

All About Microsoft: CodeTracker

A monthly look at Microsoft's codenames and what they reveal about the direction of the company.



All About Microsoft CodeTracker

Keeping track of Microsoft's myriad codenames is an (almost) full-time occupation. I know, as I spend a lot of my work hours tracking down the latest names in the hopes of being able to better keep tabs on what's coming next from the Redmondians.

Each month, I'll be releasing an updated, downloadable version of the CodeTracker. I'll add new codenames -- arranged in alphabetical order by codename -- of forthcoming Microsoft products and technologies. I also will note timing changes (date slips, the release of a new test build, the disappearance of a planned deliverable) for entries that are already part of the Tracker. Once Microsoft releases the final version of a product or technology I've been tracking, I will remove it from the Tracker. In that way, the CodeTracker will remain focused on futures.

(An aside about the Tracker: A question mark in place of an entry means I have insufficient information to hazard even an educated guess about a particular category.)

If you have suggested new entries or corrections to existing ones, please drop me an e-mail at [mjf at microsofttracker dot com](mailto:mjf@microsofttracker.com).

Thanks!

Mary Jo Foley, Editor, ZDNet's "All About Microsoft" blog

Codename Theme for November: Alaska or Bust!

Microsoft's cloud team seemingly has a thing for Alaska. No, this isn't a reference to Sarah "Moose Hunter" Palin... It's about Microsoft's cloud codenames, which Microsoft fleshed out at the end of October at its Professional Developer Conference.

One reader (and Alaskan native) provided some educated guesswork on where some of Microsoft's cloud codenames originated. From Dennison's e-mail:

- * Red Dog (Windows Azure) is a mine in remote Northwestern Alaska. The Red Dog Saloon also is a historic landmark in Juneau, the capitol.
- * Sitka (SQL Server Data Services) is a small island town in Southeast Alaska that used to be the capitol back when the Russians owned Alaska.
- * Anchorage (SyncToy v2) is the largest city in Alaska. It serves as a (synchronization?) hub for the rest of Alaska.

Next month, I'll be adding a new section to the Tracker, focused on Microsoft Research projects. Meanwhile, without further ado, on to November's update to the CodeTracker.

Codename	Expected Product Name	Description of the product	Projected Due Date for final release	Latest Milestone achieved	Additional info
Anchorage	SyncToy Version 2	A component of Microsoft's Sync Framework Version 2; enables discovery of sync providers	?	CTP of Sync Framework V 2 out in late October	More Anchorage information
Austin	ResponsePoint 2	Next version of Microsoft's IP/VOIP PBX phone software for small businesses	?	?	More Austin information
BizTalk Server 6	BizTalk Server 2009 (formerly known as BizTalk Server 2006 R3)	Next version of Microsoft's app-integration server that will support Microsoft's Oslo modeling technologies	First half of 2009	Test build in the hands of customers	More BizTalk Server 2009 information

BlueDB	?	Microsoft-hosted SQL Server. Not clear if this is aimed at customers or is a foundation technology like Cosmos	?	Microsoft has hinted it will intro a "Microsoft-hosted BI offering" in the coming months but no word when	More Blue information
Bulldog	?	Master data management tech, which Microsoft acquired from Stratature, expected to be integrated into Office/SharePoint 14	2009/2010	Office 14 TAP test builds expected to start in Nov. 2008	More Bulldog information
Cosmos	?	Storage/file system layer component of Microsoft's Red Dog cloud (Azure) OS platform	Cosmos is part of Microsoft's foundational Azure platform and not a standalone product/service	?	More Cosmos information
Dublin	?	Microsoft application server that will be released as a standalone product, as well as integrated into some future release of Windows Server (possibly Windows Server 2008 R2)	2009	First CTP released in late October	More Dublin information
Echoes	?	Platform for distribution/delivery of Live Mobile services to Microsoft groups and third-party phone/IPTV providers	Target was mid-2008 to carriers. No updated word on status	Various carriers and providers been testing since spring 2008	More Echoes information
Gemini	?	Set of "self-service" analytics tools; one feature of SQL Server Kilimanjaro;	2010	First CTP test builds slated for early 2009	More Gemini information
Geneva	?	An identity metasytem including a new security	Latter half of 2009	First test release	More Geneva

		token service and Active Directory Federation Services (ADFS) version 2.0		delivered late October; Beta 1 due in first half of 2009	information
Hawaii	Visual Studio 2010	Next version of Microsoft's development environment. .Net Framework 4.0 is one component	Late 2009 or early 2010	First CTP delivered in October 2008	More Hawaii information
Horizon	Live Mesh	Microsoft's collaboration/synchronization service	?	First test build out in spring 2008; major Live Mesh refresh out in October	More Live Mesh information
Huron	?	"Cloud-based data hub" based on SQL Services plus Sync Framework. One of the projects of SQL Services Labs	?	CTP expected this fall	More Huron information
Ibiza	Sync Framework (formerly codenamed Harmonica)	Synchronization service for online/offline scenarios; designed especially for taking Web services and databases offline	Version 1 RTM'd earlier this year	CTP of Version 2 released in late October	More Ibiza information
Kilimanjaro	SQL Server 2010	BI-focused, minor upgrade to SQL Server 2008	2010	First CTPs expected early 2009	More Kilimanjaro information
Live Framework	Live Framework	Live Mesh development platform	?	First CTP released in late October	More Live Framework information
M	M (was formerly codenamed D)	Microsoft's Oslo modeling language	Will be folded into future version of Visual Studio (probably 2010)	First CTP released in late October	More M information

