

▲ Microsoft's next version of Office365 will be written in JavaScript (mobile.twitter.com)

57 points by mhoad 2 hours ago | hide | past | web | favorite | 40 comments



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▲ FridgeSeal 3 minutes ago [-]

So of all the good, far more suitable languages they could use, we're getting it written the flaming pile of trash that is JavaScript? Why though?

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▲ KenanSulayman 0 minutes ago [-]

Recruiting is incredibly simplified

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▲ bitL 34 minutes ago [-]

Oh well, the kool-aid is strong. Next round of what Intel giveth, Microsoft taketh away...

Can somebody please design even worse language so that we can progress by reimplementing everything in it, keeping us occupied for the next 20 years?

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▲ setquk 0 minutes ago [-]

Not only that, billions of hours of invested time and knowledge will be thrown out of the window instantly and everyone who integrates anything with Office will have to start again from scratch. Literally at least a third of the world is built on bits of spaghetti and duct tape on Office.

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▲ rbinv 35 minutes ago [-]

Office for Windows (WIN32) will be an Electron app? I have no words.

edit, since there seems to be some confusion: I am explicitly talking about the WIN32 variant, which he confirmed to be based on Electron.

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▲ vesak 33 minutes ago [-]

"No they are not electron apps. They are compiled to native code.

It's now finally one toolchain(#webpack)
It's one codebase and it compiles to:

```
Web
Android
IOS
MacOS
UWP
WIN32 (only one that uses electron)
7:52 AM · Jun 13, 2018"
```

<https://mobile.twitter.com/TheLarkInn/status/100676113439583...>

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▲ rbinv 32 minutes ago [-]

He says so in another tweet/reply.

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▲ ealexhudson 12 minutes ago [-]

This isn't Office for Windows the suite. WIN32 is a platform they're not really supporting any more, I think they're basically saying if you're on WIN32 then you're getting the web version in future, not the real deal.

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▲ Maarten88 31 minutes ago [-]

From what I understand they are using React Native.

I too find it hard to believe they would drop the native Windows and OSX versions of Outlook, Word, Excel, for apps written in React Native. But Microsoft has offered many surprises lately...

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▲ Dinux 14 minutes ago [-]

We're talking 50M SLOC and 20+ years of development for native platforms. I highly doubt that they will let that go in favor of an JS app.

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▲ rxdazn 31 minutes ago [-]

Not an electron app

<https://mobile.twitter.com/TheLarkInn/status/100677077815354...>

[reply](#)

▲ danso 14 minutes ago [-]

The tweet that the OP is quoting/responding to is interesting:

<https://mobile.twitter.com/jdgarciac3m/status/1005768121230...>

> *Tip of the day.*

> *Scripting languages as first programming language for CS bachelors are WRONG. You are not able to write an OS, a DBMS, or even an Office suite with an scripting language.*

I honestly thought this was a satire tweet. I guess I just don't associate even a CS bachelor's degree with writing that kind of software. I mean, it *can*, but there are more theoretical tracks that don't involve writing a OS/DBMS.

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▲ shrumm 29 minutes ago [-]

Surprised they didn't opt for Typescript. Then again, it's a tweet - looking forward to a longer blog post with technical details when they're willing to talk about it more.

[reply](#)

▲ sebazzz 12 minutes ago [-]

Javascript can still mean that Typescript is used.

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▲ qubex 10 minutes ago [-]

Or most likely WebAssembler...

[reply](#)

▲ discordance 28 minutes ago [-]

Atwood's Law - "Any application that can be written in JavaScript, will eventually be written in JavaScript."

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▲ setquk 13 minutes ago [-]

This is good news for those of us who have to deal with VSTO, MSI packaging and all that cack. At last it might not feel like being bugged by a traffic cone repeatedly.

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▲ cm2187 10 minutes ago [-]

The ideal of an IT dept is to force all of their users to use only a locked down ipad. Of course they won't be able to achieve any work on them, and productivity will go down the drain, but that's not the problem of the IT department.

