



Microsoft LightSwitch Finds New Life in OpenSilver 2.2

OpenSilver 2.2 introduces the "LightSwitch Compatibility Pack" for migrating Microsoft LightSwitch apps to modern browsers using HTML5 and WebAssembly.

PARIS, France, April 30, 2024 - Userware has announced the release of OpenSilver version 2.2, a significant update featuring the "LightSwitch Compatibility Pack." This tool is designed to enable Microsoft LightSwitch applications to function in modern web environments without relying on the obsolete Silverlight plugin.

LightSwitch, once popular for its streamlined approach to developing business applications, allowed users to create customized solutions rapidly using Microsoft Visual Studio. However, its reliance on Silverlight became a critical limitation with the plugin's discontinuation.

"After the discontinuation of Silverlight and LightSwitch, numerous enterprises faced the daunting challenge of either rewriting their applications or risking obsolescence," remarked Giovanni Albani, CEO of Userware. "Given our unique expertise in revitalizing legacy Silverlight applications, we are excited to offer LightSwitch users the same opportunity with the launch of OpenSilver 2.2."

Originally developed as an open-source substitute for the Silverlight development kit, OpenSilver operates entirely on contemporary web standards like HTML5 and WebAssembly, eliminating the need for browser plugins. This enables applications to run seamlessly on modern browsers, including Chrome, Edge, Firefox, and Safari, while preserving the functionality and user experience of legacy Silverlight and LightSwitch applications.

With the discontinuation of support for the Silverlight plugin, businesses still relying on LightSwitch applications are urged to consider migration strategies to mitigate security risks and compatibility issues. "Continuing to use outdated technology poses significant security risks and hampers usability and support in today's tech landscape," added Albani.

A live demonstration showing the transition of a LightSwitch application to a fully functional state in a modern browser environment can be viewed online. It illustrates the capabilities of the OpenSilver 2.2 update. Notably, the migrated application is indistinguishable from its original version, offering pixel-perfect replication that ensures a seamless user experience.

- Original LightSwitch application (requires the Silverlight plugin): <https://opensilver-lightswitch-demo.azurewebsites.net/silverlight/DesktopClient/default.htm>
- Migrated LightSwitch application (no plugin required): <https://opensilver-lightswitch-demo.azurewebsites.net/migrated/>

Developers looking to leverage the LightSwitch Compatibility Pack can start with a 60-day trial by registering at the OpenSilver website: <https://opensilver.net/request-lightswitch-compatibility-pack/>

In addition to LightSwitch support, OpenSilver 2.2 introduces significant performance improvements for published applications. These enhancements are further optimized when the application is compiled using ahead-of-time (AOT) compilation, which converts the code to native WebAssembly. WebAssembly (Wasm)

is an open, standard binary format that ensures applications run at near-native speed, offering significant performance enhancements while maintaining broad compatibility across all modern web browsers.

The roadmap for OpenSilver includes plans for further enhancing the developer experience and application compatibility. While the current version requires Visual Studio on Windows to migrate Silverlight and LightSwitch applications, the team is working on VS Code, Rider, and macOS support to provide more development options. In terms of deployment, migrated applications currently run as web apps, and the team is working on .NET MAUI integration to allow publishing to iOS, Android, Mac, and Windows app stores.

More detailed information about OpenSilver 2.2 and its features can be found in the official blog announcement at: <https://opensilver.net/announcements/2-2/>

About OpenSilver

OpenSilver is a web development framework that empowers developers to create rich, powerful business applications using current web standards. By leveraging the latest technologies and providing robust support for legacy systems like Silverlight, OpenSilver ensures that web development is forward-looking, innovative, and secure. Read more on opensilver.net

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