

Performance Comparison of Managed C# and Delphi Prism in Visual Studio and Unmanaged Delphi 2009 and C++ Builder 2009 Languages

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ABSTRACT

Managed C# and Delphi Prism in Visual Studio 2008 and Unmanaged Delphi 2009 and C++ Builder 2009 programming languages are increasingly gaining in popularity. In this study, response times of these languages, memory consumptions and code lengths were tested with various work loads and the results belonging to these tests were given. Whether there was a significant difference among the data obtained by the test results was tested by using Friedman test and a significant difference was found. Also, the differences between managed languages and unmanaged languages were revealed by the results of the performance test.

Keywords

Performance Test, Programming Language, C#, Delphi, Managed, Unmanaged.

1. INTRODUCTION

Today most of software developers prefer managed languages because managed languages have the properties of (1) memory and data type security, (2) automatic memory management, (3) dynamic code conduction, (4) determining the boundaries between codes having type security and not having security. Also, most of these languages are object-based [1].

The languages C#, Delphi Prism in Visual Studio 2008, Java are managed languages. The languages C, C++, Delphi 2009, C++ Builder 2009 are unmanaged languages. There is not an automatic memory method in the unmanaged languages and they are not safe.

The NET platform of the Microsoft has been designed in order to develop Windows applications more easily by ensuring a sound framework [2]. The NET Framework is a complete “application” development platform, which has been developed by the Microsoft and, which has been established on open Internet protocols and standards. It bears significant resemblances to the Java Platform, which has been developed by the Sun Microsystems before. The scope of application concept

here is very broad. Everything from a desktop application to a web browser has been considered within this platform and has been supported. It has been made possible that it can establish web services easily for its communication with all the applications in the world and with each other regardless of the setting in which it was developed. This platform has been designed as highly more movable than the operation system and hardware [3].

Programmers and computer scientists have been working on the advantages and disadvantages of various programming languages [4]. For the purpose of contributing to the studies in this field, in this article, the managed C#, Delphi Prism in Visual Studio 2008 and the unmanaged Delphi 2009, C++ Builder 2009 programming languages are compared in terms of their response time, memory consumptions and code lengths. Also, the response times, memory consumptions and code lengths of the managed and unmanaged languages are compared. Thus, whether the managed languages, which are superior in terms of safety, are superior in terms of speed (working time – response time) will be revealed.

2. THE EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

Of the 400 software engineering research articles, which need experimental validation, 40 percent do not include experimental knowledge at all and this rate in other disciplines 15 percent [5]. Therefore, in this article, for the purpose of testing the performances of the programming languages, the experimental programs have been prepared and whether there is a significant difference among the experimental results obtained have been tested with the Friedman test.

2.1. The Test Platform

2.1.1. The Structure of the Programming Languages Compared

The properties belonging to the programming languages, the performances of which are compared are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The Properties of the Programming Languages Used in the Performance Test

Programming Language	Model of execution	Primary purpose	Memory management
C++ Builder 2009	CodeGear C++ Compiler 6.10 (bcc32) [6]	Application	Manual
Delphi 2009	High-performance 32-bit optimizing Delphi® native code compiler [7]	Application	Manual
C# 3.0	JIT compiled [8,9]	Application	Automatic
Delphi Prism in Visual Studio 2008	Rem Objects Oxygen compiler	Application	Automatic

C# is a powerful component oriented but a simple language of the Microsoft primarily aiming at application developers and developing applications by using the Microsoft .Net Framework. C# plays a significant role in the Microsoft NET Framework engineering. C# bears the most of the best properties of C++ and Visual Basic; however, some of their inconsistencies and working time errors have been eliminated, as a result, a clearer and more logical language has emerged [10,11].

As C#, Delphi Prism is a language working in integration with Visual Studio. Delphi Prism is preferred in order to develop desktop and web applications by using the Visual Studio and Delphi programming language. Prism, which is used in the Visual Studio platform is not 100 % compatible with Delphi. However, there are additions to and developments in the Delphi Prism and Delphi.

