

# La Dig on L.A.D.U.G.



## LOS ANGELES DELPHI USER GROUP

### August Meeting – LADUG

When : Thursday, August 6, 1998, 7:00 PM

Where: Westside Pavillion, Pico Boulevard, West L.A.

Featuring: J. T. Taylor

Topics: A Primer on Delphi Client/Server Development.

#### Special points of interest:

- Borland Developer Conference
- LADUG Presentation Day
- Inprise?
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This month's LADUG speaker will be none other than JT Taylor, LADUG's very own VP. Some of you may remember his TreeView lecture last year demonstrating Object Oriented techniques. Well, for the August meeting JT will give a primer on Delphi Client/Server techniques using local Interbase as the backend for the purpose of the lecture, however differences in SQL syntax and backends will be touched upon. One of the areas to be covered are differences in techniques and architecture between a Desktop database application and a true Client/Server(C/S) application written against a Relational DataBase Management System (RDBMS). Also an in depth discussion of how to best use the TQuery and TUpdateSQL components in a real world C/S application, and tips on the best use of various DataAware controls. SQL Monitor will be utilized in the demonstration of performance issues. Even the veteran C/S developer should enjoy this topic, and everyone's questions and courteous participation are always welcome.

By J.T.Taylor

#### Inside this issue:

August Meeting Announcement	1
Borland Developer Conference 1998	1
Editor's Desk	2
Announcements	3
Presentation Day Wrap up	4
TThoughts	5
Directions to the Meeting	6
LADUG Membership Application	7

## Borcon '98

The 1998 Borland Developer's Conference is just a short time away. If one is still interested in attending, one can visit the Inprise web site at [www.inprise.com](http://www.inprise.com). By this time, lodging may be hard to come by. Registration for the conference is wide open.

Inprise promises many top-notch sessions lead by even more top-notch speakers. Each product in Inprise's line has a detailed schedule of events; all of which can be found on their website.

If one is looking for things to do while in Denver, one can visit the official City of Denver site at [www.denver.org](http://www.denver.org).



## From the Editor's Desk

This is the first month of a new and progressive means of distributing the newsletter. First some background information.

The cost of distributing the newsletter continues to mount. One must consider the following costs:

- ⇒ Postage
- ⇒ Reproduction
- ⇒ Time

Take 32 cents by the 50+ members on the roster. Add to that the cost of reproducing the copies to be mailed (add to that total, the copies which are distributed at the meeting). Combine the two and multiply by 12. As you see, even small estimates can put a strain on L.A.D.U.G.'s bottom line.

The idea is to distribute the newsletter by electronic medium. An email to the list-server, or posting the newsletter to the web-site is my vision.

I do anticipate some growing pains, but I hope to have the process down in the near future. In addition, I hope to have an online means of filling out a L.A.D.U.G. application/renewal.

I believe that when the growing pains are over, we will have a smooth system in place.

## 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](mailto:board@ladug.com)

## The Los Angeles Delphi User Group Newsletter

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## Officers

### President

#### Emery Galambos

Software Technology  
1979 Grace Ave., #B-8  
Los Angeles, CA 90068  
(213) 969-0200

E-Mail: [egalambos@software-tech.com](mailto:egalambos@software-tech.com)

### Vice President, Speaker Contact

#### Jim Taylor

2519 4th Street, Apt. 6  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
(310)392-2905

E-Mail: [jima@media-services.com](mailto:jima@media-services.com)

### Treasurer

#### Neal Koss

International Informatics  
3655 Lomita Blvd. Suite 215  
Torrance, CA 90505-3933  
(310)375-7574

E-Mail: [nkoss@intl-informatics.com](mailto:nkoss@intl-informatics.com)

### Secretary

#### Gabriel Forner

Fesoft Software & Development  
13580 Foothill Blvd. #5  
Sylmar, CA 91342  
(818) 838-1932

E-Mail: [gforner@fesoft.com](mailto:gforner@fesoft.com)

### Membership Director,

### Newsletter Editor

#### Myron Hammond

4929 Maytime Lane  
Culver City, CA 90230  
(310) 204-0924  
(310) 441-7601

E-Mail: [gr8sk8tr@deltanet.com](mailto:gr8sk8tr@deltanet.com)

[mhammond@mws.com](mailto:mhammond@mws.com)

### WebMaster,

#### Julie Galambos

Software Technology  
1979 Grace Ave., #B-8  
Los Angeles, CA 90068  
(213) 969-0200

E-Mail: [jgalambos@wegetyouontheweb.com](mailto:jgalambos@wegetyouontheweb.com)

## Developer Referral List

If you are a paid member of LADUG and want to be on our Consultant/Programmer referral list, e-mail Myron Hammond at: [mhammond@mws.com](mailto:mhammond@mws.com) and/or [gr8sk8tr@deltanet.com](mailto:gr8sk8tr@deltanet.com). This 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 Myron Hammond with the following information:

- Name
- Company (if independent contractor)
- Address
- Phone number
- Fax number
- E-mail address
- A brief description of your area(s) of expertise

## Webmaster Extrordinaire

Let's take a moment to thank Julie Galambos for taking over the monumental task of webmaster for the group.

