



by Robert W. Scoble

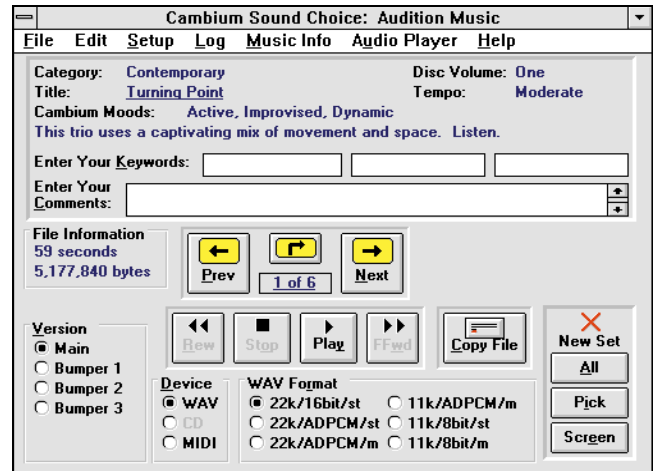
A NEW SPIN ON MUSIC LIBRARIES

When developers need to include music in their apps they usually turn to stock music compendiums found on compact disc. While CDs offer a large volume of music to choose from, it can be difficult to search for a particular track. In addition, the music is rarely provided in the format a multimedia developer needs. CD music libraries are generally designed for TV or radio producers, and selections are usually 30 or 60 seconds long. Multimedia developers need a variety of lengths and treatments of music so they can implement background music as well as special sound effects.

The Cambium Sound Choice, developed by Cambium Development Inc. president Bud Kroll and Cambium executive vice president Ed Manning, is tailored specifically to multimedia developers and was created in Visual Basic. The two CD-based volumes include dozens of royalty-free music selections performed specifically for multimedia developers, a database of information about the music, and a front end that includes a search engine to help you find the music you need.

The music combines electronic and live instrumentation in high-quality recordings, according to Kroll. Each selection consists of several recordings of different lengths, providing developers with short clips called "bumpers," which can be used as introductions, transitions, groove loops, finales, and stingers.

While Kroll and Manning are music buffs and know how to record the music they want, they aren't programming gurus. "Before I wrote this application I had never cracked open a Visual Basic box," Kroll says. He adds that not being a program-

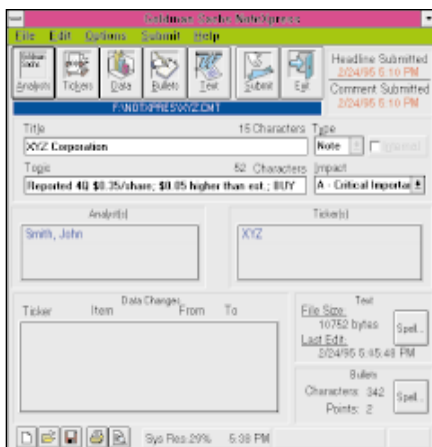


mer helped him take a customer-centric approach. "I was very happy to include any changes our testers asked for," Kroll says. He found a group of beta testers by posting a message on CompuServe's Multimedia Forum. In response, he says, Cambium's beta group was filled in about 48 hours.

Visual Basic also allows Kroll to get the product out the door quickly. "Seven to eight months after starting we had a product," Kroll says. "It would have been faster if I hadn't had to learn Visual Basic first." Kroll decided to work with only Visual Basic

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GOLDMAN SACHS INVESTS IN AUTOMATION



In a business where information that is minutes old is considered ancient news, Goldman Sachs found a way to quickly deliver important stock information to its clients: a Microsoft Office and Word-based application called NoteXpress, developed with Visual Basic.

Goldman Sachs' stock analysts keep track of earnings

estimates, news about the company, and other important details for investors. Formerly, analysts manually wrote reports, called "notes" within the company, and circulated them on hard copy.

As you'd expect, this process allowed errors to creep in and slow down the process. Senior programmer Rick Treese and his boss, Kevin Stamey, decided to automate the process to ensure that Goldman Sachs had information that was far more timely than that of its competitors. Treese and Stamey

chose VB because of its ability to quickly build easy-to-use interfaces that utilize Microsoft Office apps.

Treese and Stamey's solution uses a Sybase server to keep track of the data stock analysts collect. They maintained the note metaphor for information circulated in the office as well as to news wire services and the public.

