

Contents

Chapter 1 : Introduction

| | |
|---|------|
| Welcome to South Seas Adventures! | 1-1 |
| Using the Integrated Development Environment | 1-4 |
| Creating the Application Building Blocks..... | 1-5 |
| What You Should Know | 1-6 |
| What Are Objects? | 1-6 |
| What Can Objects Do? | 1-6 |
| How Are Objects Defined? | 1-7 |
| How Are Objects Created and Destroyed? | 1-7 |
| How Do Objects Interact? | 1-7 |
| When Does It All Begin and End?..... | 1-8 |
| How Are Objects Used in South Seas Adventures?..... | 1-8 |
| South Seas Adventures Application Design | 1-10 |
| Creating the Primary Building Blocks | 1-10 |
| Data Tables, Servers, and Fields..... | 1-10 |
| Data Windows | 1-12 |
| Shell and Dialog Windows | 1-13 |
| Window Controls | 1-13 |
| Application Menus | 1-14 |
| Event Handlers | 1-14 |
| Reports | 1-15 |
| Help Systems..... | 1-16 |
| Icons, Cursors, and Draw Objects..... | 1-16 |
| Linking the Primary Building Blocks | 1-17 |
| Completing the Remaining Building Blocks..... | 1-18 |
| Developer-Coded Entities | 1-19 |
| System-Generated Entities | 1-19 |
| Linking the Remaining Building Blocks | 1-20 |
| Begin Your South Seas Adventure..... | 1-22 |

Chapter 2 : Exploring the CA-Visual Objects Integrated Development Environment

| | |
|---|------|
| Objective | 2-1 |
| Overview | 2-1 |
| Choosing a Directory Structure | 2-2 |
| The South Seas Directory Structure | 2-3 |
| Creating Path-Independent Applications | 2-4 |
| The CA-Visual Objects Repository | 2-4 |
| Application Component Hierarchy | 2-5 |
| Automated Make and Entity-Level Compiling | 2-5 |
| Grouping Your Entities into Modules | 2-6 |
| Module Design Considerations | 2-6 |
| Module Naming Conventions | 2-7 |
| Exercise | 2-9 |
| Using the Application Browser | 2-9 |
| Importing the Application | 2-12 |
| Configuring Your Application Environment | 2-13 |
| Application Properties | 2-13 |
| Compiler Options | 2-15 |
| Using the Module and Entity Browsers | 2-16 |
| Using the Class Browser | 2-19 |
| Building the Application | 2-21 |
| Running the Application | 2-22 |
| Running the Program Dynamically | 2-23 |
| Creating and Running an Executable File | 2-24 |
| Summary | 2-25 |

Chapter 3 : Working with Data Servers

| | |
|--|------|
| Objective | 3-1 |
| Overview | 3-1 |
| Exercise | 3-3 |
| Creating a Customer Data Server | 3-3 |
| Invoking the DB Server Editor | 3-3 |
| Importing a .DBF File | 3-5 |
| Importing an Index | 3-7 |
| Saving the Data Server | 3-9 |
| Creating an SQL Server | 3-10 |
| Installing ODBC Drivers | 3-12 |
| The ODBC Administrator | 3-14 |
| Using the SQL Editor | 3-16 |
| Attaching a Data Server to a Data Window | 3-19 |
| Programming with Servers | 3-20 |
| Importing a Support Module | 3-20 |
| Viewing the Server Source Code | 3-21 |
| Running the Application | 3-22 |
| Event Notification | 3-23 |
| Client Data Windows | 3-23 |
| Child Servers | 3-25 |
| Manual Notification | 3-26 |
| Broadcast Message Activation | 3-27 |
| Summary | 3-30 |

Chapter 4 : Defining Field Specifications

| | |
|--|------|
| Objective | 4-1 |
| Overview | 4-1 |
| Exercise | 4-2 |
| Creating and Modifying Field Specifications | 4-2 |
| Planning Data Server Field Properties | 4-4 |
| Attaching a Field Spec to a Data Server Field | 4-6 |
| Creating Field Specs from the DB Server Editor | 4-8 |
| Summary | 4-10 |

