

Book Review: Delphi Unleashed by Charlie Calvert

This is a very extensive book, both in pages (almost 1000) and coverage (discussing databases in some detail). It comes with a CD with about 20 megabytes of information, including Delphi related demo products. The book is aimed at Delphi and Delphi Client/Server programmers ranging from casual to experienced. It has been written as a teaching tool, which means the amount of text is huge – great for beginners, but it's harder to find your way around if you are more experienced.

The architecture and style of the book clearly reveals the background of the author. Charlie currently works for Borland, but he has been a teacher, journalist and programmer. This background shows not only in the structure of the book (it starts by introducing the Delphi environment, and there follows more than 300 pages devoted to programming) but also by the writing style. Readily understandable metaphors are

used where possible. Sometimes there is even too much 'extra' information.

Charlie then goes on with the database stuff that even covers the Interbase database server, although understandably not every database topic can be covered.

Starting with Part V, the book moves onto more advanced topics: components, event handling and object oriented programming are explored using lots of samples. Actually, the whole book has dozens of samples and there are even more on the CD-ROM.

The last part covers using DDE clients and servers, OLE clients and multimedia programming. Then it goes into DLLs (remember the trouble with OWL and DLLs? VCL is much easier!) followed by exception handling, multimedia programming using the MCI and wraps up by discussing 'the art of programming'.

The indexer has done a good job: the index is large enough to find

what you need in a reasonable time without including too many loosely related items.

If you'd like a broad coverage of Delphi and enjoy reading books that explain a lot more things than programming alone, then this book is for you. If you want 10Mb of sample Delphi code, then the included CD-ROM is for you.

Reviewed by Jeroen Pluimers, a freelance Delphi trainer, developer and consultant who lives in The Netherlands and can be reached on the internet as jeroenp@dragons.nest.nl or on CompuServe as 100013,1443

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