

Book Review:

Delphi Programming For Dummies by Neil Rubenking

Neil Rubenking has worked very closely with Borland when writing this book. That's probably the reason why it's among the first to ship, and a rather good one too.

It assumes nothing, only that you've got a computer and a copy of Delphi. Neil believes that the best way of learning Delphi is by doing, so a lot of the stuff in the book requires you working at the computer. Not typing long listings of code, mind you, but simply dropping and arranging a component or two on a form, modifying a property or two, writing one or two lines of code, and hey presto a file editor, Towers of Hanoi puzzle, database system, DDE/OLE links and so on.

If you think this sounds rather complex, don't worry, as Neil will take you by the hand and show you exactly what to do (and what not to

do). The book will make sure you get results right away, while you can learn the technical stuff later on (if you want to, that is).

The book is divided into five parts. The first part helps you to install and set up Delphi most effectively, and introduces Delphi and the visual tools. The second part covers basic VCL components. The third part covers advanced components, such as the data-aware, DDE and OLE components. All include detailed (and yet easy to build) examples that'll teach you the internals right away. The fourth part (called 'Real Programming') introduces some Object Pascal concepts, as well as exceptions and debugging.

The final part is more a description of common tips, techniques and pitfalls with Delphi or programming for Windows in

general, which helps prepare you for further exploration of Delphi.

Although the first two or three chapters might be a little slow for experienced Windows or Delphi programmers, the last two might even offer these programmers something to learn. There's no code disk included, as most of the code consists of just a few lines.

If you want to get up to speed with Delphi now, just get this book and work through it. It will take a few days (from cover to cover), but it'll be worth it. Don't let the title fool you, I'm not ashamed to admit I've read this book!

380 pages total, priced US\$19.99 or in the UK £18.99, *Delphi Programming For Dummies* by Neil Rubenking is published by IDG Books. ISBN: 1-56884-200-7.