

# BLAISE PASCAL MAGAZINE 117



Multiplatform / Object Pascal / Internet / JavaScript / Web Assembly / Pas2Js  
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IT FINALLY HAPPENS:  
WITH FRESNEL YOU CAN CREATE  
A UNIVERSAL GRAPHICAL APPLICATION  
RUNNING ON ALL NATIVE PLATFORMS AND IN THE BROWSER

*Fresnel: the new alternative lcl for lazarus*

Coming Technology: **Glass Cores** (CPU) from Intel

**Controlling the browser using webassembly**  
*Accessing the Browser APIs from Webassembly.*

**Database Workbench 6.5** added **support for SQL LITE**  
*The Swiss army knife for database development*

**The Lazarus Debugger** – An introduction and tutorial  
*Part 7: Change happens – Waiting for it*

**PUTS:** Pascal User Tips & Solutions  
*Delphi: create your own Components*  
*A delay component and a Time lapse component*

**PUTS:** Pascal User Tips & Solution  
*The component Treeview*



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## *From your editor*

Hello dear readers,

I have a very important announcement to make:

FRESNEL is here.

I'll try to explain in short what it means.

Fresnel is the new LCL.

We have talked about that before and at the summit in Amsterdam we will show some results of it, and in October at the University of Cologne (Köln) Germany we will show the achievements we made.

Mattias Gärtner and Michael van Canneyt have been partners in crime.

They finally did it:

drag Lazarus into the Future...

Since ever we had discussions about the way Lazarus looked and handled the graphical environment

for all of the Os's. Far to difficult etc. I asked Michael and Mattias and also Martin what could be done about that and they came up with the new Framework FRESNEL.

So they started working on it and here is final proof. It works.

At page 92 you'll find an explanation of the many details there are.

The achievement is enormous:

We can now work with totally new designed components on the basis of the complete component set that Lazarus and FPC has. These components are custom-drawn components that we use for the LCL and now for FRESNEL.

What makes it very special is that we added CSS Style to these components and we are very busy creating the new components and we can use help if you dare to.

So for now we have a platform running on all native platforms and in the browser, with the help of WebAssembly we can create apps that can run on the desktop and the web.

Michael created even a filesystem for this.

For the future we will implement Android as well.

All this using a single codebase,

and running at native speed.

And obviously,

all this using your favourite Programming language: Object Pascal.

Have lots of fun reading the articles...



*From our technical Advisor, Jerry King*



*“I don’t need to know your age. I saw you using a flip phone, so I’ll just assume you’re old.”*



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## CREATING TWO SIMPLE COMPONENTS FOR DELPHI

Rewritten and converted by Detlef Overbeek, inspired by an old Dutch article of Paul J Gellings Blaise 34 page 169.

This article covers the creation of two very simple **Delphi** components.

It has **two purposes**:

Show how to **create a component from scratch** and create something useful. **For those for whom this is entirely new, the entire procedure is followed step by step.**

The **first component** makes it possible to **set a wait time** even in **Delphi** (`deLay`) in **Delphi**, for example to be able to view screen output or intermediate results or something similar and is especially useful during the development of a program.

The **ancient Borland Pascal** possessed the **built-in Delay** procedure, but **Delphi** doesn't have it.

The **second component** is intended to **measure times**, for example the time needed for a certain calculation or for some other task performed by Delphi and with an accuracy of milliseconds. The components can then be placed directly from the component palette on a Form and thus included in an application and in doing so, the unit name associated with the component is automatically included in the uses clause. Much more could be said about components, of course but for the purposes of this article we must leave it at that.

The source code of the two components discussed is contained in the units **UDeLay.pas** and **UClock.pas**.

For the icons to be placed on the component palette, we will handle that in a separate article.

Since Delphi constantly changes handling of menus, the user interface etc we simply have to repeat certain things since they are not always very logical ordered

A simple test program for these two components is the **TestTime.dpr** with the corresponding unit **UTestTime.pas**. The code of these files will be made available for our readers at <https://www.blaisepascalmagazine.eu/en/your-downloads/> see image at the bottom.

## CREATING A NEW COMPONENT

We start with the **step-by-step description** of the **component** which we call **TDeLayer** and which can be used to set a delay set. This component is itself derived from **TComponent** the **highest class** on the tree - the most general component, with which **TDeLayer** also automatically inherits the methods associated with **TComponent**.

To create a new component, (*this action is to show how component code looks like*) we first choose from the top listing: (*See page 3 of this article*) → **Component** → **New Component** → **VCL for Delphi Win32**.

A new widow appears: **Ancestor Component**.

Since we have only the highest class to use: (*there is nothing in between*) we select **TComponent**. If you choose in the next window **TComponent** it will become the name of the unit: **Component1**. The number is for auto increment, if you want to do more. At this point again a wizard pops up that will create the component text. **Click finish**.

(*See page 4 of article for the code listing*).

Figure 1 Downloads

Welcome Detlef Overbeek

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## WHAT IS A COMPONENT AND WHAT IS ITS USEFULNESS

**Delphi** is an application development environment that is based on the use of components. This means that developing an application with **Delphi** is done at least partly by placing components from the component palette on a Form.

Such a component then contains data and functionality and the user (*of course as opposed to the creator of a component*) does not have to worry about its implementation.

Among the components we distinguish **visual** and **non-visual ones**.

The former include buttons, dialogs and so on.

The second kind includes **TTimer**, **TDataSet**, and so on.

There can be all kinds of **reasons for developing a component**.

Two of the most important of which are:

- something is needed that can be **easily reused**;
- there is **no existing component for that purpose**.

In addition, it could just be play, whereby someone, by making a couple of components gets a better understanding of the "**Visual Component Library (VCL)**" and its use in creating **Delphi** applications.

In this article, the creation of **two non-visual** components is discussed.

In principle these could also be created and used as separate **units**, but it has several advantages to create them as components. They can then be placed directly from the component palette on a Form and thus incorporated into an application and in doing so, the **unit name** associated with the component is automatically included in the **uses clause**.

### LISTING 1.

The basic component unit as created by **Delphi**

Of interest is the division into **private**, **protected**, **public** and **published sections**.

The following important rules apply to this:

- the **private** section is for **internal use** in a component only, can only be used in the class unit and **cannot be applied directly by the user of a component**;
- what is declared in the **protected** section can be seen within the component's class unit and in any new class derived from it;
- the **public** section is **used for the runtime interface** and **everything declared in this section can be seen and used by all components** of the application and in it are placed those properties and methods that the user of a component during the running of the application;
- the published section is analogous to the public section but however, the properties declared in this section are visible in the the **Object Inspector** and can therefore **be modified** there to the user's requirements.

In the present case, only one **method** is needed in the unit which can be seen in **Listing 2** of the **unit UDelay** and with it the delay is set.

It is included under the **Public** declarations because it must, of course, be able to be called from the program in which a delay is needed, **it should be callable**.

This call, when the component in the relevant program is included with the name **Delayer**, it takes the form: `Delayer.Delay(2000)` where the number is the desired delay time in milliseconds, i.e.

For the **required time measurement** use the function **GetTickCount** which gives the number of milliseconds since **Windows** last started. The quantity `(GetTickCount - FirstTick)` thus gives the number of milliseconds that elapsed after the time `FirstTick`.

The result of `GetTickCount` becomes zero again after **Windows** has been running for about **49.7** days of continuous running.

That is about **2<sup>32</sup>** milliseconds, so the result of this function is apparently an "**unsigned integer**".



