



## Introducing Rich Client Platform

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### SWT and JFace

- IBM realized Swing and AWT were inadequate when they set out to build Eclipse.
- Developed SWT.
- SWT provides the raw widgets with a straightforward API.

### SWT and JFace

- JFace is built on top of SWT.
- It offers the power of SWT with the ease of MVC pattern.
- Instead of programming directly to the API, you program the abstraction layer and it talks to the API.

## RCP History

- Before version 3.0, the "IDE-ness" of Eclipse was hard-wired into it.
- Version 3.0 introduced the Rich Client Platform (RCP), which is basically a refactoring of the fundamental parts of Eclipse's UI, allowing it to be used for non-IDE applications.

## RCP History

- Version 3.1 updated RCP with new capabilities, and, most importantly, new tooling support to make it easier to create than before.

## RCP

- RCP applications are based on the familiar Eclipse plug-in architecture.
- Therefore, you'll need to create a plug-in to be your main program.
- It can be packaged as a product, a bundle of everything that goes with your application, including all the other plug-ins it depends on, a command to run the application (called the native launcher), and any branding (icons, etc.).