News

Kylix Is Out!

Kylix, Borland's Delphi-compatible development system for Linux, was announced on 31st January and, as we go to press, is expected to be shipping around the end of February or very early March. Don't miss Dave Jewell's first look overview on page 10, and visit Borland's Kylix website at www.borland.com/kylix for the full specifications.

There are two 'commercial' versions: Kylix Server Developer (list price £1,339, or $1,999 in the US) and Kylix Desktop Developer (£669, or $999 in the US). There are discounted introductory prices available, but we are very disappointed indeed that these prices are so high: they may well put many developers off from experimenting with Kylix, which would be a great shame. We think Borland have made a significant mistake here and would urge them to rethink the pricing model.

Sometime later in the year a third version will be released: Kylix Open Edition. We understand that it will be functionally identical (or very similar) to the Desktop version. It will be available for free download (or purchase on CD with a manual for $99), but you will not be able to develop commercial applications with it. Although there is still some confusion about the details, it looks like you will only be able to create open source (GPL licence) software: this would mean you have to release the full source of your projects and also, by virtue of the fact that third party component developers won't be allowing you to give away the source of their components, you won't realistically be able to use third party components with it.

Borland are reported as expecting that 'between one million and two million users of its highly successful Delphi and C++Builder development environments will make the move to this new tool for Linux application development'. That may be rather optimistic, given the pricing...

Kylix is, however, already winning hearts and minds. It has won the Show Favorite Award in the Best Developer Tools category of the LinuxWorld Awards.

Raize CodeSite 2

Ray Konopka recently announced the availability of CodeSite 2, the latest release of Raize Software's debugging tool for Delphi and C++Builder. 'CodeSite 2 is the most significant product suite that Raize Software has released to date and represents much more than just an upgrade to CodeSite 1,' said Ray. 'CodeSite 2 clearly builds on the strengths of the original version, but utilizes a completely new architecture built from the ground up to be extensible to handle not just the needs of developers today, but also future needs.'

CodeSite helps developers locate problems in their code by giving them the ability to send detailed information from their application code to a specialised receiver. In CodeSite 2, sending information from your application code is still accomplished using a TCodeSite object. In version 2 you can send integers, strings, objects, stringlists, bitmaps, registry entries, memory blocks, text files and much more to the receiver without having to perform any data conversions.

A new architecture improves response time and also makes it possible to send information to multiple destinations. The viewer has been totally revamped to support multiple views, filters and custom inspectors.

Visit www.raize.com for more information. CodeSite 2 supports Delphi 3, 4, and 5, plus C++Builder 3, 4, and 5. CodeSite 2 Standard costs $149 and CodeSite 2 Professional, which adds additional functionality, is $299.

Easysoft dbExpress Gateway For ODBC

This new product allows Kylix applications to access data in any local or remote ODBC compliant database. It's compatible with unixODBC, the Open Source ODBC Driver Manager for Linux. When used in combination with the Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge, the gateway will provide access to MS SQL Server, MS Access or any other database which has a Windows ODBC driver. Visit

Announcing...
Kylix™
Rapid Application Development for Linux
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From The Editor...

As I hope you have already noticed, there are a few changes in this issue of *The Delphi Magazine*. It's got more pages, it's got product reviews, and it mentions Delphi *and* Kylix on the cover. We've got more ideas up our collective sleeve as well, which you will see over the next few months. I believe *The Delphi Magazine* already has a clear position as the best technical publication for Delphi developers and we aim to make it even better.

We shall be covering both Delphi (for the Windows platform) and Kylix (for the Linux platform): when Kylix is out on the streets you will start to see more Kylix material in the magazine to help you get to grips with the product. Don't miss Dave Jewell's first look in this issue on page 10. He'll be following this up next month with an in-depth article on getting started with Kylix and Linux. We aim to provide high-quality relevant material to assist developers in taking advantage of a new market on the Linux platform.

