

# **THE Delphi**

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## News

### Classic Component Set

Classic Software of Inglewod, down in sunny Australia, have released version 1.20 of their component suite for Delphi 1 and 2.

The new version adds several new components. There's an enhanced date editing component for database forms, with an Epoch setting to determine the century (like Clipper). An abstract form class is included (for you to inherit your own forms from) with built in navigation between controls using the Enter and cursor keys - very handy for data entry forms. To go with this there's a component for changing key assignments at run time.

Other components include an enhanced notebook, display of a form within a panel, enhanced string grid, snazzy buttons, high resolution timing, and more.

Full source is included and trial versions are available on CompuServe (GO ICGFORUM and look for CCS16.ZIP and CCS32.ZIP). The price is Aus \$90. For details call or fax +61 9 271 5407.

### Help Me!

If you need some quick help on a Delphi development problem, but don't want to shell out for an annual support contract, what do you do? Of course, we have *The Delphi Clinic*, manned by Brian Long, but that's not really designed to be an immediate response

technical support service, more for those knotty problems no-one seems to have an answer for.

Well, in the UK, both the Delphi Developers Group and training company Buchanan International are able to offer pay-as-you go telephone support on Delphi:

- > Buchanan International Delphi Support Help Desk, call 0897 161179, available during normal business hours.
- > The Delphi Developers Group Technical Advice Line, call 0331 300721, available from 2pm to 5pm each working weekday.

Both services cost £1.50 per minute (including VAT), which is simply added to your telephone bill. As most calls will only last a few minutes it shouldn't cost you too much.

### 16-Bit BDE Update

In Issue 11's *News* section we reported that a new version of the 16-bit Borland Database Engine was available for download from the DELPHI forum on CompuServe.

Reader Peter Hyde has kindly done some checking up for us and reports that the new version, 2.52, is also on the Delphi 2.01 update CD, in the directory DELPHI16\REDIST\BDEINST but **not** in the RUNIMAGE directory for Delphi 1.0 (that's the **old** version!).

### Installer Pro

The African Chief has a new version (2.91) of The Chief's Installer Pro (we included an earlier version on the disk with Issue 2). It now

works for Windows 3.x, Windows 95 and NT installations, with long filename and Registry support etc. You can download a trial version from [http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/African\\_Chief](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/African_Chief).

### GP-Install

This is a new product, from Delta Lin Associates. It includes a configuration expert which parses your application source code and determines what needs to be included in the install pack.

The Expert can ferret out: BDE use, BDE aliases, OLE2, VBXs, ReportSmith and Help files. Sounds like a good idea to me! Of course you retain full manual control as well. To receive a fully functional demo send an email message to [info@dla.u-net.com](mailto:info@dla.u-net.com) or just visit <http://www.u-net.com/~dla>

### ImageLib @theEdge

From the makers of the ImageLib bitmap manipulation package for Delphi (reviewed in the April Issue) comes this new tool for manipulating, correcting and adding special effects and transitions to Delphi applications.

The effects available include mosaic, whirlpool, hole punch, page curl, wave, ripple and fisheye, plus fades and wipes.

For details call SkyLine tools on +1 818 766 3900, Fax: +1 818 766 9027, email CompuServe 72130,353 or download a trial version from <http://imagelib.com>

### HelpSite

From WexTech systems (publishers of Doc-To-Help), HelpSite automatically converts Windows Help files to HTML. It runs under Windows 3.1, 95 and NT. For details contact QBS Software, Tel: +44 181 956 8000 or your local software tools retailer.

### Catalyst Socket Tools

Available as VBXs and 16/32-bit OCXs, these controls assist with internet development and include: domain name server client, ftp, Web browser, image viewer, Telnet client, SMTP client, POP3 client, NNTP client, remote execution library and much more. The cost is

£190 from QBS Software, Tel: +44 181 956 8000.

### Visual Tools Developers Academy

From 9th to 12th September, this event is to be held at Keble College, Oxford University, and will include Delphi coverage as well as a number of other visual development tools. Call Interactive Exhibitions on 0181 541 4865 for details.

### Arpeggio Information Publisher

R&R Software have now released this new tool for Windows 95 and NT. It combines the latest client/server version of R&R Report Writer with the data access and querying tools of Well Data Inc to provide a sophisticated database publishing tool.

There are several versions available, including Arpeggio For the Developer, which includes a set of flexible tools (including ActiveX controls) to allow you to integrate Arpeggio's power into your own applications. The Developer version costs £520 plus VAT. You can also upgrade from R&R Report Writer if you wish. For details call R&R Software Ltd on +44 1628 687500, Fax: +44 1628 687507.

### Where's Xavier?

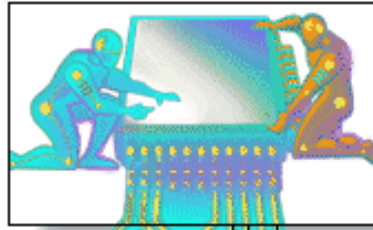
A number of readers have contacted us to mention how useful they have found Xavier Pacheco's series of articles on printing. This month he had to take a break (he does have a full-time job as well!) but rest assured his series will continue next month.

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### 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 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  
or failing that by fax to:  
+44 181 249 0376  
or by snail mail if you really must!



7th Annual  
**Borland  
Developers  
Conference**

## Delphi '97

**A**t the recent 7th Annual Borland Developers Conference, in Anaheim, California, Borland began to unveil some future plans for Delphi. Thanks to contributors Bob Swart and Jeroen Plumiers who provided the details on which this report is based.

A key part of the next version of Delphi will be *packages*. Anders Hejlsberg, Delphi's Chief Architect, described how packages are VCL DLLs: basically DLLs with design-time and run-time capabilities all in one. One benefit will be very small executables: Anders demonstrated one application that shrunk from 450Kb to 13Kb. When you are shipping several executables you only need to include *one* VCL package file (in the same way that multiple Visual Basic applications use one copy of VBRUNxxx.DLL, with the very important exception that Delphi applications remain fully compiled: a package is *not* a run-time interpreter like VB's DLL). There's obviously a lot of interesting things in the package concept and we look forward to more details over time.

Automatic COM (Common Object Model) support will be included in Delphi '97 too. Charlie Calvert demonstrated how easy it already is to create distributed objects across a network. COM and packages are also very relevant to multi-tier client/server development.

There was quite some interest shown in the possibility of a new 16-bit version of Delphi (version 1.5?). Indeed Borland are now actively soliciting opinion on the need for this. There's a survey form on the Web at <http://borland.com/delphi/survey.html> if you'd like to participate. It looks unlikely, though, that Borland will attempt a non-Intel platform version of Delphi.

From a Q&A session, a query on using Delphi 2.0 to create Win32s applications, which is not supported by Borland (apparently Microsoft are now no longer supporting Win32s), elicited a response from a delegate that Delphi 2.0 apps can apparently run on the Win32s which ships with the Windows 95 SDK. Borland promised to post info on their Web site when available.

The Informix 32-bit drivers should also be released anytime now (apparently there were some delays at Informix's end).

### Localisation

Finally, Borland announced the availability of the Language Pack and Translation Suite, for the easy development of localised applications. The tools use the same technology that Borland itself uses in-house to create localised versions of its own software. The Language Pack includes ready-translated messages for the VCL and BDE plus translated message templates for forms, dialogs and menus (in Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish), along with the Delphi Language Manager. The Translation Suite builds on the Language Pack and is intended for those delivering larger-scale applications to an international user community.