Webb, Cambridge University.



“Liked the broad + comprehensive into the topic, and the enthusiastic and approachable tone the course was delivered in”

Jim Hunt, BD-NTWK



“I’m now clear about the role of Flex + how I might start to use it”

Simon Gregory, Tribal DDB