

Comment on: "Tools for scaling the Smalltalk development of complex systems"

The constant tension between having fun and paying the bills is resolved, at least in part, when working with Smalltalk. The secret is that smalltalkers not only spend time and energies modeling someone else's domains, they also enjoy recasting their environments and adding better tools to it.

The subject of development tools is always appealing and becomes increasingly interesting when the tools are intended for teamwork support. Classic topics include managing conflicts, controlling the quality of the sources, running tests and adapting complexity metrics to better evaluate the results. Precisely coordinated actions must be taken in order to encourage refactoring while committing to stability.

This experience report is about tools and workflows evolved by Mericap S.R.L over the years. The conjugation of VisualAge Smalltalk and GemStone/S makes this case doubly attractive.

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