



DIAVOLO v3

Roots and heritage



Diavolo CMS has been developed to use all the latest .NET technologies currently available to the market. However, while it aims to be an innovative product, **Diavolo** could not exist without its ancestor and a small but determined community of people who, especially in its first years of existence, created a very good and performing CMS application.

This document is meant to outline the roots of **Diavolo** and its heritage from a great product.

Rainbow Portal roots

Diavolo father was great Rainbow Portal product, a CMS originally developed by DueMetri italian company. Back in 2003, DueMetri released RP which was one of the two major CMS systems then available for .NET developers. RP took the moves from Microsoft's IBUYSPY starter kit, an open source project which demonstrated ASP.NET capabilities, kind of answer to OSS CMS available for PHP like PHPNuke. Both *Rainbow Portal* and *DotNetNuke* started from there.

While DNN took a direction, DueMetri was able to package a very good product which a few months extended IBUYSPY and morphed it into a very good product. RP had basically everything that DNN lacked but it never gained the same popularity DNN had even if it became itself quite popular among .NET developers. Reasons why RP has never been able to fight DNN as of popularity are out of the scope of this document.

Back in 2004, when .NET 2.0 was approaching, RP already had about 70 modules and was a full-fledged portal application even if it wasn't polished like DNN was. That time .NET 2.0 started to circulate and many of us (RP users and developers) were asking for a big effort to move RP to .NET 2.0 but somehow will of project leaders weakened. In 2005, it became clear that while DNN already had a almost-finished .NET2.0 version, Rainbow Portal was set to miss the schedule and new .NET version launch date, which was set for November, 2005.

Nevertheless, many people from Rainbow community still believed that RP was a good product and already had many portals running the application. Modules development was slow but there were a few good modules coming from time to time. RP looked late but its .NET 1.1 version (v1.5 and then, v1.6) was still superior to DNN .NET2 version, both for functionalities and, best of all, speed. So RP still seemed the right way to go.

Between mid-2005 and start of 2006, a few efforts originated, mostly from community members, to port RP to .NET 2.0 but the lack of support from original developers (for unknown reasons we never understood) didn't help to coordinate those efforts. RP developer community was already small when compared to other bigger communities and, after a while, those attempts simply stalled and faded away. After a few attempts to revive the whole effort (even by original developers), original RP community melted and was disbanded.

In 2007, a new small community gathered around another effort to restart RP development and a .NET 2.0-compatible (or mostly so) version has been released, followed by a .NET3.5-compiled version for Visual Studio 2008. This first version was slightly modified to make it work with .NET2+ but was from being fully functional, meaning that code which could be compiled under newer .NET frameworks was working but other code was not functional. This version had problems even in supporting user registration and modifications. Following a request from what was left of RP community, RP2.0 project leader released this new version to the general public and marked it as "production-ready". At the same time, a big show-stopper was removed: project license was changed, from GPL to Apache License 2.0. As you will see, this was the most important change as it sparked **Diavolo** as a consequence.



After a few months, a newer version has been promised and that should have included new features and improved sub-systems. Many developers wanted to introduce changes to various sub-systems (LINQ, building database-independent version and so forth). To our knowledge, this effort never reached an usable status and to date, the only RP version which have been released is the one we built **Diavolo** from. We explicitly decided not to use any alpha-grade (or pre-alpha) code and to exclude any code whose ownership was in doubt and which was not extensively tested. To us, the most important thing was project leader claimed that RP original developers allowed him to relicense the whole stuff and that Apache License 2.0 has been selected.

A link to new RP community will be provided at the end of this document. The quality of Rainbow Portal v1.6 is proved by the fact that there are many RP-based portals still online, after many years.

VaiSulWeb effort : from Rainbow Portal to Diavolo

Back in 2005 and mid-2006, when it became clear that Rainbow Portal was not going to be migrated to .NET2.0, our company started a single effort to build a new CMS for our own use. That CMS was code-named **Diavolo**. After having sort of 10-15% code ready, we've been approached by original developers et al in an attempt to revive RP and we agreed to focus on RP and also shared our code with other developers. But that attempt, after a few weeks, halted and aborted.

In 2007, when RP version 2.0 was relicensed from GPL to APL, we felt committed to rejoin community to offer our help, if possible. However, development of RP was slow and basing our commitment on a community didn't seem to help that much. In 2008, we decided that it would have been better to start our own effort in order not to depend on a community which wasn't big enough for commitment (no pun intended).

We started off from Rainbow Portal 2.0 as published by RP community on February, 2008 and we built **Diavolo**.

Diavolo goals

The main goal of developing our own CMS is for sure the need to use that for our own needs. We have a few RP-based portals which we would need to support and which we need to evolve into newer framework versions. We tried to be part of a coordinated effort because we feel that there's a value in sharing our work with others and basics of open-source commitment, also for business reasons. To honor that and **Diavolo's** roots (RP and before that, IBUYSPY), we feel committed to release our effort to community by releasing this software as open-source.

Our long-term goal is to follow evolution of .NET framework and incorporate all newer features and technology evolution into this effort. This document was meant to be a due credit to companies and developers who allowed our effort to start. We don't mean we couldn't have done this without them but for sure RP was a great jump-start. Thanks to you all.

Diavolo Development Team

Rainbow Portal community: <http://code.google.com/p/rainbow/>

Rainbow Portal original website : <http://www.rainbowportal.net>