



LOS ANGELES DELPHI USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

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March Meeting - LADUG

When: Thursday, March 5, 1998, 7:00 PM.

Where: Westside Pavilion, Pico Boulevard, West LA.

Featuring: Michael Cummings

Topics: Practical uses of Winsock

by Tim Boyd

The March meeting will feature a presentation by Michael Cummings on practical uses of Winsock (Windows TCP/IP Socket.)

Michael will show how he used Winsock with both TCP and UDP to build a multi-processor system that allows a room full of PCs to emulate a mainframe. The PCs are essentially a redundant array of inexpensive computers, allowing for greater fault tolerance and scalability than a mainframe.

He will demonstrate how to use readily available Delphi Winsock components to pass data from application to application. The tools and techniques shown can be used to build anything from simple "Mail" type functionality, to multi-player games, to full blown server applications. He also will explain the differences between TCP and UDP, how to "broadcast" and "narrowcast" messages, as well as real life programming issues to watch out for.

This meeting obviously has great "enlightenment potential", so see y'all there!

The meeting will also include our usual open discussion of all things related to Delphi. Bring your questions, insights, tips and tricks, great deals, etc. These discussions are a very valuable source of shared information.

Bring programmer friends!
All Delphi users and interested bystanders are welcome!

EDITOR'S CORNER

Congratulations to Emery Galambos, Jim Arnold, Neal Koss and Gabriel Forner. With Emery's past experience as president of West LA Chapter of the Southern California Paradox Users Group (LAPALS), Neal's continued sound financial management and Jim and Gabriel's enthusiasm this looks to be an exciting year for the Los Angeles Delphi User Group.

I want to thank Richard, Tim and Marv for all their hard work and dedication to the group over the past year or so that they have served as officers.

I understand that Mark Miller's presentation last month was excellent. I am sorry that I missed it, but it's kind of hard to be in two places at once.

Hope to see all of you soon.



The Los Angeles Delphi User Group

The Los Angeles Delphi User Group is a forum for ideas and a meeting ground to bring together users of Borland Delphi for the purposes of mutual education.

For more information about the Los Angeles Delphi User Group contact any of the officers.

Los Angeles Delphi User Group Newsletter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1998 LADUG Officers Elected

The Los Angeles Delphi User Group has selected its new officers for 1998!

Congratulations to:

President: *Emery Galambos*

Vice President: *Jim Arnold*

Treasurer: *Neal Koss*

Secretary: *Gabriel Forner*

Membership Chairperson: *Steven Colagiovanni*

The new officers, nominated in December by the LADUG membership, ran unopposed, making an election unnecessary. They survived an open nomination period of more than a month during which any member could have nominated himself or another member for any office.

In announcing the results, outgoing president Richard Shaw said, "It's been a great pleasure working with the LADUG over the past few years. So many hands helped and made the job easier. We are very fortunate to have such highly qualified new officers. All have solid software development backgrounds, leadership ability, and genuine excitement about Delphi."

The new officers will take over at the March 5, 1998 meeting.

Web Site of the month: Delphi Jobs

This is the ultimate in focused Web site; it's all Delphi jobs, all the time.

The site, run by Greg Postlewait, started in 1996 as a local jobs Web page for the Oregon Delphi User Group and simply grew. It now includes jobs from all over the U.S. and has even started to see international jobs. The banner-supported site is free to both job poster and reader.

Another interesting feature is the Delphi Salary Survey. In a word, Greg...Cool!

<http://www.teleport.com/~gpost/djobs/>

ObjectInsight

Have you been looking for a tool to help with you understand and navigate your Delphi class hierarchy? Well, so were the engineers on the Delphi R&D team.

ObjectInsight is the internal tool developed for the Delphi team and can now add to your understanding of the VCL and your own class libraries. ObjectInsight is a Delphi source code navigation system that browses the origin and implementation of object classes' properties, methods, and events. Navigating the Delphi Visual Component Library (VCL) source code provides invaluable insight into the techniques used by the Delphi developers when building the Visual Component Library, thereby allowing developers to effectively derive their own reusable components. It also supplements the Delphi help system by providing a visual object framework from which to drill into the Delphi source.