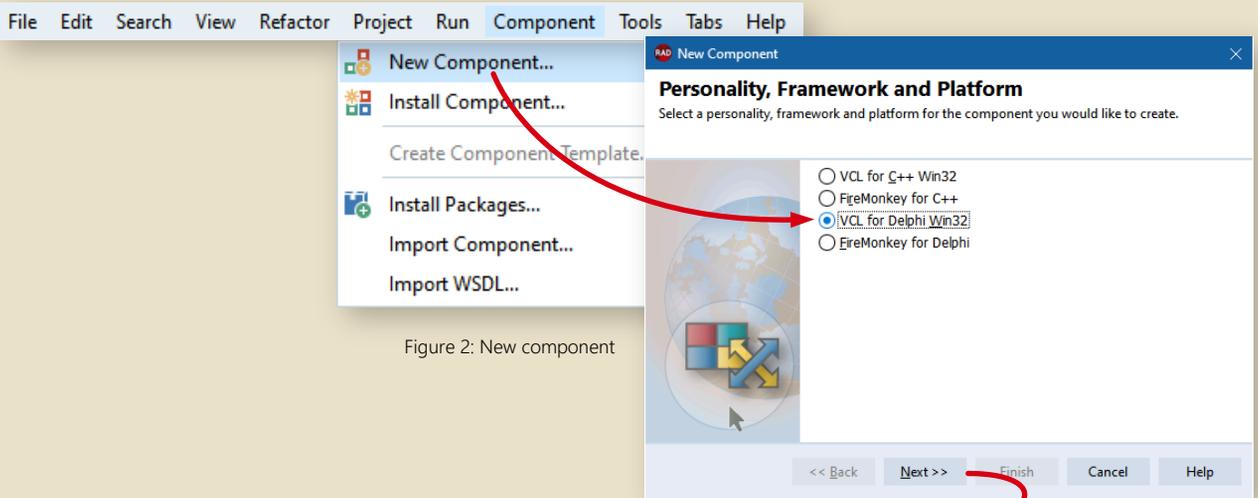


Figure 2: New component

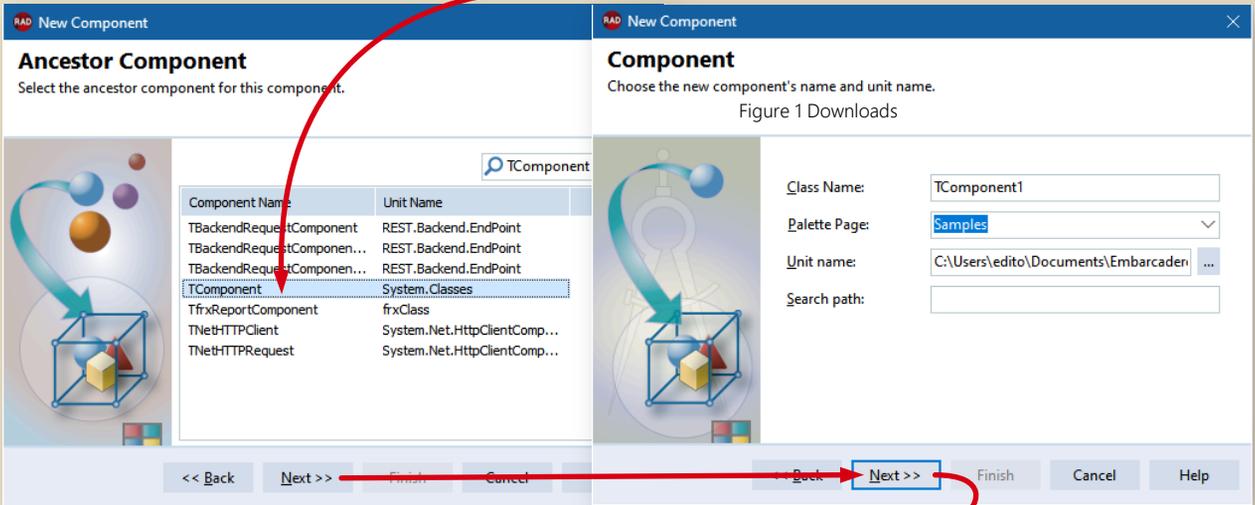


Figure 3 search for the Ancestor

Once you want to create the **delay component listing** there is a **code example** on *page 4/x* of this article. If you want to **rename the unit** you created because it has the wrong name, then you have to start the process again, or create the form manually without the wizard that sets it all up for you. Just copy the code you already have or created and paste it in the form you saved with the correct name. Save again.

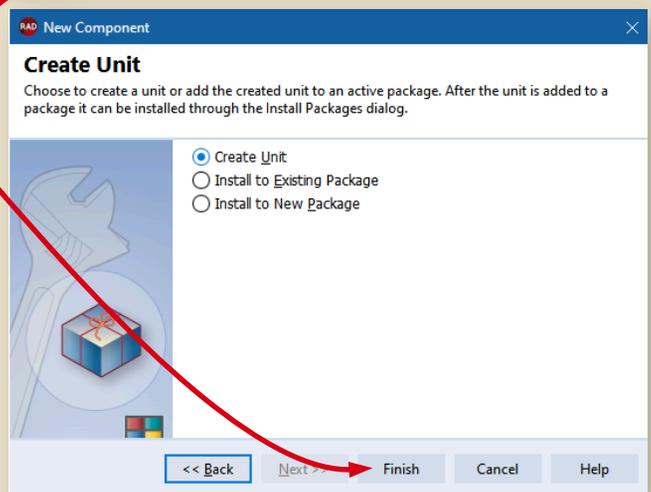


Figure 4 Create the unit of the component





**Listing 1**

```

unit Component1;

interface

uses
  System.SysUtils, System.Classes;

type
  TComponent1 = class(TComponent)
  private
    { Private declarations }
  protected
    { Protected declarations }
  public
    { Public declarations }
  published
    { Published declarations }
  end;

procedure Register;

implementation

procedure Register;
begin
  RegisterComponents('Samples', [TComponent1]);
end;

end.

```

**Listing 2**

```

unit UDelay;

interface

uses
  System.SysUtils, System.Classes, Windows, Messages, Graphics, Controls, Forms, Dialogs;

type
  TDelayer = class(TComponent)
  private
    { Private declarations }
    FInterval : Integer;
    FActive : Boolean;
  protected
    { Protected declarations }
  public
    { Public declarations }
    Procedure Delay(Interval : Integer);
  published
    { Published declarations }
    property Interval: Integer read FInterval write FInterval;
    property Active : Boolean read FActive write FActive default False;
  end;

procedure Register;

implementation

procedure Register;
begin
  RegisterComponents('Samples', [TDelayer]);
end;

Procedure TDelayer.Delay(Interval : Integer);
Var
  FirstTick : Integer;
Begin
  If Active Then ShowMessage('Already running delay')
  Else
    Begin
      Active := True;
      FirstTick := GetTickCount;
      Repeat
        Application.ProcessMessages;
      Until
        (GetTickCount - FirstTick) >= Interval;
      Active := False;
    End;
End;

END.

```



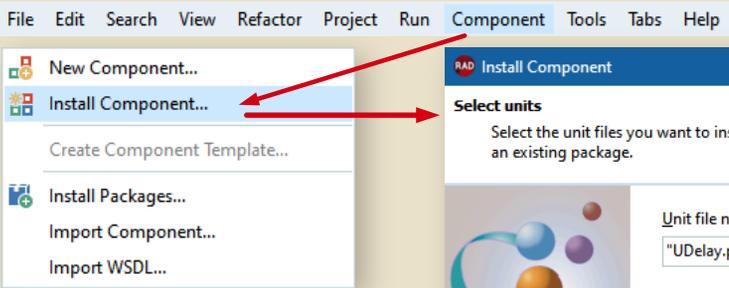


Figure 5 Install component

Now we can start the **installing of the component in the Delphi IDE.**

Go to:

**Component** > choose the next step: **Install Component.** Again a window appears: *See figure 5.*

By choosing the **three dotted button (Ellipsis)** the file system pops up and then go to where you saved your **UDelay.pas** (or whatever name you have given it).

Select → **Install to a new package.** Click **Next.**

The search path appears (See figure 7.) and below that you can enter the package name.

The description should of course be some meaningful text. Click → **Finish.**

Its not all done yet:

**Delphi** wants to know what the **framework** will be:

*See figure 8.* There is little choice, so click OK and now the window (See figure 9) will appear. Package **...Delay.bp1 has been installed.**

**Now you can check** if the component really is available:

Start creating a **new VCL program** and take a look in the

**Palette → Sample → TDelayer**

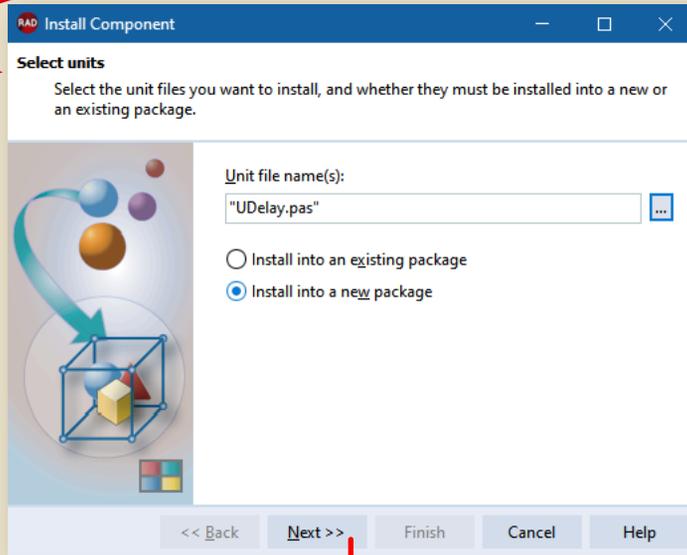


Figure 6 Unit File name

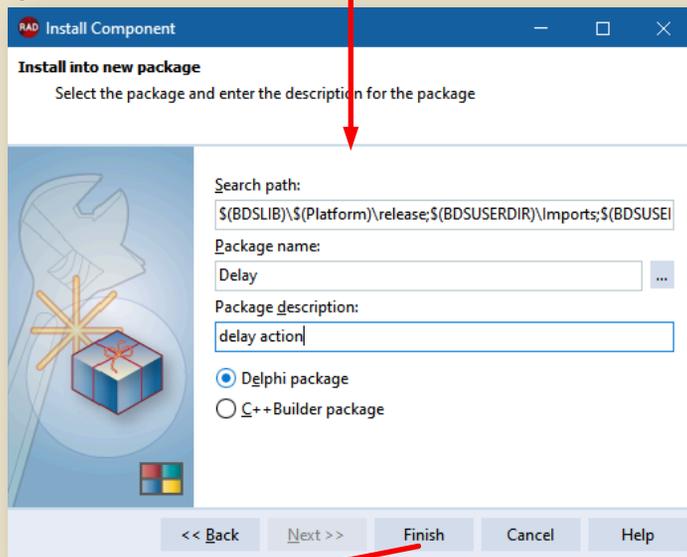


Figure 7: search path

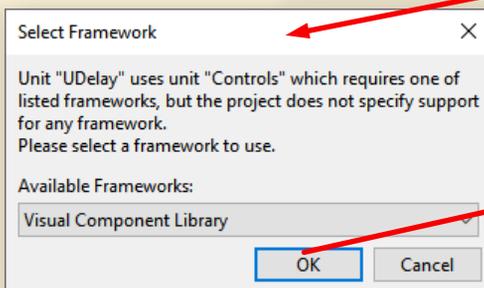


Figure 8: framework VCL

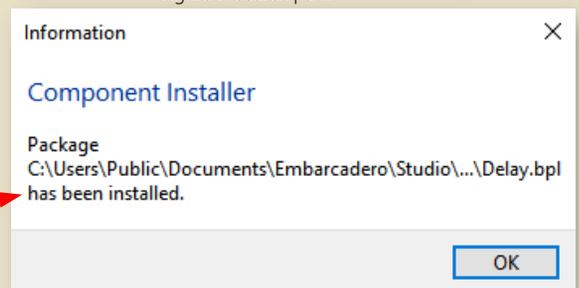
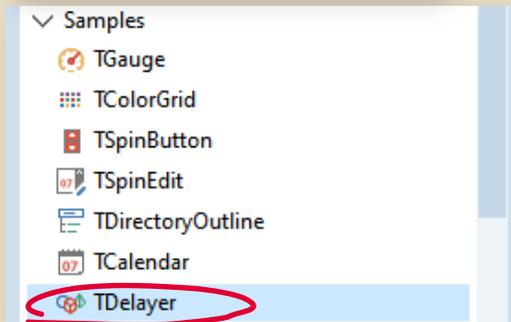
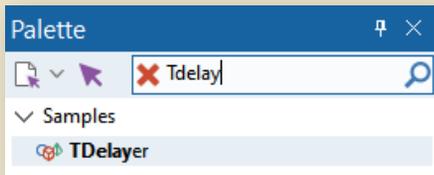