The NoteXpress system consists of four VB EXEs—a client, a note distributor, an administrative app, and a note receiver. The application uses OLE Automation hooks to Word and ODBC to send data to the Sybase database. It includes a few VBXs, such as Sheridan's 3D Widgets and Form Effects. The client app has 20 forms and three BAS files, and is about 200K in size.

The notes distributor is the brains of the operation. It acts as a server for the notes that circulate around the office—as many as 70 or 80 at a time on a busy day, according to Treese. The distributor keeps track of who should get the notes, and also sends the notes to a fax server for faxing to clients. The distributor app has 115K of code and three forms.

The notes receiver stays active on the PCs used in the analyst group. If a stock analyst determines that a company's earnings will be lower than expected, for example, the analyst writes a note in NoteXpress. Each note must be approved by at least two administrators before being released to the general public.

With the paper-based system it was easy—just walk around the office and find an administrator. But with an automated

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NEW SPIN...

Professional Edition, rather than implementing a number of components in addition to VB. "It would increase the chance of a bug I couldn't control if I used third-party VBXs," he says.

Instead of the Visual Basic setup kit, Kroll used the InstallShield installer from Stirling Technologies. He also relied on Doc-to-Help from WexTech Systems for the help files. Kroll also implemented Microsoft's Adaptive Delta Pulse Code Modulation (ADPCM) compression algorithm, which turns a 16-bit file into the equivalent size of a four-bit file. Developers can find the ADPCM files in the MultimediaForum on CompuServe (GOWINMM and search for ACM201.ZIP).

Cambium considered using C++ for development, but Kroll says it would have kept the product from getting out the door in a reasonable time. "The flexibility of building the UI, the Access database, and multimedia hooks made VB the perfect language," Kroll says. "If it weren't for VB I'd still be hacking away in C++." ■

Contact Cambium Development, Inc. at 800-231-1779 or 914-472-6246 or by e-mail at 72650.3150@compuserve.com.

GOLDMAN INVESTS...

system, it's not so easy. What happens if an administrator is out to lunch? The note could be delayed by an hour or two, which could mean that Goldman Sachs loses the critical advantage of quick response time.

Thus when NoteXpress passes a note to an administrator, the application flashes an alert on screen. If that administrator isn't available to deal with the note, the application automatically forwards the note to another administrator. The note will continue circulating until it finds an administrator who will respond.

The administrative application uploads the notes to the news wires and uses Crystal Reports to generate a report. Treese found a way to keep the Crystal DLL from being loaded all the time: a subprogram runs whenever a report is needed to keep the Crystal DLL from loading from the main program.

Treese stresses that it is also important to pay attention to code organization. "Keeping code as centralized as possible has really paid off, especially as the program got bigger and bigger," he says.

"If a block of code appears in several places in your app, it is a good idea to give it its own procedure and pass variables and control names to it. This way, when you have to change a part of the program, you change it in one place and do not have to worry about searching around for other iterations of the code."

Because his app had to be easy to use, Treese used the standard Office applications everyone at the company was comfortable with. "I chose Word with OLE instead of a text control," he says. "Why not Word? My users were already familiar with it."

Ultimately, says Treese, moving from a paper-based workflow system to a digital one allows Goldman Sachs to make better use of the information it gathers. "Because of the way we store it, the information can be reformatted and regurgitated into other products to fit other people's needs," he says. ■

Contact Rick Treese by e-mail at 74464.2636@compuserve.com.



NEW PRODUCTS

Editor's note: Please send product information to New Products Editor, c/o Fawcette Technical Publications, 209 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA, 94301-2500; fax: 415-853-0230. CompuServe: 74774,305. America Online: RobertVBPI. If you have international distributors of your product, please include their phone and fax numbers with your submissions. All companies listed are located in the United States unless otherwise noted.

PEN CONTROL

A pen-enhanced version of the ALLText custom control, ALLText/Pen supports full-format RTF text editing; presentation through keyboard or Pen; and pen-based annotation, such as circling words, redlining, sketches, and more. A demo version, BTPEM.ZIP, is available on CompuServe (GO BENNET-TEC). Call for pricing. Available now. Source code not available.

Bennet-Tec Information Systems Inc. Phone: 516-433-6283 or 516-997-5596.

Fax: 516-822-2679.

CompuServe: 71201,1075.

