



# Custom Qt Quick Components Using OpenGL

Kevin Funk, Software Engineer at KDAB



# Integrating QtQuick with Qt

- Integrating QML with C++ (page 4)
  - Creating New QML Elements (page 5)

# Integrating QtQuick with Qt

- **Integrating QtQuick with Qt**
  - Integrating QML with C++

# Integrating QtQuick with Qt

- **Integrating QML with C++**
  - Creating New QML Elements

- **Creating New QML Elements**
  - Registering & Using Custom Elements
  - Creating GUI elements

# Creating New QML Elements

Steps to define a new type in QML:

- 1.** In C++: Subclass either `QObject` or `QuickItem`.
- 2.** In C++: Register the type with the QML environment.
- 3.** In QML: Import the module containing the new item.
- 4.** In QML: Use the item like any other standard item.

# Creating New QML Elements

- Non-visual types are `QObject` subclasses.
- Visual types (items) are `QQuickItem` subclasses.
  - `QQuickItem` is the C++ equivalent of `Item`.
  - `QQuickPaintedItem` is for drawing items with `QPainter`.

# Creating New QML Elements

- **Registering & Using Custom Elements**
- Creating GUI elements



## Step 1: Implementing the Element

```
1 #include <QObject>
2
3 class QTimer;
4
5 class RandomTimer : public QObject
6 {
7     Q_OBJECT
8 public:
9     RandomTimer(QObject *parent = 0);
10
11 private:
12     QTimer* m_timer;
13 };
```

## Implementing the Element

- `RandomTimer` is a `QObject` subclass.
- As with all `QObject`s, each item can have a parent.
- Non-GUI custom items do not need to worry about any painting.

## Step 1: Implementing the Element

```
1 #include "randomtimer.h"
2 #include <QTimer>
3
4 RandomTimer::RandomTimer(QObject *parent)
5     : QObject(parent),
6       m_timer(new QTimer(this))
7 {
8     m_timer->setInterval( 1000 );
9     m_timer->start();
10 }
```

## Step 2: Registering the Element

```
1 #include <QGuiApplication>
2 #include <QQuickView>
3 #include "randomtimer.h"
4
5 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
6 {
7     QGuiApplication app(argc, argv);
8     qmlRegisterType<RandomTimer>("CustomComponents", 1, 0, "RandomTimer");
9
10    QQuickView view;
11    view.setSource(QUrl("qrc:///main.qml"));
12    view.show();
13    return app.exec();
14 }
```

- RandomTimer registered as an element in module CustomComponents
- Automatically available to the `main.qml` file

# Reviewing the Registration

```
qmlRegisterType<RandomTimer>("CustomComponents", 1, 0, "RandomTimer");
```

- This registers the `RandomTimer` C++ class.
- Available from the `CustomComponents` QML module
  - Version 1.0 (first number is major; second is minor)
- Available as the `RandomTimer` element
  - The `RandomTimer` element is a non-visual item.
  - A subclass of `QObject`

# Step 3+4 Importing and Using the Element

In the *main.qml* file:

```
1 import QtQuick 2.0
2 import CustomComponents 1.0
3
4 Rectangle {
5     width: 500
6     height: 360
7
8     RandomTimer {
9         id: timer
10        ...
11    }
12 }
13 }
```

Demo [qml-cpp-integration/ex\\_simple\\_timer](#)

# Creating New QML Elements

- Registering & Using Custom Elements
- **Creating GUI elements**

# Creating a Custom QML Element

- Canvas item (slow) [QML]
  - Provides a 2D canvas item
  - Allows to draw primitives using JavaScript (HTML5-like API)
- Painted items (slow) [C++]
  - Subclass `QQuickPaintedItem`
  - Implement `paint(...)`
- Scene graph items (hardware accelerated) [C++]
  - Subclass `QQuickItem`
  - Implement `updatePaintNode(...)`
- Raw OpenGL items [C++]
  - Subclass `QQuickFramebufferObject`
  - Implement `createRenderer(...)`
  - → *Briefly handled in this talk!*