Madison	?	SQL Server data appliance	?	First CTP to OEMs by October 2009	More Madison information
Midori	?	Concurrent, distributed operating system which could be the successor to Windows	?	Post-2011 (if and when it comes out of incubation)	More Midori information
MinSafe	?	Related to RedHawk; the Windows' side of an incubated project to replace Win32 with managed .Net technologies	In development inside Microsoft	First results could be integrated into Windows 8 (2011?)	More MinSafe information
MinWin	?	Project to slim down the Windows core. Also refers to the slimmed-down core itself	The MinWin concept is influencing Windows development thinking already	MinWin is in the Windows 7 main branch; users unlikely to see MinWin "surfaced" before Windows 8	More MinWin information
Mojave	Commerce Server 2009	This isn't the "Mojave" Windows marketing program. This is the next version of Commerce Server	Q1 2009	CTP out in August 2008	More Mojave information
Nitrogen	?	Next version of ISA Server. Some of Nitrogen was folded into Centro; the rest will be part of the "Stirling" suite	First half of 2009	In private testing for the past few months	More Nitrogen information
Oahu	?	Consumer-focused Surface tabletop retailing for about \$1,500	?	Microsoft surveying users about interest; no prototypes yet	More Oahu information

Office 14	Office 2010	Next version of Office client and SharePoint Server. Also will include new browser-based "Office Web applications"	Late 2009/early 2010	First TAP test builds expected in November 2008. Office Web app test build due before end of 2008	More Office 14 information
Oslo Repository	?	Integrated repository at the crux of Microsoft's Oslo modeling strategy	Final will be integrated into a future Visual Studio release (maybe VS 2010)	First CTP test build out in late October	More Oslo repository information
Paris	?	New Windows Presentation Foundation and Silverlight controls for next version of Office Communications Server (post OCS R2)	Late 2009/early 2010 (part of the Office 14 wave)	?	More Paris information
Pink	?	Premium consumer services for Windows Mobile phones. Zune music and various Danger services expected to be part of the final set	?	?	More Pink information
Quadrant	?	Visual modeling tool; part of the Oslo trio of products	Final will be integrated into a future Visual Studio release (maybe VS 2010)	First CTP test build delivered in late October	More Quadrant information
Red Dog	Windows Azure	The lowest level OS piece of Microsoft's cloud environment (Windows Strata). Believed to be built on/around Windows Server. Similar to Amazon's EC2.	?	Customer tests commencing this fall	More Red Dog information
RedHawk	?	Microsoft incubation project to replace Win32 with managed code. One expected deliverable: A back-end compiler for Midori	?	?	More RedHawk information

Rouge	?	The business mobile service equivalent of Pink. Built on/around Microsoft Office Communication Server (OCS) services	?	?	More Rouge information
Sitka	SQL Server Services	Microsoft's equivalent to Amazon's SimpleDB	?	Test builds distributed starting spring 2008	More Sitka information
SmartFlow	?	Microsoft alternative to Adobe LightRoom	?	?	More SmartFlow information
Stirling	Microsoft Forefront 2009	Integrated business security suite, comprised of Client Security, Server Security and Edge Security and Access solutions, plus a unified management console	First half of 2009	Beta 1 delivered April 2008	More Stirling information
Strata	Windows Azure	Microsoft's Cloud operating environment. "Strata" refers to the Red Dog operating system layer, plus the Live Services layer	?	First CTP of Azure tools, plus cloud storage, commencing this fall	More Strata information
Sundance	Windows Live Movie Maker	Movie Maker software turned into Movie Maker the Windows Live service	Spring 2009 (part of Windows Live Wave 3 rollout)	Went to testers in Fall 2008	More Sundance information
Tahiti	?	Microsoft's family of multi-core deliverables -- everything from libraries to operating systems	2009+ (different times for different technologies)	Some elements, like PLINQ, Concurrent Runtime, CCR/DSS in testing now	More Tahiti information
Volta	? (formerly codenamed Tesla)	Cloud programming toolset somewhat akin to Google's GWT	Status unknown. Removed from Microsoft's Web site in fall 2007 with no	Developer preview released late 2007.	More Volta information

further update					
Windows 7	Windows 7	Successor to Windows Vista	Mid 2009 (Q2)	Pre-beta released October; Beta 1 in mid-December	More Windows 7 information
Windows 7 Server	Windows Server 2008 R2	Successor to Windows Server 2008	2009 (goal is to release simultaneously with Win 7 client)	Pre-beta out in October. Beta 1 expected mid-December	More Windows Server 2008 R2 information
Windows Mobile 6.5	Windows Mobile 6.5	Next release of Microsoft mobile OS platform	Latter half of 2009 (not clear if that's RTM or handset makers' release date)	?	More Windows Mobile 6.5 information
Windows Mobile 7 (formerly known as Photon)	Windows Mobile 7	Major release of Microsoft's mobile phone OS. Touch/gesture recognition and more consumer-focused features expected	Delayed: Final code to handset makers and carriers in latter half of 2010	?	More Windows Mobile 7 information
Zermatt	?	Identity application framework for building identity-aware apps on Windows	?	Private test build out in summer 2008	More Zermatt information
Zurich	?	.Net Services plus identity services layer of Azure	Part of Azure platform (due in latter half of 2009)	First pieces going to testers later thi fall	More Zurich information