

THE Delphi

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News

Borland To Acquire Visigenic

Borland has signed an agreement to acquire Visigenic, the leading provider of CORBA (Common Object Request Broker Architecture) distributed object technology for integrating heterogeneous software environments. Through its extensive license agreements with Oracle, Netscape, Novell and Sybase, Visigenic has established its VisiBroker as a de facto standard ORB technology in the computer industry.

"As part of our open architecture, Borland's objective is to support all the major standards for distributed computing including Microsoft's COM, DCOM/COM+ and ActiveX technologies, as well as open standards such as DCE, RPC-based distributed computing technology with our Entera middleware technology," said Rick LeFavre, vice president of research and development for Borland.

InterBase 5.0 Released

InterBase Software Corporation, a subsidiary of Borland, have announced a new release of their database server which adds new SQL and server features.

Version 5.0 features the SuperServer multi-client, multi-threaded architecture across all platforms, which is claimed to eliminate bottlenecks and reduce the overhead required for multiple

process tasks. Also included is InterClient, an all-Java JDBC driver for Java Client/Server developers. For more information contact your local Borland office or visit www.borland.com.

Italian Delphi User Group

Marco Cantú has founded a Professional Delphi User Group in Italy, called *Delphi & Dintorni Professionale*, which offers technical and Q&A meetings. More details are available (in Italian) on Marco's website at www.marcocantu.com. Marco now also has his own newsgroup at news://news.shoresoft.com/marcocantu.public.

WebHub Shopping Cart Jump Start Project

New from HREF Tools, this full-source Delphi project uses the WebHub framework to make putting a database-driven store on the web as easy as possible. The idea is that you can amend this working

application to your clients' own requirements and thereby drastically cut development times.

The application is set up to use Paradox and dBase tables by default. It supports a single store, plus multiple stores in a "Mall." The store owner can log in and then edit the product database over the web, as well as downloading the entire database of products and sales history. The system will automatically send a confirming email message to the customer after an order is placed.

A version with the User Manual as an RTF file is available at \$179, one with a printed manual is due to be available shortly as we go to press. Visit www.href.com/shopcart/ for details, or to order online.

Retrotools: Used Developer Tools

US-based EMS Professional Software are now operating a used programming tools exchange.

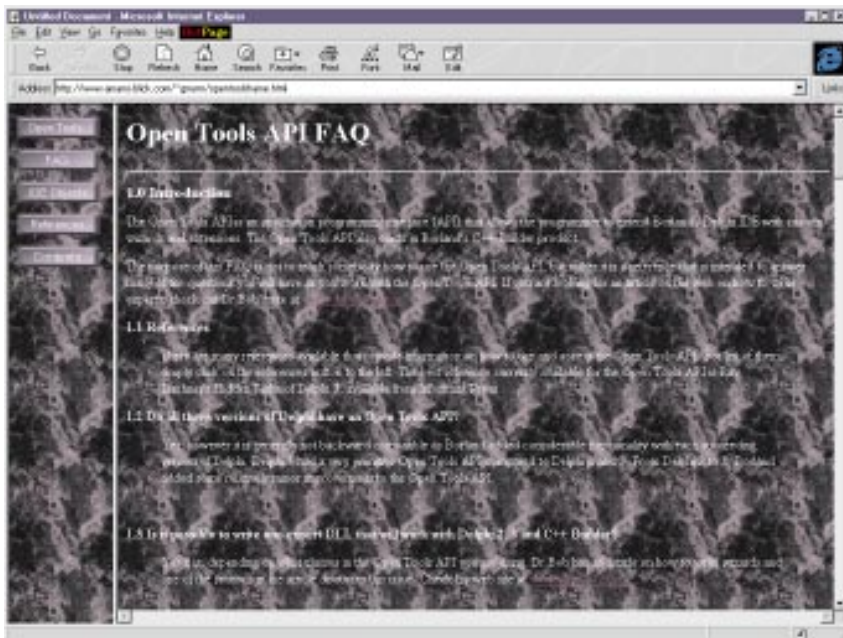
They have a range of old development tools and operating systems available which can no longer be obtained from the vendors. Eric Engelmann of EMS says the service has already proved very popular with developers needing to carry out maintenance work on old applications written using tools which are no longer supported.

Whether you have a need for some old-version tools or you have some stashed away in a cupboard you'd like to sell, visit the Retrotools website at www.wdn.com/ems/oldtools/ for more details.

On our Web site:
www.itecuk.com

Here's some of what you can find:

- Article index database: online or downloadable
- Details of what's coming up in the next issue
- Back issues: contents and availability
- Lots and lots of sample articles from back issues
- Links to other great Delphi sites
- The Delphi Magazine Book Review Database



Open Tools API Newsgroup & FAQ

If you are interested in the development of Wizards and Experts for the Delphi IDE, then you'll be pleased to learn that Borland has opened a special Open Tools API newsgroup on their server at borland.public.delphi.opentoolsapi.

Also, Gerald Nunn has started work on an Open Tools API FAQ. A preliminary version of it is posted at his website at www.amano-blick.com/~gnunn/gexperts.htm with some answers to commonly and not so commonly asked questions.

The purpose of this FAQ is not to teach people how to use the Open Tools API, but rather to provide a place for all of those questions that usually crop up as you start working with it.

HyperString 2.0

This comprehensive library of well over 200 string functions designed specifically for the new 32-bit long dynamic string type in Delphi is now available from EFD Systems.

Both high and low level functions are included, with many coded in hand optimised assembler for maximum speed and efficiency. As well as the usual array of search and edit routines there are also hashing, encryption, compression, fuzzy matching, numeric expression evaluation and dynamic array routines. Also, a full set of token routines provide for parsing of HTML/XML strings and support the creation of hierarchical data structures inside strings.

The fully functional version of HyperString for Delphi3 is available from <http://efd.home.mindspring.com> for free download (in compiled .DCU format). Full source code can be purchased online for only \$30.

32-Bit Extended Pascal

Prospero Software have recently issued an initial release of their implementation of Extended Pascal for the Win32 environment, which provides the object oriented additions defined in the ANSI Technical Report as well as the ANSI/ISO standard specification of the language. There is a substantial

support library and direct calls can be made to API functions. More details are on Prospero's website: www.ProsperoSoftware.com.

New Owner For Bits

Bits Per Second, the UK-based developer best known for its Graphics Server charting library, is to be acquired by Network Technology for a mixture of cash and shares.

We understand the new owners are especially interested in Bits' expertise in networking, backup and storage system software. For info on the company visit www.bitspersecond.co.uk

iTWAIN

Add support for Twain devices to your applications with this new 32-bit ActiveX from ImagineIT Ltd.

Using iTWAIN your apps can acquire high quality images from digital imaging devices such as scanners, cameras and video. The developers claim it is one of the most comprehensive TWAIN components available, with full support for TWAIN capabilities. There are both automatic and manual modes and the component supports 16-bit TWAIN sources with thinking.

You can download a free 30-day evaluation version from UK-based retailer Grey Matter's website at www.greymatter.co.uk and then,

to obtain full use of the product, including royalty-free distribution in the user's own applications, purchase an unlock key from Grey Matter.

OpenNT

OpenNT 2.0 from Softway Systems offers a UNIX style operating environment for Windows NT. Users can run both Win32 and UNIX applications on the same desktop. Support is also provided for running applications through multi-user shell access or network based X Windows. For details call Grey Matter on 01364 654100.

Send Us Your News!

If you have news of Delphi-related products or services, email the Editor at chrisf@itecuk.com with your press release.

Thanks to Bob Swart for his help in chasing out some of this month's news items.