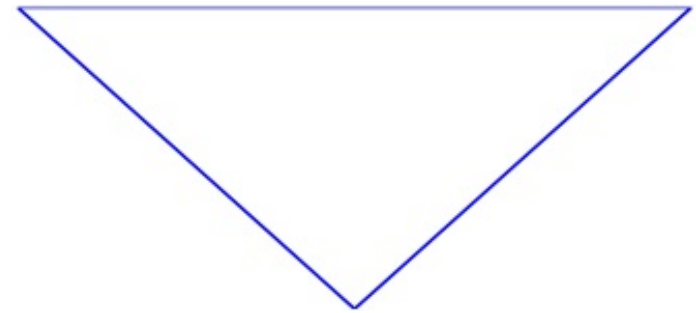


Creating a custom Canvas item

# Creating a Custom Canvas item

In the *TriangleCanvas.qml* file:

```
1 Canvas {
2     id: triangle
3
4     onPaint: {
5         var ctx = getContext("2d");
6
7         ctx.beginPath();
8
9         ctx.moveTo(0, 0);
10        ctx.lineTo(triangleWidth, 0);
11        ctx.lineTo(0.5 * triangleWidth, triangleHeight);
12
13        ctx.closePath();
14
15    }
```



# Creating a Custom Canvas item (cont'd)

In the *main.qml* file:

```
1 Window {
2     id: root
3     visible: true
4
5     width: 800
6     height: 600
7
8     TriangleCanvas {
9         anchors.fill: parent
10        anchors.margins: 10
11    }
12
13 }
```

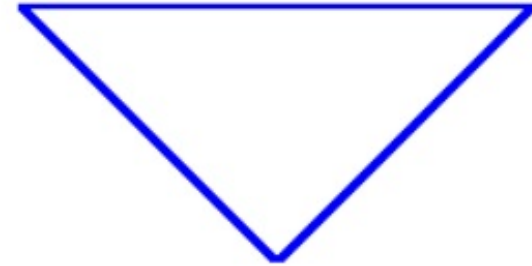
[Demo qml-cpp-integration/ex-canvas-item](#)

[Qt Docs Qt Quick Canvas](#)

Exporting a Painted Item Class

# Exporting a Painted Item Class

```
1 #include <QQuickPaintedItem>
2
3 class TriangleItem : public QQuickPaintedItem
4 {
5     Q_OBJECT
6     Q_PROPERTY(QColor color READ color
7                WRITE setColor NOTIFY colorChanged)
8
9 public:
10     explicit TriangleItem(QQuickItem *parent = 0);
11     void paint(QPainter *painter) override;
```



## Exporting a Painted Item Class (cont'd)

```
1 TriangleItem::TriangleItem(QQuickItem *parent)
2     : QQuickPaintedItem(parent)
3 {
4 }
5
6 void TriangleItem::paint(QPainter *painter)
7 {
8     const auto rect = contentsBoundingRect();
9     const QPolygonF trianglePolygon({
10         {0, 0},
11         {rect.width(), 0},
12         {0.5 * rect.width(), rect.height()},
13         {0, 0}
14     });
15     painter->drawPolygon(trianglePolygon);
16 }
```

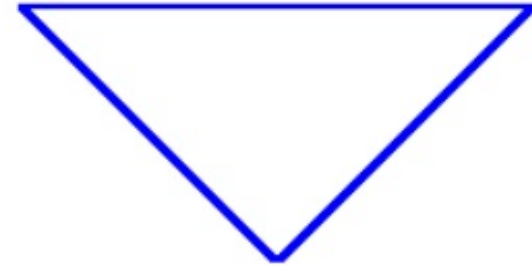
## Exporting a Painted Item Class (cont'd)

```
1 #include "triangleitem.h"
2
3 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
4 {
5     QApplication app(argc, argv);
6     qmlRegisterType<TriangleItem>("Shapes", 1, 0, "Triangle");
7
8     QQuickView view;
9     view.setResizeMode(QQuickView::SizeRootObjectToView);
10    view.setSource(QUrl("qrc:triangle1.qml"));
11    view.show();
12    return app.exec();
13 }
```

## Exporting a Painted Item Class (cont'd)

In the *triangle1.qml* file:

```
1 import Shapes 1.0
2
3 Item {
4     width: 300; height: 200
5
6     Triangle {
7         id: ellipse
8         anchors.fill: parent
9         anchors.margins: 50
10    }
11
12 }
```