<http://www.borland.com/delphi/delcomp/objins.html>

C++Builder 3 released

Borland recently announced Borland C++Builder 3, the latest version of the award-winning C++ development system. Borland C++Builder 3 is an advanced C++ programming environment for both systems and application developers.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.borland.com/bcppbuilder/>

Delphi Tips

The Delphi Tip of the Week is provided by Delphi Developer's Journal, a monthly publication of The Cobb Group. A couple of recent tips describe some simple techniques for implementing menu security using the Tag property of menu items.

<http://www.borland.com/delphi/deltips/>

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MEET THE LADUG OFFICERS

Editor's note: We decided to give each nominee a chance to tell you about themselves. If you frequent the meetings then you obviously know our new president, Emery Galambos. You have probably also met Neal Koss, Gabriel Forner and myself. Jim Arnold however, you may not have met, since he is one of our newest members.

President: *Emery Galambos*

I very much appreciate the opportunity to serve this organization and look forward to the year ahead. This is a very exciting time to be a Delphi developer as Delphi is getting the attention it has so-long deserved. Certainly we all know that it is the best platform for developing Windows applications and I would like to spread the word as much as possible in the coming year!

For those of you that don't know me, I started my company in 1990 to develop database applications using the best tool available then - Paradox. Like many of you, I moved up to Windows (and Paradox for Windows). Along the way I served as President of the West LA Chapter of the Southern California Paradox Users Group, coauthored a book on developing Paradox applications and delivered technical talks at the Borland Developer's Conference.

My goal for this organization is to foster a spirit of openness and encourage the sharing of ideas as much as possible. To that end, I call on speakers in the coming year to be more open about the technology they are presenting. Certainly there is the need to protect proprietary techniques, but I want speakers to remember that first and foremost this is an educational organization and I challenge them to impart useful knowledge upon us all.

Vice President: *Jim Arnold*

I started programming in Pascal on the Apple II in the eighties, and wrote a full-blown assembler in Turbo Pascal at college. My return to Pascal was after a year and a half as a VB programmer. I was given a copy of Delphi 1.0 in September of 1996. The rest is history. Love at first sight.

I became involved in the Orange County and San Diego Delphi User Groups, only to recently involve myself with the LA Group. In December I spoke on Object Oriented Database applications using a TreeView motif. Currently I am writing an article for Delphi Magazine on the same topic.

I feel that I will be a good mix with the other officers with whom I will be serving. I can't think of a better team to lead the Los Angeles Delphi User Group in 1998.

Treasurer: *Neal Koss*

Once again, I threw my ragged hat in the ring to run for treasurer of LADUG. I have been doing this job since the founding of the group and in addition, remain treasurer of the LA Paradox group as well. I enjoy working for the group and have the systems in place to continue. I will continue in this capacity as long as the group wants me.

Secretary: *Gabriel Forner*

I would like to do this job simply to assist the organization and help further its goals.

I'm an independent consultant and have been using Delphi since its first release developing various systems including a motion picture contract management program and an investment management program.

Membership Chairperson: *Steven Colagiovanni*

I joined LADUG over two years ago as a self taught Delphi programmer. I originally took on the job of Membership Chairperson just to make my life a little simpler. A year and a half ago, Richard Shaw needed someone to take over as newsletter editor. With past experience as a newsletter editor and photojournalist, I volunteered.

When I was having difficulty getting the members addresses (for mailing the newsletter) from the previous chairperson, I started keeping my own database. I eventually wrote a small database application using Delphi specifically for this purpose. When the position was vacated, I figured what the heck, I'm doing half the job already. Fortunately, I enjoy doing these jobs for the group.

TTHOUGHTS

Editors note: Our new president has committed to providing a monthly column entitled "TThoughts". Emery's explanation as to why he wanted the column named TThoughts was, "I think that conveys some of the playful spirit I would like to infuse." He also added, "Hey, it's my column, I get to say what I want! You only get to decide whether you want to read it or not!" Do yourself a favor and don't hit Ctrl+Alt+Del quite yet, you might miss something good.

