

===== PRESS RELEASE =====

OpenSilver, the Open Source Silverlight reimplementation, enters Beta.

(Embargoed until September 13, 2021)

PARIS, France, September 13, 2021 — Userware announced today that OpenSilver, the open-source reimplementation of Silverlight that runs on all browsers via WebAssembly, is entering its Beta stage.



OpenSilver is a modern, plugin-free, open-source reimplementation of Silverlight that uses Mono for WebAssembly and Microsoft Blazor. First announced on *March 9, 2020*, OpenSilver has come a long way since its technical preview release. The framework is now used by thousands of developers and companies creating new apps or migrating legacy Silverlight apps to modern browsers, saving users the rewriting of years of coding and investment.

More than ever, OpenSilver gives .NET developers the ability to create or reuse powerful web apps as they leverage their knowledge of XAML. The Beta version can now make use of AOT compilation for up to 15 times improved performance compared to the first release, supports DotNet6, most of the popular .NET libraries and third-party libraries such as Telerik UI for Silverlight. A showcase is available for [OpenSilver](#) and for [Telerik UI](#).

“Entering Beta is a huge step forward for OpenSilver as it is slowly reaching maturity and supporting more features than ever” said Giovanni Albani, CEO of Userware. “The progress we have made so far brings us one step closer to offering a modern, enhanced version of Silverlight and expanding the realm of possibilities for .NET developers when it comes to web applications. Everybody on the team is committed to delivering on that promise and we are seeing a lot of forward momentum with large, complex business applications successfully migrated”

The power of OpenSilver

OpenSilver relies solely on open standards, and it runs on both desktop and mobile web browsers. It is compatible with .NET Standard, so the code can be shared between the client, the server, and other platforms. It is also compatible with JavaScript, so existing JavaScript libraries can be directly imported and used from C#. Using OpenSilver is as easy as installing a VSIX, creating a new project, and starting to code.

With Silverlight reaching the end of support in October 2021, OpenSilver provides a path forward for the thousands of software developers and IT departments that still have legacy Silverlight applications, allowing them to migrate their applications in a short period of time while retaining all the features of the original applications.

Migrating Silverlight code to OpenSilver provides multiple benefits, one of which is lower costs. Userware, the company professionally supporting OpenSilver, says it can be 3 to 5 times less expensive to migrate a Silverlight application to OpenSilver than to rewrite it from scratch using another technology.

Another benefit is that developers do not need to learn a new programming language, and they can reuse most of the original code. This implies fewer risks of functional bugs, greater

efficiency to maintain the application after migration, less time spent on writing functional and technical specifications, and the ability to keep coding while the migration project is in progress.

Userware is focusing its effort on assisting companies with the migration of their business applications through a migration service and support plans. Each new feature developed during a migration is then integrated into OpenSilver to further improve the framework.

Full version Release and Roadmap

OpenSilver will be released in its full version on *October 12th 2021*.

Some key features that are planned for 2021 - 2022 are :

- A new layout system with full support for measure and arrange (H1 2022)
- VB.NET will be fully supported as OpenSilver currently supports C# only (H2 2022)
- An improved support for migrating WPF applications (2022)
- Hundreds of popular .NET and JS-based libraries will be made compatible with OpenSilver and distributed as ready-to-use packages (2022 & 2023)
- Support for Microsoft LightSwitch (2022 & 2023)

The Beta version of OpenSilver was released today and is available for download at:
<https://www.opensilver.net>

About the company

Userware is a software company founded in 2007 by two experts in Microsoft technologies. It is based in Paris, France, and has a portfolio of products with more than 25,000 customers in over 75 countries.

Specialized in Microsoft technologies and developer tools, the company is also behind CSHTML5, a Visual Studio extension that is able to compile C# and XAML code into HTML and JavaScript. Userware has continuously improved CSHTML5 for the past 7 years and is now leveraging its codebase to deliver OpenSilver, replacing JavaScript with WebAssembly for native execution and improved .NET compatibility.

OUR VISION:

"We are .NET developers who believe that Silverlight was the best platform ever for developing line-of-business (LOB) applications. We are sad to see Silverlight die due to the lack of support for plug-ins in modern browsers, so we want to reimplement it using modern, open, and standards-based technologies. We want to make it even more powerful than before, for developers to have the tools to build amazing products that can change the world."
