Book Review:
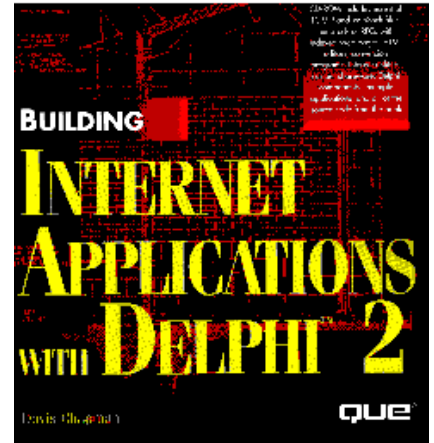## Building Internet Applications With Delphi 2

by Davis Chapman

This book assumes you know your way around Delphi: a welcome fact in my view, since there are plenty of other books around that will introduce you to Delphi.

The contents include just about everything there is to know about the internet. From TCP/IP, WinSock, RFC, FTP, e-mail, news, uuencoding and also the highly popular World Wide Web and HTML of course. You'll learn how to write Delphi software that supports all these features, including CGI applications that generate HTML pages on the fly, and calling the Netscape APIs.

The book is divided into four parts, including one part with five appendices. The first part, *Introduction to Internet Application Programming*, is both the introduction and the foundation. You may skip this part (if you're not interested or are in a hurry to get on), but I found it very interesting to read.

The second part, *Building Basic Internet Applications* is about building such things as an FTP client and server, SMPT and POP e-mail clients and an internet news reader. There is also a chapter on uuencoding and uudecoding, but I found that one to be more complex than needed (I prefer my own version, see Issue 5).

The third part, *World Wide Web Programming* is probably what most readers will turn to first. Here you can learn all about the Web: http, HTML etc. The book shows how to write CGI applications in Delphi and how to use the Borland Database Engine in a CGI application. Note that CGI depends on the specific Web Server used, and in this case it's WebSite 1.00 from O'Reilly. I found a few things that needed to be changed for the Windows NT Information Server.

The chapters that follow deal with topics such as how to write a Web robot that verifies your links and even how to write your own Web Server. I didn't really try that one, but it's interesting to read. There's also a chapter on internet security and finally one about using the Netscape Browser and Server APIs using DDE and OLE (this is of course only needed if you know your browser and/or server will be Netscape).

I consider this book to be a valuable and very complete source of information for anyone writing internet applications using Delphi! If you don't want to step over to Java, or just want to add e-mail capabilities to your application, then this book will be a good place to start. For CGI programming it's important to know that your CGI app will be dependent on the Web Server that you use, but that's the only compatibility issue I found. The book *can* be used with both Delphi 1 and 2 by the way.

Scores out of 5:

Technical contents:	5
Quality of writing:	4
Value for money:	4
Overall assessment:	4

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