

News

Delphi Upgrade Available

Borland have announced availability of an update to Delphi, known as Version 1.02 (Version 1.01 was the patch issued some while ago), which includes: better Visual dBase 5.5 compatibility, updated Borland Database Engine, updated Interbase Local Server, improved Help, Technical Information Bulletins and FAQs, Adobe Acrobat versions of the Language Reference and VCL Reference and updated ReportSmith. The Client/Server version includes Informix 5.x support, Oracle synonyms support and support for the Sybase forced index feature. Fixes to the BDE include:

- Simultaneous editing of an open Paradox table with referential integrity constraints.
- Fixed the ability to support Stored Procedures that have string parameters.
- Fixed table access problems on Lantastic 6.0 networks.
- Removed the nine parameter limitation for SQL queries.
- Fixed problems in opening Access 2.0 files through ODBC.
- DataBase Desktop can now open Watcom 4.0 tables.
- Fixed 32kb memory leak with live-query results sets and also for local queries involving joins.
- Fixed problem moving batch from ASCII fixed-length files.

In the USA, you can obtain the update by calling 1 800 453 3375 extension 1327. It's available on CD-ROM (\$5.95) or disks (\$19.95) plus \$5 shipping and handling. In the UK, the update is *free* and is available by calling 0800 973 139 (proof of purchase of Delphi 1.0 is required). In other countries, contact your local Borland office or distributor.

Mike Scott's AutoSizer

The ever-busy Mike Scott has come up with a useful set of components which allow you to set auto-sizing options for all the controls on a form or within container controls. When the form or container

From The Editor...

Good News: The Delphi Magazine Goes Monthly!

Welcome to another issue of The Delphi Magazine, which from Issue 5 (January 1996) onwards will come out monthly instead of every other month. We are also planning to increase the number of pages, so that we can get even more high quality articles, tips, news and reviews to you, to make your Delphi development even more enjoyable and fruitful.

As we've been planning and producing the last couple of issues, it has become clear from your letters, emails and faxes that you like the technical, practical nature of the magazine. So, we've decided to make it our aim to be the best *technical* Delphi publication, designed primarily for professional Delphi developers (not that we have anything against the many talented folk who program just for fun!). We hope that fits in with what *you* want out of the magazine – do let us know.

Making the move to 12 issues per year and also increasing the size and quality of the magazine does cost money, of course, and we've had to increase subscription prices. As well as our investment in the future, the increases also reflect increased printing costs brought about by continuing paper price rises, which have hit all publishers. We believe *The Delphi Magazine* still represents excellent value for money: if you develop software professionally then one issue could easily recoup more than a year's subscription cost in time saved!

Calling All Component Developers

The huge number of great new Delphi components around has a downside as well as an upside. Pretty soon users find that the new component pack they want to install has a component with an identical name to one already installed. Some common examples are TStatusBar and TAboutBox.

Can I make a suggestion: if you are designing components for wider distribution or sale, include a 2-character prefix in your component names, for example Joe Kent's TJkStatusBar rather than plain TStatusBar? Worth a thought! A number of commercial developers are doing this already, which is great. It makes it much easier to remove components too.

All Going 32-Bit?

As you will see, Dave Jewell's *Delphi Internals* column this month discusses preparing your code for Delphi32. We are planning more detailed future coverage of this topic from a source very close to the action...

However, we'd like to know to what extent readers will be continuing to develop 16 bit software after Delphi32 is available. If you want us to, we'll continue to cover this area – so let us know!

Don't forget to keep in touch with us: your comments and ideas are always very welcome.

Chris Frizelle, Editor

control resizes, so do all the controls inside it. It even works at design time! AutoSizer is available as shareware and costs £20 or \$30 to register (slightly more via CompuServe SWREG). For more details email Mike at CompuServe 100140,2420.

Acrobat Reader For NT

A number of online manuals are available for Delphi in Adobe's Acrobat format. Version 2.1 of the Acrobat Reader is now available, which works correctly in Windows NT (unlike version 2.0). It can be downloaded free from the Adobe

Applications CompuServe forum (GO ADOBEAPP).

Delphi Bug List

Mark Johnson is now looking after the Delphi bug list formerly maintained by Brad Stowers. You can check the list at the City Zoo World Wide Web site (<http://www.mindspring.com/~cityzoo/buglist/buglist.html>). You can also report new bugs. You can contact Mark on keeper@mindspring.com.

BSS Business Systems

Business Software Systems, Inc. (BSS) recently announced their *BSS Business Systems* range of accounting, distribution and manufacturing Client/Server software. BSS has been involved in developing similar custom software for their clients for nearly five years.

Thomas Miller, President of BSS, comments, "Many of our clients are using LAN based accounting systems that cost about \$1,000 per module. Most of these systems initially met the client's basic

needs and introduced them to the power and flexibility of a LAN based system. In 3 or 4 years, many of our clients out grow these products. We feel *BSS Business Systems* is the next natural step for them. Our product's features fit nicely between the basic LAN systems and the very high end Client/Server, \$50,000 to \$100,000 per module, systems."

The product line was to begin testing this summer. "We made a choice to switch mid-stream to Delphi as our development environment. This has delayed the release of our product line, but has enhanced its reliability, capability, and speed several fold," Miller comments. The system currently uses Oracle as the database engine, Crystal Reports PRO as the systems report writer and Forest & Trees as the Executive Information System.

The Standard Editions of the File Manager, General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable and Bank Book modules are due for early release by the

end of the year, with the enterprise version following in a few months. Other accounting and distribution modules will be available in the 1st and 2nd quarter of 1996. Prices start at \$995 for the Standard Edition, and \$5,000 for the Enterprise Edition. Source code is available for the Enterprise edition, which makes it especially interesting to Delphi developers looking to create customised solutions for their own clients.

Business Software Systems, Inc. are at PO Box 7416, Fairfax Station, VA 22039, USA; Tel: +1 (703) 503-5600, Fax: +1 (703) 503-7901, email: 76657.2065@compuserve.com

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 54 (or by fax or email), marked for the attention of the Editor.