dBASE IV Productivity Pack Series

Dialog Box Builder

User's Guide

A Visual Design Tool for dBASE IV Developers

INTRODUCTION

Dialog Box Builder
For dBASE IV version 2.0

The Dialog Box Builder, with dBASE IV version 2.0, allows you to create windows-like dialog boxes. Dialog Box Builder uses the dBASE screen designer to lay out objects, such as push buttons, check boxes, radio buttons, edit fields, and combo boxes. Dialog Box Builder then generates a standalone program file that you can embed into your applications.

This document describes the objects, how to lay them out, modify their behavior using dBASE code, set and retrieve data from the dialog box, and incorporate the result into an application.

Installing the Dialog Box Builder

To install dBASE IV Productivity Pack, do the following:

Insert Disk 1 of 1 into your 3.5-inch disk drive.

Type in the letter of the drive followed by a colon. For example,

If your 3.5-inch disk drive is your A: drive, type:

A:**w**

Type in the following DOS command:

DBBINSTALL**w**

This command assumes that dBASE IV version 2.0 is in your DOS path.

The installation program does the following:

creates DBB.BAT and CONFIG.DBB in your dBASE home directory.

Copies DBBDSGN.DBO, DBBLIB.DBO, DBBEDIT.EXE, and SCR2DBF.GEN into your dBASE directory. It also copies the DBBHELP.* help system files and the DLGHELP.* empty help files into your dBASE directory.

Copies BDCDrive.EXE and its BDCDRIVE.* help files into your dBASE directory.

Copies the sample files into a subdirectory named DB4PPSAM off of your dBASE home directory.

Copies the source files into a subdirectory named DB4PPSRC off of your dBASE home directory. You will also find DBB.MAK used to create DBBDSGN.DBO, DBBLIB.DBO, and SCR2DBF.GEN.

The DBB.MAK file allows you to use the MAKE.EXE program that comes with the dBASE Compiler or other Borland language products to modify the dBASE IV Productivity Pack.

HOW TO CONTACT BORLAND

If you have any questions or wish to share ideas with us at Borland, you can use the Template section 7 on the Borland dBASE Forum on CompuServe. As updates become available we will post them on the Template section. If you do not have access to CompuServe, you may send your comments to:

Bill Ramos, Senior Engineer, dBASE for DOS Development, Borland International,
1800 Green Hills Road,
Scotts Valley, CA 95067-2000

or you can send MCI Mail to BRAMOS

Please do not call Borland Technical Support.

Starting Dialog Box Builder

To start Dialog Box Builder from the DOS prompt, type

DBB**w**

The DBB batch file, located in the dBASE home directory, starts dBASE IV using the CONFIG.DBB startup file.

Dialog Box Objects

Dialog boxes typically contain objects that control the behavior of an application or collect data from the end-user. These objects include the following:

Push Buttons
Radio Buttons
Check Boxes
Edit Fields
Combo Boxes
List Boxes

This section describes the objects and how they respond to key strokes and mouse clicks.

Push Buttons

A Push button is a rectangle containing a label that specifies the action represented by the button, for example, "Help" or "Cancel". Push buttons are sometimes refered to as Command buttons. Figure 1.1 shows a dialog box containing several push buttons.

Figure 1.1
Push Buttons