Adobe® Flex™ Builder™ 2

An Eclipse™ based IDE for Flex application development

Adobe Flex 2 is a complete, powerful application development and deployment solution for creating and delivering cross-platform rich Internet applications (RIAs) within the enterprise and across the web. At the heart of the Flex 2 product line is Adobe Flex Builder 2, the robust tool that lets developers build Flex applications.

Flex Builder 2 offers a standards-based programming framework and a powerful Eclipse based IDE, complete with a library of rich built-in controls and services. Available as a standalone product or as a plug-in to the Eclipse IDE, Flex Builder offers developers the powerful tools they need to deliver stunning, interactive, and rich applications. Flex Builder offers a wealth of features designed to make three main development activities—coding, designing user interfaces, and debugging—faster and easier than ever.

THE ADOBE FLEX 2 PRODUCT FAMILY

Adobe Flex Builder 2
Eclipse based IDE

Adobe Flex Charting 2
Extensible library of charting components

Adobe Flex Builder 2 with Charting
IDE plus chart library

Adobe Flex Data Services 2
Infrastructure for managing data integration and application communication

Adobe Flex 2 Software Development Kit (SDK)
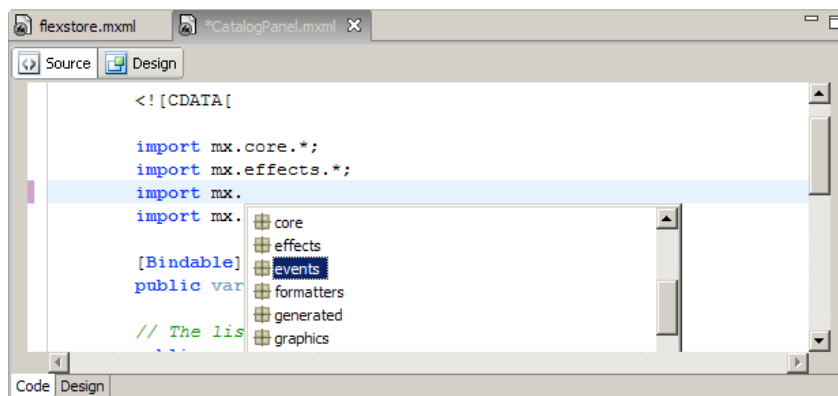Core application framework and command-line tools for Flex development

"Development tasks become very streamlined and straightforward in Flex 2, enabling us to accelerate programming by as much as 50%"

Thomas Gonzalez, managing director, BrightPoint Consulting, Inc.

ABOUT THE FLEX 2 SDK

The Flex 2 SDK provides the core Flex application framework and is available for free. It provides the Flex standards-based programming model, rich Flex component library, and integrated data access services. The Flex SDK enables developers to create Flex applications using another IDE or their editor of choice.

Developer productivity

Powerful coding tools
Flex Builder provides a complete IDE for Flex development. Editors for MXML, ActionScript, and CSS support developers with syntax coloring, statement completion, code collapse, quick fixes, and more. In addition, the integrated outline view enables users to rapidly move through large files to find the information they need.

Integrated compiler
Flex Builder includes an integrated incremental compiler that increases developer productivity by accelerating the build-debug cycle and providing immediate error reporting.

The problems view provides a consolidated view of project errors and warnings, and double-clicking enables developers to immediately jump to the offending code.

Rapid code navigation
By analyzing project source code and dependencies between projects, Flex Builder can provide rich code navigation tools that let developers move quickly through complex projects. With a single click, developers can jump from an instance of a class or variable to its implementation, incrementally search through a list of available types, or open the source code for a framework class to better understand how it will behave.

FLEX, AJAX, AND HTML/JAVASCRIPT

Flash® Player enables a rich user interface by extending the capabilities of the browser with vector graphics, smooth animations, high-performance scripting, and integrated audio and video. At the same time, Flash Player enables complete interoperability between browser technologies like JavaScript and HTML through an open interface. As a result, developers can rapidly build applications with Flex and easily integrate them with existing websites or with JavaScript or Ajax libraries to provide a best-in-class user experience.
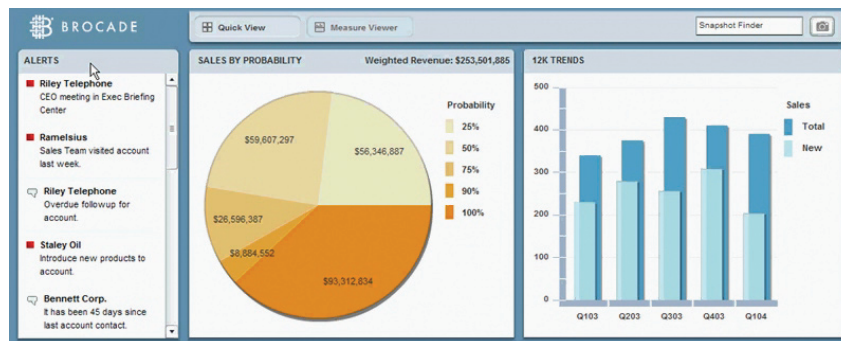
Better by Adobe™

Interactive debugging

Using the integrated debugger, developers can quickly track down and resolve problems. The debugging perspective enables developers to set breakpoints, inspect variables and expressions, change values, and monitor trace messages. Also, because Flex Builder is built on Eclipse, developers can debug Java™ and Flex applications side by side using the Eclipse Java debugger together with the Flex ActionScript debugger.

Rich application design

Visual layout

The Flex Builder design view enables developers to quickly assemble and preview Flex application interfaces. Developers can add custom or built-in components by dragging them from the component view and then take advantage of intuitive snapping and alignment tools to arrange them in the user interface. They can also make changes directly in the code and quickly switch to design view for a high-fidelity preview of the compiled application.

Styling and skinning

Flex also makes it easier to customize the appearance of an application. All of the Flex components can be styled using CSS, and graphical property editors enable developers to quickly set the most commonly used properties and preview the results in design view. In addition, users can easily import graphical assets created in professional design tools such as Flash or Adobe Photoshop® for use as icons or skins in Flex applications.

Rich data access and binding

The Flex framework provides a rich library of data access services, including built-in libraries for invoking web services or requesting XML or other

data via HTTP. Developers using Flex Data Services (available separately) can also take advantage of more advanced data management capabilities, including real-time data streaming, automated data synchronization, and direct access to methods on server-side Java objects. In addition, a declarative data-binding model makes it easy to bind Flex user interface objects to data.

Rich data visualization

Adobe Flex Charting 2, part of the Adobe Flex 2 family, provides a rich library of interactive charts and graphs that lets developers create data dashboards and interactive data analysis by simply dragging and dropping a chart type and linking it to a data source. The Flex Charting library includes area, bar, bubble, candlestick, column, line, pie, plot, and high-low/open-close charts—and developers can even create completely customized chart types. It's easy to add drill-down, rollover, and other interactivity to make charts that help users make better business decisions. Flex Charting 2 is available as an add-on to Flex Builder 2 or as a standalone product.

Try Adobe Flex Builder 2 today

Adobe has a long history of helping businesses improve the user experience for employees, customers, and partners. Now, Adobe Flex Builder 2 represents a major leap forward in equipping developers with the tools they need to create a dramatically improved user experience that satisfies customers and makes employees more effective.

To learn more about Adobe Flex Builder 2 and the Adobe Flex 2 family, or to download a free tryout version visit *www.adobe.com/flex.*