

# THE Delphi

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The Delphi Magazine  
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## News

### 32-Bit InfoPower

Woll2Woll have announced that an early experience programme version of the 32-bit version of their InfoPower database components package is now available, at an upgrade price from the 16-bit version of £27 plus VAT in the UK. Although this adds no new functionality, it is fully compatible with Delphi 2.0.

The final released version will be available within 30 days of the release of Delphi 2.0. The upgrade price for users of the existing 16-bit version is £20.

### Component Create Update

Potomac Document Software of Washington, USA, have announced the availability of Version 2.0 of their tool for producing Delphi components. New features include: import of container components from form files, components which encapsulate whole forms, hidden properties, property editor registration and generation, generation of palette bitmaps, improved code editor, and choice of commenting level in the generated code.

The list price remains at \$179 in the USA. A 32-bit version of Version 2.0 is expected shortly after the release of Delphi 2.0 and registered users will receive a free upgrade.

Potomac Document Software are on Tel: 800 628 5524 (US only), Fax: +1 202 244 9065 or Email: CompuServe 71726,651

### Delphi 2.0 MasterClass

The UK Delphi Developers' Group (DDG) will be holding a one-day Delphi 2.0 MasterClass on 29th March in Hammersmith, London. Designed to help developers get a quick start in the new version, the class will be led by Brian Long, who will be well known to you all through his regular contributions to the magazine.

Topics to be covered include: compatibility with Delphi 1.0x, 32 bit compiler, Borland Database Engine 3.0, Database Explorer, the new components, Object Repository, form inheritance, OCX, OLE, threads and the Win95/NT API.

The day costs £150 plus VAT for non-members and just £75 plus VAT for members (as membership is just £100 you might as well join up too!). Demand is expected to be high.

DDG also run regular one day Object Pascal courses, at standard and advanced levels, especially designed for Delphi developers who are new to Pascal, and they are also starting a new component writing course.

For further details contact DDG on Tel: +44 (0)1980 630032, Fax: +44 (0)1980 630602 or Email them at CompuServe 100016,355

### HighEdit 3.5

HighEdit, which allows developers to add word processor functions to applications, has been around for

## Delphi 2.0 Update

Borland have been steadily releasing more news on Delphi 2.0, the new 32-bit version. There will be three products:

- > **Delphi 2.0 Desktop:** the entry level product, with the optimising 32 bit compiler, over 90 components, visual form inheritance, the Object Repository, Data Module Objects, OLE automation, OCX support, full Win95 and Windows NT API support, etc. The UK 'official selling prices' for this are expected to be: £249 for new customers, £125 for those upgrading from Delphi 1.0x (£95 until the end of May).
- > **Delphi 2.0 Developer:** adds Data Dictionary, ODBC support, advanced data aware components, VCL source, sample OCX controls, 32-bit ReportSmith, 32-bit Local Interbase Server, Open Tools API and Borland Database Engine API. Expected UK prices are: £399 for new customers, £189 for those upgrading from Delphi 1.0x (£159 until the end of May).
- > **Delphi 2.0 Client/Server:** we don't have final information yet on exactly what will be in this version (our article in the January issue on the new 32-bit BDE and associated issues gives lots of pointers). Expected UK prices are: £1279 for new customers, £1089 for those upgrading from Delphi 1.0x or from Delphi 2.0 Desktop or Delphi 2.0 Developer, £649 for those upgrading from Delphi 1.0x Client/Server Edition.

Also, we understand that anyone in the UK purchasing Delphi 1.0x now will qualify for a free upgrade (it probably applies elsewhere in the world too, but check with your local Borland office or distributor). It looks like you should expect formal product announcements and details of shipping dates very soon.

some time in the form of a VBX. The developers have finally seen the light and brought out a native Delphi component version. For more details and pricing call Bits Per Second on +44 (0)1273 727119.

### No More Install Blues

Someone else who has seen the light is Installshield Corporation, makers of the eponymous product, who will be more familiar under their old name of Stirling. The good news is that new copies of the product will include an unlimited distribution licence for all of the installations created using it.

### Neural Nets, Fuzzy Logic And Genetic Algorithms

These are the areas to be covered in a tutorial to be held in London, UK, on 26th and 27th February. Each area gets its own session and the emphasis is intended to be practical, including comparisons with more traditional techniques.

The cost is £699 and you can obtain more information from Katy Searles on Tel: +44 (0)171 637 4383, Fax: +44 (0)171 636 1976 or send an email message to [katy\\_searles@ibcuklon.ccmil.compuserve.com](mailto:katy_searles@ibcuklon.ccmil.compuserve.com)

### California Calling

We have received news of a Delphi Conference being organised in Southern California, USA, on May 4th (a Saturday) at Chapman University (*'with facilities better than a Marriott'* it says here!). Twenty or more seminars are planned. The cost is \$99, which includes a CD crammed with speaker notes, source code, freeware, shareware and product demos.

For details email Mike Cummings at [CompuServe 73651,1132](mailto:CompuServe 73651,1132)

### Nail Those Bugs...

Now of course this could never happen to *you*, but should you have a *friend* whose projects might just have the occasional, well, *undocumented* feature, if you know what I mean, then this might just help you, er, I mean *him*.

BugTrack from Soft As It Gets does just what it says: tracks bugs in software. Version 2.0 has recently been released. The idea is

that it keeps full records of all logged bugs for your projects, who reported them, what the problem is, who's been assigned to clean up the mess and what the status is, etc. It's designed for individual and team use. Extra features include: client database, phone lists, graphs, import/export, word processing, mail merge, reporting, tea, coffee and hot chocolate... No, seriously, it does seem to be rather comprehensive.