The Delphi Prism, Delphi 2009, C++ Builder 2009 are the programming languages produced by Code Gear and contained in RAD studio. With Code Gear RAD Studio 2009, Windows.NET, Web and database applications can be developed. Delphi 2009 and C++Builder 2009 offer the fastest way to build highly performative native Windows applications. Delphi and C++Builder include visual designers and hundreds of components to easily create rich user interfaces and versatile database applications. RAD Studio's Delphi Prism, powered by the RemObjects Oxygene compiler, enables development for both .NET and mono applications, and provides support for the latest .NET

Framework technologies including ASP.NET, WinForms, WPF and LINQ [12,13].

2.1.2 The Computer Properties

The properties of the computer used in the test are as in the following:

- ASUS F3J series Notebook
- 100 Gigabyte Hard disk
- 2 Gigabyte RAM
- Intel Core 2 1.83 Gigahertz Processor
- Windows XP Professional Operation System

2.2. Workloads

The workload concept is an ultra significant component in the problem of modeling computer systems [8]. The focus of performance evaluations on workload decreases costs and quantity of simulation [14]. Experimental system evaluations generally contain a set of programs representing workload system. Every performance evaluation program is run with systems having different properties. The behavior of the system is measured and its performance is commented [15]. Workload contains a list of demands of the service from the system. For example, workload constructed in order to compare some database systems a group of queries [2]. Workloads in this study are made up of programs, each of which measures a different property of the programming language. These workloads are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Workload

Workload Code	Explanation
Hello (1)	Printing of "Hello World" on the screen for 5000 times
Matrix (2)	Multiplication of two matrices of 500 x 500 dimensions
Sorting (3)	Sorting of the series with 10000 elements, the element values of which are in the worst situation with the Selection Sorting algorithm.
Sieve (4)	Estimation of the prime numbers at the interval of [1..8193] with the sieve algorithm for 10.000 times
Empty Loop (5)	The empty loop at the interval of [1.. 100000000]
Mean (6)	Estimation of the mean of the numbers at the interval of [1..3000] for 30000 times
Table (7)	Writing and Reading of the character knowledge "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz1234567890abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz123456 7890abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz" with a text file for 10000 times

The algorithms used as workloads have been coded in every language, the performance of which will be tested by using standard properties in a way that they are equal to each other. These coded programs have been transformed into executable code and their memory consumptions have been obtained from Windows Operation System command prompt.

The Hello (1) program tests writing on the screen and loading performance of the program, Matrix (2) and Mean (6) programs integer arithmetic performance, Sorting (3) program loop and logical decision performance. The Sieve (4) program estimates prime numbers by using the classical Sieve Eratoshene algorithm. The Sieve program tests the basic integer arithmetic and logical comparison operation [16]. The Empty Loop (5) program tests the loop performance, Table (7) program tests writing in the text file and reading performance.

2.3. Performance Metric

The performance metrics used in the testing of the performance of the programming languages are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Performance Metrics

Performance Metrics	
1	Code Length (LOC/CLOC)
2	Response Time (ms (millisecond))
3	Memory Use (KB (Kilobyte))

2.3.1. The Code Length of the Programs Written

The number of the code is commonly used in order to measure the source code length of a program. (LOC (line of code)) [17]. The number of line is defined as LOC=NLOCK+CLOCK.

NLOCK (Uncommented Source Line of Code) is a code line which is not used during compilation. CLOCK (A Commented Source Line of Code) is a code line which is used during compilation. The best estimation should generally be performed as in the following in order to estimate the source code length of a program:

1. Empty lines
2. Lines involved in compilation (CLOC)

3. Data definitions and other commands
4. Lines produced by the software development instrument

The density of the lines compiled in a program can be estimated with CLOC/LOC formula [18].

