

THE Delphi

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News

Kylix Is Shipping

After some delay, we are pleased to confirm that Kylix is now shipping to customers: contact your local dealer for pricing or visit www.borland.co.uk.

Oracle Data Access Components NET Edition

This library of native Delphi and Kylix components from Core Lab, called ODAC NET for short, provides high performance direct access to Oracle database servers. It works directly through TCP/IP and does not require Oracle's software on the client side, allowing developers to build truly thin client applications.

The developers claim that ODAC is an easier, more flexible, more powerful and faster way of developing database applications with Oracle. It supports many Oracle-specific features and simplifies the development of client/server applications. Features include flexible automatic updating, advanced locking and row refresh, plus advanced support of Oracle objects, arrays, nested tables, BLOB and CLOB data types. Core Lab say it speeds up fetching of records from the database, as well as providing advanced design-time editors, an embedded SQL Designer to build queries, and more.

ODAC 3.00 supports Oracle versions 7.3, 8 and 8i, including

Personal Oracle. It is available for Delphi 4 and 5, Kylix, plus C++Builder 4 and 5.

The Standard Edition costs \$99, the NET Edition is \$149 and the Professional Edition (which includes full source code) is \$345. A trial version is available for free download. Visit www.crlab.com or email odac@crlab.com for more information.

Enterprise Corba 2001 Conference

Now in its third year, this conference is to be held on 15th and 16th May at the Swallow International Hotel, London. It aims to be the leading UK conference on CORBA and related technologies.

The conference keynote is to be given by Richard Soley, CEO of Object Management Group (OMG). Session topics include CORBA technology integrations with XML, Application Servers and J2EE, component standards, UML modelling and extensions, implementing CORBA services, CORBA products update and CORBA performance testing, plus OMG's Common Warehouse Metamodel. CORBA case studies include large-scale deployment at Credit Suisse and CORBA in Space applications. Featured speakers include John Cheesman, Ed Cobb, John Daniels and Tom Welsh.

Visit www.ericleach.com/ec2001 for further details, including full delegate registration information. Enterprise Corba 2001 is sponsored by both Borland and The ORB Agency and is organised by ELM.

Borland InterBase 6.0 Certified

Borland's relational database management system is now certified for the Linux, Windows and Solaris platforms.

Like many of you, I had thought that InterBase 6.0 was to be Open Source only, but it appears this idea has been quietly dropped and the database is to continue to be available as a commercial product. However, the press release also says 'Borland also plans to continue to support the open source version of InterBase'; we understand that this Open Edition is a source code release only, to be made available via SourceForge (who are at www.sourceforge.net). Confused? Join the club. Binaries of InterBase 6.0 have been available previously for free download, but the implication is that this will no longer be the case.

We understand that, as well as the Open Edition, there is also a Desktop Edition and a Server Edition. At the time of writing, Borland UK's online shop (accessible via www.borland.co.uk) was only showing InterBase 5.x, but Borland US's shop (which is at <http://shop.borland.com>) gives pricing for 6.0 Server Edition: \$50 for the base product, and \$2,100 for a 20 user pack. Other user packs are available and all these prices are for the Windows platform.

Jon Arthur, director of the InterBase business unit for Borland, says 'InterBase provides an established platform for providing services in a robust, scalable database at a lower cost.' It might be a lot cheaper than Microsoft's SQL Server but, in my view, all of these products are overpriced and will only see the likes of MySQL become more popular.

Trolltech's Qt/Embedded Wins Award

The makers of the Qt framework upon which Kylix applications are built has won Computerworld Norway's Golden Mouse award for the best Norwegian technology product of the year 2000.

The awards jury chose Qt/Embedded because of its

advanced technology, its ability to bring new applications quickly and easily across platforms, and its compact size.

Qt/Embedded consists of an embedded Linux development platform and a complete windowing system, allowing developers to build applications in their familiar development environments, and then simply recompile for the target embedded system. Because Qt/Embedded is source-code compatible with Qt for desktop (on Windows, Unix and Linux) existing desktop applications written in Qt can be ported to embedded systems with a simple recompile. The product is also the basis of the Qt Palmtop Environment, which brings the functionality and flexibility of desktop computing to palmtop computers.

