

Volume 3, Number 11

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



LOS ANGELES DELPHI USER GROUP

October Meeting – LADUG

When : Thursday, November 5, 1998, 7:00 PM
Where: Westside Pavillion, Pico Boulevard, West L.A.
Featuring: Mark Miller
Topics: Building SuperForms
(Smart Forms with Custom Properties) in Delphi

Special points of interest:

- TThoughts - Emery Galambos
- Bug Cracker Review

We are pleased to announce Mark Miller, of Eagle Software, will be our speaker for November. Attendees will learn how to create custom forms in Delphi with new events and properties using the Delphi Tools API (for Delphi 3 and Delphi 4).

We'll create "smart" TForm replacements that add a number of useful properties and events. We'll also learn how to embed custom application design guidelines into the SuperForms, to make application design easier and more consistent. We certainly are fortunate to have such a wealth of talent right here in our own backyard.

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Thanks Mark, and we all look forward to November.

--J.T. Taylor



From the Editor's Desk

Some new changes are looming on the horizon. These changes have to do with membership tracking. I will spare you the details of how it was done, and it was done very well by Steve Cola.

I am nearing completion of a new member database and program to track all facets of LADUG membership. The following is a list of things to look forward to:

- ⇒ Ability to fill out a new member form on the web. (payment will still go through Dr. Neal.)
- ⇒ Assignment of a member number (since I can't remember names very well).
- ⇒ Notification of membership status will be by email.
- ⇒ Some new information which you will see on the update member signup form (due out early next month).

Hopefully these changes will make my process easier and more reliable. Another benefit will be ease of communication among the members of LADUG.

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

The Los Angeles Delphi User Group Newsletter

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Listen... Do you Want to Know a Secret?

InterBase - the best secret you almost never heard of! I'm not certain why Inprise is working so hard to make Interbase such a big secret. Or, at least, that's what I presume based on the lack of coverage in the computer press, lack of advertising and general invisibility. When people talk about client/server computing, they almost always talk about Microsoft, SyBase, Oracle. InterBase? What's that??

What it is is a terrific platform for creating very powerful, very fast client-server applications that don't suffer from the concurrency problems that the other platforms suffer from. With the other tools it is possible - even likely - that you will run into situations in which one user conflicts with another due to no fault of his own, and you can also run into other nasty problems (queries producing erroneous results!). While it is certainly a possibility to have conflicts with InterBase, great pains are taken in order to maintain a given record in multiple historical states which tremendously lessens the possibility of conflicts and ELIMINATES the possibility of erroneous query results.

Why is that? InterBase is the only Client-Server platform that utilizes a multi-generational architecture in which a given database record exists in its current state and as many back-versions as are necessary in order to "remember" the prior states that record was in for each transaction that cares about those prior versions.

This is significant because in the absence of this engine, a complex query that traverses lots of data provides the developer of a server back-end two alternatives: a) prohibit modification of data for the duration of the query or b) produce wrong results.

Wrong results? How is this possible? Why would it be acceptable? While I can't explain the answer to the last question, since wrong results are never acceptable, I can explain the problems that allow for wrong results.

Imagine a large table (or the result of a query or a view or...), and imagine that user A starts to process this table, searching for the sum of a column. While that is being calculated, user B attempts to delete one of the records that has already been processed by user A, and then user C attempts to modify one of the records that has not yet been processed by user A, changing the value in the column. If these changes are permitted to occur and we are discussing technology that does not provide for multi-generational architecture, then we have a situation where the sum does not represent the correct value at any particular given instant, thus providing for a wrong result. This is because the sum includes the deleted record, and also includes the new value in the modified record, while the database never, for any given instant, had the data in that form.

Of course, one alternative could be that these database modifications become prohibited for the duration of the query - a situation in which database readers are blocking database writers. This could have devastating consequences for some systems ("I'm sorry, but we can't issue any tickets until we know how much we sold last month"). Or, by extension, database writers could block database readers ("I'm sorry, but you can't calculate how much we sold last month because people keep inputting new tickets").

However, since InterBase keeps the multiple generations of records for as long as it needs to, it doesn't suffer from these problems. No matter how many records are modified, added or deleted to the underlying table(s), for the duration of that transaction we can see the records exactly as they existed at the time the transaction was started, and do so without blocking people from anything. In InterBase, readers *NEVER* block writers.

Naturally, it is still possible for conflicts to occur when two people attempt to modify the same record at the same time, and there is the usual gamut of tools (rollback, two-phase commit, etc.) to deal with these issues.

InterBase. An amazing tool, and the best secret you never heard about. Tell your friends.