The line numbers of program codes used as a workload in this study have been estimated in line with the explanations stated above and they have been shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Code Lengths of the Programs Written

Test	C#					Delphi Prism (Delphi 2009.net)				
	CL*	Data Definitions	Code Produced by the Language	L*	CL/L	CL*	Data Definitions	Code Produced by the Language	L*	CL/L
Hello (1)	5	1	9	15	0,33	5	1	13	19	0,26
Matrix (2)	19	5	9	33	0,58	17	3	13	33	0,52
Sort (3)	15	3	9	27	0,56	16	3	13	28	0,57
Sieve (4)	20	3	9	32	0,63	23	3	13	39	0,59
Empty Loop (5)	4	2	9	15	0,27	4	2	13	19	0,21
Mean (6)	9	2	9	20	0,45	9	3	13	25	0,36
Table (7)	18	8	9	35	0,51	21	5	13	39	0,54
Mean					0,48					0,44
Test	Delphi 2009					C Builder 2009				
	CL*	Data Definitions	Code Produced by the Language	L*	CL/L	CL*	Data Definitions	Code Produced by the Language	L*	CL/L
Hello (1)	4	2	5	11	0,36	5	3	3	11	0,45
Matrix (2)	17	3	5	25	0,68	19	6	3	28	0,68
Sort (3)	13	3	5	21	0,62	16	4	3	23	0,70
Sieve (4)	28	3	5	36	0,78	23	10	3	36	0,64
Empty Loop (5)	4	3	5	12	0,33	5	3	3	11	0,45
Mean (6)	8	3	5	16	0,50	9	5	3	17	0,53
Table (7)	21	4	5	30	0,70	23	7	3	33	0,70
Mean					0,57					0,59

* L:LOC CL:CLOC

The graphic of CLOC/LOC values given in Table 4 are shown in Figure 1.

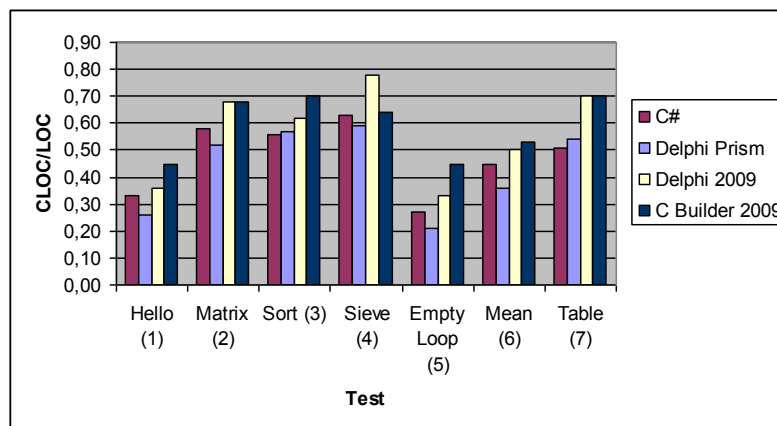


Fig 1: Code density graphic compiled (CLOC/LOC)

2.3.2. Response Time

Response time is a significant concept in computer systems performance studies. Response time is the measurement of the time for which a user or an application has to wait until a

command requested is completed [8]. In this study, response times of workloads run in the programming languages desired to be measured are given in Table 5.

Table 5. Response Time of Workloads on Windows Operation System (ms millisecond)

Test	C#			Delphi Prism (Delphi 2009.net)			Cbuilder 2009			Delphi 2009		
	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean
Hello (1)	296	484	342,525	281	344	318,725	312	359	334,45	281	344	317,675
Matrix (2)	3281	3562	3397,95	3062	3328	3168,05	953	1172	1076,5	515	625	554,2
Sort (3)	343	453	389,05	500	609	548,2	578	703	653,15	109	204	175,1
Sieve (4)	1546	1640	1596,25	1468	1515	1497,1	6797	6860	6824,225	766	844	791,425
Empty Loop (5)	203	296	244,7	109	187	146,475	391	516	457,625	93	110	100,75
Mean(6)	203	343	246,25	312	375	338,575	437	500	451,875	78	94	91,775
Table(7)	15	62	25,775	93	156	110,6	343	422	355,425	62	79	72,325
Mean			891,79			875,39			1450,46			300,46

