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Visible::Source

developers' code listings repository

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Overview

Visible::Source provides a storage and cataloging system for code fragments or listings that have been written in different projects over a period of time. Those source items are often copied and pasted to new projects and files numerous times.

With Visible::Source, a programmer simply takes favorite portions of code (or even complete function or procedure listings, up to 32k each) by selecting them from the source and pasting them into the repository, which also provides ample opportunity to describe and otherwise annotate the listings. There are data entry cells for *Description of Entry*, *ProjectReference*, *Source File Name*, *Language/Compiler*, *Code Date*, *Author*, *Notes*, and the *Code Listing* window itself.

The collection of listings may then be sorted by choice in any of five different ways: by *Description of Entry*, *Project Reference*, *Source File Name*, *Language/Compiler*, or *Code Date*.

Code reuse may be effected by reversing the process: selecting the needed portion of code from the repository, copying it to the Windows Clipboard and pasting it to the destination project source file.

Program Usage

The program screen consists of two functional components: a scrollable table view of the data table (the Selector Grid), and a detail section appearing as a *Form View* of the complete record. You simply scroll through data records in the sort option you have chosen; as the table view Selector Grid highlight is positioned on a record, the same record is expanded for work use in the Form View section of the program window.

You may add a new record by moving to the bottom of the Selector Grid and pressing **<DownArrow>** to append, or by pressing the **<Insert>** button on the Navigational Toolbar. (There are *help flags* that appear over the buttons in the toolbar that remind you of each button's function.)

Records may be inserted anywhere within the data table; the sort selections will then effect the relevant onscreen positionings.

After a new record is appended with the Selector Grid, you may begin typing directly into the *Description* cell. You may continue most of the new entry edit within the Selector Grid (the exception is the *Code Listing* field). If a new record has been inserted, you should click the mouse in the first cell shown in the Form View section. Enter the *Description* of the item in that cell. Complete the other cells in order, as necessary, moving from cell to cell with the **<Tab>** key or the mouse.

The final cell is the large memo field called *Code Listing*. It is here that you paste from your original source code the listing or fragment you wish to catalog. You must paste to/from and read the *Code Listing* cell in the Form View section of the screen. You utilize traditional Windows methods for selecting, copying and pasting; the key combination **<Ctrl-C>** copies selected text from the memo field, and **<Ctrl-V>** pastes text from the Windows Clipboard. You may enter up to 32k of textual information in each record's *Code Listing* cell.

After entry of data into a record, you must write the entry to the table. You do this by selecting the **<Post>** button on the toolbar, or by selecting another row in the Selector Grid *other* than the one just entered (this may be done with an **<UpArrow>** or **<DownArrow>**, or the mouse). You must not select the **<Close>** button on the Visible::Source window without posting the entry, or the changes will not be written to disk.

Editing in the Selector Grid

Edits and insertions within a cell are posted only when you move to a different record (row) on the Selector Grid. Even if you use the mouse to change focus to a command or toolbar button on the screen, the changes are not posted until you move off the current row or make an explicit post.

You may begin typing in the cell on which the highlight is placed to begin edit mode. You may press the **<Tab>** key to move from cell to cell (or **<Shift-Tab>** to move in the previous direction) in the same row. When you are finished with the edits, click on the **<Post>** button in the [Navigational Toolbar](#) to write the information to the table.

To edit existing cell contents (without replacing the entire cell), click the mouse pointer on the contents once to select it, click again to deselect it and place the pointer in edit position at the desired location. Make the modifications needed and move from the cell by pressing **<Tab>** or clicking another cell with the mouse.

You may cancel all edits for a record by pressing the **<Esc>** key in any field before moving to another record.

You may add a new, blank record to the end of the table by pressing **<DownArrow>** while editing the current last (bottom) record. You may then press **<Ctrl-LeftArrow>** to return the highlight to the leftmost cell of the new record.

The *Code Listing* memo field is not editable/viewable within the Selector Grid; please edit/read this cell from the *Code Listing* window in the Form View portion of the screen.

Rearranging Column Order and Resizing Columns in the Selector Grid

In the Selector Grid, you can use the mouse to drag a column to a new location for the current session. For example, you may wish to move the *Code Date* column from the far right position next to the *Description* column so that you may more easily peruse the sequence of changes as it relates to those two fields.

To move a column: Click the mouse pointer on the heading (column title) for the column you wish to move; holding down the mouse button, drag the column to the desired position. Multiple dragging operations may be needed to effect a long move.

You may also Resize columns for a session. For example, if you resize the *Description* column to a more narrow width, you will be able to have more columns in view on the screen during the current session.

To Resize a column: As you move the mouse pointer to the column heading (column title) you will note the mouse cursor changes shape; click on the edge of the column separator and hold down the mouse button while dragging the separator to the position desired. Release the mouse button and the column will remain in that position for the session or until it is resized again.

Navigational Toolbar

The long Navigational Toolbar contains buttons representing the following actions, from left to right:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| <First> | Sets the current record to the first record in the table. |
| <Prior> | Sets the current record to the previous record. |
| <Next> | Sets the current record to the next record. |
| <Last> | Sets the current record to the last record in the table. |
| <Insert> | Inserts a new record before the current record. |
| <Delete> | Deletes the current record; in the Selector Grid, deletes the record at which the record pointer in the leftmost column appears. Prompts for confirmation before deleting. |
| <Edit> | Enters edit state so that the current record may be modified. |
| <Post> | Writes changes in the current record to the table. |
| <Cancel> | Cancel edits to the current record. |

Additional button to the right of the Navigational Toolbar:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| < ? > | Opens the <i>readme.txt</i> file in Notepad. |
|--------------------|--|

Placing the mouse pointer momentarily over a Toolbar button will cause a *help reminder flag* to appear as to the button's function.

The **<Help>** button on the main screen always loads the Contents page of Visible::Source Help; pressing **<F1>** while the focus is on other screen components usually provides context-sensitive help.

The small **<About>** button in the upper right portion of the window brings up an *About* box containing program name, version number, copyright and publisher information.

Pressing the **<Close>** command button closes the main window.

Editing in General

Traditional Windows copy and paste operations may be utilized as necessary. In order to use the Windows Clipboard copy and paste facilities, you need only understand the simple process of text selection with the mouse. Selection may consist of an entire cell or only parts.

The **<Ctrl-C>** key combination will Copy selected text to the Windows Clipboard. **<Ctrl-X>** cuts (moves) the selected text to the Clipboard. **<Ctrl-V>** will Paste the contents of the Windows Clipboard to the location at which the insertion point is placed. To overwrite existing text with incoming text, select the existing contents (or portions thereof) first before issuing the Paste command. Text from a cell may be copied to other applications (such as your code editor) in like manner. Some text editors may have different key combinations for Clipboard Copying and Pasting functions.

Field Lengths

The capacities or formats of the various fields in *Visible::Source* are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Description of Entry | 28 (characters) |
| Project Reference | 20 |
| Source File Name | 20 |
| Language/Compiler | 10 |
| Code Date | mm/dd/yy |
| Author | 7 |
| Notes | 70 |
| Code Listing | 32k |

Program Requirements

The specifications for running Visible::Source include a 80386sx or greater machine, Windows 3.1 or Windows 95, 2mb ram (4mb or more highly recommended), 1.3mb hard disk space.

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**RCCO Research Associates
P. O. Box 196
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Our E-mail addresses are provided to registered users along with the invoice.

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PsL's item/product number for *Visible::Source* is #14054.

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