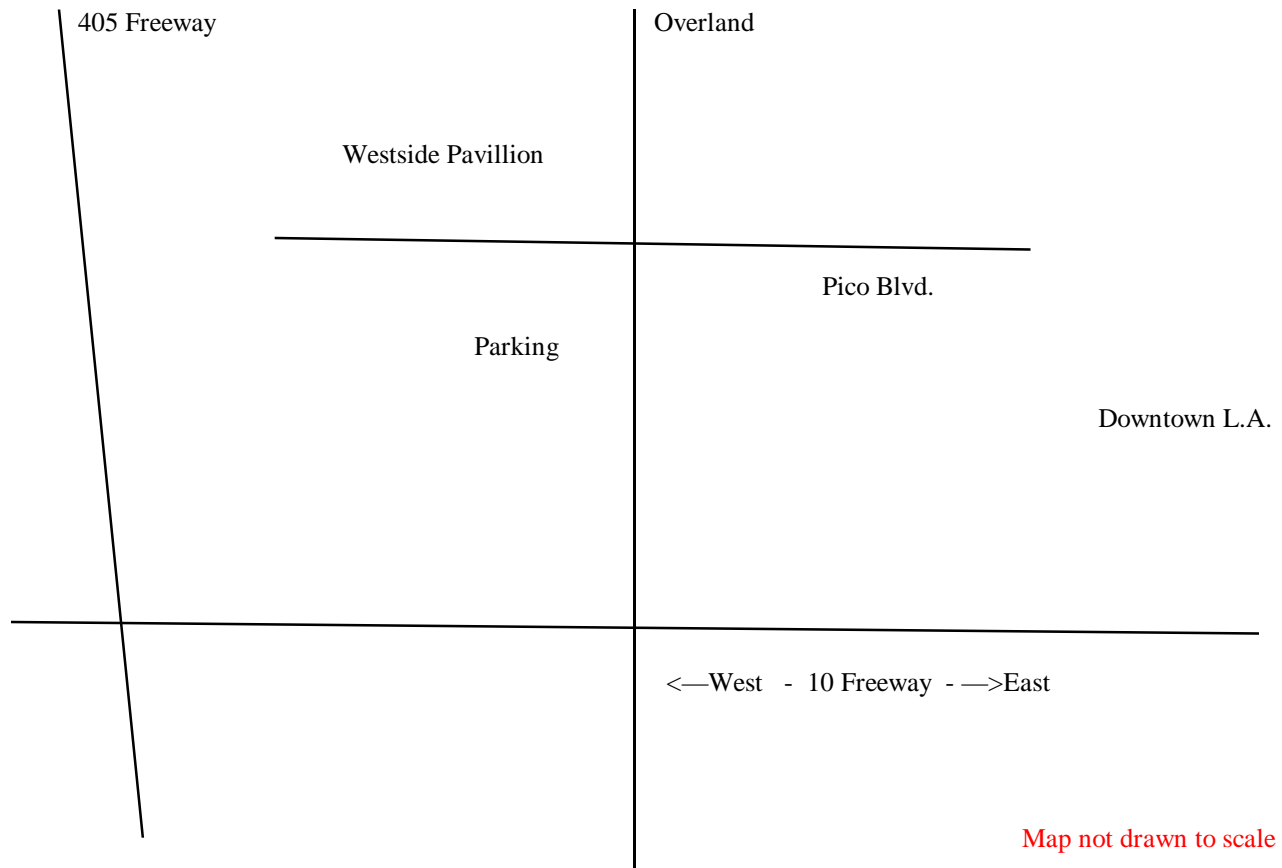
Directions to the Meeting

The **Westside Pavillion** 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 Pavillion is the absolute WORST parking lot in the entire world. Your best bet is to use the Overland entrance.



IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 3 DELPHI PROGRAMMERS!!

Looking for strong Delphi Programmers with Delphi v. 3.0 or 4.0 and SQL Server 6.5. Powerbuilder 6.0 is an added plus. Desire individuals with 2 or more years of HANDS-ON experience to work with a very extensive team to develop various customer applications.

Position is contract - full-time.
Position is in Anaheim, CA with a large fortune 50 company.

All interested applicants please contact the following:

Murrell Garr, Act-1 Technical Services
ph: (888) 339-2281
email: mgarr@mail.act1tech.com

Eagle 1 Personnel Service
POSITION ID: MT980010810
DURATION:
INDUSTRY: Financial
FUNCTION: Development
KEYWORDS: Delphi testing Pascal
COMPENSATION: 50 to 65K
Location: Orange County, CA

DESCRIPTION:

Specific responsibilities include:

- * Develops, tests and documents simple to complex application programs.
- * Updates existing programs to support enhanced capabilities or to maintain the functional operation of a production system.
- * Designs, writes and executes unit test plans.
- * Develops a knowledge of the operating environment, programming standards, system structures and specifications. Adheres to standards; suggests opportunities for improvement.
- * Provides regular status updates to ensure meeting deadlines and specification requirements.
- * Provide support to QA staff and users through problem resolution and bug fixes.
- * From requirements, writes technical specifications used for development of code.
- * Writes technical documentation for systems and software changes.

REQUIREMENTS:

- * 2 years MINIMUM professional PC software development experience. Recent college grads will be considered
- * 2 years experience using DELPHI, Pascal or Similarly complex language for Windows and/or Turbo Pascal for DOS. Integration and/or familiarity with Legacy helpful.

COMMENTS:

National company that attains double-digit growth year after year. Company is migrating client legacy systems to 32 bit with business rules. This is a small division of a very large company. Family candidates who want to grow with this new division and get in on this ground floor opportunity, please contact us. Ask about comprehensive benefits package.

Contact Steve Fox at Eagle 1 Personnel at (213) 628-6421 for more information.

Metropolitan West Securities, Inc.

INDUSTRY: Financial

LOCATION: Westwood

REQUIREMENTS:

- * 2 years MINIMUM professional PC software development experience. Recent college grads will be considered
- * 2 years experience using DELPHI, Pascal or similarly complex language.
- * Knowledge of C, C++ a plus.
- * Knowledge of financial markets and principals an added plus

COMMENTS:

Very competitive salary and benefits package. Annual performance based bonus.
Contact Myron Hammond at 310-441-7601 or mhammond@mws.com