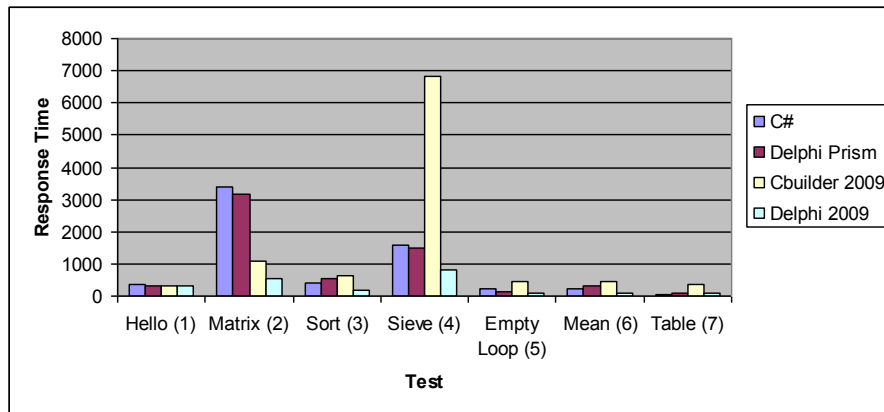


Fig 2: Response Time Graphic of Workloads on Windows Operation System

Mean response times of all workloads by programming languages are shown in Figure 3.

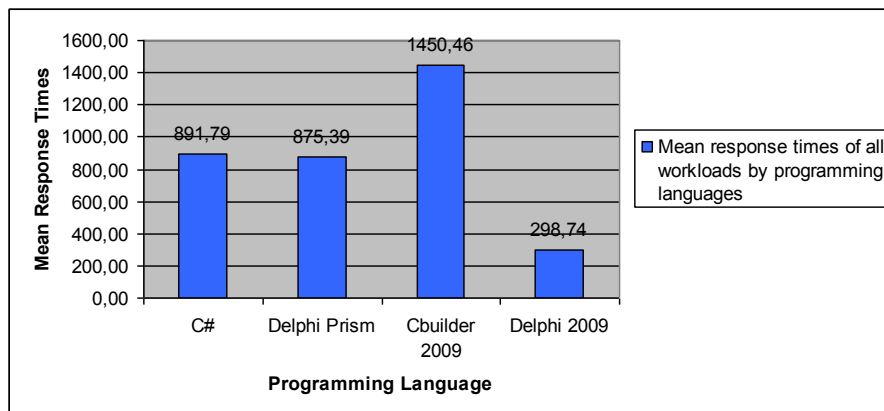


Fig 3: Mean Response Times of All the Workloads by the Programming Languages

2.3.3. Memory Consumption

Memory consumption of every workload has been obtained separately by programming languages by using Memory Booster Gold. These values are shown as Kilobyte (KB) in Table 6.

Table 6. Memory Consumption (KB)

Workload	C#	Delphi Prism (Delphi 2009.net)	C++ Builder 2009	Delphi 2009
Hello (1)	4404	4796	3828	1280
Matrix (2)	6648	7352	3516	3312
Sort (3)	4620	4572	1328	3828
Sieve (4)	4280	4568	1308	1416
Empty Loop (5)	4100	4476	1288	1336
Mean (6)	4340	4508	1316	1336
Table (7)	14656	9654	1420	1388
Mean	6149,71	5703,71	2000,57	1985,14

The graphic belonging to memory consumption data is shown in Figure 4.

