Digital PowerTOOLS Shareware Catalog: January 1995

Topics:
Programming Add-Ons
Programming Tools
Coming Soon
Contacting Digital PowerTOOLS

Programming Add-Ons:

(All add-ons come complete with VB demonstration projects and HLP files. And, although these add-ons are designed for use with Visual Basic™, they can be used in virtually any Windows™ programming environment. For your convenience, use our OrderFrm.Wri file to place software orders.)

BttnPic.VBX   **rev 1.75**   **$10.00 registration fee**
        BttnPic (Button Picture) allows you to quickly and easily incorporate picture buttons (with optional text) into your programming projects. You can include separate UP and DOWN pictures; or, with a single UP picture, it will automatically be shifted and shaded when depressed. BttnPic can be used in designing custom toolbars and as a graphical replacement for the standard text button. Pictured buttons are becoming very popular with new Windows™ software; now you can add this eye-appealing feature to your own application projects with minimum cost and time.

CsrPlus.DLL   **rev 1.75**   **$10.00 registration fee**
        CsrPlus (Cursor Plus) is a collection of icons and backdrop patterns complete with easy-to-use functions for utilizing the new, appealing graphics in your own applications. You get nearly 100 new cursors and 18 eye-appealing backdrop patterns. Of course, you can create your own cursors for VB, but this takes a lot of time along with numerous VB functions and API calls. CsrPlus does all this work for you ... and all your applications can use the same DLL.
        VB only gives you 13 cursors (mouse pointers). This greatly restricts your creativity with sophisticated applications. To use the nearly 100 CsrPlus cursors you simply invoke the MakeCursor command using the name of cursor (yes, name strings are used instead of numbers -- no contstants to declare). There are five classes of cursors provided: FUNCTIONAL (ContextHelp, Eraser, EyeDropper, Pencil, etc.), STANDARD (CheckMark, FatArrowNE, MagicWand, TrekPointer, etc.), NOVELTY (Bug, Knight, Skull, Sword, etc.), ANIMATED (Timer and HourGlass), and USER-DEFINED (named User1 - User8).
        Pattern backdrops is a new concept to VB programs, although professional C programmers have been using them for years. With the new FormBackDrop command you instantly fill the background of a form (or PictureBox) with a pre-defined pattern design. This feature greatly enhances 3D-effects with the included VB subroutines to generate 3D effects for controls and forms.

LblImage.VBX   **rev 1.75**   **$10.00 registration fee**
        LblImage (Label Image) shares properties of both the standard VB label and the VB image controls. As a label, text is automatically centered vertically within the height of the label and you can specify border shading. As an image, you can specify both UP and DOWN pictures

allowing you to use the control as a button or simply a graphic display. You can even flip between the caption and an image. As a button, you can use LbImage as a group button or an independent button.

LbTurn.VBX   **rev 1.75**   **$10.00 registration fee**
        LbTurn (Label Turn) is very similar to the standard VB label (or Windows™ static) control. However, with this label you can define the degrees of rotation, the Turn property. You can easily turn the caption upside down, facing left, facing right, or create circular effects. LbTurn captions automatically have transparent backgrounds so they fit anywhere nicely and they are automatically centered within the label size (height and width), both vertically and horizontally. In fact, you'll probably find that you use LbTurn more often than you do the standard Label control.

Message.VBX   **rev 1.75**   **$10.00 registration fee**
        Message allows you to easily intercept ANY window messages; VB only responds to a few messages (called Events) per control. With this added capabilty you can respond to right-mouse clicks, set minimum and maximum window re-size dimensions, respond to custom system menu items, display statusbar messages based on menu selection (before clicking), etc. Add a powerful new control dimension to your programming projects with Message.VBX.

WavPlus2.DLL   **rev 2.00**   **$15.00 registration fee**
        The VB Pro version comes with the Multimedia MCI Control that allows you to play and record WAV and MIDI files. Until now, users of the VB standard version have not had this capability without resorting to the complex functionality of the Windows 3.1 MCI (Media Control Interface) API. WavPlus2 simplifies programming Wav (and Mid) playback and recording by providing an easy-to-understand command structure, complete with error-response messages. You can even playback sections of Wav files which conserves valuable disk space when you combine several waveforms into a single file. WavPlus.DLL utilizes both MCI and low-level access. You can also easily determine if the user's system can play WAV or MID files.

        Plus, you can now play Wav files embedded in other DLL's. You can also play any of the inherent Windows™ message sounds. And, WavPlus now comes with a demo of playing MID files and includes CD-ROM support.