Chapter 5 : Creating and Using Windows

| | |
|---|------|
| Objective | 5-1 |
| Overview | 5-2 |
| Single Document Interface Applications | 5-2 |
| Multiple Document Interface Applications | 5-6 |
| Shell Windows | 5-7 |
| Dialog Windows | 5-7 |
| Child Application Windows | 5-8 |
| Using the Window Editor | 5-10 |
| MDI Windows and Menus | 5-10 |
| Data Windows | 5-11 |
| Server Use | 5-11 |
| Data Propagation | 5-11 |
| Master Detail Option | 5-12 |
| Form and Browse View | 5-13 |
| Data Validation | 5-13 |
| Action Methods | 5-14 |
| Concurrency Control | 5-14 |
| Disconnected Controls | 5-16 |
| Exercise | 5-17 |
| Viewing an MDI Application | 5-17 |
| The Shell Window | 5-17 |
| Subclassing Your Windows | 5-18 |
| Creating a Modal Dialog Box | 5-21 |
| Warning Box Modal Dialog Windows | 5-21 |
| Retrieving Values from Modal Dialog Windows | 5-22 |
| Creating a Data Window | 5-25 |
| Importing a Support Module | 5-25 |
| Creating a Data Window Template | 5-25 |
| Designing Your Window Layout | 5-27 |
| Adding a Push Button | 5-28 |
| Compiling and Testing Your Changes | 5-30 |
| Summary | 5-32 |

Chapter 6 : Adding Controls to Your Windows

| | |
|--|------|
| Objective | 6-1 |
| Overview | 6-1 |
| Exercise | 6-3 |
| Single-Line Edit (SLE) Controls | 6-3 |
| Multi Line Edit (MLE) Controls | 6-4 |
| Creating the MLE Control | 6-5 |
| Viewing Your Results | 6-7 |
| Combo Box Controls | 6-7 |
| Check Box Controls | 6-11 |
| Radio Button and Radio Button Group Controls | 6-13 |
| List Box Controls | 6-17 |
| Group Box Controls | 6-22 |
| Fixed Icon Controls | 6-23 |
| Push Button Controls | 6-25 |
| Programming Techniques | 6-28 |
| Tab and Group Stops | 6-28 |
| Control Order and Multiple Groups | 6-31 |
| Naming Controls | 6-32 |
| Summary | 6-33 |

Chapter 7 : Inheritance and Subclassing

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Objective | 7-1 |
| Overview | 7-1 |
| Exercise | 7-5 |
| Summary | 7-10 |

Chapter 8 : Creating Menus and Toolbars

| | |
|---|------|
| Objective | 8-1 |
| Overview | 8-1 |
| Exercise | 8-2 |
| Creating a New Module | 8-2 |
| Creating the Menu | 8-3 |
| Using Auto Layout | 8-4 |
| Previewing Your Menu | 8-5 |
| Collapsing/Expanding the Menu Structure | 8-6 |
| Adding an Item to the Hierarchy | 8-7 |
| Changing the Hierarchy of a Menu Item | 8-8 |
| Removing Menu Items from the Hierarchy | 8-9 |
| Specifying Menu Actions to Perform | 8-9 |
| Providing Menu Short Cuts | 8-11 |
| Checking a Menu Item | 8-12 |
| Creating a Toolbar | 8-13 |
| Changing Toolbar Button Positions | 8-16 |
| Spacing Between Toolbar Buttons | 8-16 |
| Other Modifications to the Toolbar | 8-17 |
| Saving the Menu | 8-18 |
| Attaching a Menu to a Data Window | 8-18 |
| Putting it All Together | 8-20 |
| Designing a Menu | 8-21 |
| Customizing a Menu | 8-21 |
| Disabling Menu Items | 8-22 |
| Editing Toolbar Buttons | 8-22 |
| Summary | 8-24 |

Chapter 9 : Accessing and Updating Data

| | |
|---|------|
| Objective | 9-1 |
| Overview | 9-1 |
| Narrative | 9-2 |
| Xbase Compatibility | 9-2 |
| Access and Assign Methods | 9-3 |
| Generated Data Server Classes | 9-5 |
| Base DBServer and SQL Classes | 9-6 |
| Data Windows | 9-7 |
| Data Servers Attached to Data Windows | 9-9 |
| Controls | 9-9 |
| Summary | 9-12 |

Chapter 10 : Customizing Window Event Handlers

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Objective | 10-1 |
| Overview | 10-1 |
| Exercise | 10-3 |
| Summary | 10-18 |

Chapter 11 : Working with Icons and Cursors

| | |
|--|------|
| Objective | 11-1 |
| Overview | 11-1 |
| Exercise | 11-2 |
| Creating an Icon | 11-3 |
| Saving the Icon | 11-6 |
| Attaching Icons to Data Windows | 11-7 |
| Labeling Your Application with an Icon | 11-8 |
| Icons in the Program Group | 11-9 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Attaching Icons to Shell Windows | 11-10 |
| Displaying an Icon on a Window | 11-11 |
| Using Predefined Cursors | 11-12 |
| Creating and Modifying Cursors | 11-13 |
| Summary | 11-17 |

Chapter 12 : Working with Draw Objects

| | |
|--|-------|
| Objective | 12-1 |
| Overview | 12-1 |
| Exercise | 12-3 |
| Making the Dialog Box Resizable | 12-3 |
| The Resize Event..... | 12-6 |
| Using Bitmaps..... | 12-8 |
| Declaring a .BMP File as a Resource | 12-8 |
| Creating a Bitmap Object | 12-9 |
| Using a Bitmap Object to Draw a Bitmap on a Window | 12-11 |
| Using Text Objects | 12-13 |
| Dynamic Positioning of Controls | 12-14 |
| Viewing the Results in the Application | 12-15 |
| Summary | 12-16 |