For details, in the UK contact QBS Software on Tel: +44 (0)181 956 8000, Fax: +44 (0)181 956 8010.

### Delphi Component Directory

Someone has come up with the excellent idea of maintaining a directory of Delphi components on the Web.

To check the beta version of the directory visit the site <http://www.iscinc.com/delphres.htm> or to submit components to the database the site is <http://www.iscinc.com/cgi/vcladd.cgi>

The man to contact for further details is David Koosis, email him at [dkoosis@iscinc.com](mailto:dkoosis@iscinc.com)

### PVCS Goes WAN

PVCS, from InterSolv, is one of the version control systems (ok, ok, I know there are fancier terms around for these things now...) supported by Delphi.

Their Tracker 3.0 product now offers support for development over Wide Area Networks as well as LANs, which should be of especial interest to multinational operations. Project data can be stored in client/server database systems. Platforms supported are Windows 3.1, Windows 95 and NT. For further details contact Intersolv on Tel: +44 (0)1727 812812.

### Numerical Components

You might get the impression that Delphi is only good for highly visual applications but that's not the case at all. Just the other day I was chatting to a reader who is busy developing engineering analysis programs with Delphi which previously would automatically be done in Fortran (remember all that old Fortran IV spaghetti code?).

What you need, of course, is some good support libraries so you don't have to re-invent the wheel with all those complex algorithms. Sigma Software of Burtonsville, MD, USA, have moved their G\_MATH and G\_FFT 4.0 products to Delphi.

Mathematical functions which are included encompass: trigonometric, hyperbolic, exponential, power and log functions.

G\_MATH includes a component which allows you to find the real and complex roots of functions,

### Notes And Delphi: Globebyte Maestro Professional 2

**G**lobebyte of Kingston upon Thames, UK, have announced Version 2 of their Maestro Developers Toolkit, which allows the development of Lotus Notes applications with Delphi. Both 16-bit and 32-bit versions are available.

"One of the major problems with the external technologies to date" says Globebyte founder and MD Martin Melconian, "has been their true interoperability with the actual application side of a Lotus Notes Database. Version 2 of Globebyte Maestro addresses this failing with a new object called the Form Object. Instantiating a Form Object from your Delphi code produces a Windows dialog based on a form definition already developed inside the Lotus Notes application. Not only that but also all the field formulae and button macros work as you have defined them in the Notes database – so what we have done is allowed the developer to produce a Lotus Notes application and then, literally transparently, create a real Windows application that sits on top and is driven by the Lotus Notes code."

For more details contact GlobeByte on Tel: +44 (0)181 541 3426, Fax: +44 (0)181 546 7248 or Email them on [CompuServe 74777,1373](mailto:CompuServe 74777,1373)

plus interpolation, integration, curve fitting, matrix operations, simultaneous linear equation solving facilities, function evaluation and more.

G\_FFT also provides Fast Fourier Transform, convolution, correlation, cross-correlation, power spectrum, amplitude, window, filtering and filter design, sorting, smoothing, decimation, etc. .

Each package costs \$149 (for existing users upgrades are \$39) and no VBXs, DLLs or royalties are required. Sigma Software can be contacted on Tel or Fax: +1 301 549 3320 or you can download a complete working demo from the BBS on +1 301 549 4161.

### Sybase SQL Anywhere 5.0

The client/server database which was previously known as Watcom SQL has been released in a new version, 5.0, by Sybase with the new name of SQL Anywhere. Amongst the new features are remote replication technology, greater interoperability with other Sybase products and a new administration tool. Sample UK pricing is £400 for four users and £3,300 for unlimited users.

Sybase are on Tel: +44 (0)1628 597100 and will be happy to provide you with more details.

### Sorry!

A couple of goofs from the January issue. The review of *Borland Delphi How-To* by Gary Frerking and colleagues was written by Steve Troxell. Apologies too to Margot Nelson for missing you off the contributors list. Blame the late nights and early mornings (*Yikes! it's 0:55am on Sunday and time I was finishing work...*).

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### Information Please!

If your company has products or services which are relevant to Delphi developers we want to hear about them! Our deadline for news is about the 8th day of the month preceding the cover date. Send your information for the attention of the Editor, by email if possible, to:

70630.717@compuserve.com

### Pascal Magazine Competition

**I**n Issue 8 of The Pascal Magazine Bob Swart threw down a challenge to Pascal developers in his *Pascal Efficiency* column: to come up with the fastest program which would find files with duplicate names on a disk, listing the filenames and the paths where the files were found.

Bob has now sifted through all the entries and carried out full comparisons. We are delighted to announce the winner is Michael L Williams, who wins a copy of Mark Weiss' book *Data Structure and Algorithm Analysis*. Rene J Spronk was a very close runner up and we'd like to commend the quality of his entry.

The winning algorithms used a collection of binary trees combined with hashing values for the filenames. Quite ingenious!

Not all of the entries worked correctly (five of them had bugs, mostly concerning a non-duplicate file that was incorrectly reported or a file date/time that was incorrect), but I'm sure everyone learnt a lot about algorithms and developing for optimum performance. Of the submissions which worked ok, the ranking in performance terms was as follows:

#### Real mode:

1. Williams
2. Spronk (very close)
3. Hodgekiss
4. Harrow
5. Below (program 7)

#### Protected mode:

1. Williams
2. Spronk (very close again)
3. Stockton
4. Hodgekiss
5. Below (program 8)
6. Hay
7. Harrow
8. Below (program 6)
9. Below (program 1)

The source code for all the entries is on this month's disk in directory CONTEST. Bob invites Michael and/or Rene to rewrite their programs as Delphi utilities for inclusion on a future disk!

**Thanks and well done to all who participated in this competition.**