

THE Delphi

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News

Kylix Desktop Price Crash!

Kylix Desktop Developer has been dramatically reduced in price and is now selling at £139 plus VAT (\$199 in the USA). If you bought that product at the original price, Borland says you are entitled to a free upgrade to the Server Developer edition: contact Customer Services in the UK on 0800 454065.

The price reduction is stated to be until 23 August 2001, but we think it would be a brave company (not to mention foolhardy) that hiked the price back up again on 24 August. Regretfully, the Server Developer edition has not been reduced in price: we hope Borland will see the light on this also.

IT-Map To Launch dbPal

A new database tool called dbPAL is to be launched in July at BorCon in the USA. Developed jointly in the UK and USA using Delphi, dbPAL offers developers a toolkit for database design, conversions and database synchronisation that is universal across most DBMS types.

Check the website at www.dbPAL.com for a pre-release beta.

Build With FinalBuilder

FinalBuilder is designed to automate the software build process, something that developers have traditionally used batch files or general purpose scripting tools for. The developers claim that FinalBuilder allows you to

automate your builds in a GUI environment, where batch programming skills are not needed.

The product currently supports Delphi (versions 3, 4, 5 and 6), Borland Resource Compiler, Visual Basic 6, Source Safe, Wise Install, InstallShield, Inno Setup and Doc-O-Matic. In addition, the developers claim that many other products are also supported via their command-line interfaces (for example, C++Builder and Visual C++). The product also has action types that send email, FTP files, copy files, move files, delete files, create directories, delete directories, set file attributes, execute programs, run DOS commands and create Zip files.

Visit www.finalbuilder.com for more information and to download a 30-day trial version.

ICE Installer

This is an install program, which used to be called Youseful Install, written in Delphi. The good news is that it has now become an open source product, meaning that not only do you get the product but the full source. Visit www.nevrona.com/ice/downloads.htm for more information and to get your copy.

Borland User Group

Some upcoming meetings run by our friends at BUG are as follows.

London, July 17th. Introduction to Delphi 6 BizSnap and WebSnap, INDY open source TCP/IP component set (formerly Winshoes), Brian Long's latest hints and tips.

Glasgow, July 27th. Matthew Jones' favourite tools (including

CodeRush and CodeSite), introducing .NET, what's new in Delphi 6, building industrial strength applications, building the BUG website.

London, August 7th. Masterclass : The Joys Of Six With Brian Long (all about Delphi 6). The cost of the Masterclass to members is £145 plus VAT, which includes lunch.

For more information visit www.ukbug.co.uk or call UK-BUG on (0)1980 630032.

InfoPower 3000

Woll2Woll Software has upgraded its flagship InfoPower component suite for Delphi and C++ Builder. Enhancements have been made throughout the suite, including to the data inspector, grid and validation language, plus background texture tiling and flicker-free display. A new flexible checkbox control has been added, along with a custom radio group control. Comboboxes now have automatic history and MRU lists.

InfoPower 3000 costs \$249 and the Professional edition is \$329, when purchased direct. Call your dealer for local pricing. Visit www.woll2woll.com for more information.

Compression For Delphi And Kylix

SPIS Ltd has released version 6.0 of both its TCompress and TCompLHA component sets. New in these releases are support for both Delphi 6 and Kylix. In the latter case, GNU public licence source for CLX versions of TCDBMemo and TCDBImage components have been included with TCompress. Visit <http://spis.co.nz> for more information.

Gratis Software TFormDesigner

New from Gratis is this runtime form designer component for Delphi 3 to 5 and C++Builder 3 to 5. TFormDesigner allows you to move and resize any control on your form: place TFormDesigner onto your form, set the Active property to True, and enjoy, claim the developers. To facilitate ease

of use, TFormDesigner replicates the look of the standard Delphi and C++Builder form designer.

The product costs \$29.95 and you can visit www.greatis.com to find a compiled demo, printable documentation and a trial version.

RoboHelp Enterprise

New from eHelp Corporation, this server-powered help creation software is designed for developers, help authors and technical writers.

The new server-based technology provides development teams direct feedback about the questions and problems which end-users experience with applications and their help systems, say eHelp. The software supports all major Help formats (including RoboHelp Enterprise Help, WebHelp, Microsoft HTML Help, WinHelp, JavaHelp, and Oracle Help for Java). Help system features supported include topics, hyperlinks, popup windows, table of contents, indexes, search mechanisms, browse sequences, associative linking, glossaries and more.

RoboHelp Enterprise costs \$1,898. Visit www.ehelp.com for more information, or talk to your local dealer.

Cantù And Wozniewicz

Marco Cantù and Andrew J. Wozniewicz will be teaching one-off classes in Long Beach, California, on 26th and 27th July, immediately after the USA Borland Conference.

Marco will cover *Architecting Object-Oriented Applications with Delphi and Kylix*, including the foundations of OO Programming, design patterns, interfaces, object persistence, XML, and a lot more.

Andrew will focus on *Web Programming with Delphi and Kylix*, including Delphi 6 WebSnap, interactive dynamic web applications, e-commerce solutions, interactive store-fronts, XML and SOAP.

Visit www.delphi-resource.com/ training for more details.

Picto Updated To 4.5

Stefan Cruysberghs has updated his icons, glyphs and (resource) bitmaps viewer and editor. The

program has a lot of graphical effects and unique features for Delphi and C++Builder developers.

Amongst the new features are support for RES and DCR files, a properties window with information about the current file and images, ability to add images to a TImageList and manipulate the TImageList, a painting program in the edit window and changing of the Windows system icons.

Improvements include full support for context-sensitive menus, new graphical effects (such as colour balance, soften/sharpen, emboss, and shadow), plus a link to external editors.

Picto is still freeware for non-commercial users. Visit www.stefancr.yucom.be to download your copy.

New Xceed Libraries

Xceed Software has released two new ActiveX products. The Binary Encoding Library allows you to convert binary-to-text and text-to-binary with Base64, UUEncode and other popular formats. The Streaming Compression Library allows you to easily compress and decompress memory buffers, streams, strings and single files.

In addition, Xceed has a new version (4.5) of its Zip Compression Library ActiveX, which supports creating and manipulating Zip files that use the new BZip2 compression method or PKZip 2.0-compatible Deflate compression.

Visit www.xceedsoft.com for more information on these components, or call your local dealer.

Microsoft Unveils Plans For 64-Bit Windows Platform

Microsoft has released details of two additions to its operating system family, built for the forthcoming Intel Itanium 64-bit chip.

The 64-bit Windows Advanced Server Limited Edition is scheduled for final release to coincide with general commercial availability of OEM Itanium-based systems.

The workstation version, Windows XP 64-Bit Edition, will be supported through the Early Deployment Program before its

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final release on 25th October, when the product will ship simultaneously with Microsoft's 32-bit Windows XP desktop offerings.

Oracle Tuning From Embarcadero

Performance Center offers methods to monitor and control the performance of Oracle databases, identifying performance problems. RapidSQL Tuner for Oracle identifies inefficient SQL code.

Both products are available in the UK from Grey Matter, visit www.greymatter.com for more details.

Accusoft ImageGear 2001

This comprehensive imaging toolkit contains over 600 imaging functions in 27 categories, with support for over 100 file formats, internet integration and cross-platform support. As well as multi-threading support for increased speed and support for several new formats, this new version includes a new multimedia plug-in, ICO transparency, enhanced batch conversion, enhanced clipboard support and more.

ImageGear is available from Grey Matter for £1,859 plus VAT, visit www.greymatter.com for more details.