

Cristian CIUREA¹

PhD Candidate, Department of Computer Science in Economics,
University of Economics, Bucharest, Romania

E-mail: cristian.ciurea@ie.ase.ro



Key words: RIA; Flex; ActionScript; C#

**Book Review on
DEVELOPING RIA APPLICATIONS
("DEZVOLTAREA APLICATIILOR RIA"),**

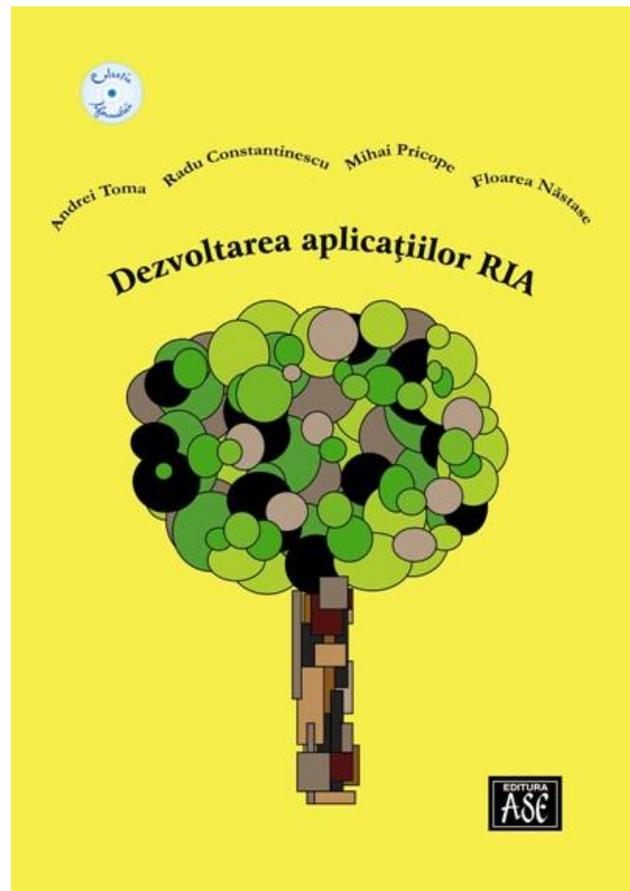
**by Andrei TOMA, Radu CONSTANTINESCU,
Mihai PRICOPE, Floarea NASTASE,
ASE Publishing House, Bucharest, 2010**

The book *Developing RIA applications*, has been published in 2010 at ASE Publishing House, Bucharest, and is a book with a specialized language. It is addressed to Web application developers, both those experienced and those who want to learn Adobe Flex technology.

The book is useful for web application developers with knowledge of C# and addresses the problem of building applications with a rich interface based on data access services.

Rich Internet Applications allow not only optimizing current processes and refining the appearance of web applications, but also using mechanisms that were typical to desktop applications.

In order to illustrate the concepts needed to develop a Flex application, an online auction site is built step by step in the book. The need for this approach comes from the ease of use benefits of RIA client applications compared with the clients built on a classic request-response paradigm. The client application is developed in Adobe Flex, a mature technology for the development of RIA applications and the server application in ASP.NET and C# with data stored on MS SQL server.



The book is structured in 12 chapters, very well divided and having a logical sequence. The book deals with issues related to building and customizing a Flex interface oriented on ease of use, data access through Web services, defining custom components, access to external services etc. On the server component development, building Web services and data access in C# are addressed, with problems related to construction and processing of XML results.

The first chapter is dedicated to the presentation of the technology necessary for web application development. Both client-side technologies, such as HTML, XHTML, CSS, JavaScript, as well as server side, such as PHP, ASP.NET, Python, JSP and ColdFusion, are discussed.

Chapter 2 makes an introduction to Adobe Flex, understanding RIA concepts, Flash Player, MXML and ActionScript.

In Chapter 3 Flex interfaces are presented, Adobe Flex being a technology that implements model-view type architecture.

Chapter 4 is an introduction in the ActionScript and MXML. The MXML language is the Flex version of a specialized language for interface construction. ActionScript is a language that defines data types strictly and statically, supporting a range of data types, some primitive, others complex.

In the context of the 5th chapter, web services in C# are presented, the reader is shown how to create a web service, followed by data access and data update through C#.

Chapter 6 describes data services in C#, theoretical concepts needed to extend the Web service to retrieve data, construct and return an XML structure of categories.

Chapter 7 is dedicated to Web services and data sources in Flex, also covering the topics of events and Data Binding. The chapter covers data access through Web Services and implementing data access related events.

Chapter 8 contains web services, data sources in Flex, and explains how to upload images on server.

Chapter 9 presents the concepts of Data validation, Item editors, Item renderers, Drag and Drop.

Chapter 10 covers working with Sessions, Skins, Effects and Transitions, Custom components.

In chapter 11 external APIs and Mash-ups are shown, understanding SOA concepts and external services and how to use Yahoo mapping service.

The last chapter deals with architectures, the problem of software applications design and security of Flex applications.

The topics addressed in this book cover the introduction to building RIA applications with data services; with the information contained in the chapters the construction of a complete application is possible. Besides the subjects related to the effective development of medium complexity applications, issues related to refining an application are dealt with (such as reducing project complexity and handling security concerns).

¹ Cristian CIUREA has a background in computer science and is interested in collaborative systems related issues. He has graduated the Faculty of Economic Cybernetics, Statistics and Informatics from the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies in 2007. He is currently conducting doctoral research in Economic Informatics at the Academy of Economic Studies. Other fields of interest include software metrics, data structures, object oriented programming in C++ and windows applications programming in C#.