Australia: GUI Computing, 61-3-827-0144.

France: OSER, 33-1-42-44-1122.

Japan: Bunka Orient Company,

81-22-378-7106.

METADRAW

MetaDraw is a VBX that helps you create and edit resolution-independent vector-based WMF images. It allows you to create, display, manipulate, and save graphic objects within a picture box. It also gives you drag-and-drop functionality and lets you create and respond to hotspots. A demo version, MD_DEMO.ZIP, is available on CompuServe (GO BENNET-TEC). \$250 within the U.S., \$275 outside the U.S. Available now. Source code available.

Bennet-Tec Information Systems Inc.

Phone: 516-433-6283 or 516-997-5596.

Fax: 516-822-2679.

CompuServe: 71201,1075.

Australia: GUI Computing, 61-3-827-0144.

France: OSER, 33-1-42-44-1122.

Japan: Bunka Orient Company,

81-22-378-7106.

DOCUMENT MANAGER

Print Works VBX formats text, creates graphics, and controls view and print functions. It lets you format text as left-aligned, right-aligned, centered, or justified, and lets you print text on angles. With Print Works you can draw circles, lines, ellipses, and arcs; and create 2-D and 3-D pies, charts, and graphs. Supports True Type fonts and all supported Windows printers. \$199. Available June 1995.

Bytech Business Systems Inc. Phone:

914-354-8666. **Fax:** 914-354-5433.

CompuServe: 74577,1032.

TWO DATA TOOLS

Template Maker lets you load your Visual Forms/PCL or Visual Forms/WIN file onto the screen and position your data fields by drag-and-drop. You can position data fields to 0.33 of an inch, select fonts, and format fields as right-aligned, left-aligned, centered, or justified. The Data Manager VBX lets you control and manage the data from your Windows program, and gives the user the ability to preview, print, and fox

forms filled with your data. \$99. Available April 1995.
Bytech Business Systems Inc. Phone: 914-354-8666. **Fax:** 914-354-5433.
CompuServe: 74577,1032.

DRAW COMPLEX FORMS

Visual Forms/WIN lets you draw complex forms on the screen, such as medical, tax, government, or bank forms. It's similar to Visual Forms/PCL, except it generates Windows metafiles instead of PCL codes. Visual Forms/WIN supports color and prints to all printers supported by Windows. It lets you access True Type fonts and paste BMP files directly into your forms. \$249. Available May 1995.

Bytech Business Systems Inc. Phone:

914-354-8666. **Fax:** 914-354-5433.

CompuServe: 74577,1032.

CHOREO FOR VISUAL BASIC

Choreo for Visual Basic is a component-based toolset that lets you use industry-standard tools to develop scalable client/server applications. It features a drag-and-drop user interface and object-oriented data access engine. With Choreo you can create database-independent applications; you can build an application against one type of database and then deploy it against others, without changing any code. Choreo comes with an API that allows you to modify properties or to control transactions in the data access engine at run time. \$595. Available now.

CenterView Software Inc. Phone:

415-873-1295. **Fax:** 415-873-1298.

POWERPAK PRO

PowerPak Pro is a suite of tools that help you build and deploy workgroup and departmental applications. It provides functionality in four key areas: professional development tools, database access, team programming, and deployment tools. The tools are Crescent's QuickPak Pro, VideoSoft's VSVBX and VSVIEW, Desaware's SpyWorks-VB, StarBase's Versions/VB, Crescent's XRef, Desaware's Version Stamper-VB, and WhippleWare's VB Compress Pro. List price: \$1195; Introductory price through June 30, 1995: \$795. Available April 1995.

Crescent Division of Progress Software

Corp. Phone: 617-280-4000. **Fax:**

617-280-4025.

Australia: Softterm Australia, 61-2956-8011.

Holland: LeMax Company B.V.,

31-20659-8701.

Japan: Bunka Orient Company,

81-22-378-7106.

CREATE TCP/IP APPS

Create TCP/IP applications with the PowerTCP protocol libraries included in the PowerTCP UDP Toolkit. You can use the OLE controls, VBXs, 16/32-bit DLL, or C++ class libraries to add UDP and SNMP capabilities to any Windows-based application. Runtime licensing is available in end-user, OEM, and limited forms. \$598. Call for availability. Source code not available.

Dart Communications. Phone:

315-655-1024. **Fax:** 315-655-1025.

