Light Lib Products for Windows

February 1995

Dear User,

Thank you for purchasing a Light Lib product for Windows. Just a reminder to please send in your registration card. Without the information found on this registration card, we are unable to send important updates to you.

We thank you for your support,
The DFL Team

Products

There are currently 3 Light Lib products available for Windows. Each one is unique and does not rely on any of the other Light Lib products to work. There is some advanced and sophisticated technology which is shared between the products and which will allow DFL to create innovative and new products in the near future. The following briefly explains the current Light Lib products available for Windows.

Light Lib Images (LLI) provides your Windows applications with advanced Image and Document management capabilities. Your applications will be able to scan, save, load, print, copy images etc. LLI is fully TWAIN compliant and the integration is seamless.

Light Lib Business (LLB) provides your Windows applications with advanced graphing and charting capabilities. You will be able to display non-static pie, bar, line, stacked and stock graphs in your applications. In addition, each column in a graph can maintain its own type of graph. Your end users will have the ability to dynamically browse any graph and all scaling and resizing is automatically managed by LLB. Advanced mouse handling accurately determines and isolates which part of a graph has been selected and then properly dispatches selections in the form of objects! Default dialogs are provided which give end-users the ability to dynamically change the settings of any part of the graph.

Light Lib Multimedia (LLM) (*Please note that LLM is in Alpha testing at this time.*) provides your Windows applications with advanced Audio and Video capabilities. Since LLM uses proven Light Lib BLOB technology, Audio (WAV), Video (AVI) and Midi (MID) data is managed as BLOB data. This is very important since BLOB data is able to be stored in various popular data file formats such as Flexfile file, Oracle databases etc. The ability to store, create and retrieve AVI and WAV files as BLOBs provides the power to build sophisticated applications. For example, a voice mail system which can be used in large corporate offices or a medical application which stores video of actual surgeries and records the operation's procedures. These real life applications are now within reach using Light Lib Multimedia.

Installation

By default, all Light Lib products get installed as either full working versions or as demonstration versions, depending on what was purchased. In other words, if Light Lib Images was the only product purchased, the demonstration versions of Light Lib Business and Light Lib Multimedia would get installed.

We do this to provide our users with information on all of our Light Lib products and to save you valuable time in getting copies of our other product's demos. If the full version of another Light Lib product is purchased and installed in the future, the Light Lib installation system will properly detect and overwrite previous demonstration versions.

After the installation of any Light Lib product, you will notice a LIGHTLIB sub-directory containing all three Light Lib products.

The LIGHTLIB sub-directory structure is as follows:

LIGHTLIB	Root directory for ALL Light Lib Products
LIGHTLIB\CAVO	CA-Visual Objects files
LIGHTLIB\HELP	Help files for all Light Lib products
LIGHTLIB\MSVB	Microsoft Visual Basic files
LIGHTLIB\MSVC	Microsoft Visual C++ files
LIGHTLIB\MSVC\RES	Microsoft Visual C++ resource files
LIGHTLIB\SAMPLES	Sample Light Lib EXEs and Data
LIGHTLIB\SYSTEM	DLLs for all Light Lib products

DLLs and Windows

Any Light Lib product installation automatically copies several DLLs and VBXs to your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM sub-directory. The Light Lib files all have "LL" as a prefix.

Language Extensions

All Light Lib products are compatible with any Windows programming language able to call a DLL or access a VBX. In addition to this we have provided extensive native language support for several popular languages with plans to extend the following list in the near future.

CA-Visual Objects
Microsoft Visual Basic
Microsoft Visual C++

Before using any Light Lib product, you will need to review the individual language WRI files found in each language sub-directory (\CAVO, \MSVB and \MSVC) for specific language installation and implementation information.

Light Lib Objects

Light Lib Objects is not another Light Lib product. LLO manages memory allocation and the proper creation and deletion of all objects within the Light Lib DLLs themselves. Every Light Lib product for Windows relies on this support DLL. Please review the specific language implementation carefully because the usage of LLO differs slightly from language to language.

LLO provides object-oriented technology to languages that do not support object-oriented programming. In addition to standard OOP features such as inheritance, polymorphism, and encapsulation, LLO implements advanced OOP concepts such as inheriting from the owner class which is not the immediate parent! The following is an example:

ABSTRACT Class - GRAPH Class

ABSTRACT Class - COLUMN Class

There is no relationship between the GRAPH Class and the COLUMN Class. However, if a method or property is not available in an instance of the COLUMN Class, LLO will not use the ABSTRACT parent class definition, which is how OOP systems work today. Instead, LLO is able to use the class Owner's definition which could, for example, be a GRAPH.

Other advanced OOP features supported are dynamic class creation, BLOB aggregation and much more. To give you an idea of LLO's flexibility and power, LLO has allowed us to use the exact same code base found in LLB for Windows to create LLB for DOS. LLO has given us the ability to port our Windows libraries to DOS.

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