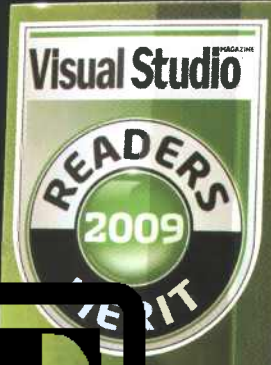
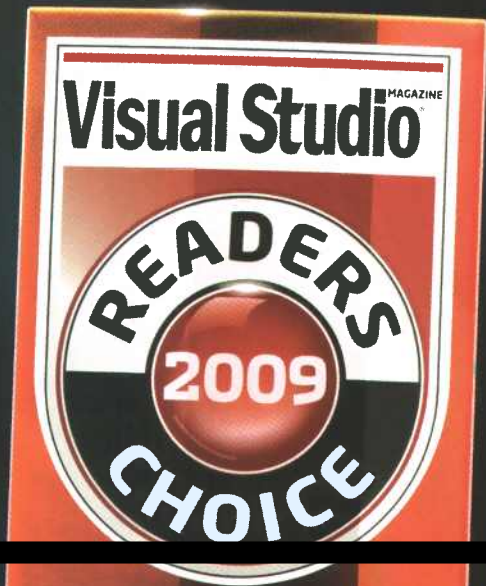


# Visual Studio

ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS FOR .NET DEVELOPMENT

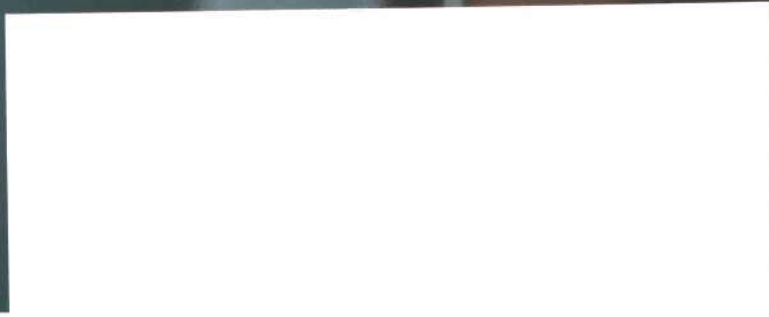
## 2009 VSM READERS CHOICE AWARDS

Developers honor the best commercial tools.



# SAMPLE

**PLUS**  
Q&A with Scott Guthrie on Silverlight 3  
C# Corner: Working with Exceptions



# 2009 READERS

VSM readers honor the best commercial development tools. BY MICHAEL DESMOND



**SAMPLE**

# CHOICE AWARDS **SAMPLE**

To succeed in tough times, you need the best tools. The *Visual Studio Magazine* 2009 Readers Choice Awards honor the very best third-party tools, components and frameworks, as selected by one of the most knowledgeable developer audiences you can find: *VSM* subscribers. Nearly 700 *VSM* readers identified the top commercial dev tools from independent vendors in the Visual Studio development space, across 23 categories. To eliminate ballot stuffing, only a select subset of *VSM* subscribers was invited to cast votes.

We honor three products in each category: The Readers Choice Award goes to the top-voted product in the category, and a Merit Award is given to each of the two runners-up. In addition, we award five Editors Choice Awards. These were selected by weighing the input of a select panel of *VSM* contributors, authors and experts, as well as the input of *VSM* survey respondents, who were asked to identify the single most impressive development tool in their kit.

Check out the complete 2009 *VSM* Readers Choice Awards and Buyers Guide online. We compiled more than 700 total developer products for our annual Buyers Guide, and provide extended coverage of key technologies and advances that will impact developer tools in the years to come. **FindIT code: TechLibrary**

## BUG & FEATURE TRACKING



Readers Choice Award Winner  
**IBM Rational ClearQuest** *IBM Rational Software*  
\$1,810 • [www.ibm.com/rational](http://www.ibm.com/rational) • 888-426-3774

The Bug & Feature Tracking category, which features 21 products, reflects the diverse and demanding nature of solutions in the category, with some doubling as components of more extensive application lifecycle or software quality management suites. IBM Rational ClearQuest was the clear winner, returning for its second consecutive year as the *VSM* Readers Choice in the Bug & Feature Tracking category. "We've worked with Rational tools from IBM on numerous applications," writes one survey respondent. "We've found them reliable and able to perform as advertised."