Internet: sales@dart.com.

IMAGEBASIC FOR LOTUS NOTES

ImageBASIC for Lotus Notes lets you tightly integrate a customized production imaging system with Lotus notes. The product includes the standard edition of ImageBASIC 2.0 and the Lotus Notes HiTest Tools for Visual Basic. It also includes a VBX that supports the Lotus Notes Image Processing Server, providing interoperability with LN:DI 2.5 and the Lotus Notes Mass Storage Server. \$2750. Available April 1995. Source code not available.

Diamond Head Software Inc. Phone:

808-545-2377 or 800-428-6657.

Fax: 808-545-7042.

United Kingdom: Headway Technology

Group, 44-2-52-333575.

Canada: Recognition, 905-475-6060.

Japan: Sigma Corporation, 81-3-3405-7818.

POLISH YOUR UI

AppPolish performs 45 different checks, including a spell check, to find user interface errors in any executable, library, resource file, Visual Basic custom control, or OLE Control. It writes the errors to a listing that you can change using a resource editor. Call for pricing and availability.

Encore Development. Phone:

904-398-0013. **Fax:** 904-398-0078.

CompuServe: 74214,720.

DXF DEVELOPER'S SUITE

The DXF Developer's Suite contains two companion libraries that let you create and view industry-standard DXF graphics files with Visual Basic: DXF-IN for VB and TurboDXF. The first allows you to easily display 2-D DXF files in a Visual Basic picture control with a few function calls. It supports circles, arcs, solids, lines, text, rotated text, layers, and polylines. You can either save a full drawing or current window as a WMF or BMP. The TurboDXF library allows you to create DXF files from VB or Access. It also supports circles, arcs, solids, lines, text, rotated text, layers, and polylines. A demo version, DXFSUI.ZIP, is available in the 3rd-Party Staff library of the *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal* forum on CompuServe. Call for pricing. Available now.

Ideal Engineering, Canada. Phone:

604-572-8614.

CompuServe: 76625,2337.

INTERACTIVE DATA DISPLAY

XRT/graph for Windows lets you enhance your applications with interactive graphical data display including bar charts, x-y plots, pie charts, area graphs, financial graphs, and scientific charts. It also offers features such as time-axis, real-time updates, and labeling flexibility. XRT/graph for Windows-16 contains a VBX and DLL; XRT/graph for Windows-32 contains an OCX and DLL. A bundle containing both 16- and 32-bit versions is also available. Call for pricing. Available April 1995.

KL Group Inc., Canada. Phone:

416-594-1026 or 800-663-4723.

Fax: 416-594-1919.

Internet: info@klg.com.

HITEST TOOLS FOR VB

Lotus Notes HiTest is a set of 12 Visual Basic custom controls and an enhanced Basic language application programming interface for Lotus Notes. Using Notes HiTest you can access all the features and capabilities of Lotus Notes, the groupware standard. Integrate Microsoft Office into your applications with a high-level object-based API accessible from Visual Basic for Applications. Produce your own custom graphical user interfaces on top of your current Notes Applications. \$695. Available now. Source code not available.

Lotus Development Corp. Phone:

617-577-8500 or 800-828-7086.

Fax: 617-693-8677.

ORACLE OBJECTS FOR OLE

For Visual Basic or other 4GL development, Oracle Objects for OLE uses the Oracle Data Control (VBX) combined with an OLE in-process server that lets you plug native Oracle7 functionality into your Windows applications. The product's support for VBA also lets you access Oracle7 data directly from Excel spreadsheets. C++ developers can use Class Libraries for runtime binding of OWL or MFC widgets to SQL query results. The built-in Oracle SQL*Net technology gives you access to your database over TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, IBM SNA, DECnet, OSI, and other protocols. Call for pricing and availability.

Oracle Corp. Phone: 415-506-7000.

Fax: 415-506-7200.

HYPERGRAPHIC VBX

The Hypergraphic Custom Control VBX lets you use a bitmap or other image as a user interface for Visual Basic or Visual C++ applications. It allows bitmaps to respond to events such as Click, DoubleClick, MouseMove, and more. You can define multiple hotspots of any shape or size on a bitmap, allowing for different processing depending on the area of the bitmap affected. \$99 + shipping. Available now.

Redmond Toolkits. Phone:

206-867-9191. **Fax:** 206-885-4821.