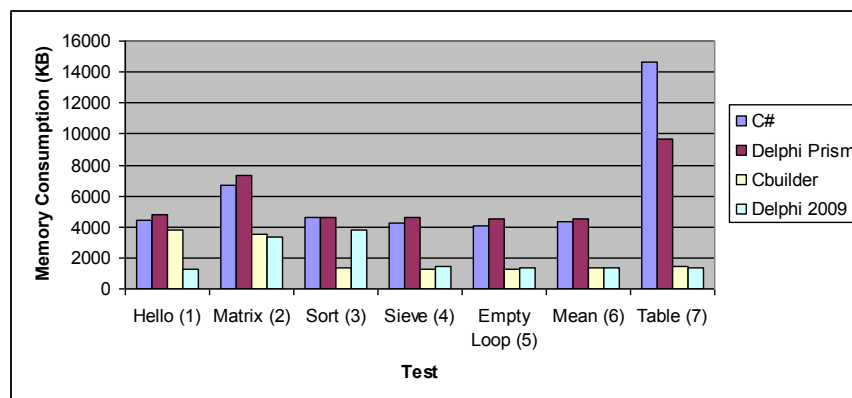


Fig 4: Memory Consumption Graphic

2.4. Statistical Design

Minimal descriptive statistics contains the following for a data set: total observation number, mean, median, standard deviation,

minimal value, maximum value and number of observations. Presentation of descriptive statistics data on dependent variable is significant [19]. Therefore, descriptive statistics data obtained are shown in detail by programming languages in Table 7.

Table 7. Descriptive Statistics

Dependent Variable: Response Time						
Workload	Programming Language	Mean	Std. Deviation	Sub Limit	Upper Limit	N
Hello [1]	c#	342,5250	29,80362	332,616	352,434	40
	d2009net	318,7250	17,41645	308,816	328,634	40
	d2009	317,6750	15,98459	307,766	327,584	40
	cbuilder	334,4500	14,42034	324,541	344,359	40
	Total					160
Matrix [2]	c#	3397,9500	96,45564	3388,041	3407,859	40
	d2009net	3168,0500	93,90174	3158,141	3177,959	40
	d2009	554,2000	22,09444	544,291	564,109	40
	cbuilder	1076,5000	50,49295	1066,591	1086,409	40
	Total					160
Sort [3]	c#	389,0500	19,13776	379,141	398,959	40
	d2009net	548,2000	21,57777	538,291	558,109	40
	d2009	175,1000	25,53610	165,191	185,009	40
	cbuilder	653,1500	23,80428	643,241	663,059	40
	Total					160
Sieve [4]	c#	1596,2500	13,40254	1586,341	1606,159	40
	d2009net	1497,1000	9,98922	1487,191	1507,009	40

	d2009	791,4250	18,17703	781,516	801,334	40
	cbuilder	6824,2250	13,60522	6814,316	6834,134	40
	Total					160
Empty [5]	c#	244,7	15,92804	234,791	254,609	40
	d2009net	146,475	17,25523	136,566	156,384	40
	d2009	100,75	7,87645	90,841	110,659	40
	cbuilder	457,625	22,59077	447,716	467,534	40
	Total					160
Mean [6]	c#	246,25	23,58482	236,341	256,159	40
	d2009net	338,575	11,74054	328,666	348,484	40
	d2009	91,775	5,21579	81,866	101,684	40
	cbuilder	451,875	15,60603	441,966	461,784	40
	Total					160
Table [7]	c#	25,775	9,75202	15,866	35,684	40
	d2009net	110,6	18,17127	100,691	120,509	40
	d2009	72,325	7,69411	62,416	82,234	40
	cbuilder	355,425	18,26849	345,516	365,334	40
	Total					160
Total	c#	891,7857	1131,39129			280
	d2009net	875,3893	1035,17521			280
	d2009	300,4643	256,45752			280
	cbuilder	1450,4643	2210,59212			280
	Total					1120

ANOVA is used when searching the effect of two independent variables on a dependent variable [20]. In this study, the dependent variable is response time, the independent variables are the program and the programming languages. Significant results have been obtained by applying two-way ANOVA on these dependent and independent variables. However, because variance equality assumption has not been ensured, these results have not been presented in the article. Instead, the Friedman test, a non-parametric method, has been used.

The Friedman test is the non-parametric correspondence of two-way ANOVA test. When the same samples belonging to the subjects have been treated and when these samples have been measured at three or more points, the Friedman test is used [20,21].

