

The Developers Group Masterclass

Effective Programming in Delphi with Ray Konopka

**at The Village Hall (Parish Reading Room), Upavon,
Wiltshire SN9 6EB**

on Tuesday October 23rd 10.00 - 6.00

Outline Agenda

A good look at your development techniques

This MasterClass is specifically focused at making Delphi developers more effective in their craft. To this end, a variety of Delphi programming techniques will be presented during the class. However, in addition to step-by-step instructions for each technique, specific attention will be focused on how to use each technique effectively. Based on over 10 years of experience in the Delphi 3rd Party commercial market, the additional insight presented with each technique will be valuable even if you have some previous experience with a given technique.

Actions

The first section covers Actions and Action Lists. Actions have been a core feature of Delphi for quite some time. Unfortunately, this extremely powerful feature of Delphi is still widely underused and in many cases misused by developers. This session describes, in detail, how actions and action lists can help a developer manage the user interface for an application.

Collections

The next section will cover collections, a little known but very powerful feature of the Delphi VCL. Collections are used for managing lists of items, like TList and TStringList. However, collections offer several benefits. The most important is that collections provide automatic streaming support for its items. In addition, collection-based properties have built-in design-time support via a common property editor that is used by all collection-based properties. In this session, you'll learn everything you need to know to incorporate collections into your own applications and components.

Controls

Moving forward, the next section investigates the various techniques involved in creating composite controls including manual creation, component templates, frame components, and sub-components. Along the way, guidelines for the effective use of each technique will be presented along with the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

Design editors

The final section will focus on enhancing the design-time interface of a component by creating custom design editors. Specifically, you will learn the details of effectively creating custom property editors, component editors, and other design-time elements. In addition, through several examples, you will see how these building blocks can be used to dramatically enhance the usability of a component.

Some non-technical information about the day

Timing and food

Registration with refreshments starts at 9:30 and the class begins at 10 o'clock sharp. There will be a break with more refreshments mid-morning and mid-afternoon. At lunchtime (around 1 o'clock, for an hour) we take you to the pub for lunch - your food is included in the cost of the class, your beer is not ;-)

Cost

The price for members is £175 + VAT per class, or £300 + VAT if you book for this class and the previous day. All places must be booked and paid for in advance. If your membership package includes masterclasses, you still need to pre-book. You're welcome to book as soon as you read this; please make sure we have payment by cheque, credit card or bank transfer by Wednesday 17th October.

Getting here

- **From London, Hampshire, Surrey and South:** M3 to junction 8, A303 to Andover, A342 via Ludgershall towards Devizes.
- **From Berkshire and Buckinghamshire:** M4 to junction 14, A338 via Burbage to Collingbourne Ducis, local road to Everleigh, A342 towards Devizes.
- **From Bristol, Swindon and Gloucestershire:** M4 to junction 16, B4005 to Wroughton (or shortcut via local road), A4361 to Avebury, local road via West Kennet, Alton Priors, Woodborough and North Newnton, A342 towards Amesbury and Salisbury.
- **From Salisbury and South Coast:** A345 towards Pewsey and Marlborough.
- **From South West:** A303 to Amesbury, A345 towards Pewsey and Marlborough.

The hall is on the A342 between Andover (East) and Devizes (West), near the river bridge, just to the East of the junction of the A345 between Salisbury (South) and Swindon (North).

Regrettably getting here by public transport isn't easy and it's generally easier to drive. We'll let you know closer to the date where it's best to park. Please ask if you need train information and for us to book you taxis from and to local stations (Paddington to Pewsey infrequent trains + taxi 10 minutes/£10, or Waterloo to Andover about every half hour + taxi 40 minutes/£25).

Overnight accommodation

Accommodation very close to the hall is available at Upavon Manor (isabelgreen@hotmail.com or 01980 635115) and the Antelope Inn (01980 630206 but check with us first as the pub is currently changing hands). There are other b&bs a very brief drive or walk across the fields away.

We expect these classes to book up very quickly and places are (quite genuinely) limited. The classes are not designed to be hands-on and, if you decide to bring a laptop, there won't be anywhere for you to plug it in.

Mobile phones and emails

Please remember that phones must be switched off while the class is in session. Be warned that signal is very poor here and you may need to take your phone for a short walk before it will work - Vodafone tends to be best. You will not have access to the internet at the hall or at your accommodation.