Figure 9: final install worked





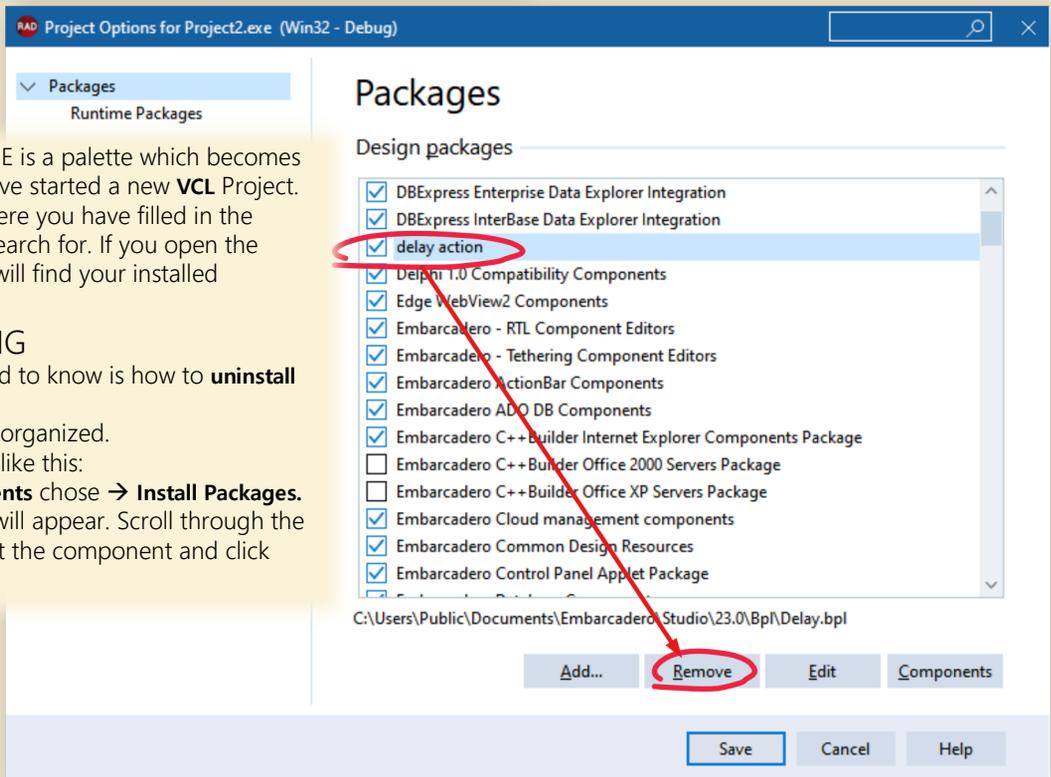
Figure 10: the installed component



Furthermore, two fields: **FInterval** and **FActive** are defined of which the properties **Interval** and **Active** are included. The property **Active** is intended to prevent a new delay from being started during delay, which is obviously not desirable and the correct interval not being used again!

Usually there is something wrong with the logic of a program. It is important for the writer of the program that an **error message** appears if such a thing is the case. If it is ok, the end-user of a program never gets this message to be seen. Next, the unit is then saved with **File|Save** as choosing a more meaningful name, in my case **Udelay.pas**. This is placed in a separate folder for components. I chose `c:\Components\TimeDelay\`. Make your own choice

Figure 11: uninstall is also important



Normally in the IDE is a palette which becomes available if you have started a new **VCL** Project. See image xxx where you have filled in the component you search for. If you open the **Samples** Tab you will find your installed component.

**UNINSTALLING**

What you still need to know is how to **uninstall** the component. It's rather strange organized. You need to do it like this: go to → **Components** chose → **Install Packages**. The next window will appear. Scroll through the list and then select the component and click **remove**. That's all.





## ANOTHER COMPONENT

We now describe, without explicitly repeating all the steps mentioned in the previous section mentioned, a second component:

**TClock**, which, like the previous one, is derived from **TComponent** and placed on the **Sample** page of the component palette. This component gets two functions and one property, and the entire unit is shown in **Listing 3**:

### Listing 3. Source code of the unit **UClock**.

Here again we see the use of the `GetTickCount` function. The `GetStart` function is used to set the start time, while at the end of the period whose duration is to be measured, the function `TClock.Time` is called, which as a result at once gives the **string for the elapsed time**.

To also be able to determine intermediate times, e.g. in addition to the total time taken by a calculation, also that of intermediate operations, the array `st[0..3]` is used to record the individual start times in it. In the constructor `Create` its initial value is set to `0`.

Including the component on the component palette, including compiling proceeds exactly as described for the previous component. In this case, given the purpose of this component, there is no need for the presence of an adjustable property.

Although here you could therefore also use a unit instead of a component, inclusion in an application is, as already mentioned above, easier for a component than for a unit.

## TEST PROGRAM

To **test** the components discussed above, we created a small program called **DelayTesting** with one unit: **UDelay.pas**. In it, we define the form **TestForm** and on it we place on a panel (`TestPanel`) the two components, six labels, two Buttons and an `Edit` field as **shown in Figure 6**.

At the heart of the program are the procedures `TestBtnClick` and `CalcButtonClick` which are shown in **Listing 4**, see next page. Furthermore, we see the `TestMemo` in which the results of the `ArithmeticButtonClick` procedure are shown.

### Listing 4. The procedures `FormCreate`, `TestBtnClick` and `CalculateButtonClick` from the unit **UTestTime**. (See page 8 of this article)

In the `FormCreate` procedure, the default value of the Interval in the `IntervalEdit` window. This or a modified value of this number is used as the interval for the **Delay**.

After expiration of that interval, the `DelayLabel` field displays the elapsed time.

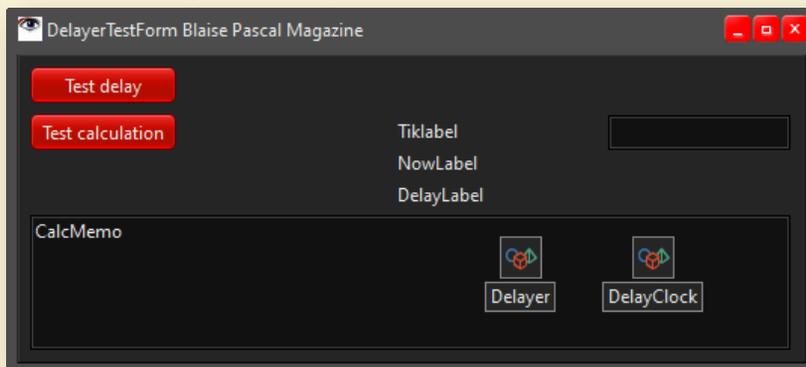
When everything works correctly, the result is equal to the set delay. In most cases, this is correct within a few milliseconds and so that is apparently the accuracy of the time measurement.

In the `ArithmeticButtonClick` procedure is both - the **total time measured** - as well as the **time for each calculation** separately. This latter can be important, when between individual calculations intermediate operations take place and one also wants to determine their influence. In this case a delay as an example.



Figure Delphi offers a special way of showing the graphical possibilities:

Go to → Project  
 → Options → Application  
 → Appearance





**Listing 3**

```

Unit UCLock;

Interface

Uses
  System.SysUtils, System.Classes, Windows, Messages;

Type
  TDelayClock = class(TComponent)

  Private { Private declarations }
    FStart : Integer;
    nPartTime: Integer;
    st : Array[0..3] OF Integer;

  Protected { Protected declarations }
  Public { Public declarations }
    Constructor Create(AOwner : TComponent); override;

    Function GetStart : Integer;
    Function Time : STRING;

    Property Start : Integer read GetStart;

  Published
    { Published declarations }
  End;

Procedure Register;

Implementation

Procedure Register;
begin
  RegisterComponents('Samples', [TDelayClock]);
end;

Constructor TDelayClock.Create (AOwner : TComponent);
Begin
  Inherited Create(AOwner);
  nPartTime := 0;
End;

Function TDelayClock.GetStart : Integer;
Begin
  If nPartTime < 3 Then inc(nPartTime);
  st[nPartTime] := GetTickCount;
End;

Function TDelayClock.Time : String;
Var
  iExpireTime : Integer;
  hour, min : Word;
  sec : extended;
  tmp : String;

Begin
  iExpireTime := GetTickCount - st[nPartTime];
  hour := iExpireTime DIV 3600000;
  iExpireTime := iExpireTime MOD 3600000;
  min := iExpireTime DIV 60000;
  iExpireTime := iExpireTime MOD 60000;
  sec := 0.001 * iExpireTime ;

  If hour > 0
  Then tmp := tmp + Format('%2.1d u %2.1d m %5.3f s', [hour, min, sec])
  Else
  If min > 0
  Then tmp := tmp + Format('%2.1d m %5.3f s', [min, sec])
  Else tmp := tmp + Format('%5.3f s', [sec]);

  Result := tmp;
  dec(nPartTime);
End;

end.