TELEPHONY API

The Solaris Operating System Software is part of Rhetorex's line of ISA bus-compatible computer telephony components. It consists of an API including source code, channel-based device drivers for voice processing and digital analog telephony interfaces, MVIPI-compliant switch support, a firmware loader, a configuration module, and a sample demonstration program with source code. Call for pricing. Available now. Source code available.

Rhetorex Inc. Phone: 408-370-0881.

Fax: 408-370-1171.

WRITE DLLS IN VB

Visual DLL lets you create Windows DLLs in Visual Basic. It gives you the ability to create Windows File Manager extensions; Windows Control Panel 'Applets'; and libraries you can use with Excel, Word, Access, and dBase. It automatically creates C header files and Basic Declare statements for access from third-party applications. Visual DLL can also protect your VB source code because it creates binary library modules for distribution to customers and third-party developers. Call for pricing. Available now.

Simply Solutions. Phone: 800-355-2405 or 310-575-5047. **Fax:** 714-863-1546.

CompuServe: GO SIMSOL;

Internet: simply@netcom.com.

SEARCHMASTER

SearchMaster lets you search for text strings in all of your source code that's saved as text. It searches for files according to the drive, directory, and file pattern(s) you specify. The drive can be either a local drive or a network drive. SearchMaster also has a Replace capability, and lets you print a formatted report of the search results. Call for pricing and availability.

Soft Trek. Phone: 214-625-7115.

CompuServe: 73751,726.

DATABASE DOCTOR

Dr. DeeBee Tools for NT is a suite of seven utilities that let ODBC developers monitor the operation of ODBC-enabled 32-bit applications and drivers running on Windows NT. The suite complements its sister product, Dr. DeeBee Tools for Windows. It works with all 32-bit ODBC applications, including those created with Access, Visual Basic, and C/C++. It reports on the ODBC performance of an application, and helps developers determine how the application is using ODBC and whether the application is using it properly. \$249 for Starter Bundle for NT (three tools), \$499 for Super Bundle for NT (all seven tools). Available now.

Syware Inc. Phone: 617-497-1376.

SMOOTH SCALING

Smooth Scaling is a graphics utility that lets Windows users reduce the size of bitmapped graphics without the loss of clarity or legibility. The product is geared toward help authors who use screen shots in their files. It can directly scale graphics in BMP and DIB formats; you can copy graphics in other formats to the Windows clipboard and paste them into Smooth Scaling. \$49. Available now.

WexTech Systems Inc. Phone:

212-949-9595 or 800-WEX-TECH.

Fax: 212-949-4007.

CompuServe: 71333,1400.



UPDATES

PROJECT MANAGER FOR VB

Project Manager helps manage VB3 programs. It tracks time on projects by task, creates versions, writes error handlers, finds unused code, makes clean EXEs, backs up project files, tracks project faults and fixes, and prints reports on project contents and times. It features a Microsoft-style interface. For a fully functional demo, download it from the MSBASIC forum on CompuServe or send \$3 to A.F. Street Consulting. \$40. Available now.

A.F. Street Consulting, Canada. Phone: 705-292-6621. **CompuServe:** 72152,333.

MULTIFONT TEXT-BOX CONTROL

ALLText HT/Pro 4 is an enhanced version of our basic ALLText multifont text-box control, specifically aimed at supporting hypertext and forms application development with full-format word processing, RTF I/O, Clipboard Exchange, and more. Version 4 features a five-fold increase in I/O speed, as well as improved printer control, headers, footers, and tables. It also allows you to embed and save other standard controls in the document. A demo version, HTADEM.ZIP, is available on CompuServe (GO BENNET-TEC). \$350 within the U.S., \$375 outside the U.S. Available now. Source code not available.

Bennet-Tec Information Systems Inc.
Phone: 516-433-6283 or 516-997-5596.
Fax: 516-822-2679.
CompuServe: 71201,1075.
Australia: GUI Computing, 61-3-827-0144.
France: OSER, 33-1-42-44-1122.
Japan: Bunka Orient Company,
81-22-378-7106.

BTRIEVE INTERFACE

ProTRIEVE 8.0w is a simplified, comprehensive Btrieve interface for Visual Basic and Access Basic. You can directly access Btrieve file operations by invoking any of the 40+ functions contained in a Basic source module. No DDF is required. Operates with Btrieve 6.15 and earlier releases. Shareware: \$35 for registration. Available April 1995.

