

WELCOME TO FLEX AUTHORITY

BY JEFFREY HOUSER, *EDITOR-IN-CHIEF*

101

Hi everyone, and welcome to the first issue of *Flex Authority*. It is an exciting time to be a Flex developer. Through the Flash Player, we can create better interfaces for web applications than ever before. Flex is a growing technology and developers are in high demand. The community is only starting to grow, with the expectation that it will explode in the coming years. Of course, you probably already know all this.

PUTTING TOGETHER A MAGAZINE

When the House of Fusion folks contacted me about starting a Flex magazine, I thought it was a great idea and something that the growing community could support. *Flex Authority* will follow the same standards set forth with *The Fusion Authority Quarterly Update*, a magazine focused on the ColdFusion community. *Flex Authority* will be a quarterly journal filled with highly technical articles that give you the resources you need to continue your Flex education. We hope that *Flex Authority* will sit on your bookshelf next to other valuable publications. It's light enough to go with you away from the computer, but big enough to prop open next to your monitor as you code.

We started by deciding how to organize the journal. We decided to split articles into five sections:

- **Columns:** What would a journal be without columns? Columns are a group of articles connected by a theme. We have Shannon Hicks writing "The Beginner's Corner." Alex Harui and Gordon Smith masquerade as Flick and Flack as they deal with issues that come up on the Yahoo flexcoders group. Nick Kwiatkowski contributes a column named Communications, all about communicating with the server, and Peter Bell authors a column about the tools you need to become a great developer.
- **Series:** A series is set of connected articles that build on each other. Each series has one article in each issue. We have John Wilker contributing a series that goes in-depth on the 360Flex Survey Application. Billy Spelchan teaches us how to create a game in Flex. Brian Dunphy dissects Yahoo! Maps in massive detail.
- **Focus:** Each issue has several articles related to a single topic. These will be focus articles. We'll try to cover a single topic in huge depth. This issue we focus on Adobe AIR; for our second issue we plan to focus on component development.
- **Features:** Featured articles are wildcard slots. These cover some Flex development task, but are not tied into the issue's focus. This allows us to bring you up-to-date content without limiting our reach to a single topic. We want to bring you the content you need to keep your skills up to date.
- **Editorial:** This is my chance to ramble about the issue focus and all the great stuff we're doing.

It has been a great pleasure to work with all the authors in this issue. Especially Johnny Boursiquot, Nick Kwiatkowski, Leif Wells, and Giorgio Natili, who came in under tight submission deadlines. I also wanted to give a special shout out to Peter Elst and David Kinney for taking time to perform tech edits of the articles. It is a thankless job, with none of the glory of being the author. I thank enough people yet? Kudos to Judith (my boss) and to Dana for doing the copy edits.

Originally published in Flex Authority Volume 1 Issue 1

<http://www.flex-authority.com/flex-and-air/>

FOCUSING ON AIR

This issue focuses on Adobe AIR, one of the newest toys from Adobe. It allows a developer to build an application with web technologies and deploy it onto a desktop computer. AIR is a cross-platform runtime, so you can easily deploy to both a MAC and a PC. I came into this with a list of topics that I thought would make cool articles. Surprisingly, most of them made it into the journal, along with some topics I didn't even think of.

If you want an introduction to AIR, check out Shannon Hick's "Beginner's Corner". If you want to learn about the SQLite database, then head over Charlie Key's article. Want to learn about the File APIs? Pop open Jack Herrington's article on Flickr. If your interest is in partially connected apps, check out Theo E. Rushin, Jr.'s article. Johnny Boursiquot covers AIR's unique ability to meld PDF with Flex, while Giorgio Natili talks about all the ways you can update your applications. If you find AIR to be slightly lacking in functionality, then Leif Wells' interview with the creators of Merapi will pique your interest.

After all that content, we even had room for Brian Rinaldi's article on the Mate Framework, created by the folks from ASFusion. The framework is a response to Cairngorm and Brian makes a good comparison between the two.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Putting together this journal is not nearly as easy as it looks, but it's also not nearly as hard as I thought it'd be. I suspect we'll always be looking for more people to contribute content to the journal. Are you interested? Let us know. You don't have to be a guru. You don't have to know everything. You just have to be passionate about sharing your brain with others. We'll help you through the process and try to make it as painless as possible. By the time you read this, we'll already be sourcing articles for the second issue, planned for release in November.

Let us know if you want to contribute by email to editor@flex-authority.com. I'd love any feedback you want to provide, even if you don't want to write. What can we do better? Also be sure to check out our blog at www.flex-authority.com. If you got this as a promotional copy, you can subscribe right away so you don't miss an issue.

JEFFRY is a technical entrepreneur with over 10 years of making the web work for you. He has a Computer Science degree from the days before business met the Internet and started his professional career working for a business-to-business consulting firm. Eventually, Jeffrey started DotComIt, an Adobe Solutions Partner specializing in Rich Internet Applications. Jeff is an Adobe Community Expert and produces The Flex Show, a podcast that includes expert interviews and screen cast tutorials. Jeffrey is also co-manager of the Hartford CT Adobe User Group, author of three ColdFusion books, tons of articles, and he has spoken at user groups and conferences all over the country. In his spare time he is a musician, old school adventure game aficionado, recording engineer, and he owns a Wii. You can read his blog at www.jeffryhouser.com, check out his podcast at www.theflexshow.com, or check out the company at www.dot-com-it.com.

