News

New Delphi 2 Forum

In case you missed it, there are now two Delphi fora on CompuServe: GO DELPHI as before for Delphi 1 but for Delphi 2 GO BDELPHI32. I'm not sure this is a wonderful idea (one more place to visit!) but it seemed to be by popular demand.

Dead Help File!

Many of you will have found that the VCL help file shipped with Delphi 2 is broken. A partially fixed version is available on Borland's Web site (www.borland.com) and also the CompuServe BDELPHI32 forum. A fully fixed version should be available soon (if not already) and your local Borland office should be able to give details and send you any fix files for free.

Delphi Listserver

Borland now also have a regular automatic e-mailing list of news and information on Delphi. To subscribe, send a mail message to them at listserv@borland.com with the message:
   subscribe firstname lastname
(with your name in of course!).

VCL To OCX

Apiary Software have announced The OCX Expert which aims to create 32-bit OCXs using Delphi 2. It's said to be easy to use and the resultant OCXs are compatible with VB 4.0, Borland C++ 5 etc.

NetWare Developer Suite

Also from Apiary is a library for developing NetWare-enabled applications, supporting NetWare 4.1 as well as earlier versions. Features include drive mapping, directory services, printer capture and so on. There are versions for both Delphi 1 and Delphi 2. Contact your tools retailer for details and pricing. In the UK, this and other Apiary products are available from QBS Software, who are on Tel: 0181 956 8000).

32-Bit ImageLib Ships

ImageLib '95 for Delphi 2.0 is now shipping from SkyLine Tools. The 16-bit version was reviewed last month. The 16 native components provide an interface to a central DLL. Images can be scanned (full Twain support), zoomed, flipped, re-sized and converted to JPEG, PNG, TIFF, GIF, PCX, BMP, WMF, ICO, SCM, and CMS. Native BLOB support for the storing and retrieval of images, audio and video in Dbase, Paradox, Interbase, MS-SQL and others is provided. A thumbnail manager has been added, which previews up to 25 images on a page, plus a video screen grabber.

Prices are: ImageLib 3.1, 16-bit version, $139; ImageLib '95 (32-bit) $169, ImageLib Combo, (16- and 32-bit versions) $199. Contact SkyLIne Tools at Tel: +1 (818) 766-3900, Fax: +1 (818) 766-9027 or email them on CompuServe 72130,353.

DDG Advice Line

Developers in the UK can now get technical help over the phone from the Delphi Developers' Group, as long as they are members! The

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From The Editor...

Yet another action-packed issue for you this month! We have some excellent articles in the pipeline too. The best way to find out what's coming up is to check our Web site (the address is above) which we are now updating more frequently. If you haven't been there recently you should find lots of new material.

Where's Steve?

If you are keen-eyed you will have noticed that Steve Troxell's column *Surviving Client/Server* is missing this month. Unfortunately, Steve had some truly awful deadlines at work so couldn't make it (hey, Kim, you're working him too hard <grin>!). The good news is that as we go to print Steve is already well on the way to completing his column for the June issue, on SQL Performance Tuning.

Is It Delphi 1 Or Delphi 2?

Many people are working in both Delphi 1 and Delphi 2, so what we are trying to do is ensure that articles are relevant to both versions. We've tried to include notes where appropriate to show where things differ for the two versions and as far as source code goes to either include separate versions for 16- and 32-bit or (preferably) use conditional compiles. Let me know how this works out for you.

Do keep in touch: comments (positive or otherwise!) and suggestions are always welcome.
Chris Frizelle, Editor

service has been introduced in response to considerable demand. Every working day from 2.00 until 5.00 p.m., a senior DDG member will be available to take technical calls and offer advice. The new service is not intended to replace the comprehensive technical support provided by Digital on behalf of Borland, nor can it offer the vast range of information available via CompuServe or the Web, but it does offer quick guidelines from an experienced developer. Calls cost £1.50 per minute (automatically billed to your telephone account) and are limited to 15 mins. To join DDG call 01980 630032. The DDG Technical Advice Line number is 0331 300721.

Delphi InterBase Developers Group

Phil and Joanna, the brains behind DDG (above), have a new baby: a user group for those creating client/server applications using Delphi and InterBase. The dIDG (note the lower case 'd' at the start!) will hold meetings every even numbered month, usually in London, with DDG meetings in the odd months. A new enhanced newsletter will serve both groups. Dr Geoff Marshall, who runs the dBase Users Group, will also be closely involved in dIDG.

Membership of the new group costs £100 plus VAT per year, or just £175 plus VAT for both groups. The next meeting is on Tuesday 18th June in London. For more information call Joanna Pooley on 01980 630032.

32-Bit PostCode DLL

AFD Software, makers of PostCode and PostCode Plus, now have a 32-bit DLL available for use with Delphi 2 and other 32-bit development environments. If you are a registered user, get your copy free of charge from their bulletin board on 01294 829327, or call +1 (0)1294 823221 for details.

Change Management

Continuus Software Corporation is planning a series of free seminars for software developers on Change Management (version control,

object management, work area management, build management, parallel development support, workflow management, integrated change and problem tracking). The seminars will take place over the next couple of months in about 40 cities in the US and Europe. For more details visit their web site at www.continuus.com

TCompress V2.0

South Pacific Information Services have announced a new version of their file and database compression components, which can be used with both Delphi 1 (16-bit) and 2 (32-bit). No DLLs, OCXs or VBXs are required: it's 100% native Delplhi. Features include:
➢ Multi-file compressed archives.
➢ Database BLOB (memo, image) compression.
➢ In-memory compression using streams.
➢ Event hooks for customizable user interaction.
➢ Built-in RLE and LZH compression, but easy to add your own custom compression routines.
➢ Loads of example source included and full component source code available.

For details or a copy of the shareware version, visit their Web page which is at http://www.spis.co.nz/spis/compress.htm or Fax: +64 3 384 5138 or email peter@spis.co.nz. Keep an eye out for news of a forthcoming multi-disk archive component and an OCX too.

Apollo 32-Bit

Our friends at QBS tell us that the 32-bit version of the Apollo replacement database engine from SuccessWare (smaller and faster than the BDE which ships with Delphi) should be available any time now. as we went to press it was going into beta.

Complete Production?

The Complete Product Company offer a manufacturing, assembly and distribution service for software developers. They can design and produce your packaging, documentation and disks, they'll even write the docs for you if you like and translate them into whatever

languages are needed. For more details call them on +44 (0)1666 841148 or Fax: +44 (0)1666 840260. They are based in Wiltshire, UK.

Information Please!

If your company has products or services which are relevant to Delphi developers rest assured we want to hear about them! Our deadline for news is about the 8th day of the month preceding the cover date, but the earlier the better of course. Send your information for the attention of the Editor, by email if possible, to:
70630.717@ compuserve.com
or failing that by fax to:
+44 181 460 0650
or by snail mail if you really must!