```





**Listing 4** `unit DelayTest;`

```

interface

uses Winapi.Windows, Winapi.Messages, System.SysUtils, System.Variants, System.Classes,
      Vcl.Graphics, Vcl.Controls, Vcl.Forms, Vcl.Dialogs, Vcl.ExtCtrls, Vcl.StdCtrls,
      UClock, UDelay;

type
TTestForm = class(TForm)
  DelayClock: TDelayClock;
  TestPanel: TPanel;
  TestBtn: TButton;
  CalcButton: TButton;
  TikLabel: TLabel;
  NowLabel: TLabel;
  DelayLabel: TLabel;
  Delayer: TDelayer;
  IntervalEdit: TEdit;
  CalcMemo: TMemo;
  procedure FormCreate(Sender: TObject);
  procedure TestBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
  procedure CalcButtonClick(Sender: TObject);
private
  { Private declarations }
public
  { Public declarations }
end;

var
  TestForm: TTestForm;

implementation
{$R *.dfm}

Procedure TTestForm.FormCreate(Sender: TObject);
Begin
  IntervalEdit.Text := IntToStr(Delayer.Interval);
End;

Procedure TTestForm.TestBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
Begin
  NowLabel.Caption := DateTimeToStr(Now);
  TikLabel.Caption := IntToStr(GetTickCount);
  DelayLabel.Caption := '';
  Delayer.Interval := StrToInt(IntervalEdit.Text);
  DelayClock.GetStart;
  Delayer.Delay(Delayer.Interval);
  DelayLabel.Caption := 'Total amount of time used: ' + DelayClock.Time;
End;

Procedure TTestForm.CalcButtonClick(Sender: TObject);
Var i, j : Integer; Sum : extended;
Begin
  DelayClock.GetStart;
  For i := 1 TO 5 DO
    Begin
      sum := 0.0;
      DelayClock.GetStart;

      FOR j := 1 TO 10000 DO
        sum := sum + i / (i + j) / (i + j);

      CalcMemo.Lines.Add('i = ' + IntToStr(i) + ' sum = ' + FloatToStr(sum));
      CalcMemo.Lines.Add('Total amount of time used: ' + DelayClock.Time);
      Delayer.Delay(Delayer.Interval);
    End;
  CalcMemo.Lines.Add('Total amount of time used: ' + DelayClock.Time);
  CalcMemo.Lines.Add('Finished calculation');
End;

end.

```

Figure 13:  
the running project

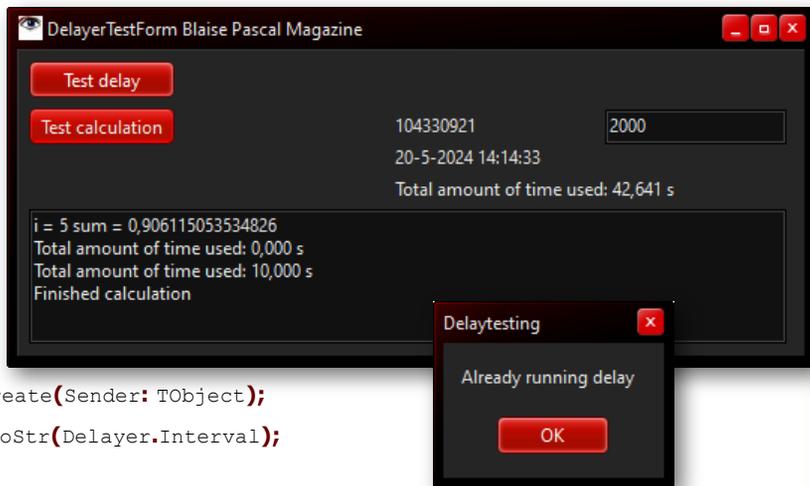
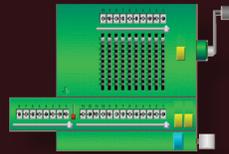


Figure 14: the error message



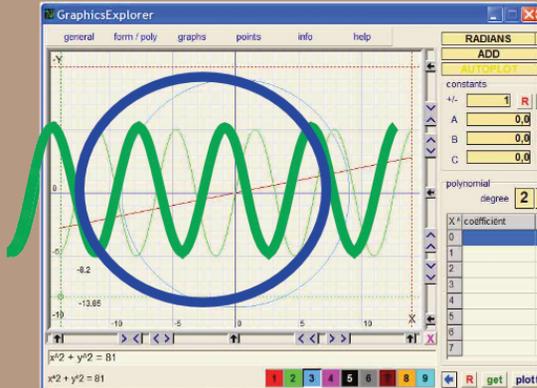
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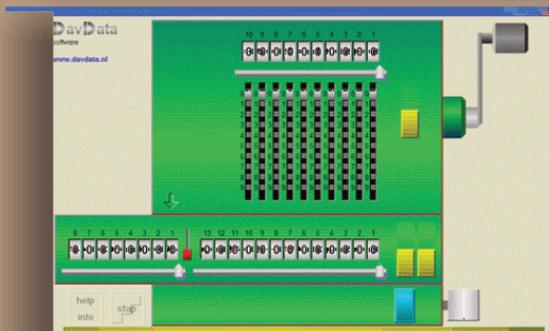


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## COMPUTER (GRAPHICS) MATH & GAMES IN PASCAL

<https://www.blaisepascalmagazine.eu/product-category/books/>





Some weeks ago I had a reaction from **Ettore Cicinelli** from Italy and he asked for a solution .He had a problem with a project from the book Learning to program using Lazarus: a very nice example, very useful but not yet checked with the latest version of Lazarus 3.2. It did not compile in the right manner, so I asked **Ignace Peeters** from Belgium if he could take a look at it. Ignace solved the problem and here it is:

There was an error in the code:

In the TStringList, an object is added (*descending from* TStrings) via AddObject.

When this object is requested afterwards, it is already an object, **it does not need to be converted** to TObject.

The Pointer conversion that used to be there: TObject (**Pointer** (Length (APPI^.name)))

has been replaced by TObject (**PtrUInt** (Length (...))) which is clearer and easier because this is an unsigned object. If you then do the reverse operation via **PtrUnt** afterwards when excavating, everything works.

```

procedure TForm1.DisplayComponentProperties;
var
    aPPI: PPropInfo;
    aPTI: PTypeInfo;
    aPTD: PTypeData;
    aPropList: PPropList;
    sortSL: TStringList;
    i: integer;
    s: string;
begin
    seViewer.Lines.Add(""); inc(lineNo);
    aPTI := PTypeInfo(compClass.ClassInfo);
    aPTD := GetTypeData(aPTI);
    s := Format('%s has %d published properties:', [aPTI^.Name, aPTD^.PropCount]);
    hiliter.AddToken(lineNo, 1, tkText); hiliter.AddToken(lineNo, Length(s), atrBD);
    seViewer.Lines.Add(s); inc(lineNo);

    if (aPTD^.PropCount = 0)
    then seViewer.Lines.Add(' (no published properties)')
    else
    begin
        Getmem(aPropList, SizeOf(PPropInfo)* aPTD^.PropCount);
        sortSL := TStringList.Create;
        sortSL.Sorted:= true;

        try
            GetPropInfos(aPTI, aPropList);
            for i := 0 to aPTD^.PropCount - 1 do
            begin
                aPPI := aPropList^[i];
                sortSL.AddObject(Format('%s: %s', [aPPI^.Name, aPPI^.PropType^.Name]),
                Commented // TObject(Pointer(Length(aPPI^.Name)));
                TObject(PtrUInt(Length(aPPI^.Name)));
            end;

            for i := 0 to sortSL.Count - 1 do
            begin
                seViewer.Lines.Add(sortSL[i]);
                Comm/ // hiliter.AddToken(lineNo, Succ(Integer(sortSL.Objects[i])), atrBD);
                hiliter.AddToken(lineNo, Succ(PtrUInt(sortSL.Objects[i])), atrBD);
                hiliter.AddToken(lineNo, Length(sortSL[i]), tkText);
                inc(lineNo);
            end;
            finally
                Freemem(aPropList, SizeOf(PPropInfo)* aPTD^.PropCount);
                sortSL.Free;
            end;

        end;
    end;

```





The screenshot shows the Lazarus IDE Component Browser. The left pane shows a tree view of components, with 'Data Access' expanded to show 'TDataSource'. The right pane shows the 'PalettePage Data Access' for 'TDataSource'. A second window is overlaid, showing the 'PalettePage Additional' for 'TBitBtn'. This window displays the class hierarchy for 'TBitBtn' and a list of its 76 published properties.

**TDataSource**

**TBitBtn**

'TBitBtn' is declared in the Buttons unit  
 InstanceSize is : 1528 bytes

**TBitBtn class hierarchy [9 ancestor classes]**

```

TObject
  TPersistent
    TComponent
      TLLCLComponent
        TControl
          TWinControl
            TButtonControl
              TCustomButton
                TCustomBitBtn
                  TBitBtn
    
```

**TBitBtn has 76 published properties:**

```

Action: TBasicAction
Align: TAlign
Anchors: TAnchors
AnchorSideBottom: TAnchorSide
AnchorSideLeft: TAnchorSide
AnchorSideRight: TAnchorSide
AnchorSideTop: TAnchorSide
AutoSize: Boolean
BidiMode: TBidiMode
BorderSpacing: TControlBorderSpacing
Cancel: Boolean
Caption: TTranslateString
Color: TGraphicsColor
Constraints: TSizeConstraints
Cursor: TCursor
Default: Boolean
DefaultCaption: Boolean
DisabledImageIndex: TImageIndex
DragCursor: TCursor
DragKind: TDragKind
DragMode: TDragMode
Enabled: Boolean
Font: TFont
Glyph: TBitmap
GlyphShowMode: TGlyphShowMode
Height: LongInt
HelpContext: THelpContext
HelpKeyword: AnsiString
HelpType: THelpType
Hint: TTranslateString
HotImageIndex: TImageIndex
ImageIndex: TImageIndex
Images: TCustomImageList
ImageWidth: LongInt
Kind: TBitBtnKind
Layout: TButtonLayout
Left: LongInt
Margin: LongInt
ModalResult: TModalResult
Name: AnsiString
NumGlyphs: LongInt
    
```

This is a very nice example that shows how to work with Treeviews and how to use pointers.





## INTRODUCTION:

We introduced Database Workbench 6 back in 2022, a lot has changed since then. But now, first things first:

### WHAT IS DATABASE WORKBENCH?

A complete database development tool with **native support** for **Oracle, SQL Server, MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, Firebird, NexusDB, InterBase** and **SQLite**.

