News

Delphi For Linux Gets Nearer

Inprise have posted results from their Linux Developer Survey (conducted 9th to 31st July) at www.borland.com/linux/survey.

They make interesting reading. Predictably, the majority wanted to develop in Delphi or C++ (43.9% and 39.9% respectively). Over 72% wanted a RAD development environment, just 22% could cope with a non-RAD IDE and a (very) few strange folk preferred command-line tools... Asked which development tool they'd like to see, 44.5% said Delphi, 22.8% C++Builder and 9.7% JBuilder. Developers said that a fast development process was most important to them (56.8%), followed by runtime performance of their applications (32.2%).

Databases or database servers which developers planned to use included Oracle (43.4%) then next up was MySQL (33.8%). The MySQL DBMS is actually free for use on Linux (and very cheap for Windows NT) and is reputed to be fast. We hope to look at MySQL in a future issue of *Developers Review* (www.DevelopersReview.com).

Of the desktop environments for Linux, KDE and GNOME proved most popular, with over 77% of the votes between them.

HREF Tools For Borland

WebHub from HREF Tools has been selected by Borland to implement some of the crucial pieces of its http://community.borland.com website, providing a forum for developers to obtain and exchange information on Inprise products.

WebHub was used to integrate a diverse set of databases and many application types and development environments, on multiple Windows NT and UNIX servers.

Visit www.href.com for more information on WebHub.

TurboPower Sleuth QA Suite

TurboPower has released Sleuth QA Suite, a new quality assurance toolset for Delphi and C++Builder. The Suite includes Sleuth CodeWatch for finding bugs and Sleuth StopWatch for profiling.

The clever thing about Sleuth CodeWatch is that it knows about the VCL, and about the bugs and memory/resource leaks in the VCL, so your bug and leak report isn't swamped by VCL errors but only contains those in your code. It can also filter harmless leaks or bugs from its reports, so you can concentrate on the dangerous stuff.

Sleuth StopWatch shows what code gets executed the most and how long it takes, so you can concentrate on optimising these routines.

For more information on Sleuth QA Suite, visit www.turbopower.com or talk to your dealer. Watch out for Dave Jewell's review in October's *Developers Review* (visit www.DevelopersReview.com).

DeVries OfficePartner

DeVries Data Systems have released the OfficePartner suite of components designed to integrate Microsoft Office suite Borland's development tools. The components enable developers to build custom solutions without the in-depth knowledge of COM and Automation techniques normally necessary for programming with Microsoft Office, say the developers. Design-time support provides previews as software is created. Features include point-and-click access to Office applications from your custom applications and handling of Office's Automation events as VCL events. Complete source is included and there are no royalties. Office 97 and 2000 are supported, with Delphi 3, 4, and 5, plus C++Builder 3 and 4, on Windows 95 98, NT 4 and 2000.

OfficePartner costs $399 direct from DeVries. Visit www.dvdata.com or call +1 888 866 8033 for more information.

ReportBuilder Pro 4.1

Digital Metaphors is now shipping ReportBuilder 4.1. New features include a crosstab component and support for printing JPEG, GIF, and RTF2 content. The new crosstab component enables users to display calculated values in a multi-dimensional format. A crosstab wizard and drag-and-drop crosstab editor can be used to quickly define any number of row, column, and value dimensions.

For more information visit www.digital-metaphors.com or call +1 927 931 1941. ReportBuilder Pro costs $495 when purchased direct from Digital Metaphors.

Apollo, Artemis And LightLib Move To Vista Software

Vista Software is the new home of Luxent's Apollo, Artemis, LightLib and the soon to be released Apollo Client/Server product line. According to Vista Software, the company is committed to the ongoing development, maintenance and support for the new version 5.0 products

Visit www.vistasoftware.com for more information on these products.