Julie brings expertise and experience to the job as webmaster. The board of L.A.D.U.G. is looking forward to a long relationship with Julie.

Does this mean we have to be nice to Emery too? All kidding aside, the board extends its gratitude to Julie Galambos.

## LADUG Web Site

LADUG is on line. The site is under new management. Stop by L.A.D.U.G.'s site at [www.ladug.com](http://www.ladug.com), and see the fruits of Julie Galambos' efforts.

Let's thank Julie Galambos for stepping up and taking over the website administration. Let us also thank Gabriel Forner for his diligence and efforts in getting the website going.

## Share Your Discoveries with the Group!

Have you found some new way to do the same old thing? Have you discovered some undocumented feature? Do you want to subject yourself to the constant volley of questions from the ever-inquisitive L. A. Delphi User's Group. Well, have we got a job for you.

Be a keynote speaker at a monthly user-group meeting. If you can present what you are working on, or you have some other Delphi related topic, come share your experiences with the group.

So, if you have a topic to discuss, contact J.T. Taylor. Give him a brief description of your topic, and what you plan to cover in your discussion.

## Membership Renewal

As you know, dues are a necessary part of keeping an active user group going. To find out if it's time to renew your membership, check the mailing label on your newsletter.

If the "Member Until:" date is past, send in your renewal dues as soon as possible. (See the handy form at the end of the newsletter.) If there is no date on the "Member Until:" line, you haven't paid; send your dues in as soon as possible.

## Delphi Presentation Day

L.A.D.U.G.'s first Delphi Presentation Day has come and gone. By all accounts, the event proved to be a success. From an educational point of view, the day included 4 dynamic speakers. Their topics proved to be of value to the listening audience. The speakers faced some challenging questions and ideas from the audience.

A by-product of the day was an increase in L.A.D.U.G.'s membership.

The members of L.A.D.U.G., and especially the board members would like to extend its gratitude to the speakers for their time and effort in preparing interesting and informative topics.

The board members (aka Emery and the Galabo-etts) is preparing plans for Delphi Presentation Day '99.

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Our first-ever Presentation Day was a great success! Were you there? If not, you missed out on over 25 people digging into Delphi and exchanging all sorts of technical information with each other (during presentations from Michael Cummings, Mark Miller and yours truly), along with a very nice sneak peak at the new Delphi 4, courtesy of Sandy Ganz, Inprise Corporation. I am also very pleased to tell you that we made a small profit and attracted several new members.

In other words, it was tremendous! I hope you were there and enjoyed it.

An event like this requires a lot of hard work from quite a few people. I'd like to single out Jim Taylor for a special thank you, however, as he juggled so many details -- large and small -- to help make this event the success that it was! Thank you, Jim!

When should we have another event like this? 6 months? A year? Did you like the Holiday Inn? Is there some other place you'd like us to consider? Let us know so that we can begin planning the next one (you do want a next one, don't you??).

So much with Presentation Day. I'd like to address an issue that I've been somewhat concerned about for a while now. One of the very few benefits of this job is that I get this forum with which to speak my mind. It isn't much of a benefit, but I'll take what I can get!

The people within this group represent a wide range of programming ability. This organization must continue to make itself accessible to the beginner in order to grow and attract new members. Otherwise, we will be a group of advanced programmers discussing bit slicing and, over time, shrink and whither away.

In other words, we must provide a friendlier environment in which people know that there is no such thing as a stupid question. Unfortunately, somewhere along the line it seems as if we have shifted from a free exchange of ideas during presentations to putting the guest speaker on the hot seat and subjecting him or her to intense scrutiny. This is nuts! We have got to create a more open environment in which people share their wisdom and not subject our speakers to "the treatment."

Now I know that I'm no less guilty than anyone when it comes to being a difficult audience member, but I'm calling on all of us to give the speaker more empathy. It's very hard to get up in front of an audience of your peers and share technical information. Let's do what we can to make it easier on those of us brave enough to do so.

Also, please keep in mind that there are all sorts of tradeoffs associated

with programming and that there is rarely a single, best way to accomplish a given task. There are a myriad of choices available to us and many tradeoffs associated with those choices.

Finally, please remember that the purpose of a presentation is not to allow audience members to show how bright they are by oneupmanship. We are all bright people. There is no need to try to impress that upon each other.

Emery

## Directions to the Meeting

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 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room A 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.