The Friedman test has been used in order to find whether there is a significant difference among response times obtained as a result of running of every workload on C#, Delphi Prism, Delphi 2009 and C Builder 2009 programming languages. A significant difference has been found among response times obtained from 4 different programming languages as a result of the analysis of

response times [χ^2 (df=3, N=280) = 486.261, $p < .05$] obtained as a result of running of workloads on programming languages. The test data obtained from the Friedman test is shown in Table 8.

Table 8. The Friedman Test Data

The Programming Language	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean Rank	χ^2	df	P
C#	280	891.7857	1131,39129	2.61	486.261	3	.000*
Delphi Prism	280	875.3893	1035,17521	2.51			
Delphi 2009	280	300.4643	256,45752	1.25			
C Builder 2009	280	1450.4643	2210,59212	3.63			

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When the general means of response times belonging to all the workloads obtained from performance tests, the Delphi 2009 programming language is in average three times as fast as C# and Delphi Prism languages and five times as fast as C++ Builder 2009 languages. When C# and Delphi Prism languages having Net technology are compared, Delphi Prism is 0.01 % faster in terms of response time. However, because measurements have been performed on millisecond, this difference is not very significant. Also, the response times of these languages having Net technology are in average 1.6 times as fast as C++ Builder 2009 language.

When response times of the programming languages are compared in detail by workloads, in all the languages, the performance of which has been tested, the loading and print on the screen speed of the programs is equal to each other with small differences which can be ignored, by the result of Hello (1) test.

By the result of Matrix (2) and Mean (6) tests, the Delphi 2009 language is approximately 5 times as fast as the C# and Delphi Prism, and 3.5 times as fast as the C++ Builder 2009 languages. As a result of this, the Delphi 2009 language gives a result five times as fast as the C# and Delphi Prism languages, and 3.5 times as fast as the C++ Builder 2009 language in the integer arithmetic.

In the logical performance by the Sort (4) test results, the Delphi 2009 is 2.2 times as fast as C#, 3.1 times as fast as the Delphi Prism, 3.7 times as fast as the C++ Builder 2009; the Delphi Prism is 1.4 times as fast as the C#. By the Sieve (4) test results which tested the basic integer arithmetic and logical comparison operation, the Delphi 2009 is 2 times as fast as the C#, 1.8 times as fast as the Delphi Prism, and 8.6 times as fast as the C++ Builder 2009. By the results of Empty (5) test which measured the loop performance, the Delphi 2009 is 2.4 times as fast as the C#, 1.4 times as fast as the Delphi Prism, and 4.5 times as fast as the C++ Builder 2009.

Another salient result by the test results is that writing in and reading the text file speed of the C# programming language is faster than the other languages. By the results of the Table (7) test, the C# language is 2.8 times as fast as the Delphi 2009, 4.4 times as fast as the Delphi Prism, and 14.2 times as fast as the C++ Builder 2009. Although the C# language is slower than the Delphi 2009 in other tests, it is faster in writing in and reading the text file operation.

When the density of the lines compiled in the programming languages (CLOC/LOC), the least code density is in the Delphi Prism 2009 language with a 0.44 code density mean. The code density mean of the other languages is respectively the C# 0.48, the Delphi 2009 0.57, and the C++ Builder 2009 0.59. The C# and Delphi Prism languages having Net technology have less code density.

By the memory consumption mean of all the workloads, the Delphi 2009 is the least memory consuming language with a 1985.14 KB. The memory consumption mean of the other languages is respectively the C++ Builder 2000.57 KB, the Delphi Prism 5703.71 KB, and the C# 6149.71 KB. The programming language, the memory consumption of which is the most is the C#. The C# and Delphi Prism languages consume 3 times as much memory as the other languages in average.

4. CONCLUSION

In terms of response time, the fastest programming language is the Delphi 2009 and the slowest programming language is the C++ Builder 2009. Although the managed language C# and the Delphi Prism are powerful in terms of code density, they are weak in terms of memory consumption and response time.

The Delphi 2009 is the most powerful programming language both in terms of memory consumption and response time.

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