Visit www.trolltech.com for more information about the Qt range of products.

SQL Tester 1.2

Red Brook Software have a new release of their SQL statement testing and management utility. New features include reading/writing SQL statements from/to query objects in Delphi form files (.DFMs), testing SQL statements in batches, exporting query results to text and XML files, and displaying all database properties.

SQL Tester can access SQL Server, Oracle, InterBase, Paradox, and Access databases through ADO data link files with OLE DB providers or BDE aliases with SQL Links.

Visit www.redbrooksoftware.com for more information on SQL Tester, which costs \$195 direct from Red Brook Software. The product is available in the UK from QBS Software: visit www.qbss.com or call +44 (0)20 8956 8001.

Crystal Reports 8.5

Crystal Decisions, formerly known as Seagate Software, have released a new version of their Crystal Reports reporting tool, in standard, professional and developer editions.

Version 8.5 incorporates a web-publishing system, which includes

an e-portfolio: Crystal's web report portal which can be customised using a wizard to match your company's corporate identity or form a new portal from within your website [*Dear Software Tool Manufacturers: please, please, do stop e-prependng every e-product e-name with e-, as it only e-serves to e-infuriate e-everyone except e-PR e-executives. E-OK? E-Thanks. E-Editor*]. In addition, the publishing wizard allows users to publish reports to a central access point on the web, ensuring information can be easily shared.

Other new features include a scheduling facility, allowing you to regularly schedule web report updates, export to various formats (PDF, XML, RTF, DHTML and Excel), XML access and export functionality, a Designer Component (to allow end-users to design reports from within your Windows applications) and a dynamic HTML Viewer.

Crystal Reports is available in the UK from Developer Solutions from £145 plus VAT. Visit www.developer-solutions.co.uk or call +44 (0)1392 262626 for full details.

OmniForm Developer's Edition 4.05

This product from Scan Soft allows developers to create electronic forms and integrate them into applications and web pages. Digital signature fields can be added to forms, which the end-user can then sign and submit electronically, eliminating the manual process of printing and signing forms by hand.

OmniForm Developer's Edition is available for £1,477 plus VAT in the UK from Grey Matter: visit www.greymatter.co.uk for more information.

SourceOffSite 3.5

From SourceGear Corporation, SourceOffsite allows remote users to perform Visual SourceSafe operations over the internet.

The interface closely resembles Visual SourceSafe explorer and the product supports encryption and passwords for files being

transferred across the internet. New in version 3.5 are file compression, pin support, an updated command-line client, file-level web deploy, branch and share of projects and hot keys.

SourceOffsite is available from £168 plus VAT in the UK from Grey Matter: visit www.greymatter.co.uk for more information.

Scale Out Not Up With Microsoft Application Center 2000

Microsoft's new deployment and management tool enables web applications to be scaled out (using clusters of standard servers) instead of scaled up (using a single huge server). The benefits include lower cost and greater reliability, as well as making future scaling much easier.

Visit www.microsoft.com or call Microsoft Connection on 0345 00 2000 (from the UK only) for more information.

UK-BUG MIDAS MasterClasses

Bob Swart will be leading a special Delphi 5 and MIDAS 3 MasterClass for the UK Borland User Group on April 3rd in London and May 2nd in Edinburgh.

Bob will show delegates how to use MIDAS in different ways, and also how to deploy MIDAS on a clean machine. Part of the MIDAS technology is the TClientDataSet, which plays an important role in the new dbExpress architecture (part of both Kylix and Delphi 6). Several different MIDAS examples will be built, from standard Windows clients and ActiveForms to web server (CGI/ISAPI) clients using InternetExpress and XML.

Visit www.ukbug.co.uk or call UK-BUG on +44 (0)1980 630032 for more information.

TurboDB 3 For Delphi And Kylix

These cross-platform database components for Kylix and Delphi are now available from dataWeb.