**Database Workbench** offers a well-ordered, clear and consistent user interface for different database systems and provides access to database system specific features. It is very user friendly and the GUI is made in a way that people can understand most of it with simply using your expectations and logic. **Which is worth a great compliment.**

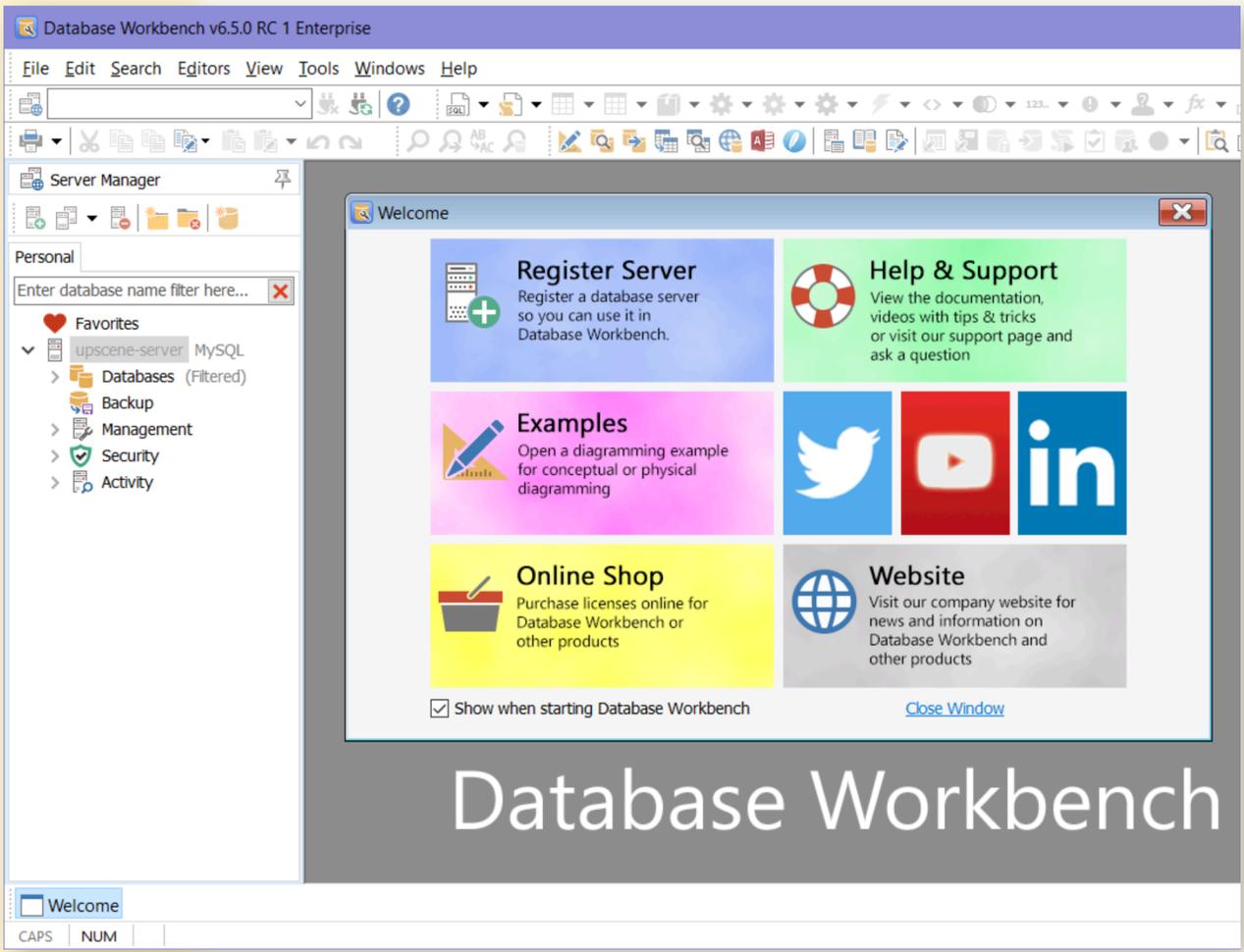


Figure 1: Database Workbench main window / a larger

You can use this application for your database development from start to finish: start with **designing graphically**, end with **testing queries** and **debugging stored procedures**. And somewhere in between, **you can create schema objects** like tables, indices, constraints, **generate data or import data from legacy systems** for testing purposes, and document your database with printing or **maintain your database with to-do lists and version control**.

### EDITIONS, MODULES, LICENSING AND SUPPORT

**Database Workbench** comes in **3 editions**: Basic, Pro and Enterprise. The license itself is not time limited, updates are included for the first year. You can purchase a subscription beyond your first year for additional updates for the current major version. Each license has to include at least 1 module for a specific database system.





Such a module provides **native access to a database** system and includes functionality to **design, create and modify databases**. Additional modules can be added at a later time. The **Basic edition** covers the needs for most developers, but doesn't include visual database design, although you can reverse engineer an existing database for documentation purposes. With the **Pro edition**, you can design your database with logical and physical models. It adds the ability to debug stored procedures and triggers, and open any ADO or ODBC data source (*in meta data read only mode*) or convert from those to supported database systems.

The latest version of the Pro edition also allows you to open **SQLite databases** in meta data read only mode without licensing the SQLite module, there's **full SQLite support** with the module added to your license.

**More features for the Pro Edition:** transfer data to and from ADO or ODBC data sources, print schema objects, create custom reports that can be used for multiple databases, support for roaming Windows profiles and Windows Terminal Server, and additional productivity features like favorite databases, integrated To-Do lists and SQL/Code Catalogs.

The **Enterprise edition** is created for development teams: adding a **central repository or registered servers and databases**, specific multi-user features and a built-in **Version Control System** for database objects. Modular licensing in combination with the different editions with different prices makes sure there's a suitable option for everyone.

Figure 2: Feature matrix with detailed edition differences

Feature	Lite	Basic	Pro	Ent
<b>Free versus licensed</b>				
Commercial database development	-	✓	✓	✓
Ability to register more than 2 servers	-	✓	✓	✓
Ability to register/use more than 2 databases per server	-	✓	✓	✓
Ability to use multiple database systems	-	✓	✓	✓
Ability to open SQLite databases (without SQLite module license, meta data read only) <sup>1</sup>	-	-	✓	✓
Support for Windows roaming user profiles	-	-	✓	✓
Support for Windows Terminal Server <sup>2</sup>	-	-	✓	✓
Connect to Database Workbench TeamServer	-	-	-	✓
<b>ODBC &amp; ADO Tools</b>				
Ability to open MS Access databases (meta data read only)	-	✓	✓	✓
Ability to connect to any ODBC & ADO data source (meta data read only)	-	-	✓	✓
Export data from any ODBC & ADO data source	-	-	✓	✓
Create INSERT script from any ODBC data source	-	-	✓	✓
<b>Cross-Database development</b>				
Compare meta data objects, also from different database systems	-	✓	✓	✓
Migrate meta data objects to the same or different database systems	-	✓	✓	✓

A detailed feature matrix is available here:  
[https://www.upscene.com/database\\_workbench/editions](https://www.upscene.com/database_workbench/editions)





### CONCEPTUAL AND PHYSICAL DATABASE DESIGN

A data modeling tool can be useful during the database design phase and **Database Workbench** includes a **diagram editor** with which you can create 2 types of model, a "logical model" and a "physical model".

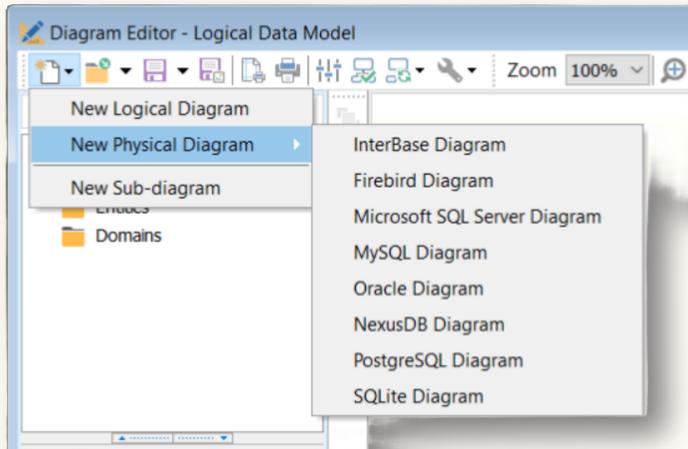


Figure3  
New Diagram menu

The **physical** model is the actual database, it contains tables, views and their relationships via foreign key constraints. You can **visually** design a database this way or **reverse engineer** an existing database, for example for documentation purposes.

Figure 4:  
A physical data model in the Diagram Editor.

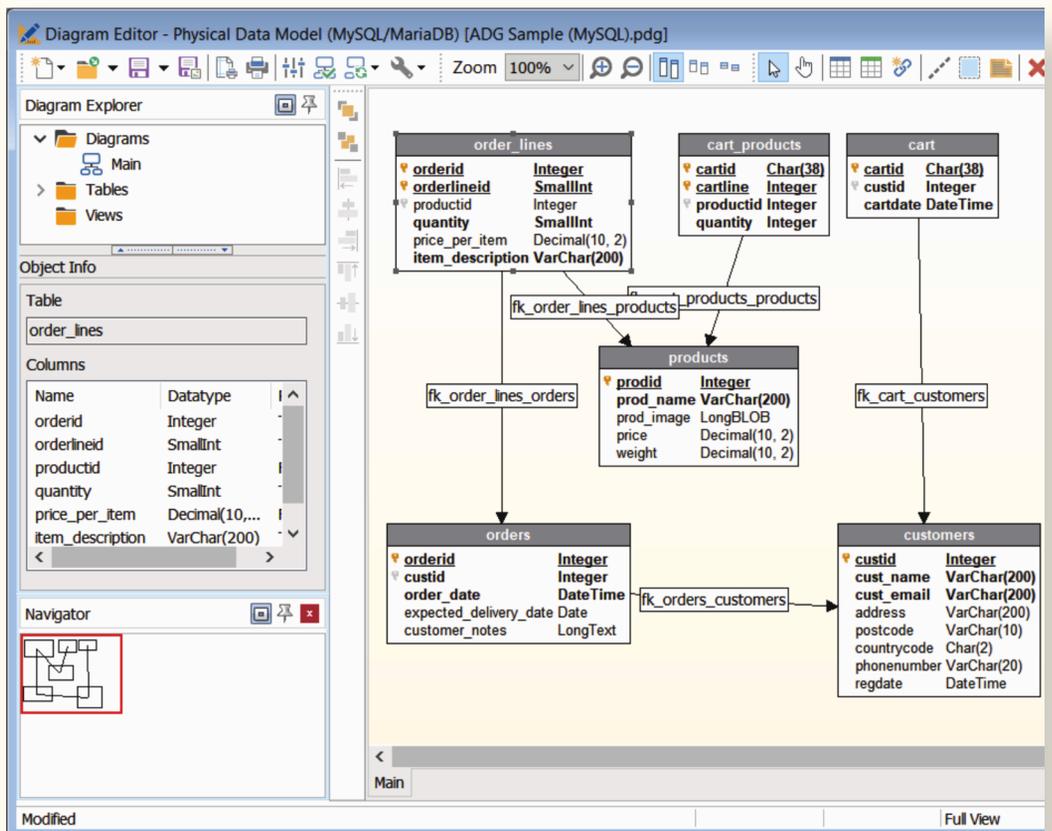
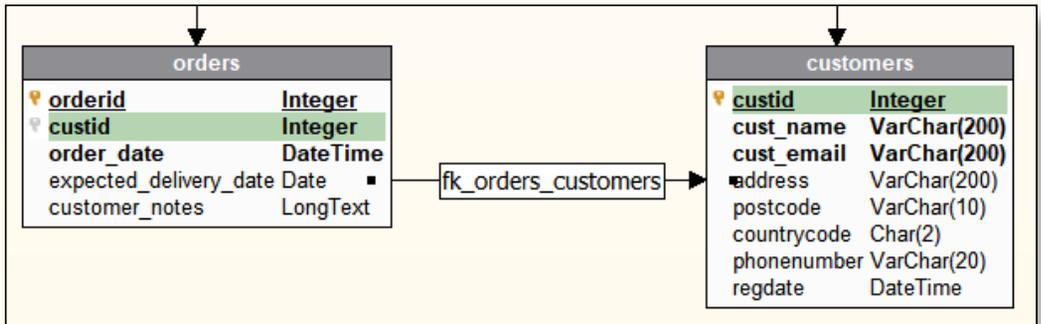




