



LOS ANGELES DELPHI USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Number 4

April 1998

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Web Site:
www.ladug.com

May Meeting - LADUG

When: Thursday, May 7, 1998, 7:00 PM.

Where: Westside Pavilion, Pico Boulevard, West LA.

Featuring: Craig Jones

Topics: Software Engineering Best Practices

by Jim Arnold

The May meeting will feature a presentation by Craig Jones on "Software Engineering Best Practices". Craig is a member of the Orange County Delphi User Group and the leader of their Standards SIG (Special Interest Group).

This is a much needed, and unfortunately highly underrated topic in many organizations. It will certainly be interesting to hear it presented from a Delphi Developer's perspective. The emphasis is to be on reproducible results as going through the maintenance cycle of a project. The question to be answered will be, "How do you keep a handle on producing consistent quality software?"

A few of the tips for software engineering to be touched upon will be:

- Automation of the Build process
- Bug Tracking
- SQA at a high level
- Coding Standards

This is a lecture not to be missed, and I hope those of you planning to attend will remember to bring your boss with you!

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

LADUG's first "Delphi Presentation Day" is starting to come together. It will take place on Saturday, June 27, 1998 at the Holiday Inn in Hollywood, 1755 N. Highland Ave. They have a great room on the top floor for meetings and conferences. Parking at the Holiday Inn will be \$2.00 with the validation that will be provided. This is a very reasonable price for all day parking in Hollywood. I don't recommend trying to park on the street all day.

If you attended any of the meetings we had at the Fujifilm Technical Communication Center, the Holiday Inn is about ten blocks north on the same side of the street. It's just a couple of blocks south of the Hollywood Bowl.

Borland has finally committed to sending someone to demo Delphi 4.0 at "Delphi Presentation Day". We are hoping to get either Charlie Calvert or David Intersimone (David I), but if they are not available the demo will be done by one of the Delphi Product Managers. This will be your first chance to get a look at Delphi 4.0 in the Los Angeles area.

We are currently looking for three more speakers for the event. If you have a topic you would like to present, please see the announcement on page 3. Presentations should be educational seminars, in the tradition of the Borland Developers Conference or the annual Delphi Developers Conference put on by the Orange County Delphi User Group.

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.



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 or e-mail: board@ladug.com.

Los Angeles Delphi User Group Newsletter

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Published monthly by:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LADUG Web Site Premiered

At the last meeting, our Secretary and Web Master, Gabriel Forner, demonstrated the new LADUG website. When you have the chance, stop by and check it out.

BDE Version 4.51 Released

The latest available version of the BDE and SQL Links is v4.51. Maintenance customers will automatically be shipped a CD version of the BDE v4.51 update. This BDE version also ships with Visual dBASE v7. Versions in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish are now available.

BDE v4.51 has a number of new features, including:

- Native DAO 3.5 driver for connecting to Access 97 databases.
- Native FoxPro driver separate from the dBASE driver.
- New dbf (dBASE) file format features (including long field names, new field types, field constraints, null character fields, distinct indexes, primary distinct index, referential integrity, and table constraints).

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

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".

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>

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: RJShaw@csi.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.

MEETING NOTES

April Meeting Highlights

by Steve Colagiovanni

Our April meeting featured a presentation by Ted Blue on Delphi's Database Architecture. Ted is from Blue Star Training and Software, Inc. in San Diego. Ted is also one of the authors (along with Loren Scott, John Kaster, and Greg Lief) of "Delphi Database Development" from M&T Books. This book is now out of print, but it is the best reference source on the BDE and the BDE API ever written.

Ted explaining how Delphi makes connections to databases and how this is accomplished through the data object hierarchy. Discussions included Sessions and Databases, the data flow model, the use of Datasets and the Fields array, how to access TField objects and the conversion properties of TField objects.

After the presentation Ted answered several questions from those in attendance. He also had several give away's, including certificates for free training classes at Blue Star Training and Software, Inc. in San Diego.

LADUG is soliciting speakers for first "Delphi Presentation Day"

The Los Angeles Delphi User Group is looking for speakers for it's first "Delphi Presentation Day". The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 1998 at the Holiday Inn in Hollywood and will feature four sessions, each approximately one hour and fifteen minutes long. We are expecting 100-150 Delphi developers from Los Angeles and the surrounding areas will be in attendance. Admission will be nominal.

The last session will feature a demonstration of Delphi 4.0 by someone from Borland, so we are looking for speakers to fill the other three slots. This will be everyone's first chance to see Delphi 4.0 in the Los Angeles area.

This will be a wonderful forum for demonstrating a new technique or some advanced Delphi concepts. If you would like to be a speaker, your talk should require as a prerequisite no more than what is included with the Professional Edition of Delphi. Additional components

may be used as long as they are made freely available to the participants (including source code) as part of your presentation (with permission of the owner of the component(s) if appropriate). Under no circumstances are we interested in product demonstrations or sales pitches. The primary purpose of the presentations should be to educate the participants, and give them something they can use in their own work.

