

THE Delphi

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News

Direct Oracle Access 3.4

Allround Automations have a new release of their component set to access Oracle databases from Delphi applications. The developers say that it offers optimal performance, supports many Oracle specific features, is compatible with all Oracle versions, and eliminates the need for additional libraries such as the BDE or ODBC.

The new 3.4 release introduces an Oracle Monitor utility, which allows you to view detailed information about all database activities of a running Direct Oracle Access application. These details include the SQL, variables, elapsed time, error messages, network statistics (for example, roundtrips, bytes sent and received), database statistics (such as physical I/O, logical I/O and table scans), and query execution plans. You can view activities chronologically or in a component hierarchy.

With the new Package Wizard you can generate classes that encapsulate your Oracle packages. This makes it easier than ever to call packaged program units, as they have now become a natural extension of the Delphi or C++Builder language. Program units with complex parameters such as scalar PL/SQL Tables, PL/SQL Records and Cursors are now easy to call as well.

Support for the Direct Path Load Engine allows you to load external

data into an Oracle database at the highest possible speeds. Data is written directly into the physical database blocks without using SQL INSERT statements. Tests carried out by Allround Automations indicate that this can be 4 times faster than array inserts, which were already supported in previous releases of the components, and 40 times faster than single insert statements.

Other enhancements in version 3.4 include support for SQL scripts, for the Oracle Services for MTS, and for Oracle8 External Procedure development.

Direct Oracle Access 3.4 is now available direct from Allround Automations for \$129: visit www.allroundautomations.nl or alternatively call your local dealer.

Multimedia Developer Suite

This component suite from 3iSoft allows you to develop full multimedia applications for CD-ROM publishing.

The developers say you can easily set up the sequence of all animated objects in an application by using special object inspector dialogs, so that it is possible to create a complete multimedia presentation without writing any source code. The compiled project runs as a standalone application, without the need for any runtime environment.

Multimedia Developer Suite features 17 components with nearly 100 pre-defined effects, nearly 30 pre-defined filling effects, nearly 40 pre-defined shapes, a script language to build individual effects, an

editor to build script-based effects during design-time, an editor for application control, a DirectX-based graphic and sound window, support for various image formats (including bmp, wmf, emf, ico and jpeg) plus avi, mpeg and QuickTime video support.

Also supported are non-rectangular forms, antialiased text, shapes and images, lots of graphical effect filters, alpha blending effects, online help, sample projects and direct customer support.

Multimedia Developer Suite costs £190 plus VAT from QBS Software, visit www.qbss.com or call +44 (0)20 8956 8001 for details or to order.

DCon 2000 CD Now Available

If you didn't make it to DCon 2000, hope is in sight! The conference CD containing text, code and slides from 25 major sessions, is now available for purchase for just £35, while (limited) stocks last.

To order your copy call the UK Borland User Group today on +44 (0)1980 630032.

Don't forget that DCon 2001, to be organised again by the joint forces of the UK Borland User Group and *The Delphi Magazine*, is already on the drawing board and is planned for these dates next year: June 17th for the pre-conference training and June 18th and 19th for the main conference. Don't miss it!

ImageXpress 5

From Pegasus Imaging Corporation, this image library includes Delphi, ActiveX and COM components. With major speed enhancements, comprehensive TIFF tag handling, multiple page TIFF editing, new and expanded features and a totally new and improved annotation engine, the developers claim it is ideal for high-volume document imaging systems.

ImageXpress 5 Pro costs £645 and the Standard version costs £255. Both prices exclude VAT and are from QBS Software: visit www.qbss.com or call +44 (0)20 8956 8001 for details.

DbAltGrid 1.2

Quasidata have updated their data-aware grid for Delphi and C++Builder. New features include RTF field support, auto-scaling of column widths, in-place editing of memo fields within a cell and the display of memo text in a hint window, plus indication of a URL in a cell.

DbAltGrid allows free-form layout (that is, multiple lines of cells within a row), a hierarchical columns structure and alternate row colouring. Facilities are also provided for easy editing of numeric, Boolean, date, time, memo, rich-text formatted memo and graphic fields.

The component is a descendant of Delphi's own TDBGrid and, say the developers, is fully compatible with it.

DbAltGrid costs \$145 with full source code when purchased direct from Quasidata. Visit www.dbaltgrid.com for additional information.

XML One London

XML One London takes place from 18th to 20th October 2000 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London. The event includes live workshops, tutorial sessions, keynote sessions and expert-led discussion panels. In addition, delegates will get the chance to evaluate the latest tools and solutions from leading vendors in the XML marketplace.

This year's improved conference schedule will include more advanced classes on popular topics giving useful and practical advice. XML One London will present the world's leading XML experts, top consultants, educators and best selling authors, providing delegates with the most recent and authoritative information on XML, claim the organisers.

Visit www.xmlconference.com/london for more details of how to book your place.

Free Turbo Debugger

Inprise/Borland have made the standalone Turbo Debugger available for free download from its website at

www.borland.com/bcppbuilder/turbodebugger/

Although ostensibly designed to be used with the freely downloadable Borland C++ compiler, the debugger actually works fine on Delphi executables, according to Dr.Bob who has tested it out on Delphi projects.

MDAC 2.5 Service Pack 1

Microsoft Data Access Components, MDAC 2.5 SP1 (2.51.5303.5) is now available for download from Microsoft's website at

www.microsoft.com/data/download.htm

This release is the same version of MDAC that is installed by Windows 2000 Service Pack 1.

Sleuth QA Suite 2

Turbopower have updated their debugging toolkit to include five tools.

Sleuth CodeWatch tracks down hard-to-find memory and resource leaks and tests for improper use of Microsoft Windows API calls.

Sleuth StopWatch times program execution at a macro level.

The new Sleuth LineProfiler times program execution at the

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source line level, so you can now get accurate timing statistics for any or all the lines of a project: ideal for micro level optimisations.

Also new is Sleuth Coverage Analyst, which tracks the number of times individual lines of a project are executed and visually indicates the portions of the project that have not been adequately tested.

Finally, Sleuth ActionRecorder has been added: it records keyboard and mouse interactions for unattended, automated test suites. Recorded actions can be saved as XML data files for easy modifications.

Sleuth QA Suite 2 costs £250 plus VAT from QBS Software, visit www.qbss.com or call +44 (0)20 8956 8001 for details.