***Non-Visual Component* Sample Help**

Sample Description: Non-Visual Component

Points of Interest
   Adding Forms to a Group
   Managing the Display of Forms in a Group

Control
   Form
   Group

For Help on Help, Press F1

Non-Visual Component

The purpose of the Non-Visual sample is to highlight the fact that non-visual components may be developed to help support the visual aspects of an application.

Envelop is made of many non-visual objects, such as timers, groups, etc. These objects can be used to create key functionality in an application and can be developed in a reusable way.

This particular sample focuses on the Group object and how it may be used to coordinate the display of several different forms. As the sample is loaded, the group named FormGroup is cleared and then populated with seven form objects. The group object can be used to manage a group of objects in a similar manner that a ListBox can be used to manage a list of text information.

The purpose of the sample is to display one of the seven forms that are contained inside the FormGroup object. Clicking the Next and Prev buttons will cycle through the display of the various forms.

Adding Forms to a Group

The Append method is used to populate the group object. As form objects are appended to the FormGroup object, they are added in a particular order. The Load method of Form11 is used to initialize the application by first clearing the FormGroup group object, then appending seven different forms to the group.

Managing the Display of Forms in a Group

Two methods, ShowNext and ShowPrev, are defined as methods on the FormGroup group object. These methods are called from the Next and Prev buttons on each of the seven forms stored in the group. The ShowNext method displayed below is used to determine which form object is currently displayed in the For loop, then determine the name of the next form in the group. The variable "next_form" is set to be the next object within the group.

```
Sub ShowNext(current_form as Form)
    Dim i,j as Integer
    Dim next_form as Form

    For i = 0 To Count - 1
      If ObjectAt(i) = current_form Then
        If i = Count - 1 Then
          j = 0
        Else
          j = i + 1
        End If
        next_form = ObjectAt(j)
        Exit For
      End If
    Next i

    If next_form Then
      Dim form_top, form_left As Integer
      form_top = current_form.Top
      form_left = current_form.Left
      next_form.Caption = "Group Number: " & j
      If (next_form.Left <> form_left) || (next_form.Top <> form_top) Then
        next_form.Move form_left, form_top, next_form.Width, next_form.Height
      End If
      next_form.DisplayForm(j + 1, Count)
      current_form.Hide
    End If
```

If there is a next_form object, it is moved and sized to a position that matches the currently displayed form. Once the currently displayed form is covered by the next form, it is hidden. This is why it appears as though only the contents of the same form are changing when you click the Next or Prev button several times in a row.