

Tools Increase your 'Net Worth

BY VBPJ STAFF

Check out the latest Internet development tools, from HTML editors to Web server interfaces.

Much of Visual Basic's momentum in the development world has resulted from the strong community of third-party software developers working to extend VB's capabilities. As Visual Basic evolves into one of the environments of choice for building applications for the Internet, it's no surprise that a whole new generation of third-party tools designed specifically for creating online applications has grown like topsy.

The diversity of these Internet tools mirrors the variety traditionally found in the VB marketplace. VB developers can choose from tools for automating the creation and viewing of HTML pages; tools that encapsulate the traditional Unix protocols for processing USENET news, mail, TCP/IP networking, and other functionality; and tools for creating robust server-side applications for online commerce and database access. Some of these companies are quite familiar to the VB developer, while others are bringing their products to the Windows development world for the first time.

Here are some of the available tools that will help you build online applications. Note that the companies providing this information are responsible for accuracy and currency. Please contact the companies for additional information.

CLIENT-SIDE TOOLS

Blue Sky Software's Help-to-HTML Kit includes the RoboHELP HTML Plug-in and

the Help-to-HTML Converter. The RoboHELP HTML Plug-in automates the process of creating HTML files needed to build World Wide Web sites. The 32-bit Help-to-HTML Converter facilitates the creation of WWW sites by converting any Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 Help file into HTML files. Introductory price: \$199. List price: \$398. Available now. Blue Sky Software Corp. Phone: 619-459-6365 or 800-677-4946. Fax: 619-459-6366. Internet: info@blue-sky.com. World Wide Web: http://www.blue-sky.com.

Crescent Internet ToolPak is designed to give Visual Basic developers high-level tools to build inter-networked applications and utilities without requiring them to understand complex Internet protocols. The product consists of OCX controls for EMAIL, USENET, FTP, WEB, and TCP/IP. \$199. Available now. Crescent Division of Progress Software Corp. Phone: 617-280-3000 or 800-35-BASIC. Fax: 617-280-4025. Internet: crescent@progress.com. World Wide Web: http://www.progress.com/crescent.

Mabry Software's Web Client control encapsulates the HTTP protocol and the HTML scripting language used to get onto the World Wide Web. It allows you to develop information management applications for the Internet in any 32-bit development environment. \$275. Call for availability. Mabry Software. Phone: 206-634-1443. Fax: 206-632-0272. Internet: mabry@halcyon.com.

Sax Webster Control gives you a custom control that browses the World Wide Web. By including Sax Webster Control in your apps, you can provide your customers with Internet access from within your program. \$149. Available now. Sax Software. Phone: 541-344-2235 or 800-645-3729.

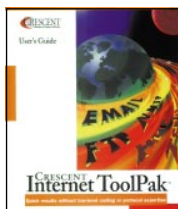
Fax: 541-344-2459. CompuServe: 75470,1403. Internet: info@saxsoft.com. World Wide Web: http://www.saxsoft.com.

Formula One/NET is an Internet spreadsheet component that provides both Web-site content providers and Web browsers with spreadsheet functionality. Using Netscape Navigator 2.0 and Formula One/NET, you can embed workbooks directly in browser windows. Charts remain live when you view them using Formula One/NET in any Netscape Navigator 2.0 window; they automatically update as worksheet data changes. \$39. Available now. Visual Components. Phone: 913-599-6500 or 800-884-8665. Fax: 913-599-6597. CompuServe: 74774,443. Internet: sales@visualcomp.com. World Wide Web: http://www.visualcomp.com. BBS: 913-599-6713.

SERVER-SIDE TOOLS

Aspect Software Engineering's dbWeb provides database access for HTTP Web servers running under 32-bit Windows NT. You can provide real-time access to any ODBC data source through Web browsers such as Mosaic and Netscape. \$495. Available now. The company also produces a scripting language for Web servers, called **iBasic**, that's compatible with HTML and VBA. It executes on an Internet server and provides the ability to respond to multiple browser requests simultaneously by running VBA/HTML scripts in a multithreaded environment. \$99. Available February 15, 1996. Aspect Software Engineering. Phone: 800-539-3781. Fax: 808-539-3785. World Wide Web: http://www.aspectse.com.