### MERIT AWARD WINNERS

**OnTime 2009 Professional** *Axosoft LLC*  
Starts at \$795 for five users • [axosoft.com](http://axosoft.com) • 800-653-0024; 480-362-1900

**FogBugz** *Fog Creek Software*  
\$199 • [www.fogcreek.com](http://www.fogcreek.com) • 888-364-2849; 212-279-2076

## CHARTING & MULTIMEDIA



Readers Choice Award Winner  
**Dundas Chart for .NET 7** *Dundas Data Visualization Inc.*  
Call for price • [www.dundas.com](http://www.dundas.com) • 800-463-1492; 416-467-5100

In the arena of Charting & Multimedia, it seems that there's Dundas Chart for .NET 7 and everybody else. Dundas hauled in more than 25 percent of all votes. The two runners-up—ComponentOne Chart for ASP.NET, version 2009 and Software FX Chart FX 7—tallied less than 8 percent apiece. Notes one survey participant: "I've been very impressed with Dundas, both as a technical

charting tool and as a company as well. They've been very responsive and proactive in user engagement."

### MERIT AWARD WINNERS

**ComponentOne Chart for ASP.NET, version 2009** *ComponentOne LLC*  
Call for price • [www.componentone.com](http://www.componentone.com) • 800-858-2739; 412-681-4343

**Chart FX 7** *Software FX Inc.*  
Starts at \$1,599 • [www.softwarefx.com](http://www.softwarefx.com) • 800-392-4278; 561-999-8888

## COMPONENT SUITES FOR .NET: DESKTOP AND WEB



Readers Choice Award Winner  
**Telerik Premium Collection for .NET** *Telerik Inc.*  
\$1,299 • [www.telerik.com](http://www.telerik.com) • 888-365-2779; +359-2-8099850

Perhaps no Readers Choice category does a better job of recognizing the overall output of software tool vendors than the .NET Components Suite. By a narrow margin, voters selected Telerik Premium Collection for .NET over Infragistics' NetAdvantage for .NET 2009 suite. Readers praised the Telerik suite for its comprehensive features, efficiency and outstanding support.

### MERIT AWARD WINNERS

**NetAdvantage for .NET 2009 Volume 1** *Infragistics*  
Starts at \$1,195 • [www.infragistics.com](http://www.infragistics.com) • 800-231-8588; 609-448-2000

**DXperience** *Developer Express Inc.*  
Starts at \$799.99 • [devexpress.com](http://devexpress.com) • 818-844 3383; 702-262-0609

## DATA, NETWORK & WEB CONNECTIVITY

Readers Choice Award Winner  
**Xceed FTP for .NET** *Xceed Software Inc.*

**SAMPLE**

\$399.95 • xceed.com • 800-865-2626; 450-442-2626

In what was the closest vote of the 2009 *VSM* Readers' Choice Awards, Xceed FTP for .NET narrowly outpaced DataDirect Connect for ADO.NET and last year's winner, IP\*Works! SNMP version 8.0 from /n software, to earn top billing in the Data, Network & Web Connectivity category.

**MERIT AWARD WINNERS****DataDirect Connect for ADO.NET**

DataDirect Technologies

Call for price • www.datadirect.com • 800-876-3101; 44-0-1753-218-930

**IP\*Works! SNMP version 8.0**

/n software Inc.

Starts at \$1,199 • nsoftware.com • 800-225-4190; 919-544-7070

**DATA EDITING, REPORTING & ANALYSIS TOOLS**

Readers Choice Award Winner

**Crystal Reports for Visual Studio**

SAP AG

\$495 • www.sap.com • 888-333-6007; 952-646-5534

The names may change but the song remains the same. Although Business Objects was acquired by SAP last year, Crystal Reports remains popular and returns as the top choice among the 51 products in the Data Editing, Reporting & Analysis Tools category. It earned almost twice as many votes as Red Gate Software's SQL Compare. The product could earn more votes next year, thanks to SAP's eased licensing, which makes Crystal Reports easier to embed in distributed software.

**MERIT AWARD WINNERS****SQL Compare 8.0**

Red Gate Software

Starts at \$395 • www.red-gate.com • 866-733-4283

**Dundas Chart for Reporting Services**

Dundas Data Visualization Inc.

