

Delphi 2005 namespace units

Confused? You betcha!

by Bob Swart

Custom property types with default values will add the namespace (instead of unit name) to the uses clause if the value is changed from the default value.

This problem is a bit hard to describe, but it can be reproduced 100%. Consider the following code:

```
unit The.Namespace.UnitName;

interface
uses
  System.ComponentModel;

type
  TestEnum = (Test1,Test2,Test3);

  TestComponent42 = class(Component)
  private
    FTest: TestEnum;
  public
    constructor Create;
    procedure set_Test(const Value: TestEnum);
  published
    [DefaultValue(Test1)]
    property Test: TestEnum read FTest write set_Test;
  end;

implementation

constructor TestComponent42.Create;
begin
  inherited Create;
  Test := test1;
end;

procedure TestComponent42.set_Test(const Value: TestEnum);
begin
  FTest := Value;
end;

end.
```

You can download the DrBob42Package with full source code from <http://www.drbob42.com/delphi2005/DrBob42Package.zip>. Compile the package, and install the TestComponent42 in the Delphi 2005 Tool Palette using the *Component / Installed .NET Components* dialog. Use the component in a WinForm or ASP.NET WebForm application. This will add the unit name The.Namespace.UnitName to the uses clause. So far, so good.

Now change the value of the default property from Test1 to Test2, for example. This will also add the The.Namespace name to the uses clause. This is not good at all, and will not compile.

Fortunately, you can manually remove the The.Namespace entry from the uses clause again, but it's a problem/bug that it's generated in the first place (and it gets boring rather quickly when you have to manually remove it from the uses clause every time)...

It's still a problem after you've installed Update #2 for Delphi 2005, although it has been reported to Borland (so it may be fixed in an upcoming Update for Delphi 2005 – or in a next release).

Shameless plug: for this and other component building and development related techniques, I recommend that you attend the Component Development masterclass on 5th and 6th July, where Brian Long and yours truly Bob Swart will cover VCL, VCL for .NET, as well as WinForms and ASP.NET Web Forms component development. It includes related issues such as property/component editors, helpfiles, and more. Check out the agenda with more details at <http://www.richplum.co.uk/meeting/20050705.pdf> and on page 5.