From The Editor...
The Delphi Magazine And *Delphi Informant*

23 August 1999. With regret I have to advise you that iTec, publishers of *The Delphi Magazine*, are in dispute with Informant Communications Group, publishers of *Delphi Informant*, over Informant Communications' registration and use of various *DelphiMagazine* and *DelphiMag* domain names.

Right at the outset I would like to emphasise two things. First, that iTec is very happy to compete with *Delphi Informant*, fairly and honourably (which is just what we have been doing since *The Delphi Magazine* and *Delphi Informant* launched). Second, this dispute is not of iTec's making: it has arisen purely from the actions of Informant Communications. I should also note that, before going 'public', I have tried hard to resolve this situation amicably with Informant Communications. I regret to say that, as of today, not one of our numerous communications (by email, fax and letter, to both Mitchell Koulouris, the Publisher, and Jerry Coffey, the Editor) has received a reply.

The substance of our dispute is that Informant Communications are using a domain name equating to the name of one of iTec's magazines (*The Delphi Magazine*) to publicise their magazine (*Delphi Informant*). The domain in question is DelphiMag.com (check www.DelphiMag.com to see what I mean). Furthermore, Informant Communications have registered a number of other domains, including various *DelphiMagazine* and *DelphiMag*, which (as I write) do not have websites, but presumably are intended for use. Surprisingly, these include DelphiMag.co.uk.

The *Delphi Magazine* was launched in April 1995 (just before *Delphi Informant*, I believe). The title is registered as ISSN 1365-1013 and each issue of the magazine is lodged with the Legal Deposit Office of The British Library at Boston Spa for the purposes of international copyright. It is very widely known, colloquially, as 'Delphi Mag' and 'Delphi Magazine'. Therefore, to use a domain with either of these names to refer to a magazine which is called *Delphi Informant* seems strange, especially when Informant Communications also have registered the domain DelphiInformant.com (which is surely the obvious choice for their publication?).

As Informant Communications have, to date, made no attempt to discuss or resolve this issue with us, I can come to no other conclusion than that their registrations of the various *DelphiMag* and *DelphiMagazine* domain names constitute abusive registrations (a term coined by the World Intellectual Property Organization), for the purpose of creating confusion amongst potential subscribers to *The Delphi Magazine*.

I believe this to be unfair competition. It's just as if I had registered the domain DelphiInformant.co.uk and then put up a website at that address which was all about *The Delphi Magazine*.

In the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (to which 154 states are signatories), Article 10 provides protection against unfair competition:

'... (2) Any act of competition contrary to honest practices in industrial or commercial matters constitutes an act of unfair competition.

'(3) The following in particular shall be prohibited:

'1. all acts of such a nature as to create confusion by any means whatever with the establishment, the goods, or the industrial or commercial activities, of a competitor; ...'

I feel that *'acts of such a nature as to create confusion... with... the goods... of a competitor'* is a fairly good definition of what is happening here.

You will understand that I was shocked when this situation came to light, and even more shocked when Informant Communications made no reply to any of my communications (which, it's worth noting, were initially in a very friendly tone, working on the assumption that someone at Informant Communications had made a simple oversight which would be readily corrected).

So what are we asking Informant Communications to do? Simply to move the *Delphi Informant* website to a domain name which does not cause confusion over the magazine which it relates to, and to cancel their registration of the *DelphiMag* and *DelphiMagazine* domain names which they currently hold. We'd be pleased to negotiate with Informant Communications as to what happens to these domain registrations. To me, these seem entirely reasonable requests.

Finally, what can we do about this situation? We are a small company and don't have access to fleets of lawyers (or the budget for their fees). Our initial approach will be to publicise this situation as widely as possible. My hope is that common sense will win out. If you feel able to participate in publicising the unfairly competitive actions of Informant Communications, I personally and the rest of the team at *The Delphi Magazine* would be very glad of your support (but, please, keep it polite and fair, as I know you will).

And, of course, keep reading *The Delphi Magazine*!

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