\$1,999 • www.dundas.com • 800-463-1492; 416-467-5100

**DEVELOPMENT TOOLS**

Readers Choice Award Winner

**ReSharper 4.5**

JetBrains

Starts at \$199 • jetbrains.com • 650-378-8571; +420-2-4172-2501

JetBrains ReSharper 4.5 stands out in one of the most hotly contested categories in the 2009 *VSM* Readers Choice Awards: the Development Tools category, with 80 total products eligible. ReSharper 4.5 outpaced both Developer Express' CodeRush for Visual Studio .NET and VMware's Workstation 6.5 for Windows. Readers praised ReSharper, with many singling it out as their most valuable tool. "It's extremely proficient at helping me stick to standards and drawing my attention to potential code flaws," writes one respondent.

**MERIT AWARD WINNERS****CodeRush for Visual Studio .NET**

Developer Express Inc.

Starts at \$249.99 • devexpress.com • 818-844 3383; 702-262-0609

**VMware Workstation 6.5 for Windows**

VMware Inc.

Starts at \$189 • vmware.com • 877-486-9273; 650-475-5000

**GRID COMPONENTS: DESKTOP**

Readers Choice Award Winner

**XtraGrid Suite**

Developer Express Inc.

Starts at \$299.99 • devexpress.com • 818-844 3383; 702-262-0609

Developer Express enjoys a strong following among *VSM*

readers, as evidenced by the company's XtraGrid Suite pulling down nearly twice as many votes as the second-place finisher in the Grid Components: Desktop category. Survey respondents were enthusiastic. "DevExpress has some of the best support that I've ever come across," writes one respondent. "They're quick to answer and they always thoroughly investigate your issue to come up with the best workaround or fix possible."

**MERIT AWARD WINNERS****RadGrid for WinForms**

Telerik Inc.

Call for price • www.telerik.com • 888-365-2779; +359-2-8099850

**Spread for Windows Forms 4**

FarPoint Technologies

Starts at \$999 • fpoin.com • 800-645-5913; 919-460-4551

**GRID COMPONENTS: WEB**

Readers Choice Award Winner

**ASPxGridView Suite**

Developer Express Inc.

Starts at \$299.99 • devexpress.com • 818-844 3383; 702-262-0609

Having secured top billing in the Grid Component: Desktop category, Developer Express held serve by topping the charts for best Grid Component: Web. The ASPxGridView Suite, which last year earned a Merit Award, narrowly outpaced Telerik RadGrid for ASP.NET AJAX in the voting. Says one developer of the ASPxGridView Suite: "DevExpress makes an easy-to-use ASP.NET control suite."

**MERIT AWARD WINNERS****RadGrid for ASP.NET AJAX**

Telerik Inc.

Call for price • www.telerik.com • 888-365-2779; +359-2-8099850

**Spread for ASP.NET 4**

FarPoint Technologies

Starts at \$999 • fpoin.com • 800-645-5913; 919-460-4551

**HELP AUTHORIZING**

Readers Choice Award Winner

**RoboHelp and RoboHelp Server**

Adobe Systems Inc.

\$999 (client) and \$1,999 (server) • www.adobe.com 800-833-6687

Just like last year, Adobe's RoboHelp led all vote-getters by a wide margin, and just like last year, ComponentOne's Doc-To-Help Enterprise earned a Merit Award. Two other products—Innovasys HelpStudio 3 and ComponentOne DemoWorks 2009—tied for the final Merit Award spot.

**MERIT AWARD WINNERS****ComponentOne Doc-To-Help Enterprise 2009**

ComponentOne LLC

\$1,000 • www.componentone.com • 800-858-2739; 412-681-4343

**(Tie) HelpStudio 3**

Innovasys Ltd.

\$476 • www.innovasys.com • +44-844-884-2673

**(Tie) ComponentOne DemoWorks, version 2009**

ComponentOne LLC

\$1,000 • www.componentone.com • 800-858-2739; 412-681-4343

**INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING**

Readers Choice Award Winner

**AppDev Products LLC**

www.appdev.com • 800-578-2062; 952-943-1363

Training firms and services come and go, but AppDev has proven itself a perennial player in the arena of Instructor-

