

# THE Delphi

## M · A · G · A · Z · I · N · E

The Delphi Magazine  
iTec, 9a London Road, BROMLEY  
Kent BR1 1BY, United Kingdom?

ISSN: 1365-1013

Tel: +44 (0)181 249 0354 Fax: +44 (0)181 249 0376  
Email: mail@itecuk.com Web: www.itecuk.com

## News

### Delphi 3.1 Update

Borland have sneaked out an update to Delphi 3, version 3.1, which is now available from your local Borland office. In the UK, the cost is £25 plus VAT and you can call 0800 454065 if you haven't already received your upgrade invitation.

The Help system has been revised and there's an updated version of the QuickReport component. The Professional Edition adds the TClientSocket and TServerSocket components previously included with the Client/Server Edition, plus there's enhanced support for COM and DCOM to give faster execution of ActiveX components. The Client/Server Edition has all this plus various MIDAS updates.

### AnswerWorks

WexTech System's latest tool allows Help authors and software developers to add an easy-to-use natural language interface to Windows help, to give (say WexTech) the same functionality which is found in Microsoft's AnswerWizard and Corel's PerfectExpert. Users simply type in questions using their own words and AnswerWorks invisibly translates each question into the appropriate query and retrieves the most pertinent help topics. WexTech claim the product gives faster, easier and more accurate

access to any help system. AnswerWorks supports English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Dutch for Windows 95, NT and 3.1. The UK price is £484.00 plus VAT and Grey Matter will happily give you more details on +44 (0)1364 654100.

### TopGrid

Top Support has announced the release of TopGrid, a new grid component for Delphi 2 and 3. It can be used to replace both TDBGrid and TStringGrid, by either using it as a data aware component or as an unbound component where the data is supplied from within the program.

It fully supports all standard Windows behaviour, has a wide range of properties and methods

### ► TopGrid in action

Customer Number	Large Account	Company	Flag	Address
2118	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Sports Club		63365 Nez Perce Street ...
3054	<input type="checkbox"/>	Catamaran Dive Club		Box 264 Pleasure Point ...
1354	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cayman Divers World Uni		PO Box 541 ...
5151	<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Underwater Suppl		PO Box 737 ...
2156	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Davy Jones' Locker		246 South 16th Place ...
3055	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diver's Grotto		24601 Universal Lane ...
3041	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Divers of Blue-green		634 Complex Ave. ...
2315	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Divers of Corfu, Inc.		Marmoset Place 54 ...
4312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Divers of Venice		220 Elm Street ...
5432	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Divers-for-Hire		... -77 A.A. ...
1513	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fantastique Aquatica		... -77 A.A. ...
3151	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fisherman's Eye		... -77 A.A. ...
2135	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Frank's Divers Supply		... -77 A.A. ...
2975	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Bean & Co.		... -77 A.A. ...
3042	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Coast Supply		... -77 A.A. ...
1680	<input type="checkbox"/>	Island Finders		6133 1/3 Stone Avenue ...
1651	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jamaica SCUBA Centre		PO Box 68 ...
4652	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jamaica Sun, Inc.		PO Box 643 ...
1221	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kauai Dive Shoppe		4-976 Sugarloaf Hwy ...
2354	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kirk Enterprises		42 Aqua Lane ...
5165	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lary's Diving School		3562 NW Bruce Street ...
1624	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Makai SCUBA Club		PO Box 8534 ...
2615	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moorea SCUBA Centre		PO Box 83429 Z.L. 7091 ...

to customize its appearance and operation and its many events give the developer full control. All the controls in the grid immediately respond to user actions, without first having to give them focus, all as an end user would expect. TopGrid can be used as a normal grid for editing or viewing data, or as a multi-column list box with both single or multi-line selection capabilities. A demo program and trial version can be obtained from Top Support's website at [www.topsupport.com](http://www.topsupport.com). List price is \$249 and source is available for an extra \$99.

### WebApp

Now released from HyperAct, Des Moines, USA, is this framework for creating web applications in Delphi. Key features include server independence, automatic session management, debugging, HTML templates and server-side scripts (VBScript and JavaScript). You can use the BDE with it too and it's compatible with Delphi 3's web modules. HyperAct also claims WebApp offers server safety: it runs in a separate process to the web server and eliminates the risk of server

crash (music to the ears of any ISPs out there!).