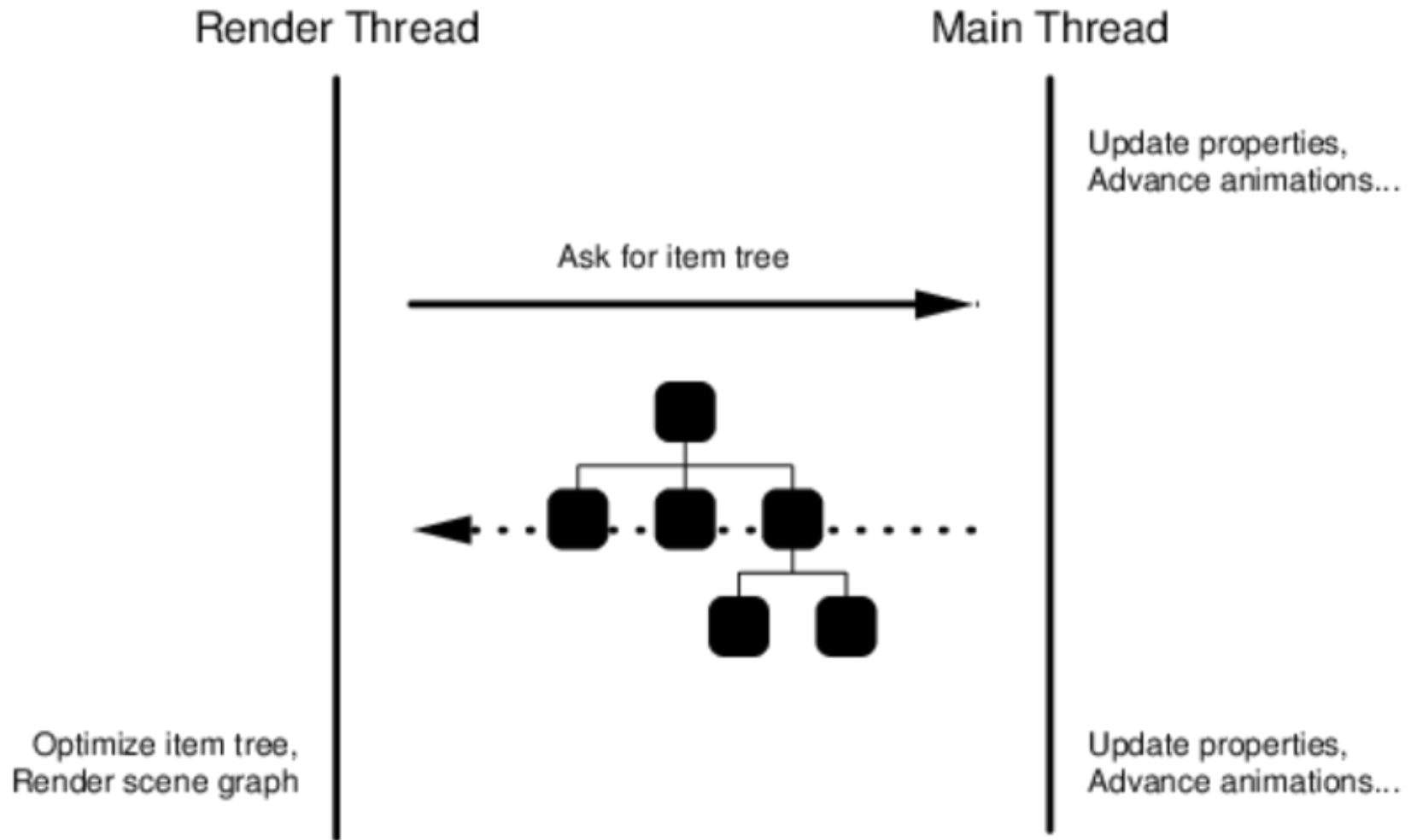
[Demo qml-cpp-integration/ex-simple-item](#)

