

THE Delphi

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News

Digital Metaphors ReportBuilder 3.5

It's name change time: ReportBuilder is in and Piparti is out. The new release has an Office97 style interface, a bar code component, a TeeChart component, archiving capabilities, sub-reports, a clickable print preview component and the Report Component Library (RCL). The RCL allows developers to create report components and install them as a native part of the product. This capability, combined with the Open Data Access and Open Data Output architectures, allows ReportBuilder to be extended or enhanced in all areas without requiring changes to the source, say Digital Metaphors. For details contact your retailer or visit Digital Metaphors' website at www.digital-metaphors.com

ABC For Delphi 3.0.5

A new version of Objective Software's component library is now available from their website at www.obsof.com. New features include support for C++Builder 1.0, year 2000 compliance updates and other minor updates to some components in the suite. For more details call or fax +61 2 9955 3397.

Apollo And Delphi 3

Luxent Software have now released the `TApolloDataSet` component for Delphi 3. It is a descendant of Delphi 3's `TDataSet` and

allows you to use the Apollo database engine with Delphi 3 without modifying the VCL (essentially you treat it like a `TTable`). This allows full access to Delphi's own data-aware components and third party ones too.

The component can be downloaded free of charge from Luxent's website at www.luxent.com by Apollo owners (the component calls the Apollo DLLs). The documentation was a bit meagre when I looked at it, but `TApolloDataSet` does support the full set of Apollo engine calls, just like the 'standard' version.

Don't miss our review of replacement database engines for Delphi in the June issue of *Developers Review*.

DNotes: True Windows Clients For Lotus Notes

New from VSoft Technologies of Australia, this is a suite of native Delphi components (plus one DLL) which encapsulate the functionality to access and manipulate Lotus Notes 4.x databases and documents. DNotes provides access to Notes Views, Folders, Searches and Full Text Searches, Notes Mail with file attachments, Agents, create/delete Documents or read/write to existing ones. Support for multithreaded applications is also included.

The BDE is not required and the single supporting DLL weighs in at only 300Kb. The product is available for all versions of Borland Delphi and C++Builder, with or without full source code. The with-source version costs £175 plus

VAT from QBS Software in the UK; visit www.qbss.com or call them on +44 (0)181 956 8000.

Luxent Tier-2 Middleware

Recently released from Luxent's Webworks division is the Tier-2 product, which the company describe as 'intelligent middleware for enterprise servers on intranets and the web.' Luxent claim it is tightly integrated to both the server-side data source and client-side delivery system. The product uses Microsoft's Universal Data Specification and ActiveX Data Object standards for data storage and retrieval. Native access for multiple clients is supported, including Microsoft IIS Active Server Pages, various MS development tools and Borland tools using the BDE. Luxent say Tier-2 is designed to address a range of data management, data farming, data mining and data presentation requirements on internet and intranet servers. Visit www.luxent.com for more information or call your friendly local tools retailer.

Introducing MapObjects Internet Map Server

ESRI (UK) Ltd have announced this new product designed for internet developers looking for tools to build GIS and web-based mapping applications. It extends MapObjects, ESRI's GIS and mapping software components. It is ActiveX-based and can be used with a variety of development tools, including Delphi. For more information call ESRI on +44 (0)1923 210450 or email Alan Ross at aross@esriuk.com

TopGrid

This is a fast and (according to Fergus at QBS: 'groovy') flicker-free grid from Dutch publishers Top Support. It provides an event that allows you to load data live into the grid as the user scrolls. Both data-aware and 'vanilla' versions are provided. Full control over the grid is provided, such as cell graphics, multiple selection and moving of rows or columns etc. TopGrid for Delphi is available

in the UK from QBS Software at £169, or £235 with source, both plus VAT. Visit www.qbss.com or call +44 (0)181 956 8000.

