

THE Delphi

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News

Accounting for Delphi

Accounting for Delphi is a series of general accounting modules for Delphi, from ColumbuSoft, based in Ohio, USA. The package includes General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Order Entry, Inventory/Purchasing, Fixed Assets, Payroll, Job Costing, Contact Management and Point Of Sale modules, with full source code included and no royalties to pay. Each module can be used alone or in combination with others.

The Point-Of-Sale module is new and includes support for an unlimited number of registers per store, completely mouse-less operation (for speed of data entry) and support for scanners, cash drawers and receipt printers.

The source code includes many utility functions that can be used in other apps, including a reusable report printer with preview.

Accounting for Delphi is available directly from ColumbuSoft at \$500 for the first module and \$300 for each extra module. A fully functional demo is available at www.columbusoft.com. For details call ColumbuSoft on +1 614 885 7789, Fax: +1 614 885 2077, or Email: sales@columbusoft.com.

Graphics Server 5.1

Bits Per Second have released version 5.1 of its Graphics Server charting library. The new release includes PNG file support (which

avoids the licensing problems of GIF) and a Delphi 3 package. There are a number of Active Server Page (asp) examples which illustrate how graphing and charting server-side applications can be created using Graphics Server and Visual Basic, plus enhanced multi-threading capabilities for Windows NT C++ applications.

Graphics Server costs £245 plus VAT in the UK. Registered users who have version 5.00 can upgrade to 5.1 free of charge, for users of earlier versions the upgrade costs £99 plus VAT. Call Bits Per Second on +44 (0)1273 727119, Fax: +44 (0)1273 731925, Email: rflowers@bitspersecond.co.uk or visit www.bitspersecond.co.uk.

Chief's Installer Pro 4.01

The African Chief (email him at: laa12@cc.keele.ac.uk) has a new version of his award-winning installation package for Windows 3.1x, Windows 95 and NT.

New and updated features include an improved IDE, fully automated BDE installation, creation of self-extracting EXEs, a built-in ZIP compression engine, OCX and DLL registration, CD-ROM drive identification, desktop shortcuts under Windows 95 and NT 4.x, support for conditional defines and "autoexec" batch/ script files.

There are also substantial extensions to the batch language which enable those so inclined to wield control over the minutest details of an installation. The focus has been on ease of use, and the new IDE means that most installations can be created without any scripting.

For an unrestricted trial version of Chief's Installer Pro, visit

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/African_Chief/

DotHLP 1.1d Upgrade

This Help authoring tool from Auric Visions, written in Delphi and reviewed in the Launch Issue of *Developers Review* (check www.itecuk.com for an online copy of the review), has now been updated. In the Professional version, the import facility (which allows you to bring existing Help files into DotHLP) is much improved. Also, the facility to export Help projects to Rich Text Format (RTF) files has been enhanced. Auric Visions claim you can now produce a manual with embedded graphics in one RTF file, with a table of contents and index, from your Help files.

Registered users can download a free upgrade from

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/ghandley>

where a free trial version can also be obtained. Secure online orders can also be placed, or call the UK Borland User Group on +44 (0)1980 630032. The Standard version costs £69 plus VAT in the UK and the Professional is £99 plus VAT.

Dr.Bob's HeadConv 3.0

Our very own "Dr.Bob" Swart has released a new 32-bit command-line version of HeadConv, his shareware C DLL Header Converter. HeadConv v3.0 is capable of generating implicit or explicit Delphi import units, with `{IFDEF WIN32}` compiler directives to make them compilable with all versions of Delphi. Download it from www.drbob42.com.

Delphi Jedi Project

A group of programmers have got together to keep up with the constant release of new APIs and port them to Delphi.

For more information on the Delphi Jedi Project, you can subscribe to the Jedi listserver by sending a message to listserv@purescience.com with the text "SUBSCRIBE JEDI" in the message body.

ViCious Pro 1.00.00

Originally unveiled to the world in an article by "Dr.Bob" Swart in *The Delphi Magazine*, June 1996, the first commercial version of this version control system (VCS) has now been released by SureHand. The authors claim it is one of the few VCSs for Delphi and C++Builder that is able to recognize the relationship between a .DFM form and a .PAS unit file, using a concept called "File Families." You can obtain a trial version of ViCious Pro at www.surehand.com for 30 day evaluation.

Pricing depends on the number of users, ranging from \$76 per user for 1 to 5 users, down to \$64 per user for up to 20, plus handling and sales tax (where applicable). For details, email Sean Winstead at sean@surehand.com.

Delphi Newsgroups

TurboPower now have their own internet newsgroups, for more

information check www.turbopower.com. They are also considering a Developer Network Program and have a survey form at www.turbopower.com/tpdn/ for you to complete.

Don't forget to check out Dr.Bob's brand new newsgroups: information at www.drbob42.com.

Abbrevia Compression Components

TurboPower Software have released their native Delphi ZIP data compression components, which can create and use PKZIP 2.0 compatible files. You can use either the provided API for a code-based solution, or work with the visual components, depending on your requirement. Advanced features such as disk spanning, long filenames, passwords and comments are included. In the UK, Grey Matter (Tel: 01364 654100) will sell you Abbrevia for £117 plus VAT. There are no royalties.

Luxent Apollo 4.0

Recently formed component developers Luxent Software have released a new version of their database engine which supports Delphi 3 and C++Builder. As well as eliminating the BDE, Apollo adds support for FoxPro, Clipper and HiPer-Slx tables, memos, and index formats. Only 200Kb of distributable files are required. It also supports the native Delphi/C++Builder data-aware components as well as 3rd-party data-aware components. The new release includes Delphi 3 support, is 100% thread-safe (say the developers) and has support for user-defined functions (UDFs) within index/query expressions.

UK prices from Grey Matter (Tel: 01364 654100) are £223 for the Professional edition (includes source) and £148 for the Standard edition.

Send your news to the Editor at chris@itecuk.com please!

Delphi DeBug Team Needs Bugs And Checkers

Some time ago Reinier Sterkenburg created a web-site for Delphi bugs: the Delphi Bug Lists. To help with this project, the Delphi DeBug Team was founded: a group of people committed to keep the Delphi Bug List up to date.

Of course, they now need us all to send in bug reports! The Team is also looking for new members, especially with database expertise.

The Delphi Bug Lists can be found at:
www.poboxes.com/DelphiBugList

Information on the Team is at:
www.dataweb.nl/~r.p.sterkenburg/debugtm.htm

The bug reporting policy is at:
www.dataweb.nl/~r.p.sterkenburg/policy.htm

To send in a bug report, or apply to become a bug-checker, send email to:
DelphiBugList@poboxes.com