Figure 5: A physical model foreign key constraint from ORDERS to CUSTOMERS

The **physical model** (the database) is an implementation of certain business logic, eg in a webshop database, each "customer" can have orders. Each "order" record should point to an existing "customers" record. This logic is physically implemented by a CUSTOMERS table, an ORDERS table and a foreign key constraints between those tables with a CUSTOMERID column in the ORDERS table.

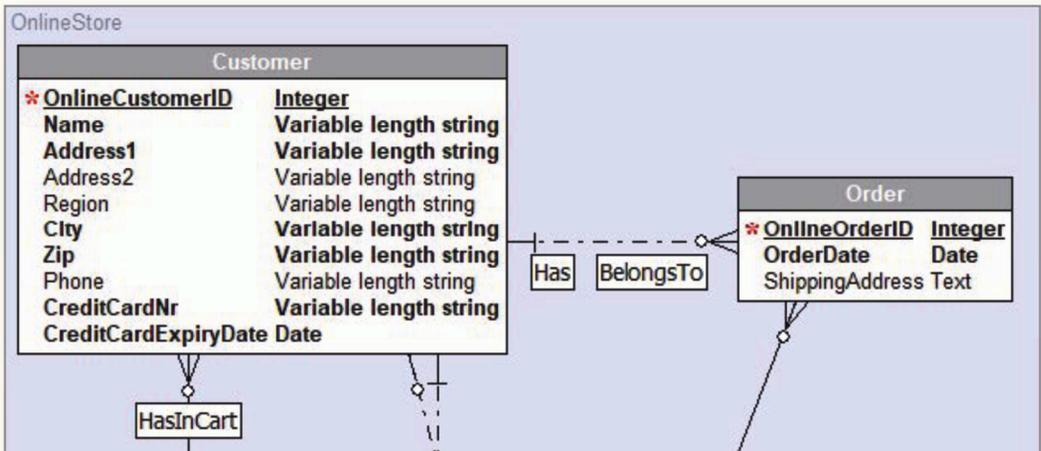


The **"logical model"** is database agnostic, more abstract and it does not care about actual implementation, you're only modeling the business logic.

**A logical model can then be used to generate the physical model: the actual database.**

Logical data models consist of entities and their relationships, a so-called entity-relationship model (ER-model). A "customer" is an entity which has a relation to the "order" entity.

Figure 6: A logical model relationship



As you can see here, you don't have a reference to the CUSTOMER entity in the ORDER entity, but there is only a logical relationship between the two. This makes for a cleaner model with the focus on the actual logic instead of how to implement such a relationship in your database.





Figure 7: Relationship properties in a logical model

Relationship Properties

General Cardinalities

Order Customer

BelongsTo Has

One - One       Many - One  
 One - Many       Many - Many

Dominant role [none]

"Order" to "Customer"

Required      Cardinality 1,1

Role name BelongsTo

Attributes [default]

"Customer" to "Order"

Required      Cardinality 0,n

Role name Has

Attributes [default]

OK Cancel Help

There are different types of relationships in an ER-model and these relationships have different implementations in a database.

A relationship can be "identifying" or "non-identifying" and it has cardinality, with the number ratio expressed in symbols, like one-to-one or one-to-many. An identifying relationship means the dependent entity can only be identified when also using the owner entity identifier. When generating the physical model, the identity identifier becomes the primary key and for an identifying relationship, the primary key of the parent will be part of the primary key of the childtable.

With a non-identifying relationship the child entity can be identified without using the owner entity. When generating the physical model, the primary key of the owner will be referred to in the child, but the child will have its own primary key.

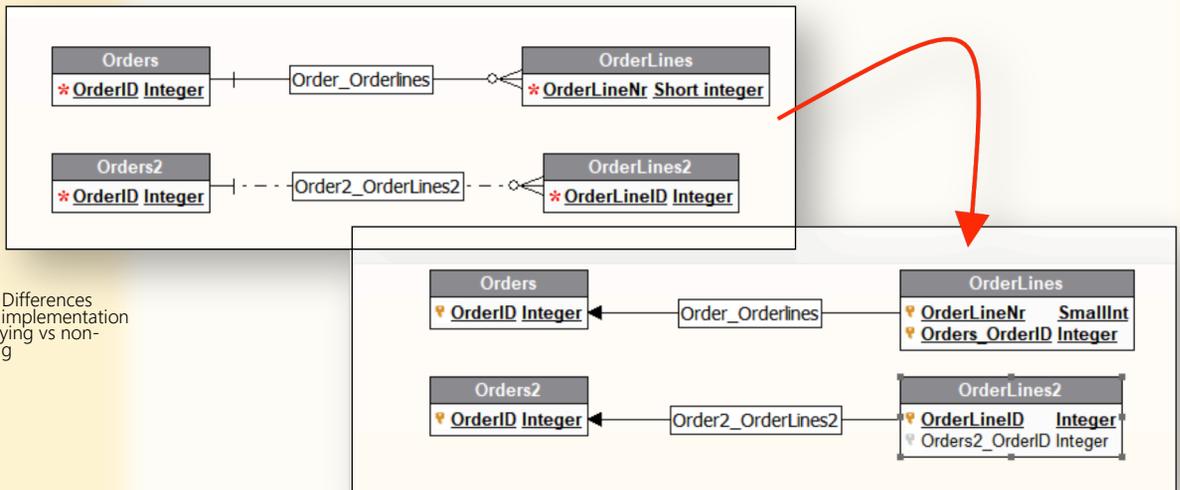


Figure 8: Differences between implementation of identifying vs non-identifying





Additionally, a **non-identifying relationship** can be mandatory or optional, resulting in a child table with either a non-null column for the parent identifier, or a nullable column. This optionality is also an aspect of cardinality, as it possibly defines "one-or-zero"-to-many relationships, for example. When you generate the physical model, columns for the relationship will be added to the table automatically.

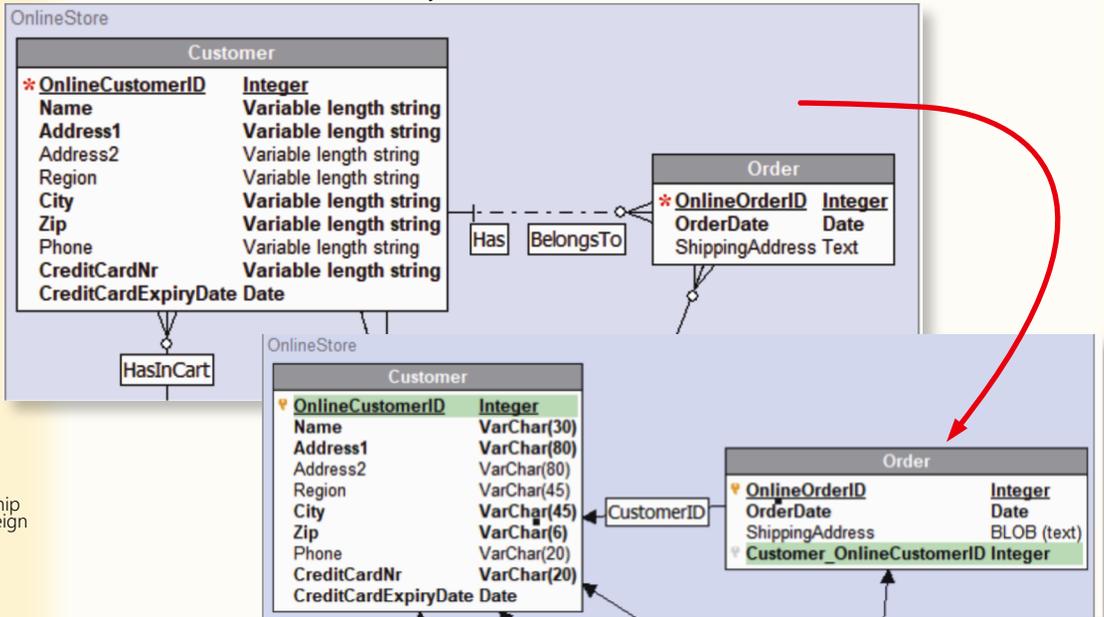


Figure 9: A logical relationship translates to a foreign key constraint

A zero-to-more relationship is easy, but a many-to-many relationship is physically implemented with an in-between-table. This adds an extra table to the physical model with constraints "pointing" both ways.

