All About Microsoft:
CodeTracker

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

ZDNet

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.

Thanks!

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

Codename Theme of the Month: Where have all the codenames gone?

Starting a year or two ago, there seemed to be a move underfoot at Microsoft to stamp out codenames (especially within the Windows and Office teams). While there was no official edict -- at least not a public one -- prohibiting teams from using creative, fun codenames to identify new projects, boring number codenames (Office 14, Windows 7) seemed to have become the new order of the day.

While number-based codenames and the even duller "R2" and "V.Next" ones are definitely still in vogue among some Microsoft business units, more creative codenames have managed to survive and thrive inside the Empire. Granted many of them fall into the broad "place name" category (like Anchorage, Geneva, Paris, etc.), but luckily for a codename-hound like me, not all of them do.

I am noticing that fewer Microsoft codenames are bubbling to the surface this year, as compared with last. There could be a few different factors at work here. The war on transparency inside Microsoft might actually be making progress. Or Microsoft might just be working on fewer new projects, given the continued economic decline (which means fewer IT and consumer dollars available to purchase the next, new shiny thing). Or perhaps it's a combination of both…

In spite of the slowing trickle, there still are some new entries on this month's Tracker, including Alexandria, Camano, Kittyhawk and Lima, among others. Ther are also a number of updates to the existing codenames on the list. So without further ado, it's on to this month's update to the CodeTracker.

Codename	Expected Product Name	Description of the product	Projected Due Date for final release	Latest Milestone achieved	Additional info
Alexandria	.Net RIA Services	"RAD for RIA" -- code for developers trying to bridge ASP.Net and Silverlight	In conjunction with Silverlight 3 before the end of 2009 (?)	March Community Technology Preview (CTP) is out	More Alexandria information
Anchorage	Next release of SyncToy	The successor to SyncToy V 2.0 which Microsoft released in the summer of 2008. Makes use of Sync Framework	?		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	First public beta released in December 2009	More BizTalk Server 2009 information

BlueDB	?	Could this be one of the early codenames of the data-storage layer in the Azure OS? (Similar to Cosmos?) That's my latest guess….	?	Azure OS is in beta and being used by a few existing Microsoft services. Final release slated for second half 2009	More Blue information
Bulldog	?	Master data management tech, which Microsoft acquired from Stratature, expected to be integrated into Office/SharePoint 14	First half of 2010 (if part of the 14 wave)	Office 14 alpha already out; beta expected summer 2009	More Bulldog information
Camano	?	Testing suite that is part of the Rosario Team System release (VSTS 2010)	Second half of 2009 (if timed to arrive with VS 2010)	Latest build is April CTP	More Camano information
Cayenne	Zune VideoX	Zune Video service that will span Zune devices and Xbox consoles	?	?	More Cayenne information
Commute UX	?	Car info-tainment system from Microsoft Research	?	Demonstrated at TechFest 2009 in February	More Commute UX 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	The Azure OS in beta now and slated to go final in the second half of 2009	More Cosmos information
Descry	?	Open-source visualization samples and code	?	Sample code available on CodePlex and Mix Online site starting in February	More Descry 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
Gazelle	?	A new, security-focused browser from Microsoft Research. (The former codename was Mashup OS.)	?	MSR demonstrated the most recent iteration at TechFest in February	More Gazelle 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 metasystem including a new security token service and Active Directory Federation Services (ADFS) version 2.0	Latter half of 2009	First test release delivered late October; Beta 1 due in first half of 2009	More Geneva 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	?	Mobile client CTP out in December; desktop client refresh out in January	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 fall 2008	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; another CTP due around mid-2009	More Ibiza information
Kiev	?	Possibly the next release of Microsoft vertical search products (travel, health, celebrity news, shopping).	2009	?	More Kiev information
Kilimanjaro	SQL Server 2010	BI-focused, minor upgrade to SQL Server 2008	2010	First CTPs expected early 2009	More Kilimanjaro information
KittyHawk	?	FoxPro-like RAD framework for Visual Studio 2010	Latter half of 2009	?	More KittyHawk information
Kojax	?	Mobile development platform that works like Ajax. First target is developing world phones	?	?	More Kojax information
Kumo	Kumo (?)	One of the new brand names considered for Live Search. (Kumo means "cloud" or "spider" in Japanese). Kumo is the next release of Microsoft Live Search, tweaked to show results in a new way.	2009 (possibly June)	Microsoft registered the trademark and pointed some domains to Kumo in late 2008. Internal Microsoft tests of Kumo started March 2009.	More Kumo information