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▲ amiga-workbench 9 minutes ago [-]

Are they trying to give hardware sales a nudge by writing everything as inefficiently as possible?

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▲ davidhyde 37 minutes ago [-]

As if they didn't learn their lesson with skype for business.

[reply](#)

▲ cm2187 31 minutes ago [-]

Excel is already a dog in term of recalculating large spreadsheets. I think we will need Intel's 28 cores at 5GHz monster!

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▲ bitL 29 minutes ago [-]

Maybe they'll just make it as slow as Open/LibreOffice's recalculation to be competitive...

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▲ chris_wot 22 minutes ago [-]

Do you have an example spreadsheet that shows the slowness in LibreOffice?

[reply](#)

▲ ekianjo 26 minutes ago [-]

If you use Excel for large spreadsheets you are probably not using the right tool.

[reply](#)

▲ cm2187 21 minutes ago [-]

You and I know how to code. Most excel users do not. There is just simply not enough programmers in the world to do what all business users achieve and run on Excel.

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▲ spicymaki 16 minutes ago [-]

FWIW, I personally like the direction Microsoft is going in. I look forward to seeing where this transformation leads.

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▲ cm2187 2 minutes ago [-]

The positive side of breaking compatibility with all legacy technologies (COM, VBA, XLL, etc) that currently force large companies to stick to MS Office is that it has the potential to reintroduce competition in the office-like software space. And in my opinion Office is the main reason why large enterprises stick to Windows. Most internal apps are moving to the web. If office backward compatibility goes away, then it's not clear that Windows is an obvious choice anymore.

And it is kind of consistent with Microsoft's new strategy to de-emphasize Windows.

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▲ nickpp 32 minutes ago [-]

Other tweets in thread are interesting too:

No they are not electron apps. They are compiled to native code.

It's now finally one toolchain(#webpack)
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```
Web
Android
IOS
MacOS
UWP
WIN32 (only one that uses electron)
```

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▲ cm2187 28 minutes ago [-]

another tweet on that thread:

> *how is that even possible? there are tons of legacy features in there, COM/OLE APIs, SDKs, plugin architecture, macro system, VBA interpreter, VBA IDE, graphing components etc. Almost 30 years of development. No way MS is going to rewrite all of that. (Maybe the "mobile" version)*

I think this is a strong indication that all these technologies are going away.

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▲ ekianjo 28 minutes ago [-]

No mention of Linux despite how much they claim to "love" it.

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▲ chrisseaton 14 minutes ago [-]

It says that the the JavaScript is compiled to native code. That's not something you get from React Native today is it? Have they implemented a new native code compiler for JavaScript? I wonder what compiler technology it uses.

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▲ tluyben2 1 minute ago [-]

I was wondering that after reading more of the tweets; React native doesn't compile the JS to native, so not sure what they are using to do all of that? Bit worried about the far superior languages C# and F# if they are not even dogfooding anymore.

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▲ zihotki 30 minutes ago [-]

I wonder, is it actually JS or they are using TypeScript? VSCode is written in TypeScript but it was mentioned there that it's JS, did somebody mixed things up?

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▲ tluyben2 13 minutes ago [-]

Seems like a very strange move... But it's a tweet. Might not mean anything really.

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▲ cm2187 8 minutes ago [-]

My first thought was an April fool joke that got lost in a queue or as a result of a bad network connection...

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▲ neals 27 minutes ago [-]

The Javascript is compiled to native code, apparently. Maybe there's a Typescript to Cpp transpiler that I haven't heard about?

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▲ FridgeSeal 10 minutes ago [-]

This is a joke right?

[reply](#)

▲ rado 34 minutes ago [-]

The sky is falling

[reply](#)

▲ pimmen 25 minutes ago [-]

Why is this trend going on with using js in domains where it previously was not a component?

Is it to ease shipping new features? To make it easier for contributors once they make the application open source? Good PR?

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▲ discordance 18 minutes ago [-]

Aside from the view layer, probably due to the motivation to have a common code base across web, iOS, Android, Windows, Mac and Linux.

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