Chapter 13 : Reporting with CA-RET

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Objective | 13-1 |
| Overview | 13-1 |
| Exercise | 13-1 |
| Starting the Report Editor | 13-2 |
| A Quick Tour..... | 13-4 |
| Adding Your Personal Touch | 13-4 |
| Saving Your Work | 13-9 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Running Your Report Within Your Application | 13-9 |
| Report Parameters | 13-11 |
| Passing Parameters to CA-RET from CA-Visual Objects | 13-15 |
| Verifying the Results | 13-18 |
| Summary | 13-20 |

Chapter 14 : Debugging Your Application

| | |
|--|-------|
| Objective | 14-1 |
| Error Browser Exercise | 14-1 |
| Importing a Module with Errors | 14-2 |
| Resolving the Errors | 14-3 |
| Debugger Exercise | 14-7 |
| Viewing the Error | 14-8 |
| Setting Debugging On | 14-9 |
| Setting Debugging at the Module Level | 14-10 |
| Setting Debugging at the Entity Level | 14-11 |
| Running the Application Using the Debugger | 14-12 |
| Locating the Bug | 14-14 |
| Setting a Breakpoint | 14-15 |
| Evaluating Expressions | 14-16 |
| Tracing into a Module | 14-17 |
| Modifying Variables | 14-19 |
| Correcting the Error | 14-20 |
| Summary | 14-22 |

Chapter 15 : Adding Help to Your Applications

| | |
|--|-------|
| Objective | 15-1 |
| Overview | 15-1 |
| Context-Sensitive Help | 15-2 |
| Exercise | 15-3 |
| Implementing Context-Sensitive Help | 15-3 |
| Attaching Your Help File | 15-3 |
| Help for a Window | 15-5 |
| Help for Controls | 15-6 |
| Help for a Menu Command | 15-7 |
| Invoking Context-Sensitive Help | 15-8 |
| Help for the Window | 15-9 |
| Help for a Control | 15-10 |
| Help for a Menu Command | 15-11 |
| Implementing Direct Calls to Help | 15-12 |
| Menu Commands | 15-12 |
| Push Button Controls | 15-14 |
| Event Processing by Name | 15-15 |
| Invoking Help Using Menu Commands and Push Buttons | 15-16 |
| Creating Help Files | 15-18 |
| Topic Files | 15-18 |
| Project File | 15-19 |
| Graphic Files | 15-19 |
| Summary | 15-20 |

Chapter 16 : Using Windows API Functions

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Objective | 16-1 |
| Overview | 16-1 |
| Exercise | 16-5 |
| Windows Memory Information | 16-6 |
| Windows Metric Information | 16-8 |
| Profile Functions | 16-9 |
| Loop Processing | 16-13 |
| Summary | 16-19 |

Chapter 17 : Using Libraries and Dynamic Link Libraries

| | |
|---|-------|
| Objective | 17-1 |
| Overview | 17-1 |
| Libraries | 17-1 |
| Dynamic Link Libraries | 17-2 |
| Exercise | 17-3 |
| Creating and Using a Library | 17-3 |
| Creating a New Library Application | 17-4 |
| Moving Modules Between Applications | 17-5 |
| Building the Library | 17-6 |
| Speeding Up Library Processing | 17-7 |
| Using the Library | 17-7 |
| Creating and Using a DLL | 17-8 |
| Creating a New DLL Application | 17-8 |
| Using a DLL | 17-9 |
| Creating a .DLL File | 17-10 |
| Using a CA-Visual Objects .DLL | 17-11 |
| Creating and Using a Foreign-Hosted DLL | 17-13 |
| Summary | 17-14 |

Chapter 18 : Distributing Your Application

| | |
|---|-------|
| Objective | 18-1 |
| Overview | 18-1 |
| Exercise | 18-2 |
| Modifying SSA.INI Settings | 18-2 |
| Generating the Executable | 18-4 |
| Using the Install Maker | 18-4 |
| Specifying Other Files for Installation | 18-7 |
| Specifying File Properties | 18-8 |
| Creating a Project File | 18-9 |
| Creating and Testing the Distribution Disks | 18-11 |
| Summary | 18-11 |

Appendix A: Creating a Path-Independent Application

| | |
|---|-----|
| Overview | A-1 |
| Establishing Drive and Directory Independence | A-2 |
| Help Files | A-4 |
| DB Server Data Files | A-5 |
| Report Files | A-6 |
| Icon, Cursor, and Bitmap Files | A-7 |
| Summary | A-8 |