But, if you're not interested in Linux, don't worry: we certainly shall not be forgetting Windows development. Over the coming months we need your feedback on what the balance between Delphi and Kylix material should be. Of course, there's a good deal which is common to both products. When Delphi 6.0 is out, with support for both CLX and the VCL, there will be even more commonality.

You can look forward to a full review of Delphi 6.0, just as soon as our friends at Borland allow us to print one! We will of course be carrying authoritative reviews of lots of other products for Delphi and Kylix developers too: components, libraries and tools, not forgetting books. However, we also plan to include reviews of tools which are relevant but not Delphi-specific (such as help builders, installers, modelling tools, security, etc). What would *you* like to see reviewed? Drop me a line and tell me. Is there an area you are especially experienced in? Share your knowledge with other developers: email me with your ideas, they are always welcome!

Moving on from reviews, we will shortly be introducing a new column called *Perspectives*. It will aim to give readers a wider perspective than just Delphi and Kylix. Personally, I feel strongly that developers should not become totally absorbed in the tool or development approach they happen to be using now: they need to keep an ear to what's happening elsewhere. We'll be providing that information in *Perspectives*. Do you remember when Delphi 1 came out and it revolutionised Windows development? Who knows what may be just around the corner. Many of you will have heard something of Microsoft's .NET developments: these look likely to bring about a significant change in software development, at least for the Windows platform. If, as many developers hope (and hints perhaps indicate), Borland embrace the .NET framework and take Delphi down the route of being compatible with it, then there will be much to learn.

One of the hallmarks of *The Delphi Magazine* has always been its high technical standard. Where some resources leave you stranded once you have got through the basics, we aim to keep helping you even through the hardest stuff! Have you ever noticed how many books gloss over the difficult topics? We don't! However, we do recognise that there is still a place for development topics that are not at the 'bleeding edge' but reflect what many of us do in our daily work. We aim to include more of this day-to-day material. Please let us know the areas *you* need more information on and help with.

I'm very excited about the future of *The Delphi Magazine*. Perhaps our greatest asset is you: our readers. We need your feedback: email your comments, ideas and criticisms to me at chrisf@itecuk.com.

Chris Frizelle, Editor

www.easysoft.com for more information about the product.

IP*Works! For Kylix

New from /n software is a native Kylix version of its popular suite of internet components. Examples of the goodies included are interfaces to internet mail and Usenet news, as well as TCP/IP programming tools for building generic clients and servers. The components have easy-to-use interfaces that shield developers from the complexity of TCP/IP programming.

A public beta release of IP*Works! Kylix Edition for Linux is scheduled to be available at www.nsoftware.com soon.

Delphi Parser And Obfuscator From CocolSoft

The `TColDelphi` component parses Delphi Object Pascal code. It has a total of 97 events, 18 properties and 12 methods. Some possible uses of the component are creating JavaDoc-like documentation for your code, in code formatting tools, and writing an interface unit. `TColDelphi` Budget is $30 and `TColDelphi` Standard costs $50. Visit www.cocolsoft.com.au for more information.

Also from CocolSoft, CocolCloak aims to secure your products and source code from theft and reverse engineering by obfuscating your source code to make it extremely difficult for anyone to understand (and so steal) it. The program can also embed copyright and other notices in your code, within instructions rather than comments. CocolCloak costs $150. Visit www.cocolsoft.com.au for more information.

Microsoft Windows XP And Office XP

Microsoft have revealed the product names for the next versions of its Windows desktop operating system and Office applications suite. The next Windows (formerly code-named Whistler) will become Windows XP, and the next Office (formerly code-named Office 10) will become Office XP.

The XP name is short for 'experience', say Microsoft's PR folk,

'symbolising the rich and extended user experiences Windows and Office can offer by embracing Web services that span a broad range of devices' it says here. Yes, well, no doubt we can all think of a suitable response to that...

