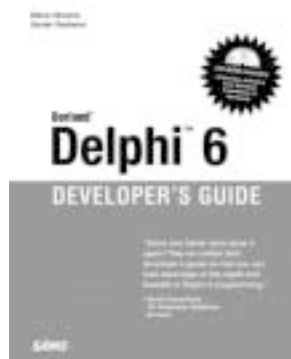


Book Review: Delphi 6 Developer's Guide

by Bob Swart

Once again I should warn you: just as with the Kylix book - see over - I'm a bit biased towards this book. Not because my name is on the cover (it was on the Kylix book), but this time only because I participated and wrote a chapter .

The main authors of the book are Steve Teixeira and Xavier Pacheco, and they did a good job with this Delphi 6 edition of the Developer's Guide. For those of you who have bought a Delphi Developer's Guide in the past (for a previous version of Delphi), I have good news: most of the book was rewritten specifically for Delphi 6. And as a bonus, the full text of the Delphi 5 Developer's Guide is available in PDF format on the CD-ROM (together with the text of the Delphi 6 Developer's Guide itself).



As a result, most if not all of the printed chapters in this book are about new or enhanced features in Delphi 6. And combined with the fact that the first *Development Essentials* part contains only 3 chapters with a total of about 150 pages (out of 1170), you'll understand why this is not a beginners' book. The level is at least intermediate, and some chapters easily move into the advanced area (like the MTS/COM+ chapter for example).

I'm not the only guest author, by the way. Steve and Xavier invited five guest authors to participate, each writing on a topic in which they are considered to be experts (well, except for me perhaps, but I got a little help from my friend Micha Somers - more later). And as a result, we have a chapter on CLX Component Development written by "Mr. Component" himself (and BorCon 2001 Strongest Link) Ray Konopka, a chapter on CORBA Development written by Dave Sampson (who was responsible for the IDL2Pas in Delphi), a chapter on DataSnap Development by Dan Miser, and a chapter on Building WebSnap Applications by Nick Hodges. And I wrote the ASP Development chapter, with help from Micha Somers when it came to debugging Active Server Objects in Delphi on Windows 2000 (thanks again, Micha).

Conclusion

No question about it: if you're working with Delphi 6 already or planning to (after the second update), then this is a book for you. Even experienced Delphi developers will find at least a few interesting and valuable chapters to learn from. Although Steve's and Xavier's work itself is second to none, I especially enjoyed the chapters by guest (expert) authors Ray Konopka, Dave Sampson, Dan Miser and Nick Hodges. Trust me, you won't be sorry about this one!

For more information about this book, visit my website at <http://www.drBob42.com/books/D6.htm>, which contains a link to the sample chapter, and any upcoming updates or errata, etc.

Delphi 6 Developer's Guide by Teixeira & Pacheco, pub Sams, esp £47.50 (Amazon price £39.68 + p&p). 1138 pages plus index, and CD containing all source code and entire text of the book and of its predecessor (Delphi 5 Developer's Guide).

Part I Development Essentials

1. Programming in Delphi
2. The Object Pascal Language
3. Adventures in Messaging

Part II Advanced Techniques

4. Writing Portable Code
5. Multithreaded Techniques
6. Dynamic Link Libraries

Part III Database Development

7. Delphi Database Architecture
8. Database Development with DBExpress
9. Database Development with dbGo for ADO.

Part IV Component-Based Development

10. Component Architecture: VCL and CLX
11. VCL Component Building
12. Advanced VCL Component Building
13. CLX Component Development
14. Packages to the Max
15. COM Development
16. Windows Shell Programming
17. Using the Open Tools API

Part V Enterprise Development

18. Transactional Development with COM+/MTS
19. CORBA Development
20. BizSnap Development: Writing SOAP-Based Web Services
21. DataSnap Development

Part VI Internet Development

22. ASP Development (by Bob Swart)
23. Building WebSnap Applications
24. Wireless Development

Setting properties on multiple components

If you want to set a property that is shared by several components – such as the "Left" property – select all the components and set the property in the Object Inspector. It will set the same value for all the selected components.

Rob Bracken