From The Editor...

I'm delighted to welcome you to this very special issue of *The Delphi Magazine*: it's our 50th birthday! Our first issue was published back in April 1995, as Delphi 1 was itself a mere babe in arms. Both Delphi and *The Delphi Magazine* have come a long way since then. Both our readers and independent commentators consistently rate this publication as providing the highest quality technical material for Delphi developers that exists.

This issue packs a whopping 108 pages, with truly outstanding articles from some of the most knowledgeable Delphi experts in the world. Not content with giving you the biggest issue ever, we've also included a free bonus CD-ROM, with tons of trial/share/freeware on, plus the code and sample files from all the articles in this issue of course (and from Issue 20 onwards too). We've also included over 50 authoritative product reviews from our sister magazine, *Developers Review*.

As part of our celebrations, we are sending free sample copies of this issue to a large number of Delphi developers who don't yet subscribe. When you've seen the good things that you are missing, month by month, make sure you reach for the subscription form and send it off without delay!

Whilst we have come a long way, we're not content to rest on our laurels. We are working on new ideas which will make *The Delphi Magazine* even better and make it even easier for you to receive the magazine. As I write this, we're also making the final preparations for our first conference: the **Delphi Developers Conference 1999**, jointly organised with the UK Borland User Group, which looks to be a sell-out! If you didn't make it this year, don't miss *next year*!

Chris Frizelle, Editor (chrisf@itecuk.com)

News

ABC 5

Objective Software Technology have released version 5 of their visual component library, ABC for Delphi. A new Dataset Adapter Framework adds support for ADO, InterBase, MIDAS and third-party datasets. This framework isolates ABC components from underlying dataset functionality, reducing the interface to a single point of adaptation. For Delphi 5 users there is a new component browser, ABC property category and enhanced component and property editors.

ABC includes over 200 components to enhance all aspects of user interface design, data presentation and application support. Components include toolbars and custom menus, DB treeviews, advanced DB navigation, exception handling, help and hint editing, rich text editing, button bars, plus animation and transition effects. The new version costs from $149 direct from Objective Software Technology at www.obsof.com as well as software tools retailers.

Borland User Group Meetings

Upcoming meetings include:

Hammersmith, London, October 19th. Including: Woll2Woll's 1st Class, an introduction to XML and defensive programming.

Bangor, Northern Ireland, October 22nd. Including: printing and what you have always wanted to know about Delphi web development but were too afraid to ask.

Delphi 5 Masterclass with Marco Cantù, November 2nd, London. Includes: secrets of the IDE, 50 VCL changes, database support, high-end features and Marco's famous 'The Fun Side of Delphi (Part III): Dis-Integrating the Enterprise'.

Falkirk, Scotland, November 11th. Including Delphi 5, an introduction to COM, internationalisation and localisation, and web applications.

Hammersmith, London, November 23rd (details not yet available).

Liverpool, November 26th. Including: introduction to design patterns, the Integrated Translation Environment, an introduction to Microsoft's Remote Data Services, plus web applications.

For more details and to book your place, call UK-BUG now on +44 (0)1980 630032.

DevSoft Developments

DevSoft have a new release of their ICK toolkit and Delphi 5 support in IP*Works 4.0.

The new release of ICK, version 2.0, introduces a new vGrid component used to dynamically exchange tabular data over the web. The component may be used in both server and client applications to respectively serve and access data. Its most common use is with ASP for publishing data which may be later retrieved by client applications written in Delphi or other languages. XML is

used as the interchange format. The new release brings improvements to other components as well: HTTP, HTTPS, FTP, XMLp, and NetDial. Visit www.dev-soft. com for details and a free trial.

The Delphi 5 support in IP*Works 4.0 is a free upgrade for customers. Visit www.dev-soft. com/download.htm to download the upgrade.

ProDelphi 6.6

From Helmuth Adolph, this freeware source code profiler for Delphi has now been updated. Enhancements include comparison of different runs, better documentation, profiling of multiple directories and profiling of DLLs. Visit Helmuth's site at www.hp. europe.de/prodelphi for a copy.

