

# **The Developers Group Masterclass**

## ***Web Development Essentials***

### ***with Bob Swart***

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

**on Tuesday November 27th 10.00 - 6.00**

### **Agenda**

**Today Bob gives an overview of all possible web development techniques available in Delphi 2007 (most of which are also available in Delphi from version 3 or 6).**

Web Development solutions to be discussed – pro/cons with examples – include:

- WebBroker / WebSnap
- ActiveForms
- VCL for the Web / IntraWeb
- ASP.NET 1.1/2.0
- (Delphi for) PHP

We look at AJAX discussed as an add-on for several of the above techniques (but not as a stand-alone solution in itself).

#### **10:00 Learn what Web Technologies have to offer**

After the initial discussion of pro/cons, we demonstrate each technique by implementing (and deploying) a simple but non-trivial data-based web application in each of the techniques. Attention is not only given to the presentation, but also the application logic, session management, database connectivity and finally deployment.

##### **ActiveForms**

An ActiveForm is an ActiveX control that can run inside InternetExplorer (but no other browsers). As such, an ActiveForm offers a “fat client” look and feel, and an easy way to migrate an existing VCL application to the web. Not a true web solution, it is still sometimes used for intranet environments.

##### **WebBroker / WebSnap**

WebBroker and WebSnap are non-visual way to develop web server CGI or ISAPI web applications (but can also be used to produce Apache 1.x and 2.x web applications), with the focus on handling incoming requests as “actions” using code written in Delphi. WebSnap adds the concept of adapters with fields and actions, but has a higher learning curve.

#### **11:30 VCL for the Web / IntraWeb**

IntraWeb offers a true WYSIWYG way to design VCL web applications with Delphi. You can re-use existing data modules from desktop VCL applications inside your IntraWeb web applications, which helps migration (or shared development in a combined GUI – Web project approach).

IntraWeb has been added to Delphi 7 in two editions: Page Mode and Application Mode, and we’ll see the differences between these modes. As of Delphi 2007, this technology has been renamed to VCL for the Web, to emphasize the way it “connects” with the rest of the VCL.

**12:45 lunch**

## 2:00 ASP.NET

If Delphi 2007 for .NET 2.0/3.0 is also available in November, then we will also demonstrate the use of ASP.NET 2.0, otherwise we'll stick with ASP.NET 1.1 which is the .NET way to develop visual web applications.

## 3:30 (Delphi for) PHP

As a final example, we introduce Delphi for PHP – the IDE that is based on the PHP scripting language and which offers a Delphi way to produce web applications. This is not the Delphi language, but the PHP language in a Delphi-like IDE offered by CodeGear.

## 5:00 Wrap-up and discussion

### The book of the course

After the masterclass, you will be able to download the manual containing the contents of the day in PDF format (password protected file of about 100 pages).

### 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 21st November.

#### 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 Newton, 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 ([isabelbgreen@hotmail.com](mailto:isabelbgreen@hotmail.com) or 01980 635115) and the Antelope Inn (01980 630206). 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.