Monday, May 16, 2011
2:36 PM

**Tools to discuss:**

**R# - JetBrains ReSharper** http://www.jetbrains.com/resharper/

Code faster and smarter. It will make you a better coder. It will suggest alternate / preferably ways to refactor your code. Also adds some very useful code searching tools (Ctrl - T, Ctrl, Alt -T) Find usages of code etc..


**SlickRun - Bayden System Slick Run** http://www.fiddlertool.com/SlickRun/
Lets you launch programs by using "magic words".
Supports recent auto complete.
Build your magic words to be distinct to two or three chars and you will be fast
Export your magic words and import them on all your machines. This way you will always launch with the same commands
Can also do more complex command line params and multi app launching

**Fiddler - Bayden Systems**  http://www.fiddler2.com/fiddler2/
Debugging your web page (especially AJAX requests)? Hacking the web?
Either way you better be using fiddler.
Sniffs your outgoing HTTP traffic and shows you a full break down the request payload and the response payload.
The ONLY way to effectively debug AJAX requests and responses.

**TreeSizeFree - Jam Software** http://www.jam-software.com/treesize_free/
Cleaning up your hard drive? Wondering what the HELL is taking up so much space on your drive? Get this tool NOW.
It is quick and easy to use. Will show you a graphical breakdown of files and folders taking the most space.
Lets you quickly and easily find size offenders and delete files to recover space.

**Beyond Compare - Scooter Software** http://www.scootersoftware.com/
Everyone has there favorite compare tool. This is mine
Some really nice features, Visual Image compare (super useful if you do any graphics work)
Directory compare (This is why I got hooked on this tool) You can quickly diff whole directory structures. This is very useful when diffing development bin vs product bin directories.

**OneNote - Microsoft** http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/onenote/
All your notes in one place. Syncs with the web. iPhone and WP7 app available. Makes taking notes on the road easy and will sync with your other devices quickly. Also a very useable web version is available.
Downside (need to buy it as a part of Office, no standalone version, though the web version I think is free). If you use Office at work and have access to OneNote you should install it and use it. If you keep notes any other way and aren't syncing them you need to. If you work machines crashes are you going to lose all your notes? I won't.

Works on the Web  http://office.live.com/

**Switcher** http://insentient.net/

> Do you use OS X and windows? Do you wish the expose feature of OS X was available on Windows? It is with switcher. Allows for switching between windows even faster than alt-tab. You can activate switcher then type a few chars of the window title you are looking for and boom you can switch. Very cool. Must get use to it at first but once you are used to it you will never go back.

**HomeServer**
http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/winfamily/windowshomeserver/default.mspx

> One of the best windows version built IMO. For it's purpose it is awesome. Do you have a lot of files floating around your home network? Do you back them up? What about your home machine(s)? Home server will auto back them up for you and make restoring a breeze. Gives you a central place to share files and share media will all machines / devices in your home.

> New version supports OS X backups too though it loses the Drive Extender features so you must build your own RAID array redundancy. Also gives you a nice web interface to share files remotely and allows you to tunnel into your machines remotely.

**Powershell inside VS**
http://powerguivsx.codeplex.com/documentation
Cool add in to get powershell syntaxt highlighting inside powershell. Also NuGet will give you a powershell command line window inside VS to execute powershell commands.

**Workflow Ideas:**

Export your SlickRunWords
Export your VS Settings (including custom toolbars)
Create a devtools.txt file (take it with you from job to job)

Create an offsite backup strategy (Mozy, Carbonite, S3 etc..)

Learn to customize your environment. If Visual Studio create a custom toolbar and turn all others off

Learn to love your keyboard and shortcuts