TSyntaxMemo

From dbrockSoftware, this is a powerful text editor component with user-defined syntax highlighting for Delphi and C++Builder. It emulates TMemo and lets you change the highlighting rules at designtime and runtime through a powerful scripting language. Sample scripts include HTML, SQL, Object Pascal, Visual Basic, C++ and Java. It includes full source code and can be built to work with ANSI or Unicode characters. The Unicode build has special facilities for dealing with languages such as Japanese. The product costs £99 plus VAT from Grey Matter, visit www.greymatter.co.uk or call +44 (0)1364 655111 for details.

Lazarus For Free Pascal

Lazarus is a set of open source class libraries for Free Pascal that emulate Delphi. Free Pascal is a Delphi-compatible compiler that runs on Linux, Win32 and other platforms. It is being developed to be API-independent, meaning that code can be linked to the GUI of your choice (Windows, GTK+, Gnome...), as long as interface code for the GUI is available. The goal is that standard Delphi code using the standard Delphi components will recompile seamlessly (third-party components are a different matter).

Currently, the team describe Lazarus as being 'in heavy development' and there is a long way to go. They are inviting developers to help, so if you have some spare hours, or you just want to take a look at what's happening, visit www.miraclec.com/lazarus for an update.

Free Pascal, which Lazarus uses, is a 32-bit Pascal compiler which is available for Intel and Motorola processors and the Linux, DOS, AmigaOS, OS/2 and Win32 OSs. It is compatible with TurboPascal 7 and has some Delphi extensions. Visit http://tfdec1.fys.kuleuven.ac. be/~michael/fpc/fpc.html for more information and downloads.

TurboPower Updates

TurboPower have been updating their products for Delphi 5 compatibility. Visit the TurboPower Free Update Center at www. turbopower.com/updates for details of the exact changes made (which in some cases include other additions and fixes too).

BDE/SQL Links 5.10

The latest BDE/SQL Links version 5.10 is available for download: the upgrade installation will update any previous version of the US 32-bit BDE drivers with BDE 5.10. We understand that this is the same version as used in Delphi 5. Point your browser to www. borland.com/devsupport/bde/bd eupdate.html for the download, weighing in at over 11Mb.

Update: *The Delphi Magazine* And *Delphi Informant*

Regular readers will know that iTec, publishers of *The Delphi Magazine*, are in dispute with Informant Communications Group, publishers of *Delphi Informant*, over Informant's use of the internet domain DelphiMag.com to promote their publication. We believe that Informant using the name of iTec's publication to promote their own magazine is a clear case of unfair competition. We are very disappointed that such a well-known (and until now well-respected) company has stooped to this level. You can find full details on the *What's New* page of our website: www. TheDelphiMagazine.com.

Since writing last month's Editorial, I have received a reply to my emails, faxes and letters to Informant Communications Group... an email from their lawyer!

Frankly I am appalled that their only response to amicable (even friendly) attempts to resolve this matter is to get their lawyer to email what is essentially a rather dismissive (and in parts threatening) letter. I had expected better of the company and of the individuals concerned.

I have written to Mitchell Koulouris, publisher of *Delphi Informant*, to formally request that they cease use of the various DelphiMagazine and DelphiMag domain names. To date (16 September 1999) no reply has been received and Informant seem set on continuing their flagrant disregard of honourable and ethical business standards.

Many readers, and a number of organisations working in the Delphi field, have emailed me to express support for *The Delphi Magazine* in our fight for fair play. Here are just a few excerpts:

'...we have dropped support for the *Delphi Informant*.'

'I won't subscribe [to] *Delphi Informant* until this matter is solved.'

'I feel that their attitude in this case is disgraceful.'

'...the use of these domain names is nothing short of deceptive business practice.'

'If they don't make sense and keep hoarding not only www.DelphiMag.com and www.DelphiMagazine.com, but www.DelphiMag.co.uk, then I won't renew my subscription with them.'

'...their use of delphimag.com is a definite abuse of the name of your magazine.'

Thanks to each and every one of you: we really appreciate your standing with us on this one.

Chris Frizelle, Editor and Publisher (chrisf@itecuk.com)