

# THE Delphi

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The Delphi Magazine  
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ISSN: 1365-1013

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## News

### ProDelphi 6.0

This new version of Helmuth Adolph's profiler is able to time methods, procedures or functions in CPU cycles. It can automatically time all inherited procedures with the same names that are called for the same object. Results can be viewed or exported to a database or text file, either as CPU cycles or in time units, with a resolution of 0.1 micro second.

Procedures can be excluded from profiling by inserting a special comment. The ProDelphi API allows you to switch measuring on and off within your code. Procedures which execute very quickly can be automatically excluded if desired.

Special treatment of Windows API calls such as Sleep, SleepEx and DispatchMessage, as well as the Application functions ProcessMessages and HandleMessage, guarantee that no sleeping times are measured and that procedure times are not erroneously counted as child times.

Threads are also supported. Version 6.0 now has full DLL support, for both static and dynamic linking. DLL procedures can be measured simultaneously with those inside the main program.

ProDelphi runs under Windows 95, 98 and NT 4 and require a Pentium, Pentium MMX, Pentium II or compatible CPU (such as AMD K6/K6-2). It costs \$50 or 37.50

Euros and can be ordered via the ShareIt Registration service (to purchase visit [www.shareit.com/programs/102669.htm](http://www.shareit.com/programs/102669.htm)).

Point your browser to [www.hp.europe.de/prodelphi/](http://www.hp.europe.de/prodelphi/) for more details and a trial version, which is limited to measuring 20 procedures.

### GP-Version 5.0

Quality Software Components Ltd has released a new version of its version control tool.

GP-Version has been designed from the start as a tool for end-users and developers alike, say the developers. It is simple to configure and requires little in the way of maintenance.

New in this version is an add-in called GP-Tracker which helps organise and track bugs and feature requests. You can also create form-based add-ins and there is a new notifier add-in class. Notifiers are triggered before and after standard version control system events and allow you to create add-ins that can control the check-in, check-out and refresh process, or possibly record additional information for reporting purposes. Sample source code in Delphi 3 for the two types of add-in

### Borland... Inprise... Borland!

Remember when Borland purchased Visigenic, consolidated the two companies into one, then announced that henceforth the unified, integrated company, with its integrated product line, would be known as Inprise? Well, Inprise in their wisdom have now restructured into two divisions, called Inprise and borland.com. No, I don't understand either...

The Inprise division will focus on providing integrated enterprise solutions to large companies. Borland.com will sell development tools, both its own and third party tools, online from its website. As expected, there will be a 'streamlining of facilities, headcount and product lines'. So we await details of who and what will be axed. Again.

You will no doubt detect a tad of Editorial cynicism here. Well, for what it's worth, I happen to think Inprise, Borland, or whoever they are called today, have usually had a bunch of excellent products, which attract a loyal following of very keen developers. Delphi is undoubtedly the prime example. The company has often, in my view, unfortunately lacked straightforward common sense in the areas of management, planning and marketing. I know that I am by no means alone in these beliefs. Those of us who have observed the IT industry over some time have seen slogans, buzz-words, acronyms and PR fluff come and go with the tide. What endure are the products that genuinely help folk get the job done.

So, dear Inprise, how about firing all your management and PR consultancy firms and concentrating on creating and developing the best products in the marketplace and selling them effectively? Because there are always new kids on the block coming along with great ideas to give the established players a shock. As we look forward to Delphi 5, we need to see something that's really stable from day one (I hear vague rumours that there may be a third bug-fix release for Delphi 4!) and offers real productivity gains for real-world developers.

**Chris Frizelle, Editor**

is available from the developers' website.

GP-Version is available from ZAC Catalogs (who can be found at [www.instantsoftware.com](http://www.instantsoftware.com)), as well as the UK Borland User Group (who are currently offering a 15% discount to members) on +44 (0)1980 630032, or directly from the developers at [www.qsc.co.uk](http://www.qsc.co.uk), where you will also find more information.