Computer Innovations Inc. Phone: 501-224-2749. **CompuServe:** 73747,3172.

SHAREWARE LIBRARIES

EMS offers shareware libraries for Access and VB, among other products, on CD-ROM and 1.44MB diskettes. New versions are released every other month. Prices are for assembly only; continued use requires additional payment. \$59.50 for CD-ROM, \$79.50 for 40 diskettes. \$25 for updates on CD-ROM. Available now.

EMS Professional Shareware. Phone: 301-924-3594. **Fax:** 301-963-2708.
Internet: eric.engelmann@wdn.com.

VB-CD QUARTERLY

This CD-ROM contains electronic versions of every VBPI and BasicPro back issue indexed for easy retrieval; the Catalog on Disk database, a comprehensive directory of every third-party add-on product for the entire family of Microsoft development tools, including VB, VC++, Access, SQL, Fox, and OLE custom controls; code, sample applications, and shareware. \$49.95 per issue, \$99.95 for a one-year (four-issue) subscription. Available now.

Fawcette Technical Publications. Phone: 415-833-7100 or 800-848-5523.
Fax: 415-853-0230.
CompuServe: 74774,305.

CONTROL POWER!

Control Power! is a CD-ROM of Visual Basic add-on products and services, product demos, and programming tips and techniques. New editions are released quarterly. Paid, registered users receive the next edition free. \$49.95. Available now. Source code not available.

FVP Digital. Phone: 301-330-2099.
Fax: 301-926-9125.

MAP EDITOR

With Map Editor 2 you can give your users the ability to create, edit, and revise map data within your application. This DLL adds to the Map Server 2 library running under Windows. New features let you handle objects on a map with up to 16,000 coordinates, copy objects between map sheets, edit annotation text on maps such as place names, and edit the attributes of an object. Call for pricing. Available now.

Geosoft Ltd., United Kingdom. Phone: 44-0113-234-4000.
Fax: 44-0113-246-5071.

VERSION CONTROL FOR ACCESS

Access Monitor is a version control system for Access that tracks changes, additions, and deletions to your MDB. It features project security, object revision tracking, project management, and reporting capabilities. \$199 for a single-user license. Version 3.0 available April 1995. Source code not available.

James E. Smith IV Consulting. Phone: 415-292-5001 or 800-499-5001.
Fax: 415-292-5002.
CompuServe: 73641,361.

IMAGE PROCESSING

LeadTools Professional 4.5 lets you add file format support, and image compression, manipulation, and processing to any Windows 3.x, Windows NT, Windows 95, or Win32s application. The toolkit supports more than 42 file formats including Kodak Photo CD, PCX, GIF, TGA, BMP, TIFF, PICT, JPEG, and more. New features include two types of color reduction; functions to give you more flexibility when using DIBs and DDBs; and improved performance of 1-bit processing. Lead's proprietary CMP algorithm delivers a smaller file size with less image degradation than the same image compressed with JPEG. \$795 for Professional edition, royalty free; \$1495 for Express edition. Available now. Source code available.

Lead Technologies Inc. Phone: 704-332-5532. **Fax:** 704-372-8161.

COMPRESSION PLUS 4

Compression Plus is a library of ZIP-compatible, data compression routines that increase your application's functionality without tying up resources. It lets you design your applications to use available memory and disk space more effectively by compressing files, arrays, and other blocks of memory to a fraction of their original size, and decompressing them only when necessary. It supports six different compression algorithms. The package includes a VBX and a DLL, as well as 16- and 32-bit OLE controls. \$249; \$129 for upgrades from Compression Plus 3. Available now. Source code not available.

MicroHelp Inc. Phone: 404-516-0899 or 800-777-3322. **Fax:** 404-516-1099.
CompuServe: 72420,2514.

Australia: GUI Computing Pty Ltd,
61-3-804-3777.
France: Software Technology Resources,
33130706161.
Germany: MicroBASIC GmbH,
49-89-904-6041.
Holland: LeMax Company B.V.,
31-20659-8701.
Italy: Questar, 035249946.
Japan: Softwinds, 81-0782312064.

Sweden: McAllister PC Systems,
46-87207551.
United Kingdom: Contemporary Software,
44-727811991.

CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

MKS Source Integrity 7.1, formerly called MKS RCS, is a project-oriented configuration management system that you can integrate with Visual Basic or Visual C++. New features include sandboxes to eliminate "free fire" zones; visual differencing and visual merging; unlimited branching and merging; and Event Triggers to automate your configuration management process. It also takes advantage of Novell NetWare security capabilities. The package includes the MKS Source Integrity Version Control API. \$449; \$149 for upgrades. Available now. Source code not available.

Mortice Kern Systems Inc., Canada. Phone: 800-265-2797 or 519-884-2251.
Fax: 519-884-8861.
Internet: sales@mks.com.

ANIMATE!

Animate! 1.5 for Windows is a DLL for high-performance, real-time graphics. Built on Microsoft's WinG graphics library, it gives both C programmers and Visual Basic programmers an API you can call from your own applications. It lets you access video display hardware directly from Windows and provides sprite routines that let you easily obtain images that produce fast animation. The package includes an animated demo program, source code, and VB declarations and examples that allow you to access Animate!'s API. \$49, royalty free. Available now. Source code available.

Nexus Software. Phone: 414-662-0737.
Fax: 414-536-7340.

Internet: nexussw@aol.com.

HELP MAGICIAN PRO 3.0

Help Magician Pro is a help authoring tool that combines a WYSIWYG WinHelp-like environment with customized support for network project management. Its new features include support for all of Microsoft WinHelp's features, network project management support, a Visual Basic source code scanner, and the ability to use a variety of word processors to build help files. Other advanced features include manual-to-help file and help file-to-manual conversion; a topic outline/navigator; 256-color bitmap support; and support for many graphics file formats. \$249 for single-user license. Corporate and site licensing are also available. Available now.

Software Interphase Inc. Phone: 800-54-BASIC or 401-397-2340.
Fax: 401-397-6814.

VBXTASY PATCH

A recently discovered bug in VBXTasy 1.10.1 causes a GPF if the statement "Unload Me" occurs in a VBXTasy button's click event. A patch is available in the 3rd Party Products library section of the MSBASIC forum on CompuServe: the self-extracting zip file is called XTC112.EXE. To install it, run the EXE in a temporary directory and follow the instructions in the READ_ME.TXT file that it will have created. Contact the company if you don't have access to CompuServe.

Spinoza Ltd. Phone: 310-231-9770 or 800-230-2217. **Fax:** 310-231-9773.

SUITE DEAL ON CD

This suite contains Formula One (spreadsheet), First Impression (business charting), ImageStream (image import/export), VisualWriter (RTF editor), and VisualSpeller (100,000-word spellchecker). The package includes full documentation. It's now available

on CD-ROM with a unified installation program. \$399; \$25 for upgrades from 3.5-inch disks to CD-ROM. Available now. Source code not available.

VisualTools Inc. Phone: 913-599-6500 or 800-884-8665. **Fax:** 913-599-6597.
CompuServe: 74774,443;
BBS: 913-599-6713.
Sweden: Linsoft AB, 46-13-11-15-88.
Germany: Microbasic, 49-899049049.
Spain: Visual Programming, 34-87-260-948.
Taiwan: RamFarmer Computer Co. Ltd.,
886-23754168.
Italy: Software Design Srl,
39-80-5045506.

We published an incorrect phone number for SerraCorp in the March 1995 issue of VBPI. The product listing should read:

DESIGN DATABASES IN ENGLISH

Database Designer 2.0 for Windows is a database design tool that allows consultants to design and automatically create normalized relational database prototypes using English sentences. Its Language-Oriented Data Modeling (LODM) technology extracts a data model from English sentences that describe a client's database needs. The product "reads" the sentences and asks the user questions about relationships. Database Designer also allows you to reverse-engineer existing databases and their data without losing referential integrity. It can create indexed tables for Access, Approach, Clipper, dBase, FoxPro, and Paradox formats, as well as Visual Basic, Oracle and Sybase, and DBMS formats that can use or adapt ANSI-standard SQL. \$350 + \$10 S&H.

SerraCorp. Phone: 216-677-1931.
Fax: 216-677-8002.



TRAINING/ CONFERENCES

DB/EXPO '95

DB/Expo will take place May 2-4, 1995, at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, California. The shows and conference programs focus on client/server application development, data warehousing, interoperability, object-oriented application development, and local area networks as complete computing systems integrating hardware, software, and applications. Call for pricing.

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