News

16-Bit BDE Update Download
Before you turn the page and get wowed by all the goodies in the inline release for Delphi 2 (no, come *back* here, now!) if you are still developing 16-bit database applications with Delphi 1, you might like to know that version 2.52 of the Borland Database Engine is available for download from the DELPHI forum on CompuServe.

It adds support for Paradox 7 tables including unique and descending indexes and we hear distinct rumours that it also fixes some bugs.

Java-Enabled InterBase
Internet is definitely the flavour of the month at Borland! Recently annnounced is InterClient for InterBase, which is written entirely in Java and provides JDBC compliant connectivity for Internet and Intranet applications. Pre-release versions for Windows 95, Windows NT and Solaris are due to be available this summer.

Graphics Server 4.5
Bits Per Second of Brighton, UK, have released a new version of their respected charting library. A new Delphi 2.0 32 bit component is included. New features include:
- Interactive zooming within a graph;
- Y label formats (decimal, exponential, thousands and text);
- Floating bar graphs;
- Pareto chart (no, I don't know either...);
- Smart no-overlap pie labels;
- More statistics;
- Error bars on log graphs;
- Clipping;
- Templates;
- Better printing capabilities.

The retail price is £245 plus shipping and VAT in the UK. For more details call Bits Per Second on +44 (0)1273 727119, Fax: +44 (0)1273 731925 or email rflowers@bits.mhs.compuserve.com

Topaz 6.0 For Delphi
Topaz has been around a long time as a dBase table access library for Borland/Turbo Pascal and C/C++, but developers Software Science of San Francisco, California, have now created a full Delphi version.

Topaz 6.0 supports both Delphi 1 and 2 and comprises 12 database and data access components. The BDE is not required and all the code compiles right into the application executable – there are no extra DLLs to ship with your application.

It is unclear if Delphi's own data-aware controls are supported, I would guess not (as if they were it'd be something to brag about!) but data aware controls are included. Full source is included for the whole of Topaz. Included with the package are utilities to create, browse and search tables, which are also available for download from Software Science's Web site.

The normal price of Topaz 6.0 is $199, but there is an introductory offer of $99 and existing Topaz users can upgrade for $49.

For more information call Software Science on +1 (415) 479 7288 or email ssi@well.com or visit their Web site at http://www.well.com/user/ssi.

Get Wise...
Wise is becoming one of the most popular installation packages and GLBS have just released a new upgrade, 4.0h, which adds better Windows 95 support, better handling of the 32-bit Borland Database Engine and more. The update is available as a patch for existing users – call your favourite software tools dealer for details.

BCS Client/Server Group Services
The Client/Server Group of the British Computer Society have a new mailserver list for those interested in matters client/server. The service is free and you don't have to be a member of the BCS (though they obviously hope you will join!).

To join, send an email asking to join the list to csg@isa.co.uk and you'll be added automatically.

The group now also have a presence on the Web, with information on upcoming meetings, benefits of group membership etc. Visit them at www.demon.co.uk/isa/csg

Public Key Encryption
Bill Raike is known to many as the author of TOLEAutomationClient for Delphi (reviewed by Micha Somers in the March issue). Well, he's come up with something else which could be a real winner: a new public key encryption system called RPK.

Since he's based in New Zealand and out of reach of the US Government's over-zealous guarding of encryption technology (which in your Editor's view is both foolish and also does no-one any good in the long run), hopefully this will become a truly worldwide industrial strength security and encryption standard.

You can obtain a copy free for review and evaluation by pointing your favourite Web browser at http://crypto.swdev.co.nz

Delphi 2.0 Updated

Borland recently announced an 'inline release' update for Delphi 2.0, which adds fascinating new Internet/Intranet development tools as well as fixing some bugs in the initial release (we understand, the Press Release didn't mention this...) and adding new functionality to the Client/Server version too.

Delphi Developer 2.0

Included in the Delphi Developer 2.0 update is the Borland Internet Solutions Pack, a set of eight ActiveX controls licensed from NetManage Inc, which allow the creation of HTML browsers, dynamic web pages, newsgroup access, file transfer and email management. Plus, a copy of DeltaPoint's Web server creation and management tool, QuickSite, is also bundled. Lastly, ISAPI support has been added to allow links between Microsoft's Internet Information Server and databases. Borland are especially targetting the growing Intranet development market and we'll be interested to see what Delphi users produce with these new goodies!

Delphi Client/Server Suite 2.0

The update to the Delphi Client/Server Suite 2.0 includes all the Internet/Intranet goodies discussed above. A new CASE Expert provides better integration with tools such as LogicWorks ERWin, Popkin System Architect, Sybase S-Designor, CSA SilverRun RDM, Embarcadero ER/1 and RoboCase.

For DB2 users, a native 16bit SQL Links driver is now included, giving access to DB2 on MVS, AIX, OS/400, NT, OS/2 and VM platforms. ReportSmith has been speeded up and has new data dictionary facilities and enhanced usability.

Recognising the need for large software projects to use automated testing tools, Borland have extended the Open Tools API to allow vendors such as SQA, Mercury Interactive, Segue Software and Platinum Technologies to support Delphi with their tools.

Finally, there are improvements to SQL Explorer and a number of database driver updates (including Oracle, Sybase Microsoft SQL Server, Informix and InterBase).

Pricing And Availability

We understand that the updated versions should be available at the end of June, so hopefully by the time you read this they'll be out! For existing owners of Delphi Developer 2.0 or Delphi Client/Server Suite 2.0 in the USA, the relevant update costs $10, which is basically just a shipping and handling charge. We don't yet know pricing in other countries, but it should be comparable – contact your local Borland office or distributor for details.

Users with current maintenance agreements will receive the update automatically (eg Connections members in the UK and Europe). In the USA and Canada, developers with just one copy of Delphi Client/Server Suite 2.0 can now take out maintenance for $549 per year (previously this was limited to those purchasing a complete C/S Developer Team Solution pack).

NET-Install

Electronic distribution of software is an interesting development and NET-Install claims to be the first PC installation program to be specifically designed to support distribution and setup of software and data via the Web.

It supports Netscape Navigator via a plug-in. The price in the UK is £225 plus shipping and VAT. For details call QBS Software on +44 (0)181 956 8000, Fax: +44 (0)181 956 8010 or send an email message to orders@qbss.co.uk

Guess What, More Web...

There seems to be an awful lot of Internet/Intranet/World Wide Web related news this month! Here goes with some more.

Plexon Ltd of Portsmouth, UK, are marketing Pansoft's Web Development Kit, which includes: a Web server, Web site management software, OnNet32 Internet suite software, InterBase 4.0, a Windows front end and sample source. For details visit http://www.plexon.com/ catalog.html

Also available is Web Catalog 1.1, which can be used to generate and publish product catalogues, price lists and suchlike, without writing and CGI scripts. An evaluation version is available from http://www.plexon.com/ftpeval.html

You can also contact Plexon on Tel: +44 (0)1705 851514, Fax: +44 (0)1705 871367 or send email to huseyin@plexon.com

Trainers Needed

We hear that Rhino Software, based in Doncaster, UK, are looking for more Delphi trainers and consultants to add to their team, for work on-site throughout the UK. For details email Rob Yoxon at CompuServe 101736,1026.