### SourceCoder

Now marketed by HREF Tools Corp, this utility from independent developer Peter Tiemann analyses and profiles Delphi source code, computing metrics for source code line counts, calculating documentation percentages and complexity measurements. It checks the scope of variables and points out ambiguities.

SourceCoder also assists in finding problems in running applications, by instrumenting the source code: when the application runs, SourceCoder measures execution time and provides further analysis. There is much more functionality in the product too: visit [www.href.com/scoder](http://www.href.com/scoder) for more details.

### Shrinker 3.4

Blink Inc has made available an update to this new version on their website (at [www.blinkinc.com](http://www.blinkinc.com)).

Shrinker will take 16- or 32-bit Windows executables (.EXE, .DLL, .DRV or .OCX, but also Delphi .DPL/.BPL packages) or real-mode DOS executables and transparently compresses them. This saves storage space and can increase load time efficiency. The compressed file automatically expands when loaded, and runs the same as the uncompressed version.

Worth a look: version 3.0 was reviewed by Bob Swart in the launch issue of *Developers Review*, which is available for free viewing or download on our website at [www.itecuk.com](http://www.itecuk.com).

### SQL Links Microsoft Server 7

Inprise have made the SQL Links Microsoft Server 7 driver available for public field test. BDE 5.0 customers can visit [www.inprise.com](http://www.inprise.com)

[com/sqllinks/sql7beta/](http://www.itecuk.com/sqllinks/sql7beta/) in order to download the pre-release version of this driver.

### News Please!

Please send your information on new or updated products or services for software developers to the Editor, Chris Frizelle, *by email only*, at [chrisf@itecuk.com](mailto:chrisf@itecuk.com).

Press Releases which are brief (150 to 300 words), modest and to the point are most likely to be used! Thanks.

## UK Borland User Group Events

### CORBA Masterclass

For developers using Delphi and JBuilder, with top speakers Bob Swart and Hubert Klein Ikkink, this will be on May 13th in Hammersmith, London.

A solid introduction is followed by the design of a practical real-world CORBA application implemented in Delphi 4 Client/Server and JBuilder 2 Client/Server. The CORBA application is a multi-user electronic personal diary, that can be used to check other people's diaries, make appointments, etc. The CORBA Server is implemented in Delphi, followed by a CORBA Client in Java, another Server in Java and finally a CORBA Client in Delphi that talks with both CORBA Servers, using two computers.

No prior knowledge of CORBA is required, but some ObjectPascal and/or Java knowledge is needed. An in-depth technical paper, including full source code, will be given to all attendees. The cost is £100 for members, £200 for non-members, including lunch and refreshments but excluding VAT.

### OOP Masterclass

On July 29th in Hammersmith, London, the speaker is Phil Brown and topics covered include object orientation concepts, first steps in OO implementation, object relationships, instance handling and advanced concepts.

### Regular Meetings

**March 16th, Hammersmith, London.** Includes: OOP, where do I begin, by Sue Topchik and Nigel Cohen, AppModeler by Kate Digman of Sybase UK, advanced Delphi component development with Ray Konopka, who also demos Raize Components 2 and CodeSight.

**March 19th, Glasgow.** Includes: Ray Konopka (as above), MIDAS with Corba by John Shiveral, user interface gadgets using TTreeView and TListView by Euan Garden.

**April 20th, Cambridge.** Includes: why you should write programs like you drive by Phil Stubbington, InterBase system tables by Phil Goulson, real-time graphical reporting by Rob Collins, building a telephony and voice-mail application with Delphi and AsyncPro by Jonathan Hyams.

**April 27th, Hammersmith, London.** Includes: InterBase third party tools by Jason Chapman, Linux as a desktop machine by Damon Matthews, Interbase connectivity using Java by Paul Hopkin, the InterBase Direct Access component set by Paul Reeves.

**To book UK BUG events or to find out about membership, call +44 (0)1980 630032.**