Cii's WebLink for Visual Basic is an interface between VB 4.0 and Web server software. With this interface, you can write VB programs as CGI responding to HTML forms. It makes interactive Internet database access easier, whether you're accessing Microsoft Access or SQL Server. WebLink supports this Web server soft-



ware: Netscape, Purveyor, EMWAC, and O'Reilly & Associate's WebSite. Call for pricing and availability. Cii. Phone: 919-676-8855. Fax: 919-676-8484. CompuServe: 72350.3454. Internet/World Wide Web: <http://ciint1.ciinc.com/vbdemo.htm>.

Dunn Systems Secure SQLBase, a secured client/server database engine, is an enhanced version of Gupta's SQLBase. VB developers can create applications that use the Internet as a secure WAN. The product incorporates RSA algorithms into SQLBase to provide users with secure access to corporate data over the Internet. \$1595 for a five-user version. Available now. Dunn Systems Inc. Phone: 708-673-0900. Fax: 708-673-0904.

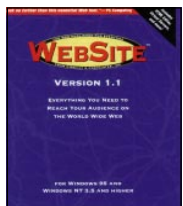
MindWire NT is an online services platform for Windows NT. It takes Internet server software to the next level by integrating Web server software with an applications deployment architecture for easy distribution of client/server applications over the Internet. \$1,495. Available now. Durand Communications Network Inc. Phone: 805-961-8700. Fax: 805-961-8701. World Wide Web: <http://www.durand.com>.

Worldgroup Internet Server combines e-mail tools, commercial online services, and BBS technology. Customize or develop new client applications using Visual Basic. \$595. Available now. Galacticcomm Inc. Phone: 954-583-5990 or 800-328-1128. Fax: 954-583-7846. World Wide Web: <http://www.gcomm.com>.

Mabry's Web Server control encapsulates the HTTP protocol used to provide information to Web clients or browsers. It allows you to develop information management applications for the Internet in any 32-bit development environment. \$425. Call for availability. Mabry Software. Phone: 206-634-1443. Fax: 206-632-0272. Internet: mabry@halcyon.com.

VBnet 2.0 is a Visual Basic 4.0 add-in that helps you generate internet-based client/server applications. Developing an Internet application using VBnet requires no knowledge of Internet protocols, languages, scripts, and standards. VBnet supports HTML 3.0, VB Script, OCXs, and JPEG/GIF image formats. \$149. Available March 1996. NetObjects Corp. Phone: 609-275-9006 or 800-85-VBNET. Fax: 609-799-5164. World Wide Web: <http://www.vbnet.com>.

WebSite 1.1 is a 32-bit multithreaded World Wide Web server for Windows NT and Windows 95. The package provides an HTML Editor, easy creation of virtual servers, and Web printing. WebSite's CGI now supports the Visual Basic 4.0 framework (CGI32.BAS) with sample applications. A



fully functional, 60-day downloadable demo will be soon available from WebSite Central (<http://website.ora.com>). \$499. Upgrades available from WebSite 1.0. O'Reilly & Associates. Phone: 800-998-9938 or 707-829-0515.

WebSite Professional, scheduled to ship in Spring 1996, includes all WebSite 1.1 features, along with the two major Web cryptographic security systems, Secure Hypertext Transfer Protocol (S-HTTP), and Secure Sockets Layer (SSL). \$1499.

With **Wayfarer's QuickServer SDK** you can use Visual Basic to build high-performance client/server applications for the Internet. Create VB applications and run them inside Netscape Navigator as browser plug-ins. Download a 30-day evaluation version from Wayfarer's Web site. Wayfarer Communications Inc. Phone: 415-903-1720. Fax: 415-903-1730. World Wide Web: <http://www.wayfarer.com>.

