From:	Ben Slivka
Sent:	Thursday, May 15, 1997 6:21 PM
To:	Atsushi Kanamori; Patrick Dussud; Anders Hejlsberg
Cc:	Michael Toutonghi; Peter Kukol; Brad Lovering; Yuval Neeman; Brad Silverberg; David Cole
Subject:	RE: Java language extensions sample code

Sorry I missed the meeting today on this, but I did want to give you my perspective on these extensions.
I absolutely want to party on the Java language, just for competitive reasons.
But there are important features we need to add to improve programmer productivity/flexibility (like assert/debug control, closures (?)), improve performance, and improve Win32 (C language) interoperability.
At the same time, Java's safety (both security model as well as GC, hard to trash memory, etc.) is an important feature that I believe will help "us" become more productive. Every time I hear about a memory trashing problem (like the 813 build of IE 4 a few days ago, where something in IE was trashing the Java VM's heap), or a COM ref counting problem, or memory leaks (again recently in shdocvw), I dream of the future where we don't have those problems.

So, as long as we expect that the additions like sturcts, pointers, non-GC memory, etc. are features that will be used almost exclusively in glue code to Win32, or for small, amazingly performance-critical pieces of code, and that such code would very typically exist in only a few modules in even a very large program, then I'm happy with these extensions.

On the other hand, if we think these extensions would exist in almost all modules of any appreciably large program (to gain performance, for example), then we've lost the safety advantages of Java, and I'm a lot less happy.

I discussed this point of view with andersh, and he told me that I would be happy with his (and peter's) proposal, so I guess I'm happy!
--bens

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