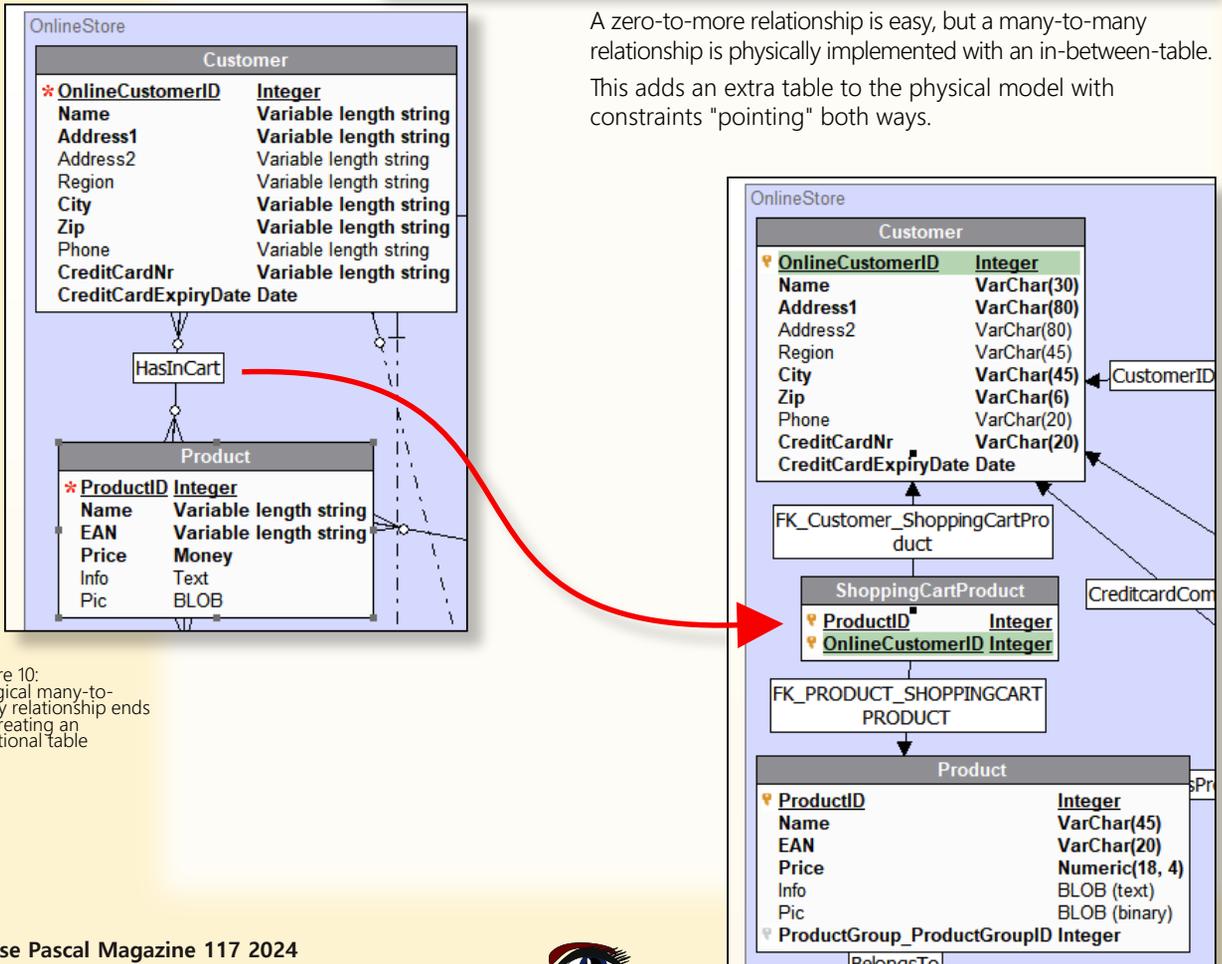


Figure 10: A logical many-to-many relationship ends up creating an additional table





The screenshot displays the Database Workbench 6.5.0 Pro interface. The main window shows a Physical Data Model diagram for 'NweLedenDiagram.pdg'. The diagram includes several tables with their attributes and relationships:

- INVOICELINES** (Green): Attributes include PKRECORD (Integer), INVOICEID (Integer), PRODUCTID (Integer), NUMBER (Integer), UNITPRICE (Numeric(18, 4)), TOTALAMOUNT (Float), PUBLICREMARKS (BLOB (text)), and PRIVATREMARKS (BLOB (text)).
- INVOICESTATE** (Green): Attributes include PKRECORD (Integer), INVOICEID (Integer), CHANGEDATE (Date), STATED (Integer), and PRIVATREMARKS (BLOB (text)).
- VATPERC** (Pink): Attributes include VATPERCID (Integer), VATGROEPIID (Integer), REGIONID (Integer), and PERCENTAGE (Float).
- INVOICES** (Green): Attributes include INVOICEID (Integer), INVOICEFMT (VarChar(25)), BUILDDATE (Date), STATED (Integer), COMMOND (Integer), ADDRESSID (Integer), TOTALAMOUNT (Float), TOTALVAT (Float), VATNR (VarChar(20)), and PRIVATREMARKS (BLOB (text)).
- INVOICESTATETYPE** (Green): Attributes include STATETYPEID (Integer) and STATENAME (VarChar(35)).
- VATREGION** (Pink): Attributes include REGIONID (Integer) and REGION (VarChar(50)).
- VATSELECTOR** (Pink): Attributes include VATGROEPIID (Integer) and DESCRIPTION (BLOB (text)).
- ADDRESSFORMATS** (Grey): Attributes include FORMATCODE (Integer) and FORMATNAME (VarChar(25)).
- GENDERNAMES** (Grey): Attributes include PKRECORD (Integer) and GENDER (VarChar(10)).
- IMPORTCSV\_WP** (Yellow): Attributes include MEMBERSHIP\_ID (Integer), USER\_ID (Numeric(18, 0)), USER\_LOGIN (VarChar(70)), USER\_EMAIL (VarChar(70)), FIRST\_NAME (VarChar(70)), LAST\_NAME (VarChar(70)), MEMBERSHIP\_LEVEL\_ID (Integer), MEMBERSHIP\_LEVEL\_NAME (VarChar(70)), SUBSCRIPTION\_KEY (VarChar(70)), CREATED\_DATE (VarChar(50)), EXPIRATION\_DATE (VarChar(50)), STATUS (VarChar(20)), TIMES\_BILLED (Integer), DISCOUNT\_CODES (VarChar(70)), GATEWAY (VarChar(70)), GATEWAY\_CUSTOMER\_ID (VarChar(70)), GATEWAY\_SUBSCRIPTION\_ID (VarChar(70)), and AUTO\_RENEW (VarChar(10)).

Relationships are indicated by lines with labels: FK50A, FK50B, FK50C, FK60A, FK60B, and FK20D.

The left sidebar shows the 'Diagram Explorer' and 'Object Info' panels. The 'Diagram Explorer' lists the database schema 'Detlef:Detlef:2' and its contents, including Tables (34) and Views. The 'Object Info' panel is currently empty.

The bottom of the interface shows the 'Navigator' and 'Workspace' panels.

Figure 11: You can add colors



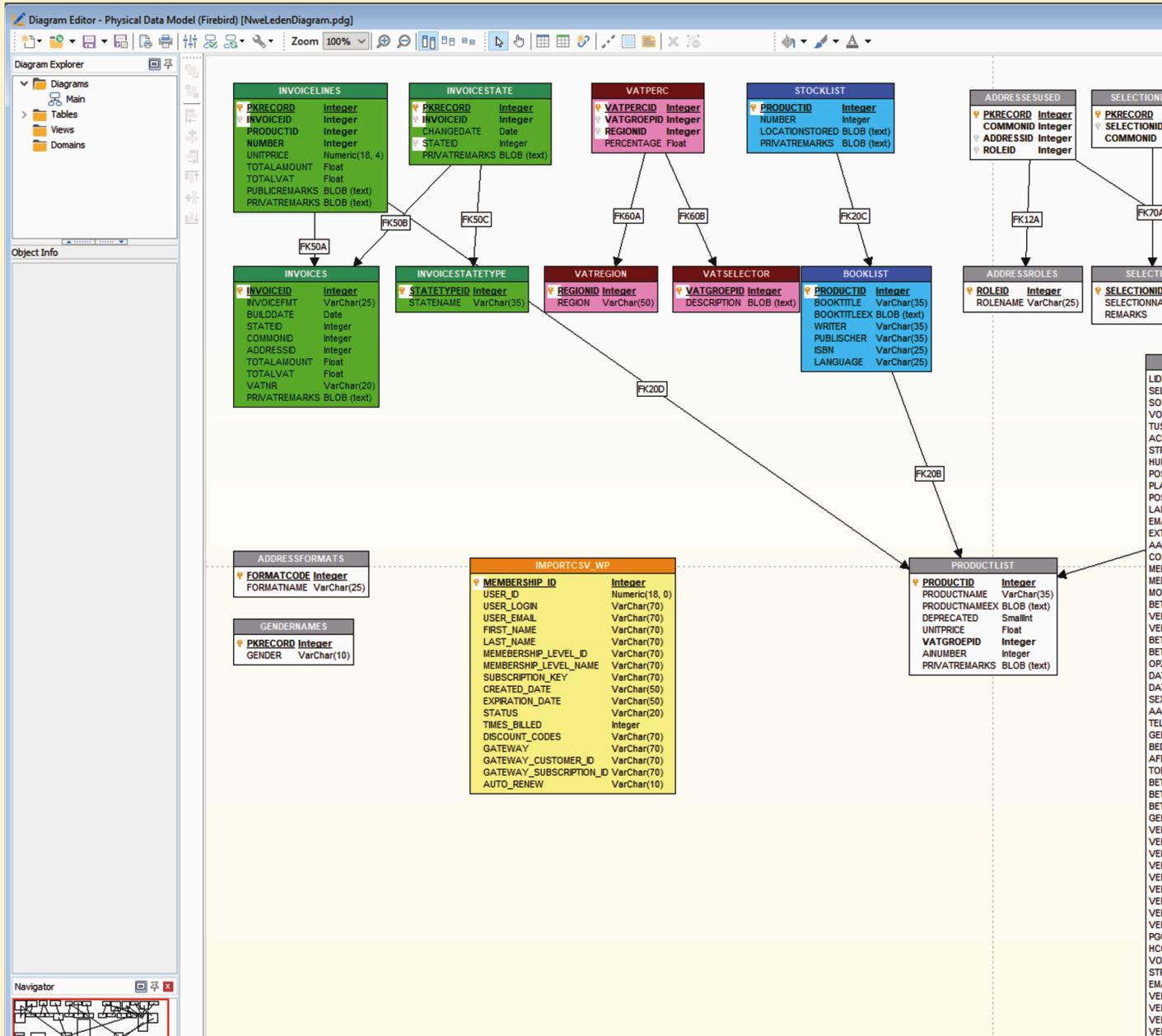


Figure: 12 If you open the pdf file with an opposite page you will see the whole picture over two pages