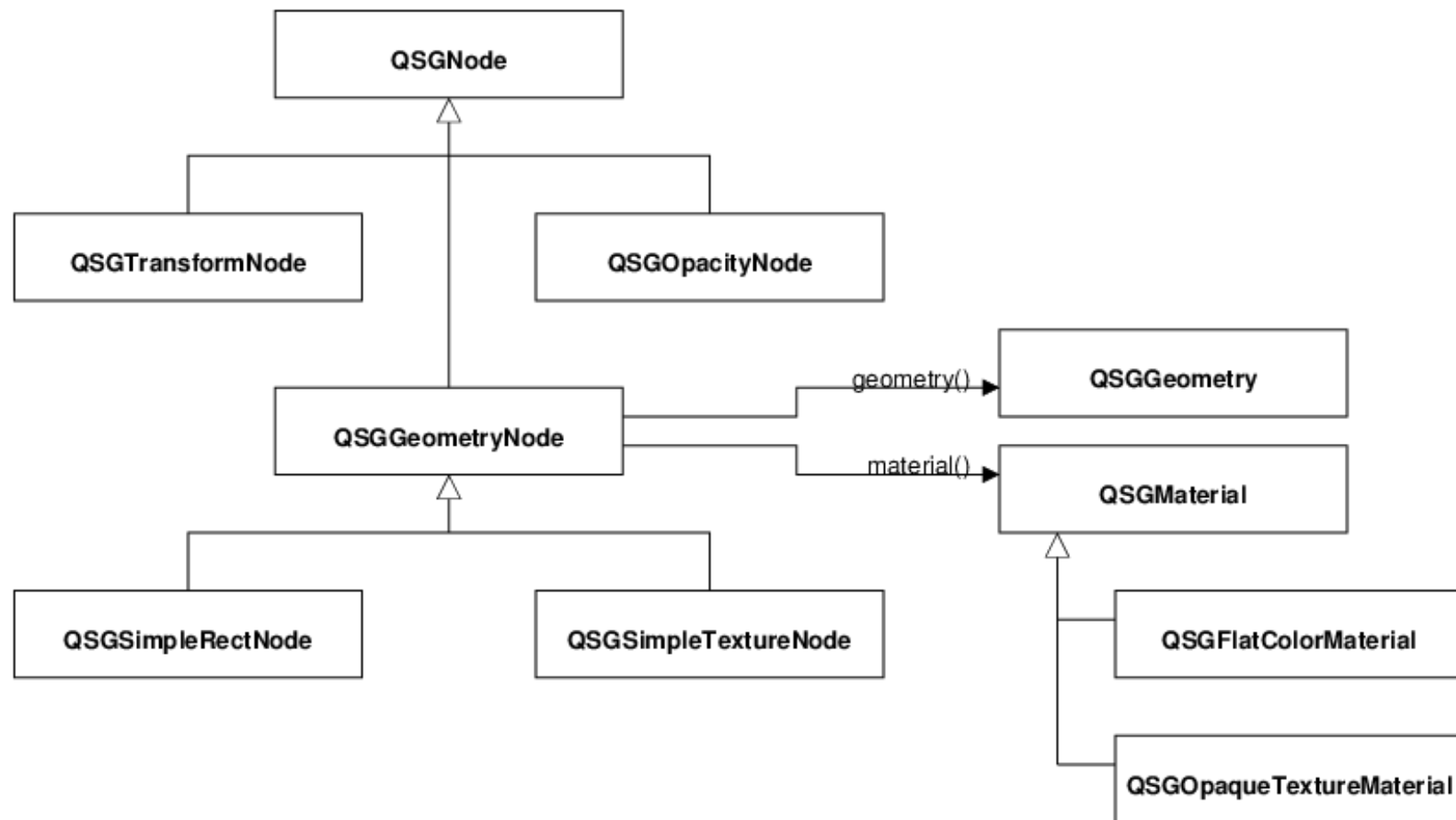
[Qt Docs QQuickPaintedItem](#)

[Qt Docs QPainter](#)



Exporting a Scene Graph Item Class





- `QSGNode` is the basic scene graph building block.
  - `QSGGeometryNode` is a sub-class providing geometry and material for rendering.
    - `QSGSimpleRectNode` is a convenience class for solid filled rectangles.
    - `QSGSimpleTextureNode` is a convenience class for textured content.
  - `QSGOpacityNode` is a sub-class applying its opacity to its sub-tree.
  - `QSGTransformNode` is a sub-class applying a transformation to its sub-tree.
- `QSGGeometry` allows storing of vertex data to create graphics primitives.
- `QSGMaterial` is the base class used to specify materials.
  - `QSGFlatColorMaterial` is a convenience class for solid color fills.
  - `QSGOpaqueTextureMaterial` is a convenience class using `QSGTexture` for textured fills.

# Exporting a Scene Graph Item Class

```
1 #include <QQuickItem>
2
3 class TriangleItem : public QQuickItem
4 {
5     Q_OBJECT
6 public:
7     TriangleItem(QQuickItem *parent = 0);
8
9 protected:
10     QSGNode *updatePaintNode(QSGNode *oldNode,
11                             UpdatePaintNodeData *data) override;
12 };
```

Demo [qml-cpp-integration/ex-simple-item-scenegraph](#)

[Qt Docs QQuickItem](#)

[Qt Docs QSGNode](#)

[Qt Docs QSGMaterial](#)

