Uncommon web technologies*

Or “A look at Seaside, and a discussion about esoteric web frameworks”

* The topics there are no Oreilly books about
Who am I

- Lars Rustemeier

- System architect at Snowmen Solutions

- Previously: KTH, Razorfish, GameDesign Sweden, Netbaby, ACNE, Automata (still so), Ongame

- I prefer dynamic languages*

- Professional programming** in C, C++, Lua, Java, Python, Smalltalk, Ruby, Perl, Scheme and Common Lisp

* Languages that defer as many decisions as possible until runtime. They also tend to be expressive: “Programs must be written for people to read, and only incidentally for machines to execute”. /Sussman
** In the sense that I have been paid to program in the language
Cutting edge web sw

Why bother with this esoteric stuff

• Makes you a better developer

• The future lies in some of the radical projects

• Paradigm changes tend to scare developers (reluctance to change)

• Good for experimentation, prototyping* (does anyone do prototyping?)

• In a nutshell: It is fun
Consequence of the fact that most apps are deployed as web applications

- You can write web apps in any language!
- Not so for desktop applications
Developer courage

**Dictionary**

**esoteric** |ˌesəˈterik|

adjective
intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest: esoteric philosophical debates.

**DERIVATIVES**
esoterically |-(ə)le| adverb
esotericism |ˌterəˈsizəm| noun
esotericist |ˌterəˈsist| noun

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Greek *esôterikos*, from *esôterō*, comparative of *esô* ‘within,’ from *es, eis* ‘into.’ Compare with EXOTERIC.

**Thesaurus**
esoteric
adjective

I want to talk about Seaside since it seem to be unknown outside the Lisp/Smalltalk world

Why is this?

Smalltalk, an extremely dynamic* language (even more so than Ruby)

Everything is an object, even the runtime stack, “reification”

The syntax (or lack there of) is scary to some

Image based development is not fashionable
Features

Programmatic HTML generation.
Callback-based request handling.
Embedded components.
Modal session management.
Interactive debugging support.
Features

• Halos in squeak

• Halos in seaside

• Inspector

• Backtracking

• Thinking about things at the component level
Back tracking

- What happens when we use the back button?

Pages

- Page1
- Page2
- Page3

Session state

- state1
- state2
- state3

- What do we want?
Continuations

• Travel in time

\[ \text{color} = \text{color}\_\text{picker()} \]

\[ \text{set\_background(color)} \]

...
Code generation

- Do not render CSS content
Hands on demo
Interesting projects

- Seaside
- Ruby on Rails
- Xen (Elastic Computer Cloud, )
- Erlang
- IO
- Croquet
- JWACS
- Links
- UnCommon Web
- …
Real life Seaside @ dabbledb.com
More info: http://seaside.st/