WinfoXL.DLL   **rev 2.00**   **$20.00 registration fee**
        WinfoXL is a complete system information and control API with dozens of functions all using the inherent command structure -- there are no global constants to declare. For example, to find out the amount of free space on a fixed disk, the command might be GetDriveSize("C", "FreeBytes"). You can also determine the TotalBytes, UsedBytes, TotalClusters, TotalSectors, BytesPerSector, etc. You can change volume names. You have complete access control of bit logic with TestBit, BitSet, BitReset, BitAnd, BitOr, etc. You can also determine total system RAM, ascertain the status of system keys (NumLock, CapsLock, etc.), send and receive values to ports, peek and poke bytes in RAM, set file time and date stamps, determine printer status (before printing!!!), determine drive status (before accessing a drive you can know if the drive is valid, the diskette is formatted, the diskette is inserted, the diskette has been changed, etc.).

        Plus, you can determine the type of drive: fixed disk, floppy drive, CD-ROM, RAM drive, remote, compressed, compressed host, local, local shared, etc. The list of system information and control functions just goes on and on.

        WinfoXL is actually a combination of our older DrvPlus and StrPlus DLL's with a completely new access interface and MANY more functions. With strings, you can convert

ToName (capitalizing only the first letters of words), convert ToMoney (convert a currency value to a string as it would be printed in words on a check -- 123.45 would return One Hundred Twenty-three and 45/100), convert numbers to roman numerals, count the number of words in a string, etc.

Our WordColor function works just like QBcolor and RGB except that you use words instead of hard-to-remember numbers. For example, WordColor("blue") is the same as QBcolor(1). JustifyLine justifies (both right and left) a text string with the margins that you specify. And, SuperText lets you print strings with a variety of special effects such as rotation and shading.

No other single add-on product gives you such a diverse and complete information/control API. Once you've used WinfoXL, you'll wonder how you ever got along without it.

ZipBase.MDB   **rev 1.00**   **$10.00 registration fee**
ZipBase is an Access™ database of US zipcodes. You'll have the power to instantly return a city and state given the five digit zipcode. This will give your commercial projects a very intelligent, user-friendly appeal.

3DfxPlus.DLL   **rev 1.65**   **$10.00 registration fee**
The use of 3D user-interface effects is rapidly becoming a standard in the computing world. In fact, Windows 95 (the Chicago Project) includes a huge number these 3D effects. 3DfxPlus automatically adds this eye-appealling effect to your applications.
For example, your normal VB forms are transformed into 3D complete with gray (button color) backdrops, border shading, controls shading, recessed 3D check boxes, recessed 3D option buttons, etc. And, common dialog boxes (open, save as, etc.) and MessageBoxes are automatically transformed into 3D too. Plus, since 3DfxPlus works on a form by form basis, it won't interfere with your MDI (multiple document interface) projects (if you don't want it to). What's more, 3DfxPlus even has an option to turn itself off if the user of your application has a higher version of Windows than 3.11 so that you get the best of both worlds.
And, you can customize virtually every aspect of the 3D effects. You can make borders sunken or raised. You can have Option Buttons transformed into Sunken Circles or Sunken Diamonds. You can have Check Boxes transformed into SunkenX's, RaisedX's, SunkenChecks, or RaisedChecks. You can make Frame (GroupBox) borders raised, sunken, RaisedDouble, or SunkenDouble. And, you can even choose from several different patterns for form backdrops. You get nearly 3 dozen customizing functions, each with several options. You can even change customizations on the fly from one form to another. And, these functions use English words such as, left, right, center, sunken, raised, etc. -- so that you don't have to declare a lot of global constants; just plug 'n play.
And, what 3D package would be complete without some 3D effects for text output on forms. 3DfxPlus includes the SuperTextOut function which not only displays 3D text, but can also rotate text on Forms and PictureBoxes. You also get a JustifyLine command which justifies text evenly between two margins.
Why turn your design desktop into a mosaic of toolbox buttons when a single DLL will transform your existing controls into 3D for you? **Note:** You MUST NOT have any VB design forms open (displayed) when you run a program in design mode that uses 3DfxPlus.DLL; you should either close or minimize them before running the application in design mode.

VB Collection #1   **rev 2.00**   **$10.00 registration fee**
This is a collection of our favorite VB forms (.frm) and modules (.bas) that we use in our commercial programming projects. We are now offering them to the general public so that you can incorportate these reusable functionalities into your own projects.

