

Gregory Melle's Delphi Experience

Delphi for Windows was first introduced by Borland in 1995. I bought a copy as soon after reading the glowing reviews. Afterwards I upgraded with each version. My most recent Borland purchase was Delphi Professional 2006. I used Delphi with my licensed copies of InfoPower 4000, First Class 4000 and ReportBuilder. Altogether I worked more than ten years with Delphi development tools.

From 1995 to 1999 I created several small Delphi projects. These included a membership tracking system for the Penticton (BC) Chamber of Commerce and a policy tracking project for a small insurance agency. After that, I concentrated on my hourly contract employment.

In 1999 I worked as contract employee at the LifeScan division of Johnson & Johnson. (LifeScan manufactures blood glucose monitors for diabetics). Their Quality Assurance department needed a multi-user system to track inspection data. Their previous inadequate single user system had been created with FileMaker Pro. I undertook the project under the supervision of their QA department with minimal MIS assistance. I designed the database using Platinum Software's ERWin design tools. An early version used a Microsoft Access database. The final version used an Oracle 7.0 database with calls to PL/SQL. Development took 5 months. I programmed with Delphi Enterprise Edition 5.0. For reporting I used the QuickReport report writer. Components from InstallShield and Woll2Woll InfoPower were also used.

In July 2000, I started a Delphi/Oracle software contract in Fremont, California. The end-client was New United Motors Manufacturing Inc. NUMMI was a joint venture of Toyota and General Motors. At the end of 2001, they made a change-over from Chevy Prizm assembly to the new Pontiac Vibe. This contract was completed in March 2002.

I created some powerful and effective screens and reports. These were in daily use for scheduling. I created components and programmed some semi fool-proof user interfaces. I learned some Toyota management concepts for continuous improvement. My software was used for the manufacture of all Toyota Tacoma trucks and Pontiac Vibe cars. It controlled the sorting of newly painted vehicle bodies before they enter the primary assembly line. Another one of my software applications enabled automatic just-in-time ordering and shipping of Tacoma truck frames. (The NUMMI operation was closed down in the spring of 2010).

Starting in late 2003 I did several months work with 3Log Systems based in Richmond, BC. They used Delphi Enterprise 5.0 and Microsoft SQL Server. I helped update, maintain and install their software to track the purchasing and weighing of pulp-mill logs and chips. In December I travelled twice to Maine for a major software installation. At the end of the probation period, I left due to my dissatisfaction with their unrealistic project expectations.

From 2003 to 2005 I did some contract work for a small distribution company in Langley, BC. I created some invoice printing utilities and tracked database changes. In early 2005 I took on the project of recreating an old Clipper compiled DOS program as a brand-new Delphi program using a SQL Server database. This software controlled their entire order taking, bank reconciliations and invoice printing. I used Woll2Woll's InfoPower and FirstChoice components. For report development I used ReportBuilder from Digital Metaphors.

From June to October 2005 I did some Delphi development at BC's Liquor Distribution Branch. We converted batch applications that use SQL commands to interface to a large Oracle database. These applications used Delphi Enterprise 7.0. I did some report development using the Rave report builder.

From November 2007 to February 2008 I worked with the Borland Studio IDE on a development contract at Edmonton's 5D / Haemonetics Software.

My Delphi experience includes self study. In late 2002 I completed two Delphi 6.0 certification exams from Personal Delphi Agents – a company whose web site has unfortunately since disappeared. In the winter of 2006 to 2007 I completed 5 Crystal Reports courses from BusinessObjects.

In 2009 to 2010, I did some part-time program maintenance for a financial software supplier based in New Jersey. Their main product is a complex financial software product sold to major American brokerage houses. It was developed using Delphi and Oracle.