

Microsoft Provides Visual Programming Tools

Range of Tools Accelerates Development of Applications for Microsoft Windows

SANTA CLARA, Calif. – Feb. 23, 1993 – Microsoft Corporation today announced a set of new visual programming tools that accelerate the development of applications written for the Microsoft® Windows™ and Microsoft Windows NT™ operating systems. These tools include the new Microsoft Visual C++™ development system; the new Microsoft Delta visual version control system; the Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN), a comprehensive source of technical and strategic developer information for both Microsoft Windows and Windows NT; and the new Microsoft Visual Control Pack, a collection of custom controls for Microsoft Visual C++ or the Microsoft Visual Basic™ programming system. The award-winning Microsoft Visual Basic programming system version 2.0 is already a favorite with programmers.

Microsoft Visual C++

Microsoft Visual C++, a tightly integrated tool set, is optimized to boost programmer productivity throughout the entire development cycle. It is the first C++ product designed to make the process of learning and adopting the C++ programming language much easier for programmers developing Windows-based applications, while providing all the resources and power required by the most advanced programmers using C++.

Visual C++ provides a completely new set of visual Windows-hosted tools for editing, resource building, class and resource mapping, browsing and debugging. Using a visually-oriented approach like Visual Basic, Visual C++ lets programmers graphically create an application's user interface. A new version of Microsoft Foundation Class is at the heart of Visual C++ and helps make it easier for developers to develop applications and reuse programming code. The Microsoft Foundation Class version 2.0 greatly simplifies and speeds development by offering programmers a standard architecture and set of reusable, high-level objects.

Other new features in the Windows-hosted product include a Visual Workbench and App Studio. With Visual Workbench, developers edit, build, debug and browse C/C++ code from a single integrated Windows-based environment. App Studio, which uses a completely graphical approach, lets programmers design user interfaces, edit resources, and manipulate Visual Basic controls. Visual C++ also features the popular wizard technology found in several of Microsoft's other products. The AppWizard creates a set of skeleton source code files and automates the first steps of creating the application framework. ClassWizard automates the connections between user interface controls, such as dialog buttons and the code that handles them.

Visual C++ is scheduled to ship on March 1, and will be available in both standard and professional editions. The standard edition replaces Microsoft QuickC® development system for Windows, and the professional edition succeeds Microsoft C/C++ version 7.0. The suggested retail price (SRP) for the Standard Edition is \$199; the SRP for the Professional Edition is \$499.

Microsoft is currently developing a version of Visual C++ for the Windows NT operating system, which is scheduled to ship in the third quarter of 1993.

Microsoft Delta

Microsoft Delta is a visual version control system for Windows that simplifies the process of source code management, allowing teams to work together more efficiently by using a simple visual interface to compare and track progress. Designed particularly for team-oriented software development, Microsoft Delta aids developers by recording the history of a development project, storing and retrieving previous versions of files and releases, and preventing unrecorded changes to source files. And for the LAN program development environment, Microsoft Delta provides powerful single-step commands that simplify networked software management.

Scheduled to ship in April 1993, Microsoft Delta will have a SRP of \$499.

Microsoft Developer Network

The Microsoft Developer Network is a new membership program that provides a single, comprehensive source for all developer-related information available from Microsoft, including new technology specifications, product documentation and strategic product direction. Developers who join the Microsoft Developer Network receive, on a quarterly basis, the Developer Network CD – a compendium of everything Microsoft publishes on programming for Windows. The entire CD is immediately accessible through a powerful and easy-to-use Windows-based browser.

Annual enrollment in the Microsoft Developer Network is \$195 and includes four quarterly editions of the Developer Network CD; six issues of *Developer Network News*, a bimonthly newspaper that complements the CD; a 20-percent discount on Microsoft Press® Books; a \$25 credit toward CompuServe® connect charges; a membership kit explaining the Developer Network and how to maximize its benefits; discounts on conferences; and admission to invitation-only events at trade shows. To join, developers can call (800) 759-5474.

Microsoft Visual Control Pack

Microsoft Visual Control Pack is an easy-to-use collection of 19 custom controls that simplify the process of developing applications for Windows using Visual C++ or Visual Basic. These controls not only make it easy to create eye-catching 3-D controls (e.g., text boxes, buttons and window frames), but also allow developers to quickly add such functionality as charting, communications and multimedia capabilities to their applications.

By providing developers with modular, prebuilt controls, Visual Control Pack eliminates the need to continually “reinvent the wheel,” allowing programmers to concentrate their efforts on developing the core functionality of their applications. Microsoft Visual Control Pack is currently available for a SRP of \$149.

Microsoft Visual Basic 2.0

The Microsoft Visual Basic Programming system for Windows version 2.0 is a popular high-productivity system for Windows. This visual development environment integrates the traditional editor, compiler and debugger with a powerful event-driven programming model and visual tools for quickly and easily developing software for the Windows operating system. Visual Basic 2.0 provides programmers with the flexibility to create custom applications without compromising performance or quality.

Microsoft Visual Basic 2.0 is currently available in both standard and professional editions. The Professional Edition is available for a suggested retail price of \$495 and the Standard Edition is available for a SRP of \$199.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products and services for business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing every day.

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