

THE Delphi

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News

Standard Delphi Library

Soletta have announced an open beta test of the Standard Delphi Library (SDL) of data structure, object persistence and algorithms. SDL is based on the design of the Standard Template Library, the container-library standard for C++. SDL containers can be used to hold any Delphi data type with no special syntax. Over 60 generic algorithms are included, most of which will work on any container class. SDL's companion library, SuperStream (included with the SDL Source Edition, and also available separately), provides integrated persistence capabilities. Data structures include arrays, double-linked lists, maps and sets.

For more information, or to download the beta version, visit www.soletta.com

Graphics Server Has New Distributor

Contemporary Software has taken over European distribution and support of Graphics Server, developed by Bits Per Second. Graphics Server is now at version 5.1 and is a suite of components for integrating graphs, charts and statistics into Windows and internet applications. It supports Delphi as well as other popular development environments. The library costs £245 plus VAT in the UK, call Contemporary Software on +44 (0)1344 873434 for details.

Skyline Tools Acquires VideoLab

Graphics component developers Skyline Tools have acquired VideoLab: a Delphi component (with source) and Active X for importing live video into applications. A free trial version is available at www.imagelib.com. Skyline also announced support for DICOM, the medical imaging standard established by the FDA, which will soon be added to the company's list of supported file formats. DICOM is commonly used to view MRIs, Scans and X-rays. Delphi 4 versions of Skyline products are also scheduled for release anytime now.

TurboPower SysTools 2

This new version of TurboPower's system-oriented library adds over 100 new capabilities. There are over 50 new financial and statistical routines, similar to those in Excel. Also new is bar code creation, with support for UPC and EAN, plus access to the Win32 GUI shell, format converters for popular internet formats such as UUENCODE and MIME, routines for calculating CRC values, enhanced container classes, a mathematical expression evaluator, improved astronomical routines, and more. There are now over 800 routines and components in SysTools. Check www.turbopower.com for fuller details.

All versions of Borland Delphi and Borland C++Builder are supported. SysTools 2 costs £129 plus VAT from System Science, visit www.systemscience.co.uk or call +44 (0)171 833 1022.

Crt32: Delphi Console Unit

Crt32 from ZieglerSoft allows you to do console-mode applications in 32-bit Delphi (2, 3 and 4) in a very simple way, much as some of us used to (and a few of us still do!) under DOS with Borland Pascal. It can provide a useful help when moving a DOS application to Windows, as the applications can use memory resources as 32-bit Windows programs. Full source code is included.

The price of Crt32 is \$52.00, from ZieglerSoft in Denmark, visit www.zieglersoft.dk or call them on +45 (0)9811 3772.

InstallShield New Versions

The latest release of InstallShield Express, 2.02, offers increased flexibility and power, including the ability to create operating system specific file groups for conditional installation, file-by-file granularity for specifying self-registration, new InstallShield Objects and more.

Also new is InstallFromTheWeb 2.20, InstallShield's internet installation system, which now includes enhanced handling of secure HTTP, increased run-time flexibility and reduced download time.

InstallShield Express costs £169 and InstallFromTheWeb is £268, both plus VAT, from System Science, tel +44 (0)171 833 1022 or visit www.systemscience.co.uk

Collection '98 Back Issues CD-ROM

Our newest back issues CD-ROM, Collection '98, is scheduled to begin shipping in the second half of August. It will cost just £30 inclusive to any country and will include *all* the back issues from 1 to 36 (August 1998). Yes: 36 issues for the price of 12! Plus tons of bonus trial software too.

The CD includes a brand new browser which will allow you to search and view articles, disk material and bonus material.

Anyone who bought Collection '96 or '97 from 1st July this year will automatically receive a completely *free* 'upgrade' to the new Collection '98.

See the ad on page 19 for details of how to order.

What! No Delphi 4 Review In *The Delphi Magazine*?

A number of readers have contacted me to voice their concern that we had not planned to carry an in-depth review of Delphi 4 in *The Delphi Magazine*. As you will know, such a review will be included in the August issue of *Developers Review*: Brian Long is our reviewer.

Having read your messages I can understand your concerns and am willing to admit that, yes, we got this one wrong, and I apologise. Before I explain my reasoning, I'll tell you what we have done. First, we have included the full review, from *Developers Review*, on the companion disk with this issue (in folder DELPHI4). We also plan to put it on our website. So, you will not miss out!

Ok, so why did I not plan to include the review in *The Delphi Magazine*? Since launching *Developers Review*, our policy has been not to carry reviews in *The Delphi Magazine*. I felt it would be confusing for readers to have review material in both magazines. Also, I felt it would be wrong to duplicate material in the two magazines: I believe that subscribers would feel they were paying for some material twice over. Given that Delphi is right up amongst the leaders in current development environments, it was essential that *Developers Review* reviewed version 4. My decision to make the Delphi 4 review freely available I hope provides a solution that will satisfy everyone's needs.

Finally, some have asked why subscribe to *Developers Review* as well as *The Delphi Magazine*? One reason is obviously for the reviews of Delphi components and add-ons. We've already covered many and have plans for many more. Plus there's a whole load of language-independent stuff like help builders, modelling tools, debuggers, editors and so on. But there's another reason, which I feel is very important. Ok, at the moment, Delphi is a superb development tool for Windows apps. For *some* projects, it's certainly the best. But think back a few years: how many of you were developing in Delphi's precursor, Borland Pascal, before Delphi arrived? I'll bet not a huge number. Maybe you used C/C++, Visual Basic, Clipper or Paradox. Delphi caused a revolution in application development. As professional developers, we must be ready for the next revolution – and be assured that sooner or later there will be one. That means we need to keep on top of what's happening with developer tools. If your boss or client asks why you are using Delphi and not product X, Y or Z, how can you answer if you don't know about the others?

Thanks to those who contacted me: I value your input very highly and always try to respond speedily and appropriately. Should you ever feel that we 'goof' again, don't hesitate to let me know!

Chris Frizelle, Editor