

Blog redesign and a version update to BlogCFC 5.9.5

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I've been running an older version of Blog CFC for a while now, so I thought it was well past due an update to the latest version. It seemed like a good time to give the site a lick of paint, so I have de- web 2.0'd it. At some point I got swept up in the curved corners and shiny gradients of Web 2.0ness, and now I just plain don't like it.

If you didn't know already you can get BlogCFC from RIA forge here: <http://blogcfc.riaforge.org/> . There seem to have been some nice tweaks in the last few versions, and it's nice to see a software application maturing.

In the process of redesigning the site I came across this recent survey of the installed user base for windows fonts. It is always risky for a developer to use a non standard font, so surveys like this are ideal. <http://www.codestyle.org/css/font-family/sampler-WindowsResults.shtml>

Also I had a little Photoshop help creating the image header. Here is a pretty painless Photoshop tutorial on "Fade Images in Photoshop Using Layer Masks", <http://articles.sitepoint.com/article/photoshop-fade-layer-mask>

Lastly I've added some Feedburner integration. Feedburner is a great way of consuming your RSS feeds, it adds a whole load of options, and allows you to push feed content out to other community sources, such as Twitter or FaceBook. It also provides stats, a la Google Analytics style, and its free (requires a Google account)! <http://feedburner.google.com> .

I think I took two things away from this redesign. Firstly, double check your CSS. The only real issues I had during the entire process were CSS related (thanks IE). Secondly index your database properly. I'm not sure

if the previous install was indexed at all, or whether the new version just has better indexing in the installation scripts, but the performance difference is notably quicker!