

LETTERS

Letters to Visual Basic Programmer's Journal are welcome. To be considered for publication, letters must include your name, address, and daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for form, fit, and style. Please send them to: Letters to the Editor, c/o Fawcette Technical Publications, 280 Second Street, Suite 200, Los Altos, CA, USA, 94022-3603. Or send them electronically to: Fax: 415-948-7332; America Online: RobertVBPI; CompuServe: 71732.3233; INTERNET: 71732.3233@compuserve.com

TOO MUCH TRUTH

First Jim Fawcette said unkind things about C programming a few issues ago, and now he exposes the Pentium hype with a few hard truths (VBPI, December/January 1993/94). What's next? That Unix isn't the universal desktop business operating system that we're all supposed to be waiting for? That everyone who owns both a PC and TV isn't destined to become a multimedia millionaire?

It's not nice to poke at the little fictions that comprise the common wisdom of the computer establishment. It leads to a bad end. If Fawcette doesn't watch this truth business he may end up wandering the streets of Silicon Valley in his old age, holding up an LED and looking for an honest computer entrepreneur.

Dale Flanagan, Los Angeles

FILES WANTED ON AMERICA ONLINE

I just started receiving the magazine and am quite pleased with the quality of the articles. I use Visual Basic for Windows for all of my Windows applications development with the exception of some DLL's, for which I must revert to C. I hope the publication will continue to focus primarily on VB/Windows as that is definitely where the market is. I have already found a few useful solutions to carry over into my own Windows apps.

One question: Is there any place on America Online where I can find the source code which accompanies the articles. I notice the articles usually mention the source being on CompuServe, but haven't found any around here.

Jeff Hewett, received on America Online

Usually if an author or the magazine posts files they get uploaded to the MSBASIC forum on CompuServe, since that is where most of our readers and authors meet. Some Access-specific code would be posted to the MSACCESS forum. We'll always try to list where you can find the code you need.

We urge our authors to post their code to the America Online forum too, but many authors

don't have accounts there. We'll try to upload files to both places when possible and we now have an in-house number to send e-mail to on both CompuServe and America Online to serve non-CompuServe subscribers better.

If you are an Internet user you can send e-mail to us at 71732.3233@compuserve.com or RbortVBPI@AOL.com.—Ed

PUT OLE INTO CODE EDITORS

Thanks for your recent article on Microsoft's forthcoming Visual Basic for Applications. Microsoft has done a terrific job of making Windows apps easier to write and control with Visual Basic and with OLE 2.0. It's too bad, however, that there are no programming languages or environments that incorporate OLE capabilities into code generation windows.

What's been missing from programming languages and editors is the ability to incorporate non-textual objects into the code itself. My company is the developer of a CAD system for civil engineers. Many times I wanted to put a drawing into a comment in the code to explain what was going on. That one picture would have been worth a thousand words. With the ability to link a graphic object into the code, it would have instantly become much clearer.

We have begun to see the ability to select fonts in our editors and to distinguish comments from code through the use of colors. This is helpful but it is only the beginning. What is needed here is the ability to set font sizes and maybe even styles to distinguish sections of the program. For example, I might want to code the calls to the main subroutines in a larger type font than calls to functions that diagnose error codes returned by the subroutines. Or, I might want to minimize the importance of housekeeping details done in a subroutine while emphasizing the main processing. Currently, every line of code gets equal importance visually whether it is:

I=I+1

or

GOSUB SaveAllFiles

I predict that the first language vendor that offers an environment with abilities like these will get a lot of attention. Anybody listening?

David Salahi, Irvine, California

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Visual Basic Programmer's Journal (ISSN 1068-9789) is published bi-monthly with two additional special issues published in February and April for \$3.97 per copy. Fawcette Technical Publications, 280 Second Street, Suite 200, Los Altos, CA, USA 94022-3603. Tel: 415-917-7600. Fax: 415-948-7332. M.C. J. Fawcette Application material at second class rates is pending at Los Altos, CA and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Visual Basic Programmer's Journal, P.O. Box 5887, Boulder, CO 80322-8872.

Customer Service: For subscription orders, inquiries or address changes, call 303-441-0510 or write to Visual Basic Programmer's Journal, P.O. Box 5887, Boulder, CO 80322-8872. Foreign and Canadian orders must be payable in U.S. dollars plus postage. The surface rate to Canada and Mexico is \$29.7; and for all other countries the air-mail rate is \$59.97.

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