Hello! It seems that by default we're stuck with each other for the next year as I'm the new President. This is possible only because Richard Shaw decided not to run again; otherwise, I'd have never had a chance. Richard, on behalf of the organization, thank you very much for a job so very well done in the previous year, and on my own behalf, thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve the membership. You've left some very large boots to fill!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of TThoughts. Each month I will be creating a new instance of TThoughts and sharing what's going on in the exciting world of Delphi, along with anything else I think you might be interested in. Hey, it's my column, I get to say what I want! You only get to decide whether you want to read it or not!

I have some goals for us as an organization. First of all, we exist largely as an educational organization and I would like every single member to give thought to what he can give back to the organization to help raise everybody else's technical expertise. Perhaps you might want to give a technical talk at a meeting, or publish an article in the newsletter. Remember, you've benefited from your membership. This is the year you are going to give back to the rest of us!

Secondly, I want to help get the word out about how great LADUG is so we can increase the membership. There must be lots of people that you know of that would also be interested in our little group. Please do them a favor and tell them all about us!

Finally, I would like to solicit interest in a one-day multi-speaker mini-BDC event. Would you be interested in devoting a Saturday to learning from your peers? I envision an event where 5 speakers prepare technical talks of approximately 1 hour each. Speakers would be required

to keep with the educational aspect of the event, as opposed to product demos, as well as prepare handouts for the audience. We would charge an admittance fee necessary to cover costs (room rental, refreshments, etc.), certainly well under \$50 per person and limit attendance to members only.

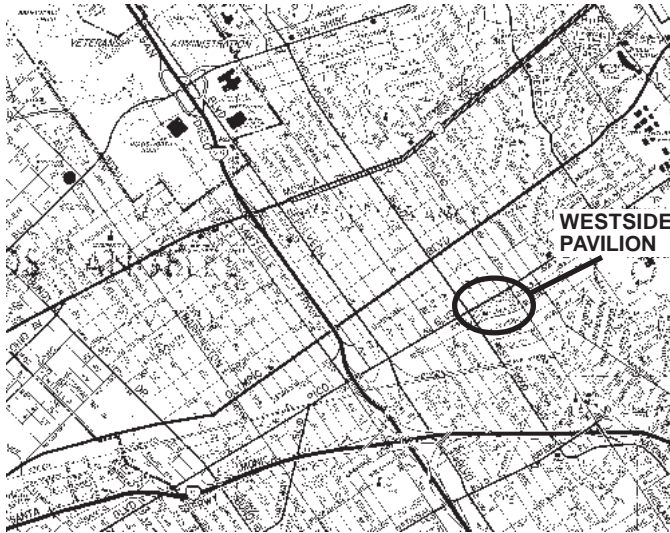
There has never been a better time to be a Delphi developer. It is FINALLY getting the accolades it so richly deserves. ComputerWorld recently surveyed its readers to find out their level of satisfaction with the tools they use. Not surprisingly, Delphi came out on top. This shouldn't surprise our members, but it might surprise the guy that's insisting that you use a substandard tool on that new project of yours. If so, send him off to http://www.computerworld.com/news/review_center/980112choice_dev.html so he can avoid making a costly mistake!

Another year, another program. Borland has dropped the Connections program in favor of something that is now called the Borland Solutions Program. Think added value at added cost. Details at <http://www.borland.com/programs/bsp/> Quickie summary: \$2500/yr gets you Delphi, C++Builder & J++Builder Client/Server and a year's worth of updates, \$1500 gets the same thing in a Professional flavor and \$50/yr gets you an InfoWeb membership with regular listserv messages via e-mail. Please be aware that there are lots of requirements for the first two, however.

As always, if you'd like to get a hold of me, you can contact me at egalambos@software-tech.com. See you next month.

-Emery Galambos

Directions to the Westside Pavilion in West Los Angeles



The WESTSIDE PAVILION is a large shopping mall 3 long blocks north of the Santa Monica (10) Freeway just east of the 405 Freeway at the corner of Overland and Pico Blvd. Parking is free. We will meet at 7 PM in the community room on the third floor, behind the food court. You're welcome to have a pre-meeting dinner or snack in the food court. There are a variety of food concessions there, and most stay open until 8:30.

