News

Direct Oracle Access

DOA is a component set from Dutch company Allround Automations designed to allow direct access to an Oracle database from Delphi or C++Builder applications, without the need for the Borland Database Engine. To ensure the highest performance, DOA offers a low-level `TOracleQuery` component.

The developers claim it cuts down on network traffic by using advanced Oracle features such as deferred parsing and array fetching. The Delphi 3 version supports Delphi's own data-aware components by introducing a new dataset component. It offers automatic Master/Detail configuration based on foreign key definitions and has several features that allow the application to rely on constraints in the Oracle database.

More information and an evaluation version can be found at www.allroundautomations. club.tip.nl/doa.html

Developers Review

We hope you enjoyed your free sample copy of the launch issue of our new magazine, *Developers Review*.

We sent copies to all subscribers to *The Delphi Magazine*, but in case you didn't receive your copy, you can still register for one by sending us your name and mailing address, while stocks last! The entire magazine is also available for free download from our website at www.itecuk.com.

The next issue, cover-dated December and due in November, will be a special one on visual development tools. We will have in-depth reviews of the leading packages, including Delphi, Visual Basic, C++Builder and JBuilder, complete with tantalising glimpses of what's planned for the next version of each product. This issue will also include a *free* CD-ROM *crammed* full of trial software, shareware and freeware, all for software developers!

To receive this issue you must subscribe, so don't delay! You can call us on +44 (0)181 249 0354, or fax us on +44 (0)181 249 0376, or mail in the subscription form.
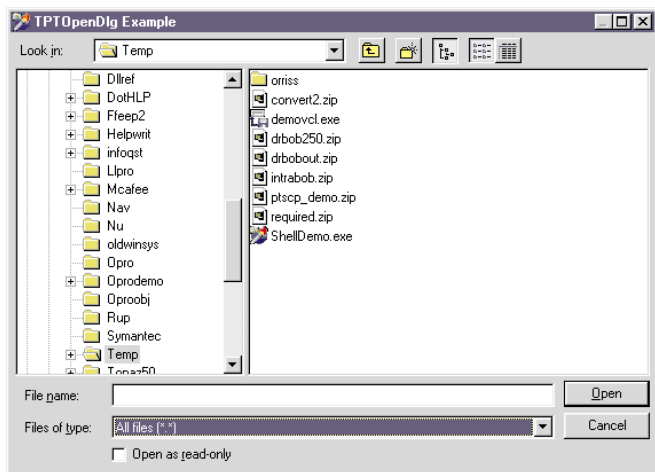
More News

For more news on Delphi and related products and services, be sure to check the *News* area of the *Developers Review* section of our website at www.itecuk.com: this will carry updated news on all aspects of software development.

If you have any news items, please send them to the Editor by email at chrisf@itecuk.com.

Shell Control Pack

Plasmatech Software Design have announced the release of version 1.2 of their Shell Control Pack, a library of Windows Explorer-like components for 32-bit Delphi and C++Builder.

By placing four components on a form and setting two properties the developers claim you will have a working Explorer with full access to OLE drag and drop (into, out of and within your application), context menus, renaming and deleting, copy and paste, namespace extensions and more!

Plasmatech say that the pack makes an ideal replacement for the

Windows common file dialogs. The components can also be customised directly or with visual form inheritance to add features such as file previewing or dynamic file filtering.

Bonus components, including enhanced list view and tree view controls, support different fonts, colours and context menus. A two-pane splitter, image-with-indent combo box, and group controls are also provided. It certainly looks impressive! (see the screenshot above).

Evaluation versions and compiled demos may be downloaded from the Plasmatech website at www.plasmatech.com. The US price is $79, or $149 with source code. For more information contact your local retailer or email info@plasmatech.com.

Delphi Masterclasses
The UK Borland User Group are organising two Masterclasses for Delphi users. The first is on 16th October and features well-known author and consultant Marco Cantú speaking on Effective OOP Techniques. This includes advanced OOP, form inheritance, multiple inheritance and lots more.

On 23rd October, Brian Long (author, consultant and columnist for *The Delphi Magazine*) is the leader for "The Other Side Of Delphi" which covers the Windows API, Windows messaging, application launching, threads, ensuring single-instance, data sharing between processes, the Windows registry, the Win95/NT taskbar, RTTI and file-oriented routines.

Both speakers are excellent communicators and experts in their field: well worth a day of your time. The location on both days is POSK in Hammersmith, London, times are 10am to 6pm and the cost is £95 plus VAT for BUG members or £190 plus VAT for non-members. For details call BUG on +44 (0)1980 630032, Fax: +44 (0)1980 630602 or Email UKBUG@compuserve.com.

Delphi And C++Builder World Tour With Java
Softbite and their partners are running a set of seminars aimed at users of Borland's Delphi, C++Builder or JBuilder products. Locations in Europe are Amsterdam (3rd to 7th November) and London (10th to 14th November). For each week, Delphi and C++Builder sessions run on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (getting more advanced each day) and JBuilder sessions run on Thursday and Friday. You can mix and match any or all sessions to suit your needs. For details call Desktop Associates on +44 (0)171 381 9995, Fax: +44 (0)171 381 9777 or visit www.europe.softbit.com.

ESD Borland Developers Competition 1997
Borland developers are invited to take part in a 24 hour competition to develop a working database app for a leading charity. Located at Kenilworth, Warwickshire, UK, on November 15-16, the competition is organised by European Software Developers Ltd with the Borland User Group and Borland UK. Further details are at www.eurosoft.com or call +44 (0)7000-784310.