With **CGIBridge for Windows NT**, you can use VB3 to develop applications for the World Wide Web, create programs to access a SQL database from a Web browser, and execute 16-bit Windows applications from a Web browser. CGIBridge is invoked by the HTTP server, which in turn invokes a Visual Basic application specified by the user. \$239. Available now. XYNet Software Technologies Inc. Phone: 805-371-3632. Internet: webmaster@xynet.com. World Wide Web: <http://www.xynet.com>.

INTERNET PROTOCOL UTILITIES

Catalyst Software's SocketTools is a suite of VBX and OCX controls (both 16- and 32-bit) that implement TCP/IP protocols such as FTP, TELNET, SMTP, and POP3. The package features a simplified, high-level access that is WinSock compatible. Documentation and sample code are included. No royalties. \$349. Available March 1996.

Catalyst also provides **SocketWrench/VB**, a free shareware developers' toolkit designed primarily for Visual Basic programmers that are interested in integrating the Internet into existing applications or building applets that require TCP/IP protocol. Download SocketWrench/VB from any SimTel mirror site in the /win3/visbasic directory or on CompuServe or AOL in the MSBASIC forum as CSWSK110.ZIP. It is also available at Catalyst's Web site. Catalyst Software. Phone: 619-228-9653. Fax: 619-369-1185. CompuServe: 71640.3550. World Wide Web: <http://www.catalyst.com>.

Dart Communications offers PowerTCP Standard Toolkit for Visual Basic and PowerTCP Standard Toolkit with OLE Controls. Power TCP provides a set of TCP/IP components that you can quickly add to any Windows application. TCP, TELNET,

FTP, SMTP and POP3 (with UUENCODE and MIME), and VT220 support are provided. The Visual Basic kit (\$298) contains VBXs; the OLE Controls kit (\$598) contains 16- and 32-bit OLE Controls. Dart Communications. Phone: 315-655-1024. Fax: 315-655-1025. CompuServe: GODART. Internet: sales@dart.com. World Wide Web: <http://www.dart.com>.

Distinct Corp. has several TCP/IP tools for Visual Basic developers. Distinct TCP/IP Software Development Kit, Visual Edition, is available for Windows 95 and Windows NT in a 32-bit OLE version. It supports Visual Basic



4.0, and allows developers to easily integrate Internet-type activities into their own applications. This version contains OLE controls for Windows Sockets, TELNET, FTP, TCP server, SMTP, POP2/POP3, NNTP, RCP, Rlogin, Rshell, Rexec, and VT220. \$295; \$545 with subscription. Call for availability. 16- and 32-bit versions of Distinct TCP/IP-32 SDK Standard Edition are available for \$495; \$745 with subscription. Distinct Corp. Phone: 408-366-8933. Fax: 408-366-0153. Internet: mktg@distinct.com. World Wide Web: <http://www.distinct.com>.

dsSocket (Dolphin Systems Socket Control) is an OLE control that lets you support client/server communications using TCP/IP networks. With it you can access a WinSock 1.1-compliant protocol stack by setting properties and methods and responding to events. You can create server applications that wait for client connections and transfer data between connected workstations. \$99 + S&H, royalty free. Available now. Dolphin Systems Inc. Phone: 905-838-2896. Fax: 905-838-0649.

Mabry Software offers several Internet-related controls, including TTC News Custom Control, Archie Client, Chatter (which provides Talk functionality), Connect, Gopher Client, IRC, Mime, News (which allows you to read and submit news to Internet newsgroups), TELNET, UUENCODE, WAIS, Mail, Finger, GetHost, Whois, WSocket, and FTP. Most controls range in price from \$10 to \$75. Call for availability. Mabry Software. Phone: 206-634-1443. Fax: 206-632-0272. Internet: mabry@halcyon.com.

NEW-T-SDK 5.0 helps you develop network applications for Windows without learning the low-level details of communication protocols. It gives you access to WinSock, WinISDN, WinCGI, WinSNMP, RPC, FTP, SMTP, and MAPI. \$500. Available now. NetManage Inc. Phone: 408-973-7171. Fax: 408-257-6405. Internet: info@netmanage.com. World Wide Web: <http://www.netmanage.com>. ☒