

Vala? Are you kidding me??

Zeeshan Ali (Khattak)

Red Hat

GUPnP & Rygel

So whats this Vala thing?



STARGATE
SG-1.

History of GNOME development

In the ancient days..

Everything in C

In the modern days..

Libraries in C

Applications in favorite language

Issues with this approach

Moving code b/w applications & libraries

App developers unwilling to code in C

Result

Core GNOME hackers: everything in C

Other hackers: everything in HLL

Along came Vala

HLL that compiles to efficient C

HLL designed for GNOME?

C# done right?

C made easy?

Features

Fully OO

Classes & Interfaces

Methods

Inheritance

GObject Features

Signals
Properties

Memory management

Lambdas and Closures

Strongly Typed

Type Inference

Async Syntax

DBus Integration

Generics

No runtime deps

(build-time neither for tarballs)

Glues nicely with C world

Modifiable front & back-end (languages)

Last but not the least..



Vala kicks some serious a**

Sample code

Personal Experience

GUPnP

MediaServer

Port to Vala

40% less code

Bumpy ride in the 1st year

Myths & common misunderstandings

GObject boilerplate generator

Unstable

Homepage: <http://live.gnome.org/Vala>

IRC: #vala on gimp.net