Speakers will be required to provide handouts to the audience at their expense (which should, of course, be nominal).

If you would be interested in making a presentation, please contact Emery Galambos, President of the Los Angeles Delphi User Group. Please be prepared to provide a description of your presentation, along with an outline and any handouts you may want to provide. The LADUG board will select the speakers based on the materials provided. Submissions are required to be made by April 30, 1998 via e-mail at: egalambos@software-tech.com.

For more information, please contact: Emery Galambos.

TTHOUGHTS

Editors note: Each month, our president provides us with his take on current LADUG and Delphi topics in 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!"

Put June 27, 1998 on your calendar. You will not want to miss this event as LADUG presents its first-ever Delphi Developer Day. The LADUG board is still finalizing the agenda, but make no mistake about it — Borland has committed to come and show Delphi 4.0 to us! A sneak preview like that is not to be missed!

But that's not the only reason to come out to Delphi Developer Day. We are going to have other well-respected Delphi Developers sharing very valuable insight with you in a very open environment. You will have an opportunity to share your thoughts with other developers struggling with the same problems you are struggling with. This is what a user group is all about!

The cost of the event has not yet been finalized, but LADUG members will be paying less than nonmembers. I expect the cost to be nominal when you consider the amount of knowledge that is being shared. Seating will be limited, however, so be sure to get your check in as quickly as possible (note: there is no sign-up form in the newsletter, so don't bother looking for it. It will be arriving separately. Look for it in your mailbox!).

Have you been telling all your friends about how wonderful Delphi is? Have you been telling all your friends about how wonderful LADUG is?? Why not???

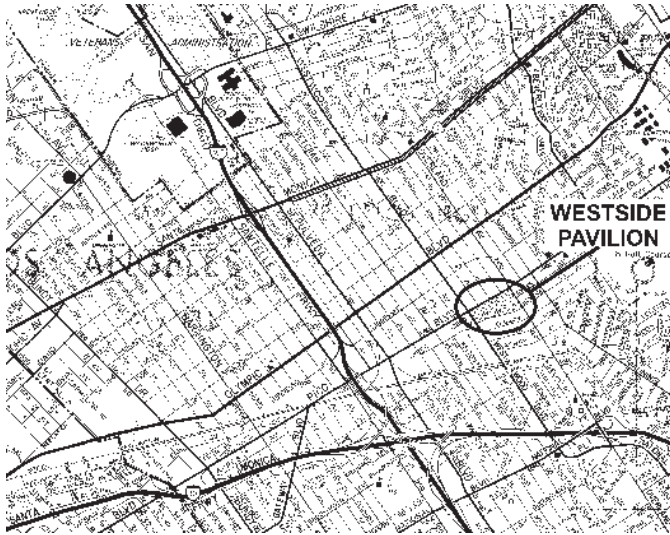
One of our goals for this year is growing the membership. Events like the Delphi Developer Day are wonderful ways in which to introduce people to the power of Delphi and the benefits of membership. Help us by letting people you know about LADUG. Give them a membership application. Give them my e-mail address. Give them Steve Colagiovanni's home number. Whatever it takes, get them in touch with us! Remember: a strong user group benefits you. The more talent we have to draw on, the better the group as a whole is. Help us strengthen the group!

www.ladug.com is up, but our webmaster needs ideas on how to make it better meet your needs. Inundate him with e-mail (at gabriel@fesoft.com) that has specific ideas about what you want to see on-line (don't forget to cc me!).

How are we doing? Are the meetings providing information at the level you need? Too high a level? Too low a level? Are the topics dealing with subjects that are of benefit to you? What would you like to learn about? If you don't let us know, we'll book speakers that might not adequately meet your needs! Then you'll only have yourself to blame.

-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.

Job Opportunities

We received the following job openings and are passing them along. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in any of these positions, please contact the Client at the below mentioned address. LADUG does not screen, and takes no responsibility for position announcements, but does make them available to members of LADUG.

Fremont, CA (received: 4/20/98)

We have a 12 month Delphi contract position in the Bay Area. The position is in Fremont, CA and could easily go longer than 12 months. This position will include updating, maintenance, and development.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact:

Christian Hamel
Maxim Group
San Jose, CA
(800) 398-1277 x. 2408
Email: chamel@maximgroup.com

Free Delphi Job Listings

If you have a job available using Delphi, contact Steven Colagiovanni (see officer's contact info). We'll put it in the newsletter free of charge. Submissions should be e-mailed to Steve Colagiovanni at: ColaWorks@loop.com.



LOS ANGELES DELPHI USER GROUP

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ (Add Country if not USA)

The above address is: Work Home

Phone - Office: _____ Phone - Home: _____

Phone - FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Please indicate current products and/or interests below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Delphi	<input type="checkbox"/> InterBase	<input type="checkbox"/> Paradox	<input type="checkbox"/> dBase	<input type="checkbox"/> Sybase
<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
1173 Masselin Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019

Join us in learning about Delphi!