

Object Thing demonstration.

Object Thing is a productivity tool for application developers. It was conceived on the premise that the most productive developers do not reinvent the wheel but instead use copy and paste to reuse code and controls wherever possible.

With this demonstration of Object Thing you will be able to select and retrieve pre-fabricated "objects" (controls and or code) from an access database and then drag and drop then directly into Visual Basic, Access, Excel, Word, Resource Workshop or Delphi. Each of the stored "objects" was authored using a separate application, "Workbench" which has not been supplied with this demonstration.

How to use this demonstration.

To use this demonstration program you will need the following files which have not been included to save space.

VBRUN300.DLL	- VB run time engine
MSABC100.DLL	- ACCESS compatibility layer
MSAJT200.DLL	
VBDB300.DLL	
MSAJT112.DLL	

Optionally you will also require Visual Basic(Ver 3 or 4) or MS Access 2 ,Borlands Resource Workshop or Borlands' Delphi to use the samples contained in their respective topics in the supplied library. If you are unable to use this demonstration for any reason but would like to see more of the products please contact the author at the address given at the end of this document. Enquires from distributors are also welcome.

1. Using Object Thing with Visual Basic.

Start Visual Basic and open a new form and display it in design mode on the screen.

Start Object Thing. Note that Object Thing stays on top of other running applications so that they are always in view.

Click the Select button and choose a topic from the Topics drop down combo.
Choose a topic that matches the version of Visual Basic that you are using.
Click the Apply button to retrieve your selection and return to the object listing grid.

Next target the window that will receive objects from the library by pressing the target button.

After pressing the target button move the mouse pointer over the title bar of the Visual Basic form that you opened previously. As you move the mouse over your screen Object Thing detects which of the windows it passes over can accept objects from the library and the target window's title bar is flashed. To set the target window click on its title bar while it is flashing. The title bar of the target window flashes continuously while it is being targeted by Object Thing.

Next select an item from the library by highlighting it in the list.

Hold down the right mouse button over the object selection grid. A target name must first have been selected. The Mouse cursor will change first to an arrow, to indicate that drop drag is active and then to the no drop icon until the mouse is moved over the target container.

Release the right mouse button only when the mouse cursor has changed to an arrow.

Sit back and watch.....

Hey presto..... the object that you selected from the list is pasted into the target form.

(Unable to display image)

With just a few mouse clicks a complete working form can be created from existing stock objects that you have stored in the Object Library.

An easy to use Workbench application is supplied with the commercial product to allow developers to create and maintain their own objects or to browse existing applications for reusable components that can be stored for later use.

Note that each "object" can contain more than the one VB control. This allows you to make complex objects that are composed of a number of VB controls. eg you might like to combine a spin button with a text box to give a readout of values from the spin control or you might like to create objects that contain all of the controls that make a stand alone dialog.

2. Using Object Thing with MS Access

Start MS Access and open a new , empty table.

Start Object Thing. Note that Object Thing stays on top of other running applications so that they are always in view.

Select the Access Contacts Table Example from the Topics list and then press the Apply button.

Next target the window that will receive objects from the library by pressing the target button. (the empty table that you created above.)

After pressing the target button move the mouse pointer over the title bar of the Access table that you opened previously(the table design window must not be maximised if it is to be targeted. As you move the mouse over your screen Object Thing detects which of the windows it passes over can accept objects from the library and the target window's title bar is flashed. To set the target window click on its title bar while it is flashing. The title bar of the target window flashes continuously while it is being targeted by Object Thing.

Next select Contacts_Tab from the object list grid.

Hold down the right mouse button over the object selection grid. A target name must first have been selected. The Mouse cursor will change first to an arrow, to indicate that drop drag is active and then to the no drop icon untill the mouse is moved over the target container.

Release the right mouse button only when the mouse cursor has changed to an arrow.

Sit back and watch.....

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Hey presto..... the Contacts_Tab Object, complete with all of its properties that you selected from the list is pasted into the target table.

Complete tables can be pasted into access by storing collections of Table rows in the Object Library. Note also that that this is somewhat faster than the Access table wizard and that also all of the field properties (including captions, comments) are pasted whereas the wizards only generate field name,type and size parameters. You can also store Type definitions for your table rows, that way you are able to document you table structure requirments in VB or other language.

Open a new empty access form.

Select the Access Calendar example from the topics combo and then apply your selection.

Open the forms code window.

Next target the window that will receive objects from the library by pressing the target button.

Select each of the Functions and subroutines that are listed in the Access Calendar Example.

Drag and drop each individually into the target code window.

Next target the form window that will receive the Access form controls from the library by pressing the target button.

Drag and drop the Calendar_Dialog object from the Object Thing object list to the targeted Access form.

The form is now ready to run.

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Other IDE's

Object Thing is able to paste the following IDE's :

- Microsoft Visual Basic (Version 3 and 4)
- Microsoft Access (Version 2+)
- Microsoft Paintbrush
- Microsoft Word (Version 5 +)
- Microsoft Notepad
- Microsoft Excel
- Borland Delphi
- Borland Resource Workshop
- Borland Image Editor

Unfortunately you cannot do things like paste a VB control into a Delphi form, but you can drag and drop text or images into Word Documents. Some example objects have been supplied with this demonstration library. Just follow the instructions detailed above for VB and Access "Objects". So for Delphi

Select your target window (a Delphi form or unit) .

Select your "Object" from the listing and with the right mouse drag and drop the "Object" into the target Delphi form (etc).

About

This is a demonstration copy of "Object Thing". A licensed copy of Object Thing can be purchased from :

Eye Can Publishing and Consulting
PO Box 501

**Dee Why Beach Sydney 2099
Australia.**

or

Phone : 061 02 9982 5750

Fax : 061 02 439 2379

Compuserve # : 100017,222

CIS Registration Id : 8177 (GO SWREG)

Price List : November 1995

Name	Code	Description	Price(USD)
Object Thing	001	Single Object Thing license	\$80
Object LibraryP	002	License for Object Thing and Workbench + 4000 Object Library	\$249
FDW	003	Form design wizard for Visual Basic (v3+)	\$80
Toolbars	101	Library of Common Toolbars	\$20
Buttons	102	Library of custom buttons	\$20
Countries	103	Library of Country Icons	\$20
Graphs	104	Library of Graph Styles	\$20
Favourite Things	105	Library of favourite things	\$20
Textures	106	Library of form background textures.	\$20