



Object **Partners** Inc.

# Introduction to Flex and AIR

Ola Bildtsen

Object Partners Inc.



Object **Partners** Inc.

# About Object Partners

- Founded 1996, privately held company
- Based in Minneapolis, MN
- ~50 employees
- Enterprise IT Consulting
  - Leveraging leading edge and open-source technologies
  - Delivering mission-critical applications
- SpringSource Partner



Object **Partners** Inc.

# Agenda

- Flex / AIR Overview
- Introduction to Flex Builder
- Let's Build Something
  - Build a Flex web application
  - Create a Shared Library project
  - Build an AIR desktop application
- Test with FlexMonkey
- Q & A



Object **Partners** Inc.

# Flex Overview

- Framework for expressive /rich web applications
- UI component library (more online, free and for-fee)
- Language:
  - MXML (layout)
  - ActionScript 3 (logic)
  - CSS (style)
- Runs "everywhere" (where Flash Player lives)
- Open-source (but Flex Builder is a must-have)
- Connect to LiveCycle DS or BlazeDS



Object **Partners** Inc.

# AIR Overview

- Desktop runtime environment for Flex framework
- Runs on Windows, OSX, Linux
- Simple application delivery
- Think "Flex+"
  - Full desktop integration
  - Access to local/system resources (files, DB, etc.)
- Supports JavaScript in addition to ActionScript



Object **Partners** Inc.

# Flex Builder

- Built on Eclipse
- Source / visual layout views
- Syntax highlighting, code-completion
- Debugger
- Integrates with Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop, etc.)
- Data visualization (charts) \*
- Testing tools (memory / performance profiling) \*

\*In Professional Edition (more \$\$\$)



Object **Partners** Inc.

# Let's Build Something...



Object **Partners** Inc.

# Useful Links

## **Flex / AIR**

- [http://www.adobe.com/products/\[flex,air\]](http://www.adobe.com/products/[flex,air])
- <http://flex.org/software/components>
- <http://flexbox.mrinalwadhwa.com/>

## **FlexMonkey**

- <http://www.adobe.com/devnet/flex/articles/flexmonkey.html>
- <http://www.gorillalogic.com/stuff/flexmonkey.html>