



# Quarterly Spin



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## Spiders in South Africa An interview with Geoff Lane

Three members of the SpiderLogic team — Geoff Lane, Kurt Hahlbeck, and Vinod D'souza just returned from a trip to Johannesburg, South Africa, where they worked with one of our clients on creating a framework for a better SDLC and collaboration.



QS: Geoff, in general what was your first impression of South Africa?

GL: My first impression is quite positive. Actually it is a very well developed country. In preparation for the soccer World Cup in May, there has been a lot of development and improvements, and there continues to be a lot of construction. When you fly into Johannesburg, it looks like any large city. With almost 8 million people, it is very spread out.

QS: How did you find the business culture?

GL: Very similar to our culture. Very open, with a bit of a European flavor.

QS: How is the preparation for the World Cup going?

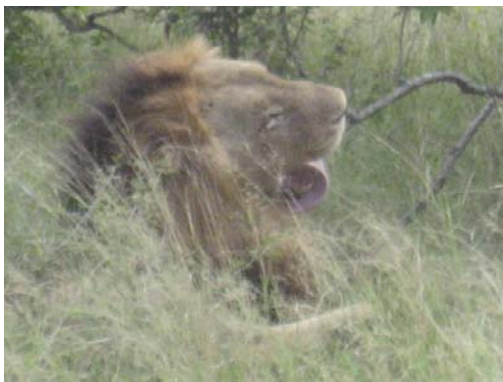
GL: In general, it seems like they are really well prepared. Still some road construction going on, but they look ready. They were at the 100-day countdown before the World Cup. I saw a number of the stadiums where the matches will be played, including: Johannesburg, Soweto, Nespruit, and Cape Town.

QS: Besides working on business, what other things did you do?

GL: After the first week, my wife was able to join me for a week of vacation. We rented a car and drove around on the left side of the road to various points of interest in Johannesburg, including the Apartheid Museum.

QS: Did you travel to some other cities?

GL: Yes, after Johannesburg we went to Kruger National Park where we stayed in a compound for three days. Kruger is a very large protected wildlife sanctuary of over 7,000 square miles. We got up early every morning to look for wildlife with our guide. We were fortunate to see a very large variety of animals, including lions, cheetahs, leopards, giraffes, rhinos, and hippos.



QS: Where did you stay when you were in Kruger?

GL: We stayed in a hut inside a gated compound, although it did have a bathroom and electricity.

QS: How's the food?

GL: Actually pretty good. A very meat-heavy diet. They seem to eat a lot of something that looks like beef jerky.

QS: Where did you go after Kruger?

GL: We flew to Cape Town. Cape Town reminds me of a cross between San Francisco, New Orleans, and Miami. It is on a peninsula with water on two sides.



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# Your .NET Application Should Send Formatted Email Messages

By Himanshu Trivedi

Does your .NET application send email messages? Does it send formatted email messages? If your application needs to send an email message, it should always be a formatted email message. Formatted email messages are much more capable and presentable.

One argument against sending formatted messages is that some users have an email client which is not capable of showing HTML messages. Another is that there may be a security reason. Okay, I agree, but then you should send two views; a text view as well as an HTML view. .NET allows you to easily send multi-view email messages. The email client then has the option of selecting, depending on email client settings and/or capability, which view should be shown to the user.

So if we have decided to send email in HTML and text view, can we send images and style sheets embedded with email? Answers is — yes. Here is an example of how to create a multi-part email message using .NET libraries that has an embedded image.

**Check out Himanshu's blog at [blog.objectpattern.com](http://blog.objectpattern.com)**



Here's the first step; create a MailMessage object and then setup the appropriate values.

```
1: var from = new MailAddress("admin@objectpattern.com", "Himanshu");
2: var to = new MailAddress("himanshu@objectpattern.net");
3: var message = new MailMessage(from, to) { Subject = "Hi from ObjectPattern"};
```

As we want to have two views – text and HTML, we will have to create the email body differently.

```
1: //creating text view
2: var textViewContent = "Test content for text view";
3: var textView = AlternateView.CreateAlternateViewFromString(textViewContent, Encoding.UTF8,
4:                                     MediaTypeNames.Text.Plain);
5: //creating html view
6: var htmlViewContent = "
    Html content containing image logo
    Thanks,
    ObjectPattern
    Logo
    ";
```

Note the following:

1. We are not assigning Body the property of MailMessage type.
2. While creating the view, we specify media type name as either plain text or HTML text. It could also be defined as rich text.
3. We have created an img tag that refers to source as 'cid:logo.png'.

The image is then embedded into email message.

```
1: var logo = new LinkedResource("images/logo.png", MediaTypeNames.Image.Jpeg) {ContentId = "logo.png"};
2: htmlView.LinkedResources.Add(logo);
```

In the first line, the first parameter of the constructor ("image/logo.png" text) specifies the path of the image file. The image content may also be supplied as a stream if it is not coming directly from the file. Remember, in the section above, we had specified that the src attribute of img tag should match the content id. Otherwise, the image will not be shown correctly in the email client. Also notice that we are adding this image to the HTML view.