Included is our complete module library (we include parts of some of these in our other VB add-ons): **DpLibStr** (numerous string handling functions), **DpLibMat** (several math functions), **DpLibObj** (several functions for adding 3D effects and the like to forms), **DpLibDat** (an extensive library of date and time functions that greatly enhance VB's inherent functions), and **DpLibPM** (a complete library for accessing the Program Manager through DDE -- adding groups and icons, deleting groups and icons, listing group and file names, etc.). This collection is so useful that you'll probably want to add these modules to your AutoLoad.Mak file so that you can easily use them in all your projects.

We've also tossed in several reusable forms including **CalPick** (a very sophisticated point-n-click calander -- we include a primitive version of this with WinfoXL), **ProMeter** (a progress meter), **TimePick** (a sophisticated point-n-click time selection window -- we include a primitive version of this in WinfoXL), **CBlist** (a scrollable list with CheckBoxes and fields), and **WizTip** (a scrollable text viewer with color text and a graphic in the header for use as a Wizard Tips window like you see in some MS products and in our own VSWpro).

Programming Tools:

DpPowerBar   **rev 1.50**   **$10.00 registration fee**
This handy little tool displays information gadgets on your screen so that you can keep up with your system status at all times. The gadgets include: resources monitor, memory monitor, drive space monitor, and printer status along with a clock and a calendar. Plus, you can include any or all of these gadgets in your DpPowerBar and you can have the display as gadgets or as simple text (to conserve screen space). Although this tool is useful to any Windows™ user, programmers find it especially vital to know the exact status of their system.

VSWpro Deluxe   **rev 1.50**   **$45.00 registration fee**
From your original concept to the final product, you've labored many weeks and, maybe, even months on your Visual Basic project building, testing, and revising code. You've spent countless hours designing and redesigning features, functions, windows, and graphics. You've written entensive documentation for hardcopy and for online help. You've finally finished beta testing and now the culmination of your creative inspiration and analytical talents is about to enter the hands of other eager computer enthusiasts; it's time to market your latest *magnum opus*.

But, the first aspect of the application that your end users actually interface with is your installation utility -- not the application you've worked so assiduously to develop. Do you really want to have all of your hard work tarnished by a poor first impression because you resorted to using some primitive, drab setup utility? Of course not! Do you have the time to write a good, customized setup utility for each and every application that you distribute? Probably not.

But, until recently, we Visual Basic™ programmers haven't had many options for compatible, full-featured setup utilities. And most general purpose setup utilities don't inherently handle all of the support file idosyncracies of Visual Basic™ -- using one of these can be a nightmare if you have a lot of add-ons in your project. In fact, Microsoft® opened the door for third party developers in this area by including such a "basic" setup wizard with this incredibly powerful and quite popular Windows™ programming language.

The long-awaited solution is here -- the **Visual Setup Wizard Professional Toolkit** by

Digital PowerTOOLS comes to the rescue. With VSWpro, you'll effortlessly create stunning project installations complete with truly professional interfaces, dazzling billboards, and extensive error checking. Plus, you have a hefty arsenal of customizable features and functions to choose from. VSWpro is the setup utility of choice for VB programmers offering you features that are typically only found in the customized, in-house setup utilities of the major, international software firms. In fact, it does the work for you; you just answer a few questions and it builds the installation package for you to your specifications. VSWpro completely replaces the primitive wizard that comes with VB.

The power of the Wizard itself stems from the fact that you actually design setup projects using its built-in point-n-click programming language. The Wizard walks you through step-by-step designing your own custom interface and choosing the features that you want to include. Then, it compresses all of your project files storing them in a subdirectory on your hard drive; this enables you to expeditiously make distribution disks whenever you need to (5.25" or 3.25") without having to compress the files again.

Consider this installation scenario. You have an application that comes with graphics files, WAV files, two subordinate applications, and some text files. With VSWpro, not only can you make these file sets optional, but you can also put them in their own subdirectories (beneath your main directory and multi-level subdirectories) ... automatically. And, even though VSWpro easily handles sophisticated, multi-faceted installations for you, it works just as thoroughly on simple application installations too. Regardless of the complexity you choose, VSWpro does all the work for you to your specifications creating an installation package that will be easy to understand and eye-appealing to your end users. Now, your project installations will be just as impressive as your applications that you've meticulously labored over for so many hours ... and with very little extra effort.

Here are a few of the built-in features that VSWpro gives you:

- Option to permanently (or temporarily) write the end user's name and company to the first distribution disk upon initial installation.

- Option to set file date/time stamps on any of your distribution files (before and/or after compression).

