

Hi, my name is Will Smythe and I'm the product line manager for Rational Business Developer, EGL Community Edition, and the EGL language. In this podcast I want to you talk about our new, free tool for doing Web development – the EGL Community Edition.

- Web development today is not always easy. With all of the complex technologies and frameworks out there, building a powerful and useful end-to-end application can be difficult and/or impossible for some developers. EGL Community Edition, a new tool from IBM Rational, simplifies Web development by freeing developers to learn just one language to develop a complete end-to-end Web application. This one language is EGL.
- So, a little bit about EGL. EGL, IBM's newest business language, is a higher-level programming language that was designed to make business application development simpler and easier. Key to making this happen are the simplified, but yet powerful, approaches to accessing data in a database, integrating with other services, and calling existing programs. EGL was designed specifically for building business-type applications – the kinds of applications running in every business today, from accounting to payroll to order management to customer information management.
- Recently we added support to compile EGL code into JavaScript. What this means is that a developer can code a complex Web front-end that utilizes Ajax and the latest open widgets without writing any JavaScript! EGL code destined to run on a server is compiled into standard Java code. What this means is that a developer can code an entire client/server solution knowing just 1 language.
- EGL Community Edition is based on IBM Rational Business Developer, the premier EGL development tool. Rational Business Developer provides additional enterprise-level capabilities such as support for deploying code to CICS and IMS and support for running on WebSphere Application Server. But, both tools provide a great environment for building Web 2.0 style applications.
- Some of the key benefits of EGL CE include:
  - A visual editor that simplifies the creation of rich Web user interfaces. And with built-in support for Dojo (a popular open source widget toolkit), EGL developers can utilize the latest and greatest widgets. Out of the box, EGL CE includes a set of powerful widgets, including a tab folder, grid, accordion layout, pie charts, date picker, and more. Because EGL is fully extensible, developers can also utilize any existing widget library or framework – so, with EGL, the possibilities are endless.
  - Besides providing great support for building a powerful user interfaces, EGL CE simplifies the creation of SOAP and REST/XML/JSON Web services. Developers can quickly create services using the built-in EGL “service” keyword. These services are deployed as Java to a standard application server.
  - Simplified access to data in databases is a key feature of EGL and CE. EGL CE supports [IBM DB2](#) as well as MySQL. EGL CE also supports calling existing programs and procedures on enterprise systems such as CICS, IMS, and IBM i.

- One great feature of EGL CE is that developers are not required to deploy to an application server during coding, testing, and debugging – this means less waiting and more coding.
- Being able to easily debug an application is important. EGL CE supports end-to-end debugging of client and server side code. And when you debug, you debug EGL code, not compiled JavaScript or Java code.
- Once you're ready to deploy, EGL CE supports deployment to the popular and open [Apache Tomcat](#) application server. At deployment time, EGL code is compiled into Java, JavaScript, and HTML and packaged like any other Web application.

EGL definitely takes a different approach to Web development, but what you end up with is a standard, open application that can run in virtually any environment, including all popular Web browsers.

To learn more about EGL and the EGL Community Edition, visit the EGL Café at [ibm.com/rational/café](http://ibm.com/rational/café) and click the EGL link.

Thanks for listening, and happy developing!