The cost is \$195 for the base product and \$495 for WebApp Pro, which has no runtime limits and includes full source, a TSMTP component and a copy of HyperAct's eAuthor/Site template based website authoring tool. Prices are for ftp download only (pester your local software tools retailer if multi-Mb downloads are not practical for you). A trial version of WebApp is available at [www.hyperact.com](http://www.hyperact.com)

### Shazam Report Wizard 3.0

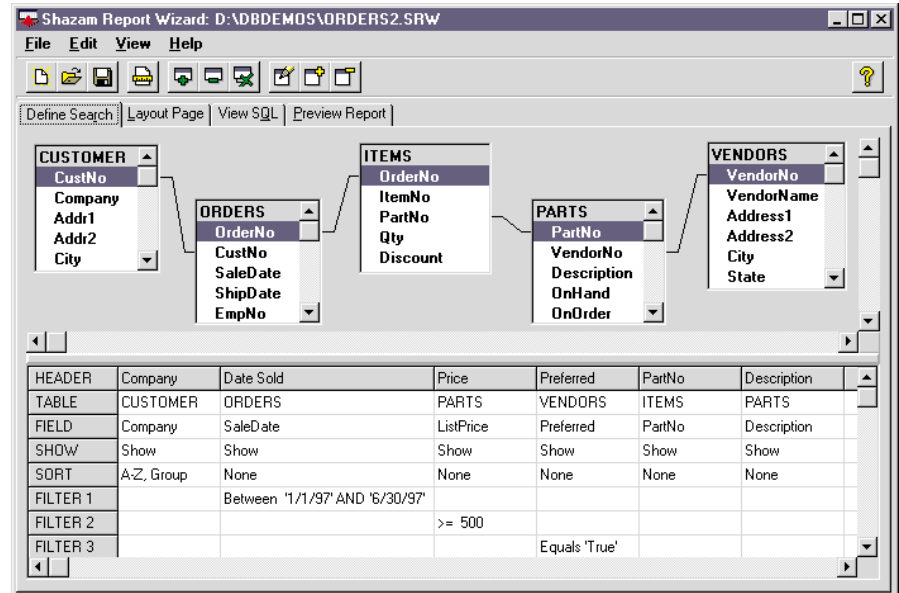
Developers ShazamWare Solutions claim this new version of their popular report writer creates internet-ready reports up to 85% smaller than some other Delphi reporting components as it now includes compression technology. Also included is Query-By-Example (QBE) and a visual report designer, allowing end-users to create ad-hoc reports at runtime.

The QBE system offers visual table linking, outer joins, drag-and-drop field selection, custom field expressions, aggregate calculations and more. The Professional Edition adds table and field aliasing to hide cryptic names. Shazam Report Wizard generates optimised SQL code for Paradox, dBase, FoxPro, Access, SQL Server, Oracle, InterBase, Informix, Sybase and other database engines that support SQL. Password protection and encryption of report files is supported, to discourage unauthorised viewing. To ensure that report files are transmitted correctly over the Internet, automatic

CRC validation is performed when files are opened.

For details, contact your local software tools retailer or just visit [www.shazamware.com](http://www.shazamware.com) to download a demo version of the product.

#### ► Shazam Report Wizard 3.0's QBE facility



### ESD Borland Developers Competition 1997

**Borland developers are invited to take part in a 24 hour competition to develop, from scratch, a working database application for a well known charitable organisation.**

The competition will be held at Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, UK, on the weekend of Nov 15-16 1997. Any Borland development tool, or combination of tools, may be used to create the application: the organisers are keen that a wide range of Borland tools are represented in the competition and to encourage flair and imagination amongst competing programmers. Competitors will work in teams of two. Firms may enter as many teams as they wish.

The specification for the application has been developed from discussions with the well known charity Cancer Research Campaign. Broadly, the requirement is for a database application which will be used by the charity to help with fund raising. There will be sufficient latitude in the brief for developers to come up with a distinctive solution.

There is an entrance fee of £200 per team, which includes refreshments. Any surplus funds will go to Cancer Research to fund the completion of the project. There are prizes for winners of each category and Borland UK have generously offered two copies of any Borland product to the overall winning team. All entrants will be represented on a CD-ROM, to be distributed by the UK Borland User Group.

The competition is being organised by European Software Developers Ltd in conjunction with The Cancer Research Campaign, the Borland User Group and Borland UK. Further details and complete rules are posted on the ESD web site: <http://www.eurosoft.com> or call Richard Smith or Alex Roberts at European Software Developers on +44 (0)7000-784310.