

# News

## Delphi RAD Pack

Borland have announced a new add-on package for Delphi developers: the RAD Pack. Available from 1st June, it includes:

- Complete VCL source code.
- Resource Workshop for extracting and modifying Windows resources such as icons, cursors, bitmaps etc.
- Resource Expert to convert Windows resource scripts into Delphi forms.
- Printed Language Reference Guide for Delphi.
- Turbo Debugger for Windows (with compatibility fixes for Delphi).
- Visual Solutions Pack collection of VBXs, as reviewed in Issue 1 of The Delphi Magazine.

The RRP in the United Kingdom is £149 plus VAT.

## Online Delphi Documentation

After having their corporate ears well and truly chewed by Delphi users, Borland quickly set to work producing a VCL Reference Guide and Language Reference Guide for Delphi. Printed versions are in the works and should be available for purchase from Borland by the time you read this.

However, Borland have also already made available electronic versions of these documents, in Adobe Acrobat format in the DELPHI forum on CompuServe in the *From Borland* library section. Beware, though, the files are very large! (they took nearly an hour to download at 14,400bps). Some user groups (like the Delphi Developers' Group in the UK) are making the files available to members for the cost of the diskettes and postage.

## More Delphi Shareware

EMS Professional Shareware in the USA produce a range of CD-ROMS of shareware and freeware specifically for developers. Their new Pascal CD contains a range of Delphi material. See EMS's advert on page 6 for contact details.

## Accounting For Delphi

ColumbuSoft, of Columbus, Ohio in the United States, now have a Delphi version of their accounting software modules, including: general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, order entry (including invoicing, orders and quotations), purchasing, inventory, fixed assets and payroll. Job costing is due to be added soon.

The modules are solid, well tested, batch-oriented and are easy to call from most applications. European developers will be interested to know that there is some VAT support, but ColumbuSoft are aiming to enhance this area.

The idea is you licence the software for inclusion in your own programs (\$500 for the first module plus \$250 for each additional one, payable as a one-time fee), which means you don't have to reinvent the wheel! The database files are .DBFs, reflecting the software's Clipper origins.

For a fully-functional demo contact Paul Ferrara at ColumbuSoft, Tel: +1 (614) 885 7789, Fax: +1 (614) 2077, Email: 76702.556@compuserve.com

## Delphi Training

A number of companies are now offering Delphi training. Here's a run-down of some we know about in the United Kingdom:

- > Buchanan International (see advertisement on page 33).
- > The Delphi Developers' Group organise training and seminars, including an introductory Pascal course for those new to the language. Call Joanna Pooley on +44 (0)1980 630032 for further details. Members get a substantial discount!
- > FMI Limited in London do a 5-day Application Development Course and a 2-day Advanced Delphi Course (with an emphasis on Object Pascal and Component Design). Call them on +44 (0)171 432 3281 or Fax: +44 (0)171 432 3282.
- > Focus Training & Development (see their advertisement on page 23).
- > Kibworth Computer Training provide Delphi courses for up

to four delegates, near Market Harborough in Leicestershire or on-site. An introductory day is a free option with these 4-day comprehensive tutorials. The cost is £1,500 plus VAT. For more details call Eric Richards on +44 (0)116 279 2653.

Also, Plumiers Software Ontwikkeling is the first company to give Delphi classes in The Netherlands. For details contact course leader Jeroen Plumiers (*Congratulations on the new venture Jeroen!*) Tel: +31 20 659 2449, Email: jeroenp@dragons.nest.nl or via CompuServe 100013,1443

If your company offers Delphi training do let us know, so we can pass on the information to our readers.

## Database Auditing

SoftWerk UK are distributing WizRule for Windows, a database auditing tool which is claimed to discover rules and errors in a database.

It can read xBase and Paradox files directly and more or less anything else via ODBC. Sounds clever! The cost is £330 plus VAT. Demo diskettes are available, along with further information, from Softwerk UK, Tel: +44 (0)1462 832244, Fax: +44 (0)1462 832288.

## Free Software From TurboPower

Well, not quite, but you can obtain trial-run versions of their Orpheus and Async Professional products which are fully functional but only work when Delphi is running.

The final version of Orpheus is expected to ship in June (see TurboPower's ad on page 14, which also contains full contact details). Async Professional for Delphi is due to ship in July, there will be a free upgrade available for users of the existing APro for Windows.

The trial-run versions of both products can be downloaded from the CompuServe PCVENB (Library 6) and DELPHI (Library 22) forums, or by internet ftp from rmii.com:/pub2/turbopower/tpsfiles or from the TurboPower BBS on +1 (719) 260 9726. The filenames

are ORPHTR.EXE for Orpheus and APDTR.EXE for APro.

If you think the Borland Database Engine is too large and cumbersome, you may also be interested to know that a Delphi-compatible version of B-Tree Filer is in the works at TurboPower. They are also hoping to be able to integrate the new version with Delphi's data-aware controls.

## Professional Body For Developers

United Kingdom readers may have heard of the Institution of Analysts & Programmers, which is based in London, but others might not be aware that it also caters for professionals outside the United Kingdom. They have members in 60 countries.

Member's benefits include a newsletter, advice, entries in the Directory and in the Register of Consultants. For information, write to The Secretary, The Institution of Analysts & Programmers, Charles House, 36 Culmington Road, London W13 9NH, United Kingdom.

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## Information Please!

If you have products or services relevant to Delphi developers we want to hear about them! Send your information to us at the address on page 46 (or by fax or email), marked for the attention of the Editor.