Lima	Windows Server 2008 Foundation	New low-end SKU of Windows Server aimed at small, cost-sensitive business users	First release available via OEMs only starting in early April	Shipping	More Lima information
Live Framework	Live Framework	Live Mesh development platform	?	Updated development platform CTP out in January	More Live Framework tools information
M	M (was formerly codenamed D)	Microsoft's Oslo modeling language	Will be folded into future version of Visual Studio (probably 2010)	Updated CTP of Oslo SDK released in January	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	RTM'd in late March	RTM'd	[More Mojave information](#)
Mojave R2	Commerce Server 2009 R2	Next update to Commerce Server	Expected to be 64-bit only and will possibly no longer support Windows Server 2003 and SQL Server 2005	In planning stages only now	[More Mojave R2 information](#)
Monsoon	?	Network architecture for commoditizing and scaling datacenters	?	Microsoft white paper implies this is in development now	[More Monsoon information](#)
Morro		Free anti-malware service; successor to Live OneCare; Will be downloadable for XP, Vista and Windows 7 users	Second half 2009	Microsoft is pulling the last copies of Equipt from the channel in April. Maybe Morro testing will start then?	[More Morro information](#)
Nano Touch	?	MSR technology for adding touch to small-screen devices (including wearable PCs). Successor to the Lucid Touch project	?	Demonstrated at TechFest 2009 in February	[More Nano Touch 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"	First half of 2010	Alpha version of Office Web apps and O14 client and server releases out in mid-January. Beta expected summer 2009	[More Office 14 information](#)
Orleans	?	Programming environment for Azure	?	?	[More Orleans 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; refreshed Oslo CTP out in January	[More Oslo repository information](#)
Oxite	?	Microsoft-developed open-source content-management/blogging platform	?	First test build available on CodePlex as of December	[More Oxite information](#)
Paris	?	New Windows Presentation Foundation and Silverlight controls for next version of Office Communications Server (post OCS R2)	First half of 2010 (as part of the Office 14 wave)	?	[More Paris information](#)
Pimento	Zune Mobile	Zune services for Windows Mobile devices. Expected to include music/video purchase, playback, sharing, social-networking and more	Not clear if Zune Mobile is tied to Windows Mobile 7 or not. (If so, due date is latter half of 2010)	?	[More Pimento information](#)

Pink	?	A set of consumer-focused mobile services, of which Zune Mobile is a part. (Pink also is the codename for the phone chassis design which Microsoft is working on alongside partners.)	?	?	More Pink information
Plex	?	Office Labs' Virtual canvas software underlying TouchWall and other future productivity technologies	TouchWall is a 2019 thing; Plex is part of prototypes	?	More Plex information
Purple	?	The UX, or user experience)/interface, for Pink services and phones	?	?	More Purple 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
Quebec	Windows Embedded 2010	Successor to Windows Embedded 2009; adds new Vista features like BitLocker	Late 2009 (?)	?	More Quebec information
Red Dog	Windows Azure	The lowest level OS piece of Microsoft's cloud environment. Similar to Amazon's EC2.	Second half of 2009	In beta now	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
Rosario	Visual Studio Team System 2010	Next version of Visual Studio Team System	Second half of 2009 (?)	Regular test releases now	More Rosario information

