

Windows is not a .NET Framework delivery channel either

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We learned a while ago that Windows is not an MFC delivery channel. And, since you asked, it's not a .NET Framework delivery channel either. If you're developing a program that uses the .NET Framework, you have to have a backup plan if the version of the .NET Framework you need is not installed on the computer. This might mean including a copy of the installer on your CD. It might mean redirecting the user to an appropriate download site. It might just mean telling the user, "This program requires version XYZ of the .NET Framework."

Whatever you do, you need to do *something*. Windows XP didn't come with any version of the .NET Framework. Windows Vista came with version 2, and Windows 7 came with version 3.5, but these were provided as optional components which were installed by default. You can go into the Programs and Features control panel to remove them. As I recall, the application compatibility folks have a list of programs that treated Windows as a .NET Framework delivery channel; if you install any of them, and the version of the .NET Framework they depend on isn't installed, the application compatibility layer will display the informational message that the application neglected to.

Bonus chatter: These programs which treated Windows as a .NET Framework delivery channel may have been misled by charts like this one or lists like this one which give the impression that Windows is a .NET Framework delivery channel.

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