The only thing left to do is to add the views to the message object and send it using the SMTP client.

```
1: message.AlternateViews.Add(textView);
2: message.AlternateViews.Add(htmlView);
3:
```





## Top Software Estimating Mistakes

By Dan Tanner

Check out Dan's blog  
at [otherthanthink.blogspot.com](http://otherthanthink.blogspot.com)

Aside from a complete lack of planning, this list is about **categories** of software development that people are aware of during planning, but **horribly underestimate**. Even smart, experienced people that are usually pretty accurate with their estimates can miss the following things by a mile.

*In order from bad to worse in terms of project risk:*

### #4: The Amount of Testing Required For a Shippable Product

This is actually one of the better known mistakes, especially if you've read [The Mythical Man Month](#). Unfortunately, not enough people in our industry have. And even those that are well aware of the problem, are often hard-pressed to effectively address it because it happens at the end of a project, when the buffer (if you even had one) has already been spent on earlier phases. It is one challenge to build a **piece** of a system, and it is an order of magnitude more difficult to build an **entire cohesive system**. Yes, test-driven development and better unit testing attitudes, tools, and techniques have made a drastic improvement **in the right hands**, but that last mile always takes much longer than you thought it would when you're trying to put all the pieces together.

### #3: Building Uncommon Features

By uncommon features, I mean those features that are treading new ground in some aspect of the tools used to provide those features. For example, nowadays AJAX support is pretty well included in most browsers and development frameworks. But when the functionality was first made available, it was a total bear to develop anything with it. A current example of this is the new features available in HTML 5. Bleeding edge? Yes — blood spent by developers cutting themselves as they fumble through the learning curve and mature the specification.

Knowing the problem is half the battle for these mistakes, and tackling each aspect in a simple and direct way is the best method. If you think the benefit for a particularly groundbreaking feature is worth it, go for it — just remember that it's not going to be predictable, and you will run into some very difficult technical problems that may have already been solved in more traditional ways.

### #2: Reporting

The required energy for data reporting is often neglected, with heavy consequences. Why?

- The domain of the data being reporting on is often a foreign concept to the people building the software, so we don't know a lot, and miss a lot of important details.
- Reporting typically requires the rest of the system to be built first, and since it comes last, it's often the last thing on people's minds.

- Flaws in the reporting design can often cause a major ripple effect on the parts of the system that were built to provide that reporting data. This means massive refactoring, and gets even worse if you don't have good automated tests.

### #1: Data migration

Lucky is the project that doesn't involve data migration, because it hurts. It's no fun, it's messy, the business doesn't nurture it, and it almost always goes way over the estimate. Experienced managers will know when a data migration effort will require its own sub-project, with a separate team and early schedule start. Inexperienced leaders will scan a table structure and some sample data, and slap a 20-hour estimate on what turns out to be a 200-hour debacle. Martin Fowler discusses this in his bliki (<http://www.martinfowler.com/bliki/>). As is often the case, he sums up the problem and advice better than just about anyone else can.

So the next time you've got an estimate sitting in front of you, be sure to think about these categories of tasks and think hard about what it'll really take. Then double it. And add 30%.

## Spiders in South Africa ...Continued from page 1

QS: What did you see in Cape Town?

GL: We climbed Tabletop Mountain, visited some gardens and visited Robben Island. This is where the prison is located that housed many of the Apartheid prisoners.

GL: We also rented a car in Cape Town, traveled around the area, and went down to the Cape of Good Hope. We also visited a location called the boulders where they have penguins.

QS: Any other interesting things we should know?

GL: I found it interesting that most of the houses are located in compounds which are surround by fences and electrical wire. We also went to a cricket match, which was very interesting.



Check out Geoff's blog at [Zorched.net](http://Zorched.net)



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Where architects code and coders  
architect!



## Talented Spiders Celebrate Five Year Anniversary in Pune By Quarterly Spin Staff

The team in our Pune, India office recently joined with family and friends to celebrate our five year anniversary in Pune. As part of the celebration, an entertaining show was put together by our talented team members. The show included singing, dancing and skits.

Many of the acts were based on Bollywood movies. These are popular Indian movies produced in Bombay and fondly referred to as "Bollywood."

Some of the show was a spoof on a very famous Indian movie called Sholay. Famous characters were borrowed and some license was taken with the story line to accommodate the spoof.

Although there may have been a few lines missed and some overacting, the show was a success and well received by the audience.

The show was followed by dinner and some good natured ribbing.

Congratulations to our Pune Team! Five years went very fast. Time to start planning for your ten year anniversary.

