

Steve Scott's Column

The Trouble With Time

The trouble with writing a column for a publication that is only published every two months is calculating what the situation is going to be when you, the reader, actually get to read this. As I write this, it's late November, yet I know you're reading this, wondering how you're going to lose the weight you've put on from all the turkey and Christmas pudding you have stuffed into your face over the last couple of weeks. So, if I'm telling what seems like old news then I'm sorry, and if I'm talking total rubbish then I guess nothing has changed. OK, so what's happening right now?

Inprise Is Dead, Long Live Borland

The first thing is that Inprise are changing their name back to Borland. This is a great move. In my opinion they should never have changed it in the first place. For the last two years no one has quite known who this Inprise was and what they stood for. Borland, on the other hand, is a name that has always had a great reputation amongst developers. Long live Borland.

Kylix

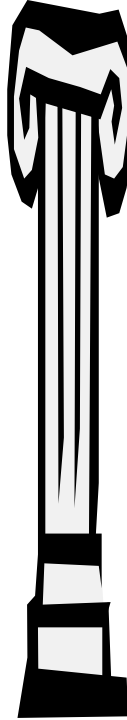
The next news is that Kylix isn't going to ship in 2000, but as it's probably 2001 when you're reading this, then you don't really need me to tell you that, I guess. The current target is for the development to be finished by the end of the year 2000, then to actually ship sometime during Q1. The good news, though, is that Borland have allowed user groups around the world to start showing demos of the product so, as you might have noticed from the agenda elsewhere in the magazine, we are running Kylix sessions as well as our normal Delphi (for Windows) sessions from now on.

Licensing

When it comes to product licensing, the Linux world is a little more confusing than Windows. Your normal Windows product licence says something like "You must pay lots of money for it, you can put it on one machine and you must not give any part of it to any one else". On Linux, however, the push is towards open source licensing. Now, there is a whole raft of open source licences, ranging from the "You must give your software and source code away and if you even think about making some money then you are the spawn of hell" through to the "You must let someone look at one line of source code for one minute every Tuesday". At this time, the licensing model for Kylix is not yet finalised, but it's looking like Kylix itself will not be open source, but CLX, the underlying component library, will be released under a dual licence, allowing open source developers to code under the GPL or commercial developers to purchase a commercial licence. By our January meeting I hope all this will be clear.

Monitor Madness

As a Web developer, I have to suffer the burden of testing sites not only on multiple browsers, but also on multiple versions of those browsers. This is a real pain: I don't know if you have ever tried it, but it's impossible to get IE 3, 4 & 5 running on the same machine. I get around this problem with the wonderful VMWare utility, which allows me to run



multiple operating systems simultaneously on the same machine, but this only solves part of the problem. If you're trying to run six or seven browsers on three or four operating systems, not only do you need quite a lot of memory (512 MB just about gets me by) but you need a lot of screen real estate. I have now increased the number of monitors on my machine to three. Now three might sound a little greedy, but I'm just about to have a moan about how short of screen space I still am. Imagine the scene during a testing session with the following Windows open: Delphi (code window, watch window, breakpoint window), Dreamweaver (too many windows to list), four VMWare windows running seven browsers. Dear Santa, I need a fourth Monitor. I'm sure I'm not the only one in this situation so I'm beginning a search to discover who is running the most monitors on a single machine and why. Send me an email if you fancy becoming the King of the Monitor.

And Finally

Well, this is my last column of the real millennium. Just cast your mind back to last year when we were all wondering if the world would survive computer Armageddon as the year 00 bore down upon us. This year, you probably haven't even thought about it, but I just want to bring something to your attention. The Millennium Bug received a lot of thought and backing by the government, and as anyone knows, any project the government is involved with runs at least a year late, so be prepared.

Now where is that army survival kit?

Steve Scott is director of Streambyte Ltd, based in Gloucestershire. He is a developer, trainer, conference speaker, UK-BUG's London Group Leader, and father of lots of small(ish) children. You can contact Steve on sscott@streambyte.com.



Angus' Nifty Tips

How to drag a window using additional controls including the titlebar

put:

```
ReleaseCapture;  
TForm(form1).perform(WM_SYSCOMMAND,  
                    $F012, 0);
```

on the mouse down event of any control. It can be used to drag the window, where form 1 is the name of the form.