DinkClass is a small Think C5.0 (and MPW C++) application framework for system 7 applications. It was developed in part to help define a process model and associated documentation standard for the way object oriented software is developed. The process model and documentation standard are developed from the maintenance programmer's point of view. The process model turns out to be a model of the manner in which features are added to an existing body of code, and is virtually identical to Grady Booch's "Round-Trip Gestalt Design" discussed in his book Object Oriented Design with Applications. The documentation standard is geared toward the maintenance of the feature set of a body of code, and not the code itself.

Because the process model and documentation standard where derived as the class library was maturing only the key features are documented in accordance with the standard. It is also clear that the documentation was developed after the feature has been implemented. However, you will find that this documentation is refreshing in that it explains the concepts and implementation behind the features with in DinkClass.

I offer DinkClass because the other available class libraries either lacked inspiration or where complex without good enough documentation for us mortals to comprehend and use. How many months of evening effort have you put into understanding ThinkClass or MacApp enough to develop an application with them? It wasn't until I landed a full time job developing a MacApp/C++ commercial application developer that I got the idea behind these class libraries. I hope that DinkClass will help others to make the leap into OOP and using these more sophisticated class libraries possible for more programmers and hobbyists.

DinkClass is now offered as shareware. Licence:
If you use ANY of it in your own software, then you must pay a one time fee to Applied Technical Software (ATS) of $45. In return you will get unlimited rights to distribute any COMPILED programs created using part of DinkClass source code. However; the distribution of any source code derived from parts of the DinkClass software MUST BE DONE WITH APPLIED TECHNICAL SOFTWARE'S CONSENT!!!! (So, give me a call.) You also get, for the $45, two free maintenance updates of the basic class library, of the basic demo applications, of the documentation, any extra demo applications I may have created (DComDemo a CTB demo, for instance), the MPW C++ supporting files (.make, .r, .c files renamed to .cp, etc.), and telephone and EMail support. Maintenance updates go out in December and July.

The DinkClass ShareWare distribution package includes:
• Think C 5.0 projects with well commented source code for 2 applications and the Template project.
• Think C 5.0 source files for the base class library.
• Off-line documentation of the key features implemented in the class library, all conforming to the Feature Oriented Documentation standard developed. Features documented in this way include:
All the applications, Scrolling Windows, Event parsing, File and I/O handling, Clip board support, Menu Handling, and more.
• This readme file.
• A directory "Listings" file of what constitutes this ShareWare distribution.
• A shameless flier soliciting contract software development work for ATS.
• The executable form of the CTB demo application.

• A "Posting note"
ALL OF THESE FILES MUST STAY TOGETHER UNALTERED IN ANY RE-TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS SHAREWARE PACKAGE!!!!!

Make $45 checks to:
Applied Technical Software
19548 W. Cambridge Rd.
Mundelein, IL 60060-1005
Telephone: 708.949.0925

To install the package place the DinkClass folder in the folder where the THINKC application is, and place the demo folders wherever you like to place your development code.

A note on the debugging tricks built into the base class:
We've attempted to provide useful debugging tools in the root class. The only requirement is that you have a debugger installed on your machine to use it effectively. It was developed assuming that MacsBug has been installed. If that causes problems get a copy and install it.

Some good references for MacsBug usage are "How to Write Macintosh Software" third edition by Scott Knaster, and "MacsBug Reference and Debugging Guide" by Apple computer.

Thank you for your support,
Mark Gross 12/31/92

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Software engineering services in OOD, OOP, C++, C, MacApp, TCL, MPW, ThinkC.
Initial project development intended for transfer to client with continued technical support. Turnkey, prototype, and consulting projects accepted.

I know, its another shameless plug.

p.s. If you would like to use DinkClass in an educational setting contact me for FREE transient licensing arrangements.