You can most easily reach the third floor food court by entering the parking lot at the entrance on Overland, just south of Pico. Proceed straight up to the third level (two levels from the street level) without turning. When you reach the third level, veer slightly to the left and drive past the ramp to the fourth level. If you park in this area of the third level, enter the building, go up a few steps, and go through the doorway on your left, which is just before you get to the food court. Go down the hallway and look for the meeting room on the left.

If you park near the Robinson•May entrance, enter the mall through Robinson•May's and go to the left toward the food court. Turn left as you get to the food court and go through the doorway toward the bathrooms and the pay phones. Once inside the doorway, turn right and go down the hallway and look for the meeting room, which will be on the left side just where a second hallway intersects from the right.

If you use any other entrance to the parking lot, you're on your own. Neal Koss reports that the Westside Pavilion is the absolute *WORST* parking lot in the entire world. Your best bet is to use the Overland entrance.

Announcements (Cont.)

Orange County Delphi User Group

Our sibling group, the Orange County Delphi User Group, meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. For more information call Greg Stevenson, President, (714) 457-9621, CompuServe 75402,3514 or DrDelphi@AOL.COM or Michael Cummings, (714) 639-6937, CompuServe 73651,1132. OCDUG has a Web site at <http://www.ocdelphi.org>.

Meetings are held at Western Digital Corporation, 8105 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine, CA. Western Digital is a large 15 story building located between the 5 and 405 freeways near the El Toro "Y".

Consultant/Programmer Referral List

If you are a paid member of LADUG and want to be on our Consultant/Programmer referral list, e-mail Richard Shaw at: 71210.423@compuserve.com. This Consultant/Programmer list will be faxed or sent to any prospective employer who contacts our group looking for Delphi-knowledgeable people.

If you are interested in being on this list, e-mail Richard with your:

- Name
- Company (if independent contractor)
- Address
- Telephone number
- Fax number
- E-mail address (if any)
- A brief description (say 50 words) of your areas of specialization or expertise.



LOS ANGELES DELPHI USER GROUP

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The above address is: Work Home

Phone - Office: _____

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Is this a: New membership Renewal

DUES: \$45/Year Make Checks Payable To: Los Angeles Delphi User Group

Send this application along with your check to:

Los Angeles Delphi User Group
 c/o Neal Koss, Treasurer
 International Informatics
 3655 Lomita Blvd., Suite 215
 Torrance, CA 90505-3933

For More Information Contact:
Richard Shaw, (310) 557-2600
 E-mail: 71210.423@compuserve.com

Please indicate current products and/or interests below:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> M/S SQL Server | <input type="checkbox"/> Oracle | <input type="checkbox"/> Informix | <input type="checkbox"/> PowerBuilder | <input type="checkbox"/> Access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SQL Windows | <input type="checkbox"/> JAM | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Basic | <input type="checkbox"/> Windows | <input type="checkbox"/> WFW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windows NT | <input type="checkbox"/> Windows 95 | <input type="checkbox"/> OS/2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Unix | <input type="checkbox"/> DOS |

Others (describe): _____

How did you hear about LADUG? _____

Would you be willing to serve - As an officer? _____ On committees? _____

For LADUG Use:

Check #: _____ \$ _____ Date Received: _____ By: _____

It's Easy to Contribute to the Newsletter!

If you have a programming tip, opinion, or even an entire article to contribute, it's very easy to do so. It doesn't have to be a polished piece of writing. It might only be a little trick you learned. **Send your contribution in an e-mail message** to Steven Colagiovanni, at ColaWorks@loop.com.

Improve Your Delphi Skills! Join the LADUG!

Want to hang out with other Delphi heads? Join us! Fill out the Membership Application attached to this newsletter and send with your check for \$45 (annual dues) made out to "Los Angeles Delphi User Group" to:

Los Angeles Delphi User Group
c/o Neal Koss, Treasurer
International Informatics
3655 Lomita Blvd., Suite 215
Torrance, CA 90505-3933

LOS ANGELES DELPHI USER GROUP

c/o Steven Colagiovanni, Newsletter Editor
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Los Angeles, CA 90019

Join us in learning about Delphi!