

QML Next

Qt Quick UI with non-C++ languages

Qt Contributor Summit 2024

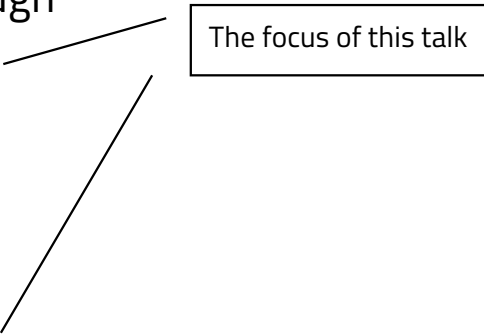
2024 Sept, by vladimir.minenko@qt.io

 Group



Motivation

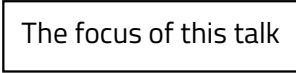
Why QML Next

- Enlarge the footprint of the use of Qt through
 - to use cases where C++ is not used (that much)
 - enabling the use of Qt without writing a Qt app
 - Enlarge the Qt user community through
 - Keeping being modern and appealing
 - Stay in the loop even if users (have to) develop in a non-C++ language
 - Flatten the learning curve
 - In all of the above, we focus on QML (language) and Qt Quick (framework)
- 

Where

we could work on this

- In the Qt Framework software
- Other aspects aside touching the code of Qt



The focus of this talk

In the Qt Framework Software

If there, so what would be that then?

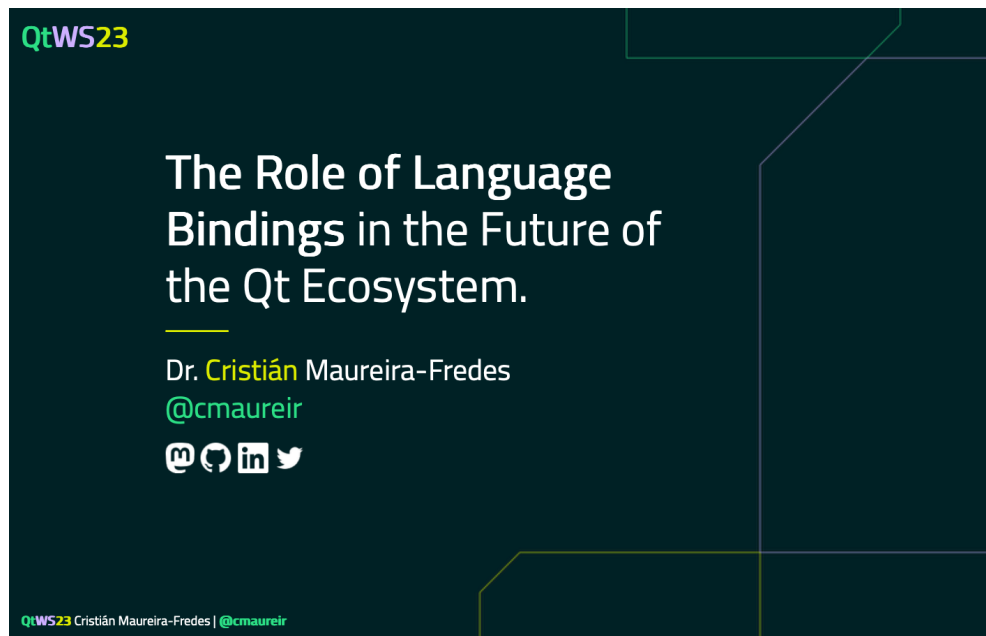
The focus of this talk

- QML and Qt Quick bring UI, other languages - data models / business logic
- Enabling development of Qt Quick application without needing any C++ glue
- Enabling development of foreign language applications that integrate Qt Quick into a larger non-Qt UI

It is serious

QML Next as “Qt Quick UI with non-C++ languages”

Potentially, some of you were in that talk in the last year:



The importance of this for Qt is a good reason why this talk is a bit similar

The concept

QML Next as “Qt Quick UI with non-C++ languages”

An extension interface for Qt Quick UI to use backends written in other languages

- The persona:
 - Some code base and knowledge in language XYZ
 - Wants to get a UI for that code base
 - Interested in Qt Quick / QML as technology, but does not want to touch C++ to just get that UI done
- What can we do for this user beyond sending to read https://wiki.qt.io/Language_Bindings ?
 - Started a self-explorational exercise
 - Defined requirements “minimal app”
 - Got it done with backends in C++ , C#, and Python
 - Missed to cover Rust and Swift, and did not get to JS
 - Looked in the mirror and asked how is it?

Expectations

QML Next as “Qt Quick UI with non-C++ languages”

An extension interface for Qt Quick UI to use backends written in other languages

An MVP should:

- Zero effort to start with some minimal functionality
- Advanced use requires advanced techniques
- A final app still uses Qt to run: the main() and the event loop with Qt (C++)
- A reference integration for most appreciated ones: C#, Swift, Rust, <see the next 3 lines>
- <get our head around if and how we handle JS, and which “JS” that actually is>
- <see how we plug the new QML for Android>
- Explain or extend the use of Python with Qt in other ways than PySide (Qt for Python) does today
- Provide QML-internal interfaces for more languages with C/C++ interoperability

Keep going

QML Next as “Qt Quick UI with non-C++ languages”

- Reduce Qt exposure on the backend side:
 - Exploring how to handle custom types
 - and register functions
 - how that could look like for users
- Exploring what is needed in the QML Engine to work well with other languages
- Getting one developer for Swift now and one for Rust in the Fall
- See <> brackets on my other slides

Now, it is your turn

QML Next as “Qt Quick UI with non-C++ languages”

Tell us:

- “This ‘persona’ is like me at X%”
- “You, guys, actually missed XYZ whereas this is very important”
- “I want to join that!”