- Ability to automatically set volume labels while making distribution disks.

- Creates distribution disks on 5.25" or 3.5" without going through separate file compression processes.

- Option to exclude your VBRUNxxx.DLL (to minimize total size for uploading to BBS's, online subscription services, etc.). If you exclude this vital DLL, you should include a note in the file description stating its necessity to your application ... it's available for DL on any service that offers VB apps to its subscribers.

- Allows you to have optional installation file groups, up to 64. An optional installation file group can consist of one or several files. You also have an option to make one file group mandatory to installation. The optional file groups are displayed to your end user in a scrolling ListBox that contains CheckBoxes. And, you have several color scheme choices here.

- Option to create additional icons in your application's Program Group (the help file, other EXE files, etc.)

- Ability to choose whether or not the end user can name your Program Group.

- Options to run applications (for example, a readme.txt file or your main application) upon completion of installation.

- Option to display graphic billboards with custom messages during the installation process.

- Your application will install properly even if another VB application is already running on the end user's system.

- Option to give audible prompts to install the next disk in the distribution set.

- You have many main window backdrop choices including color fade, solid color, and graphic fill (stretch or tile).

- Includes customizable table of add-on file components. Some VBX's, OCX's and DLL's that your application uses may rely on other support files (LIC, DLL, etc.) that are not readily apparent. This also lets you easily upgrade VSWpro when you get newer versions of VB.

- Option to use either ZIP or LZH file compression and an option to ZIP your entire installation package into a single distribution file for archival purposes or for uploading to BBS's and online subscription services.

- Creates the target directory and any additional subdirectories that you specify. You have complete control over which directory or subdirectory each file is installed into.

- Option to check end user's system hardware (RAM size, CPU, Windows version, and video resolution) and prevent installation if your criteria are not met.

- Specifically designed to operate optimally in 640 x 480, 800 x 600, and 1024 x 768 video resolution modes.

- Full support of systems with multiple hard drives including file size calculations which differeniate the system drive from your target drive, if necessary.

- Handles up to 16,348 files and up to 1,024 disks in the installation package.

- Extensive error checking (invalid disk, invalid path, missing disk, existing file, existing path, version checking, validation of Program Group creation, etc.) with friendly, helpful messages for your end users. Automatically corrects many common user keypress errors.

- The end user can restart the setup utility at many points in order to change previously choosen settings.

- Text entry masking for friendly input control.

- Slick, 3D appearance to all windows including customized MessageBoxes and TitleBars.

- Only adds about 80K to your first distribution disk.

VSWpro Lite   rev 1.50 $30.00 registration fee
        This Lite version includes all the features of VSWpro Deluxe (see above) with the exception of no ZIP file support and no support for installation billboards (graphic and message displays while installation is in progress).

Wav Files Set #1 $12.00
        This is a treasure chest of more than 225 Wav files organized for your convenient access by category. Catagories include: animal sounds, assorted, bells and horns, cartoon soundbytes, expressions, halloween, movie soundbytes, music, odd sounds, and sound effects.   This

extensive package will save you a lot download time while supplying you with an arsenal of sounds for your listening pleasure. You may even want to incorporate some of the sounds into your application projects.

Coming Soon:

We are eager to provide programming tools that you need and will use. Please write to let us know of any new tools that you'd like to see. Of course, we're always happy to listen to suggestions for improvement to our existing products as well. Coming soon from Digital PowerTOOLS are **DpComm.DLL** (a sophisticated communications tool including Xmodem protocol transfer capability), **DskPlus.DLL** (a tool for formatting disks and removing complete directory structures), **DpWavFiler** (a tool for playing/recording Wav/Mid files and for filing them in a convenient categorized database with keyword references), **DpPicFiler** (a tool for tracking your graphics files in database format with numerous picture file formats supported including image editing features), and **DpIconFiler** (a tool for storing your icon files with database access and keyword references including a sophisticated icon editor).

Contacting Digital PowerTOOLS:

Neither AOL, CIS, nor the Internet is affiliated in any way with Digital PowerTOOLS. However, we do recognize these online subscription services as leaders (among many others) in their support of Microsoft's Visual Basic™ for Windows™. The Sysops and users of each service are very attentive to answering questions and providing programming information. And, each offers NUMEROUS shareware and freeware utilities for VB users. Our private e-mail addresses are:

Digital PowerTOOLS
P.O. Box 97794
Jackson, MS 39288-7794
(601) 932-5931

AOL: Vernon486
CIS: 74547,23
Internet: Vernon486@aol.com

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