

TransSkel 3.21 — Release Notes

This document is an adjunct to the TransSkel Programmer's Manual. It lists changes and additions specific to release 3.21.

The primary change in this release is that Pascal support has been changed: THINK Pascal support has been discontinued. Metrowerks Pascal (68K and PPC) is supported instead.

Reasons:

- I don't like Pascal in the first place.
- In particular, I've never liked THINK Pascal. Many people like it a lot, in particular its debugger. I have no quarrel with that, but I rarely use a debugger even in C, so TP's debugger doesn't enthuse me. In addition:
 - THINK Pascal doesn't supply any 'SIZE' -1 resource, so you have to put one in the resource file yourself.
 - I don't like having to re-find the TransSkel library and interface files for each demo project every time I move the distribution from one machine to another.
 - THINK Pascal is a dead language at this point. Metrowerks Pascal is actively supported by its vendor, conforms to the current interfaces, and can generate PPC code.

If you want to use THINK Pascal, that's fine with me. I simply have no interest in making any effort to maintain compatibility with it. I won't go out of my way to make TransSkel incompatible with it, but from this point on, I'll rely on any feedback I get from others to assess whether changes to TransSkel have important implications for the ease with which a TP-compatible library can be compiled.

The conversion involved the following changes to the interface code:

- Created *TransSkel.p* from *TransSkel.intf* (the latter being the THINK Pascal interface file). You should include *TransSkel.p* in your Pascal project documents.
- In *TransSkel.p*, changed the `EventRecord` parameters for `SkelSetEventHook()`, `SkelSetAEHandler()`, `SkelCmdPeriod()`, and `SkelDlogMapKeyToButton()` to VAR parameters.
- *TransSkel.p* defines a compile-time symbol `skelPPC` that can be tested to determine whether or not PPC code is being compiled. It's similar to `skelPPC` in *TransSkel.h*.

The conversion involved the following changes to the demonstration applications:

- Changed references to QuickDraw globals like `white`, `black` to references of the form `qd.white`, `qd.black`.
- Converted old-style names like `SetCtlValue()` to `SetControlValue()`.
- Fixed a bug in the *Filter* demo. The `EventRecord` parameter for the `DlogFilter()` and `DlogFilter2()` modal dialog filter functions wasn't declared as a `VAR` parameter like it should be. It worked for the 68K demo (apparently because structures bigger than 4 bytes get passed as pointers anyway), but not in the PPC demo.
- Fixed similar bug in the *Button* and *DialogSkel* applications.
- Took the 'SIZE' resources out of the Pascal demo project resource files. These were needed for THINK Pascal, which supplied no such resource.

The Reference document was changed to reflect the modifications described above. I also restored the table of contents formatting after Word 6 destroyed it for me. (I normally work in Word 5, but mistakenly brought the document into Word 6 once, with unpleasant results.)