DriverX: Hardware Control

Using DriverX, the developers claim you can quickly and easily write Windows apps to control a wide range of hardware devices, from parallel and serial port devices with custom protocols, to board level hardware such as digital I/O cards and servo-controllers. For details call Grey Matter in the UK on 01364 654100.

Doc-To-Help 3 International

This new version of Wextech's help development tool provides single-source authoring for all versions of WinHelp and HTML Help and printed documentation. The types of HTML Help supported are: compiled, ActiveX-enabled, Java-enabled and generic.

The product is used from inside either Word 95 or Word 97. A conditional marking feature allows the author to mark parts of the document as HTML Help only, Windows Help only, online only or print only. Doc-To-Help is available from most software tools retailers and is distributed in the UK and Ireland by Soft/Export Ltd, Tel: +353 1 2942121 (located in Ireland). Don't miss the review of Doc-To-Help 3 in the June issue of *Developers Review!*

HelpBreeze HTML Wizard

HelpBreeze HTML Wizard translates Windows Help to HTML and HTML-based help. It also integrates directly with the HelpBreeze 2.0 help authoring system to create Windows Help, printed documentation and HTML all from the same source documents. For details call Grey Matter in the UK on 01364 654100. HelpBreeze was reviewed in Issue 2 (February 1998) of *Developers Review*, along with a number of other help authoring tools.

DynamicUpdate Automates Update Functionality

New from EllTech, this product allows you to build automatic

update functionality into applications without, claim the authors, having to write a single line of code.

The Dependency Wizard is used to define all application and component file dependencies and versions, and to encrypt and deploy update packages to any web or FTP server. You can distribute and use the sample client application to check for available updates, or use the API to build DynamicUpdate functionality directly into your client applications. The product automatically determines which of the files associated with an application need to be updated and validates the conditions that

have been predefined to determine if a potential update request is authorised. It then downloads the required files (or portions thereof) using standard HTTP and FTP protocols through a permanent or dial-up internet connection. If the updating process is interrupted, DynamicUpdate will automatically resume the update at a later time from precisely where it left off.

There's more too: it all sounds pretty clever stuff to me! DynamicUpdate is available from QBS Software in the UK for £199 plus VAT, www.qbss.com or call +44 (0)181 956 8000.

UK Borland User Group

New DIL CD-ROM

The third issue of the Developers Information Library is available now. It includes over 6000 technical tips and tricks, details of over 1500 third party tools (most with freeware or trial versions on the CD), details of consultants and contract developers, information on products and services for professional developers, UK-BUG and Borland news, plus (new this release) over 4000 bitmaps for use in your applications. Call UK-BUG for information.

Leamington Spa, May 12th

This meeting is from 1pm to 8:30pm and includes Andrew Fielden discussing the English Wizard natural language query tool. It takes any ODBC-compliant database and creates a map of it, from which English language queries can be converted to SQL.

Hammersmith, May 26th

Also from 1pm to 8:30pm, topics include: Delphi dynamic tables with Bob Swart, an overview of AdaptAccounts from author Peter Wolfe, Borland presenting the future direction of Delphi (one guess only as to what that will be about...), plus a demo of the DotHLP help authoring tool from author Gary Handley.

Hammersmith, June 23rd

Same times, same place, including: Trevor Hilder on how to set up a resilient Windows NT 4.0 server on the internet which can be administered remotely, and Tony Bryer discusses turning a program into a product.

Masterclass: A Day with Bob Swart, May 27th

This is an all-day special in Hammersmith with Dr. Bob himself. It focuses on a real-world example knowledge based Delphi 3 application, hosted on the internet. Areas covered include databases, internet, intranet, ActiveForms, CGI and ISAPI, web modules and knowledge (rule) based systems. The cost is £100 to members, £200 to non-members, lunch is included but VAT is not.

For more information on any of these items and on joining the group, call UK-BUG on +44 (0)1980 630032, fax +44 (0)1980 630602 or visit www.richplum.co.uk