

# One Last Compile...

## *Mr Angry writes...*

I take it all back. Windows? Delphi? Easy? Hah! In fact, I'm feeling so aggressive, I'm going to put my Caps Lock key on. HAH! I'll go even further than that: !"\$%^&^\$, and an extra !&\*()^\$" for good measure.

The more astute among you will have deduced from this that I have not had a good month with Borland's little treasure. I am tense, irritable and frustrated. I used to only feel like that about my love life, but now work's just as bad. I used to be able to escape into my own little world of Delphi, where happiness was a new component and a successful compile and link was enough to send me into ecstasy. It all looks so easy and slick, and then, bang! you hit these gotchas and the world falls apart.

Perhaps you think I'm exaggerating. You probably want details. Okay. Here goes.

A barrage of 'Error creating Window' and 'Stream read error' messages mean that I'm going to have to rethink my MDI database application which uses 87 tabbed notebooks simultaneously. I think this is highly unreasonable. The problem, it seems, is that Windows only has so many handles it can dole out. Every time you exceed that limit, Microsoft send somebody around to cut off one of your fingers.

I can tell you, your life flashes before your eyes when you add in that final child form the day before delivery and your entire application starts acting like its brain's fallen out. I wonder how many other people have been through that frantic last minute process during which every TPanel is swapped for a TBevel (so *that's* what a bevel's for) and every TButton is replaced by a TSpeedButton? It's the programming equivalent of hunting down the back of the sofa for loose change.

If that wasn't enough, I've also had to contend with the wonderfully pathetic 'Too many files' message. That's the message you get when you try and install too many third party components in Delphi 1. Okay, 300 components is probably on the high side, but every one of those components has given me at least several moments of mild interest, and, more importantly, has given me an excuse not to do any real work for those moments. Weeding out old components from your palette is liking killing your children. And isn't that a lame message? You're supposed to be a development environment, dammit, not an overworked secretary.

On top of that, my `CompLib.dcl` is constantly telling me that it's feeling unstable, and would really appreciate it if you'd shut down, quit Windows, and let it have a few hours lying down in a darkened room. I know how it feels. Perhaps we could set up a therapy group together.

I hope I haven't gone down in your estimations. In fact, I often wonder if readers of this magazine aren't actually a bit fed up with Messrs. Swart, Long and Jewell endlessly pulling their Delphi rabbits out of hats, with smug bows and their throwaway lines like "next month, I'll show how to conquer the universe using a shareware Death Star component and some undocumented calls in the Windows API".

I like to think of this column as a haven for the Delphi incompetent, the place where you can come to draw solace from the fact that yes, there are worse Delphi programmers than you, and no, I don't understand anything else in the magazine apart from the occasional 'Hints and Tips' contribution either.

Oh, that thing about Microsoft and the fingers was a lie, but give me some dramatic license, okay? It's been a tough month.