

# Will 2008 be the year for C++?



Joe Pruitt, 2008-09-01

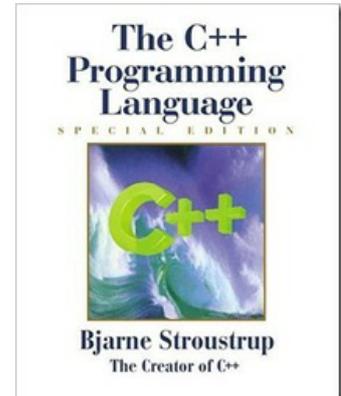
I was trolling through my feeds this morning and saw the post "[Developers Will Find C++ Applications Playing Surprisingly Strategic Role in 2008 with Multi-Core and SOA](#)"

Oh Really?

Not if Microsoft, Sun, IBM, BEA, Apache, or any other mainstream development platform vendor/org has anything to say about it.

We'll start with this:

*While developers often think of developing new applications on Microsoft's .NET or a variety of Java platforms, C++ remains one of the most widely deployed development languages for mission critical applications.*



Define "Mission Critical" here. If they mean, legacy systems then I wouldn't disagree. In my experiences with our large enterprise customers and partners, I have heard ZERO talk about development in C++ in current projects. Our customers are working on cutting edge automation and dynamic service environments and if C++ was the "most widely deployed development language", you would think it would come up at least once. The mix I see is roughly 60% Java, 30% .Net, and 10% other (php, ruby, python). Maybe C++ falls into that other 10% category, but even if it is, that's hardly the "most widely deployed".

*The reason for this is simple; C++ continues to be better for many use cases, and software developers want to be able to use the 'right tool for the job.'*

Totally agree. That's why I see .Net/Java accounting for 90% of all new development projects I see in the enterprise space.

*In addition, C++ projects are the second most active projects on both Apache and SourceForge.*

Hmmmm. Taking a look at [Apache's list of projects organized by language](#), C++ shows only **ONE** project. That must be one heck of an active product to the 80+ java based projects listed there. I wonder where they got their data from on that one?

Well, look on the bright side, if you are an organization looking at either enhancing an existing system (or building a new one) in C++, you'll only have a 3-12% premium on your developer costs:

*C++ developers, themselves, can look at 2008 as a breakout year for their own careers as well. According to PayScale, a global online compensation research provider, the median salary for C++ developers is three to twelve percent higher than those of Java or .NET developers.*

It took me a second reading of this article to realize the motivation behind it. It's a press release for [Rogue Wave](#). No, not the [the band](#) that is #1 and #2 on [Google Search](#). It's the Rogue Wave that is "the leading provider of enterprise class C++ components and infrastructure". Now it makes some sense...

It's worth pointing out that Microsoft's [Parallel Computing Developer Center](#) and IBM's [Distributed Parallel Programming Environment for Java](#) are there to help out with those stuck in the world of .Net and Java and want to catch a ride on the multi-core SOA train.

What do you all think? Will 2008 really be the year for C++? I'm having a hard time seeing it. Who knows, maybe I should switch my focus and get that 12% pay increase B-).

-Joe

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