Book Review: Delphi Programming Problem Solver by Neil Rubenking

This is not a book about problems, but a book about solutions to problems you often didn't even know you had. It's for both Delphi 1 and 2 and is meant for 'advanced' users, who want to extend their normal use of Delphi. It assumes you've read some books about Delphi (or even the manuals if you are brave!) and are now ready to take on some real-world applications, with real-world problems. Problems that require real-world solutions. This is most welcome – I believe that this type of book will become very popular for real-world Delphi users!

At 604 pages, the book is again of the Rubenking standard, offering advice, tips, solutions, background information, stuffed full of all kinds of gems of knowledge. It comprises five major parts: Forms, Components, Database Programming, Inside Delphi and Windows Programming. Each chapter offers solutions to several problems, including the full source code, background information, extra tips and screen shots of an example program.

From the list of topics you'll find that the book doesn't cover all possible topics (there is nothing on reporting and only limited database stuff), but what's in there is definitely worth the price. A disk is included with the source code for all the examples.

The book can be used in two ways: either you can read it from cover to cover, or you can browse it and keep the table of contents at hand for when you're facing a problem and need a solution. Unlike *Delphi How-To*, another book based on the problem/solution model, this book is focussed on solutions rather than problems. So, you might find tips and ideas for things you didn't even know were possible (let alone a 'problem').

If you're looking for an in-depth problem solving book on data-bases or the BDE, then this isn't it. This book focusses on creative solutions for Delphi VCL with some ObjectPascal and general Windows API material. If you liked *Delphi for Dummies* and the idea of *Delphi How-To*, then you'll love this book for sure. I know I've found my new favourite Delphi book and it's gonna stay chained to my desk this time! I'm hoping Neil will start Volume 2 real soon now...

Scores out of 5:

Technical contents:	5
Quality of writing:	5
Value for money:	5
Overall assessment:	5