Overall, there will be more emphasis on multimedia support and enhanced connectivity. Visit www.microsoft.com for more information.

Windows XP and Office XP are currently in beta testing. Windows XP is scheduled to be available in the second half of 2001, with Office XP expected towards the end of the first half of 2001.

Dr.Bob's MIDAS 3 MasterClass

The UK Borland User Group are holding a MasterClass on MIDAS 3 given by our very own Bob Swart. It is available on 3rd April in London and 2nd May in Edinburgh.

Bob says: 'MIDAS is Borland's middleware technology for building distributed applications (you may know that already) and, in this MasterClass, I show you how to use MIDAS in different ways, and also how to deploy MIDAS (on a clean machine).

'And that's not all, because part of the MIDAS technology is the `TClientDataSet`. This wonderful little component also plays an important role in dbExpress: the new database connectivity technology of both Kylix and the upcoming version of Delphi. So if you want to prepare for the future now, you'd better start doing some serious work with this `TClientDataSet` (and guess which component will be used in the MIDAS MasterClass most of the time?).

'Finally, you may think you don't need MIDAS, but the day will come (someday, sooner than you think, perhaps) that your application needs scalability. That you need to separate your database from your business rules (if only to add a layer of security: very important in e-business environments). And when that day comes, then MIDAS will be your best friend in partitioning your executable into a truly distributed application (with Delphi or C++Builder).'

What more can we say? Call +44 (0)1980 630032 for more details and to make your booking. Hurry, space is limited!

Test And Manage SQL Statements

New from Red Brook Software, SQL Tester is a utility that allows developers to test SQL statements before loading them from files or embedding them in code.

SQL Tester makes it easy for developers to use Delphi's `LoadFromFile` method to assign SQL statements to the SQL property of a `TQuery` component at runtime. With SQL Tester, both standard and parameterised queries can be fully tested.

In addition to general editing, SQL Tester includes search, replace, duplicate and purge functions. SQL statements are automatically numbered and can be grouped for filtering and printing by project. Frequently used SQL statements can also be stored in templates for later use.

SQL Tester can access SQL Server, Oracle, InterBase, Paradox, and Access databases through ADO data link files with OLE DB providers or BDE aliases with SQL Links. It costs $195: visit www. redbrooksoftware.com for more information.

ActiveXplorer Claims To Solve DLL Hell

Aivosto ActiveXplorer 1.1 is an ActiveX control manager for Windows. It lists, registers, unregisters, analyses, documents and backs up ActiveX files. The developers say it's useful when solving installation problems and learning to use undocumented controls.

The product detects all ActiveX control versions installed on the system, and allows a user to install and uninstall ActiveX files with a mouse click from an context menu in Explorer. Batch registering and unregistering is also available for larger control collections.

The analysis feature reveals the functionality of any ActiveX control, generating a document with all the classes, properties and methods available. Backup and restore functionality ensures that a working set of file versions is always available, and if version or install problems should occur, the developers claim that ActiveXplorer can restore the original working state.

ActiveXplorer costs $59. A free evaluation copy is available for download at www.aivosto.com, where you can also find additional information.

XML Spy 3.5

From Altova, this product is an IDE for XML. The new version includes a graphical XML Schema editor, as well as enhanced groupware and collaboration features. It is also available as a server edition that allows you to use the product from any COM-capable programming language in your own XML-based or B2B (business-to-business) server applications.

XML Spy costs from £229 plus VAT from Grey Matter, visit www.greymatter.co.uk for more information.

BPEaccesstoMySQL

Developed by BPE Ltd, this product enables developers to manage the MySQL database environment, convert Access tables to MySQL tables and insert Access data into MySQL tables, all from within Access itself. Then, claim the developers, by using such products as Chili!Soft ASP, you can use the same features in the Linux environment that you have been able to use in the Microsoft world.

BPEaccesstoMySQL costs £95 plus VAT from QBS Software; visit www.qbss.com to obtain more information.