Rouge	?	The business mobile service equivalent of Pink. Built on/around Microsoft Office Communication Server (OCS) services	?	?	[More Rouge information](#)
Second Light	?	Microsoft Research project that marries touch technology with projection technology. One of the successors to MSR's Play Anywhere technology.	?	Recently demonstrated at PDC 2008 and TechFest 2009	[More Second Light information](#)
Sitka	SQL Data Services	Once viewed as Microsoft's equivalent to Amazon's SimpleDB. Now looking more like Microsoft-hosted SQL Server	?	Test builds distributed starting spring 2008. New revised test build expected in mid-March at Mix '09	[More Sitka information](#)
SkyBox	My Phone	Service for syncing phone information across the Web; may be Microsoft's answer to Apple's MobileMe (It's still unclear how/if Live Mesh plays in here)	Version 1.0 (free service) expected this fall; Version 2.0 (paid subscription) in first half of 2010	Closed testing began in February	[More Skybox information](#)
SkyLine	(Could be part of the Outlook Live family)	A phone-syncing service like SkyBox -- except aimed at small businesses	?	Maybe we'll hear more at CTIA in April? (Just a guess)	[More SkyLine information](#)
SkyMarket	Windows Marketplace for Mobile	A mobile app marketplace for Windows Mobile akin to Apple's iPhone AppStore	This fall, along with Win Mobile 6.5 devices	Unveiled in February	[More SkyMarket information](#)
SmartFlow	?	Microsoft alternative to Adobe LightRoom	?	?	[More SmartFlow information](#)

Snoqualmie	Windows Home Server PowerPack 2	The second minor update to Windows Home Server	Released to manufacturing in late March	RTM'd.	[More Snoqualmie information](#)
Social Desktop	?	MSR project to integrate social networking and online sharing more directly into PC-client experience	?	Demonstrated at TechFest 2009 in February	[More Social Desktop 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	Latter half of 2009	First CTP tests began in fall 2008	[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; refreshed test build out in January	[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](#)
Trebuchet	?	High-level, cross-lab strategy for making datacenter infrastructure and services more scalable. May be connected to the "Gen 4" datacenter initiaves	?	Pieces, like Monsoon, are in the works now	[More Trebuchet information](#)
Tribeca	?	GRC (Governance, Risk and Compliance) guidance documentation	?	In beta as of January 2009	[More Tribeca information](#)

Uno	?	Compliance-management Solution Accelerator	?	In test as of late 2008	More Uno information
Vail	?	Next major release of Windows Home Server; will integrate well with Windows 7	2010 (?)	?	More Vail information
Velocity	?	Distributed, in-memory caching solution	?	CTP version 3 expected in mid-March at Mix '09	More Velocity information
Viveri	?	Sandbox site for Microsoft to test new search concepts	?	Demonstrated at TechFest 2009 in February	More Viveri 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 further update	Developer preview released late 2007.	More Volta information
Windows 7	Windows 7	Successor to Windows Vista	Latter half of 2009 (looking more and more like Q3/Q4)	Public beta out in January; next expected milestone is Release Candidate (rumor has that as a May deliverable)	More Windows 7 information
Windows 7 Server	Windows Server 2008 R2	Successor to Windows Server 2008	Latter half of 2009 (goal is to release simultaneously with Win 7 client)	Public beta out in January; next expected milestone is RC (rumor says in May)	More Windows 7 Server information

Windows Mobile 6.5	Windows Mobile 6.5	Next release of Microsoft mobile OS platform	First Win Mobile 6.5 devices expected out in fall 2009	Phone makers testing as of February; could RTM as early as April 2009	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	First half 2010	Test builds could be out by latter half of 2009	More Windows Mobile 7 information
WinWESS	?	The tweaked Windows Server core upon which Essential Business Server and Small Business Server are based. Unclear whether Microsoft will license this core at some point to other OEMs	?	?	More WinWESS 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 (the final release of which is due in latter half of 2009)	Milestone 5 test build out in late March 2009 of the .Net Services component	More Zurich information