They enable Delphi developers to migrate BDE-based applications to Kylix with a minimum of source code amendment, as they offer the same interfaces as the BDE

components. Visit the developers' website at www.turboddb.de for more information.

Kylix Demos For Download

If you are itching to get to grips with your fresh new copy of Kylix, why not try out some of the demos available from CodeCentral on the Borland Community website at <http://codecentral.borland.com>.

The Kylix material includes components and sample chapters of upcoming books, as well as complete projects, binaries and more.

Whilst on the subject of Kylix demos, we understand that the .tgz file containing the Indy Demos which ships with Kylix has some problems. Some files were omitted in Borland's .tgz and other files had their case changed, which has caused nearly all the Indy demos not to compile. A corrected .tgz of the Indy Demos is now available for download from Nevrona's Indy website at www.nevrona.com/Indy/download80.html.

TurboPower Kylix Versions

TurboPower is soon to release Kylix versions of four of their Delphi libraries. The products concerned are Async Professional CLX, Systools for Linux, LockBox 2 (crossplatform) and XMLPartner Standard (crossplatform). Visit www.turbopower.com for more details.

LEADTOOLS 12.1

This new version of LEAD Technologies' low-level graphics libraries offers developers more than 2000 functions, properties and methods to integrate colour and grayscale document, medical, multimedia and vector imaging into custom applications.

New features include: enhanced printing support, TWAIN support detection, support for DIB V4 and V5, enhanced thumbnail support, an enhanced ImageList control, de-skewing, a magnifying glass, 12/16-bit histogram support, and more. Specific to the Delphi VCL version of the product is annotation support, PDF file support and low-level access to the bitmap data.

LEADTOOLS is available in the UK from Grey Matter: visit www.greymatter.co.uk for more information and pricing.

PR-Tracker 4.4

This bug tracker from Softwise Company integrates bug tracking over a LAN and the internet with a common interface. The database supports by multiple simultaneous access with multiple project support. The database can be sorted and searched and classifies problems according to priority, type and other properties. Personnel can be assigned to fix bugs and reports can be exported in HTML format.

PR-Tracker is available from £107 plus VAT in the UK from Grey Matter: visit www.greymatter.co.uk for more information.

Internet Security And Acceleration Server

New from Microsoft, ISA Server functions as an enterprise-level firewall and web cache. In addition, 31 add-on security solutions are also available from third parties to extend and tailor networks to spe-

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cific needs in areas such as virus detection, filtering, content security, site categorisation, reporting and management. The companies involved include Aelita Software, Aladdin, CornerPost Software, Corbett Technologies, Content Technologies, Intellimark IT Solutions, InDepth, N2H2 Inc, PatchLink Corp, Secure Computing, Soft-ex, Shavlik Technologies, WaveCrest Computing, Hewlett-Packard and SurfControl.

ISA Server is the security and performance arm of the .NET Enterprise Servers. An evaluation copy is now available at www.microsoft.com/isaserver/

Coming In Next Month's Issue...

Here's a taster of the articles planned for Issue 69, May 2001:

- ▲ Now that Kylix is out, Dave Jewell and Brian Long bring us their promised Kylix/Linux in-depth article. This will be one to feast your brain cells on!
- ▲ In his *Under Construction* column, Bob Swart will be discussing dbExpress, the database framework which is a key part of Kylix and will be central to Delphi 6.
- ▲ Dave Jewell completes his mini-series on the Windows Desktop in his *Beating The System* column.
- ▲ Julian Bucknall elucidates compound files, also known as structured storage (files which themselves contain a directory and file structure) in *Algorithms Alfresco*.
- ▲ Brian Long describes how to create Apache shared modules using Kylix.
- ▲ George Black explains how to implement simple scene graph management and 3D rendering with OpenGL.
- ▲ Chris Frizelle reviews TurboPower's FlashFiler 2 relational database, now featuring SQL support.
- ▲ Primoz Gabrijeljic reviews SvCom: an integrated shareware package of classes and tools for the development of service applications and use of the NT security framework.

Plus, as always there's the *Delphi Clinic* from Brian Long and *One Last Compile* too.