## Exporting a Scene Graph Item Class (cont'd)

```
1 TriangleItem::TriangleItem(QQuickItem *parent)
2     : QQuickItem(parent)
3 {
4     setFlag(QQuickItem::ItemHasContents, true);
5 }
6
7 QSGNode *TriangleItem::updatePaintNode(QSGNode *oldNode,
8                                         UpdatePaintNodeData *)
9 {
10     if (width() <= 0 || height() <= 0) {
11         delete oldNode;
12         return 0;
13     }
14
15     QSGGeometryNode *triangle = static_cast<QSGGeometryNode*>(oldNode);
16     if (!triangle) {
17         triangle = new QSGGeometryNode;
18         triangle->setFlag(QSGNode::OwnsMaterial, true);
19         triangle->setFlag(QSGNode::OwnsGeometry, true);
20     }
21
22     [...]
```

## Exporting a Scene Graph Item Class (cont'd)

```
20 [...]
21     const QRectF rect = boundingRect();
22     QSGGeometry *geometry = new QSGGeometry(
23         QSGGeometry::defaultAttributes_Point2D(), 3);
24
25     QSGGeometry::Point2D *points = geometry->vertexDataAsPoint2D();
26     points[0].x = rect.left();
27     points[0].y = rect.top();
28     points[1].x = rect.left() + rect.width() / 2.0;
29     points[1].y = rect.bottom();
30     points[2].x = rect.right();
31     points[2].y = rect.top();
32
33     triangle->setGeometry(geometry);
34
35     QSGFlatColorMaterial *material = new QSGFlatColorMaterial;
36     material->setColor(Qt::blue);
37     triangle->setMaterial(material);
38
39     return triangle;
40 }
```

## Exporting a Scene Graph Item Class (cont'd)

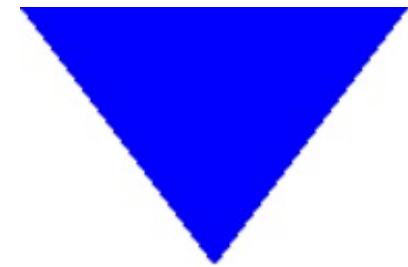
```
1 #include <QGuiApplication>
2 #include <QQuickView>
3 #include "triangleitem.h"
4
5 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
6 {
7     QGuiApplication app(argc, argv);
8     qmlRegisterType<TriangleItem>("Shapes", 1, 0, "Triangle");
9
10    QQuickView view;
11    view.setSource(QUrl("qrc:/main.qml"));
12    view.setResizeMode(QQuickView::SizeRootObjectToView);
13    view.show();
14    return app.exec();
15 }
```



## Exporting a Scene Graph Item Class (cont'd)

In the *main.qml* file:

```
1 import QtQuick 2.0
2 import Shapes 1.0
3
4 Item {
5     width: 300; height: 200
6
7     Triangle {
8         anchors.centerIn: parent
9         width: parent.width/2
10        height: parent.height/2
11    }
12 }
```



## A Slightly More Elaborate Example

- Builds on the previous example
- Creates a small tree of `QSGNodes`
  - Adds a `QSGTransformNode` as a parent of the `QSGGeometryNode` to rotate
  - Periodically changes per-vertex data (color)

Demo `qml-cpp-integration/ex-animated-item-scenegraph`



## Exporting a Raw OpenGL-based Item

- Reuse your existing OpenGL code in a few steps.
- Inherit `QQuickFramebufferObject::Renderer`.
  - Reimplement `createFramebufferObject()` to control the FBO format.
  - Reimplement `render()` to call your OpenGL code.
  - Ensure that your OpenGL code is compatible with the `QOpenGLContext` used by `QQuickWindow` (see `setFormat(QSurfaceFormat)`).
- Inherit `QQuickFramebufferObject`.
  - Reimplement `createRenderer()` to return your own renderer.
- Export the new type as usual.

Qt Demo `qml-cpp-integration/textureinsgnode`

- QML: Canvas item
  - Only useful for non-complex items
  - Useful if you don't intend to write any C++ ;)
- C++: `QQuickPaintedItem`
  - Using `QQuickPaintedItem` uses an indirect 2D surface to render its content
    - So the rendering is a two-step operation. First rasterize the surface, then draw the surface.
  - Does not implement edge antialiasing, only `QPainter`-based antialiasing
- C++: Reimplementing `QQuickItem::updatePaintNode()`
  - Relatively easy to use, hardware accelerated
  - Building blocks for creating custom geometries & materials
- C++: `QQuickFramebufferObject`
  - Useful for over-/underlying complete OpenGL scenes
  - Tricky to make sure custom OpenGL code does not interfere with `QtQuick` renderer

# Thank you!

[www.kdab.com](http://www.kdab.com)

[kevin.funk@kdab.com](mailto:kevin.funk@kdab.com)