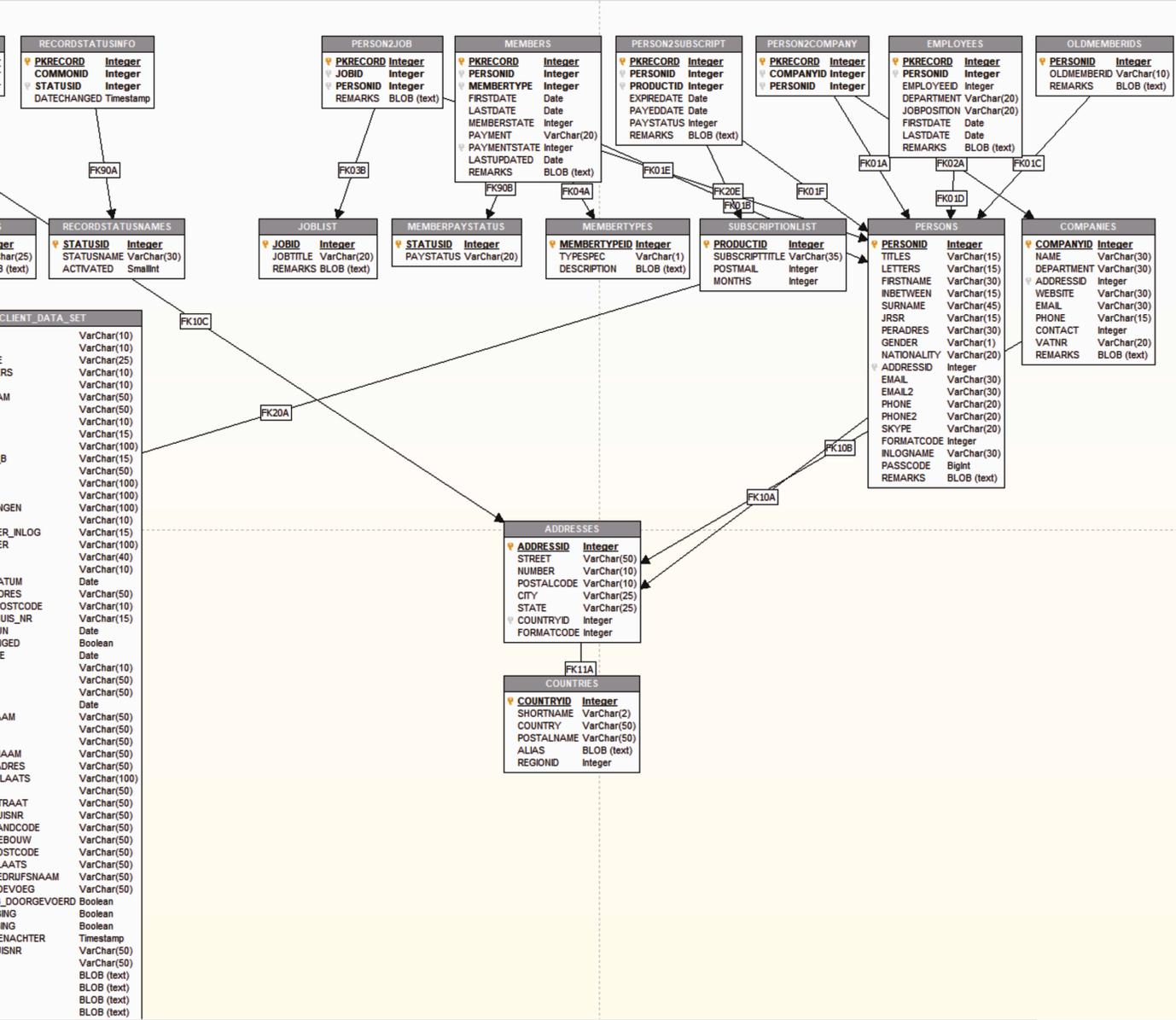




Table Properties

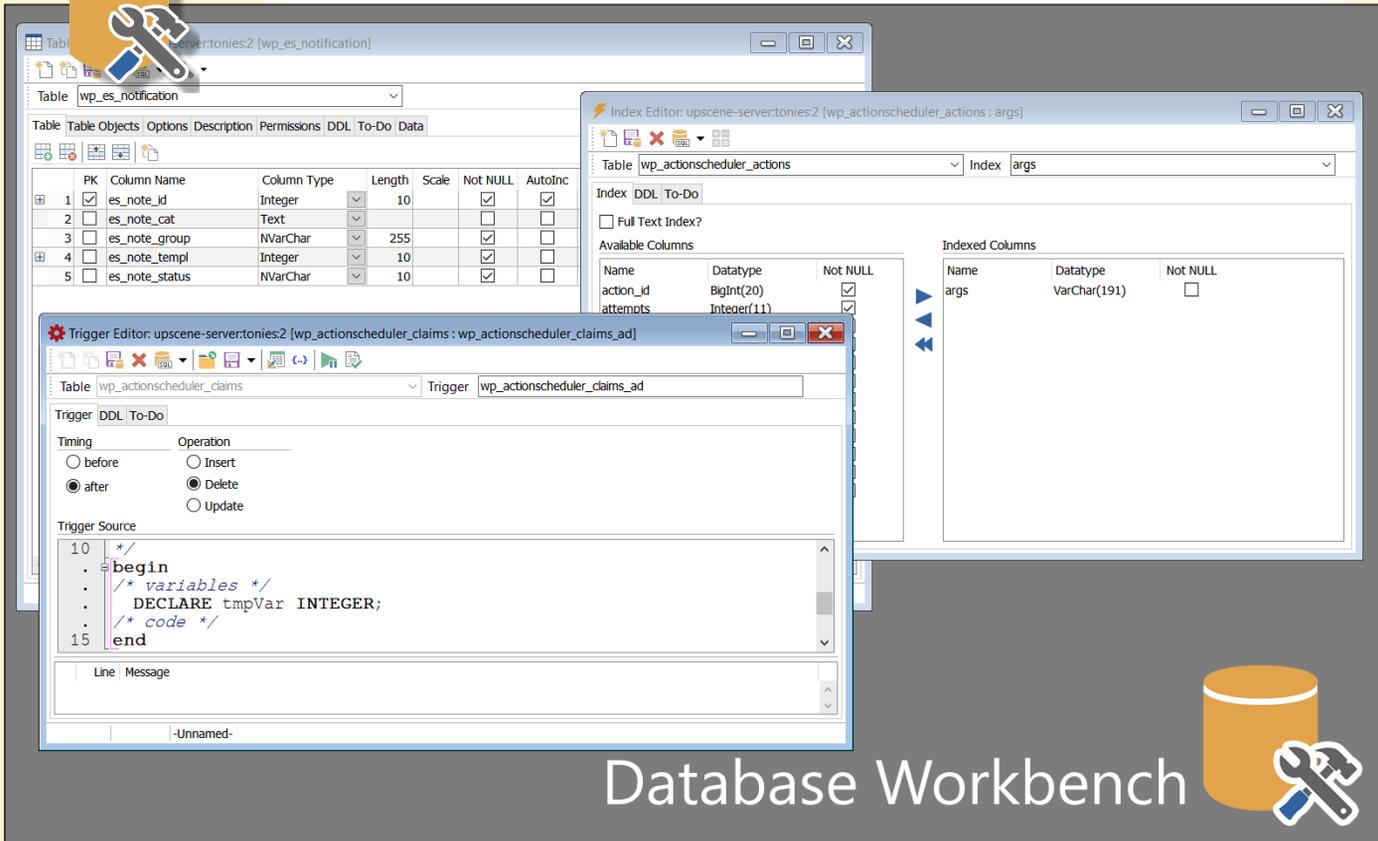
General Columns Table Objects Options DDL

	PK	Column Name	Column Type	Length	Scale	Array	Not NULL	Identity	Default
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ONLINECUSTOMERID	Integer				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAME	VarChar	30			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	ADDRESS1	Domain/Datatype		Domain Dataty...	Not N...	Default	CharacterSet	
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	ADDRESS2	BLOB (binary)			<input type="checkbox"/>			
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	REGION	BLOB (text)			<input type="checkbox"/>			
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	CITY	Boolean			<input type="checkbox"/>			
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZIP	Char			<input type="checkbox"/>			
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHONE	Date			<input type="checkbox"/>			
9	<input type="checkbox"/>	CREDITCARDNR	DecFloat			<input type="checkbox"/>			
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	CREDITCARDEXPIRYDATE	DecFloat (16)			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			DecFloat (34)			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Decimal			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Double Precision			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Float			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Int128			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Integer			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Numeric			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			SmallInt			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Time			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Time With Time Zone			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Timestamp			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			Timestamp With Time Zone			<input type="checkbox"/>			
			VarChar			<input type="checkbox"/>			

Figure: 12 If you open the pdf file with an opposite page you will see the whole picture over two pages



Each type of object has a different editor available. And although different database systems have different features for each object type, the user interface shows you consistent object editors for each system.



# Database Workbench



Figure 15: Several types of object editors

From each object editor, you can create new objects or modify existing objects. Depending on the type of object, additional tabs can be available that show, for example, the data for tables.

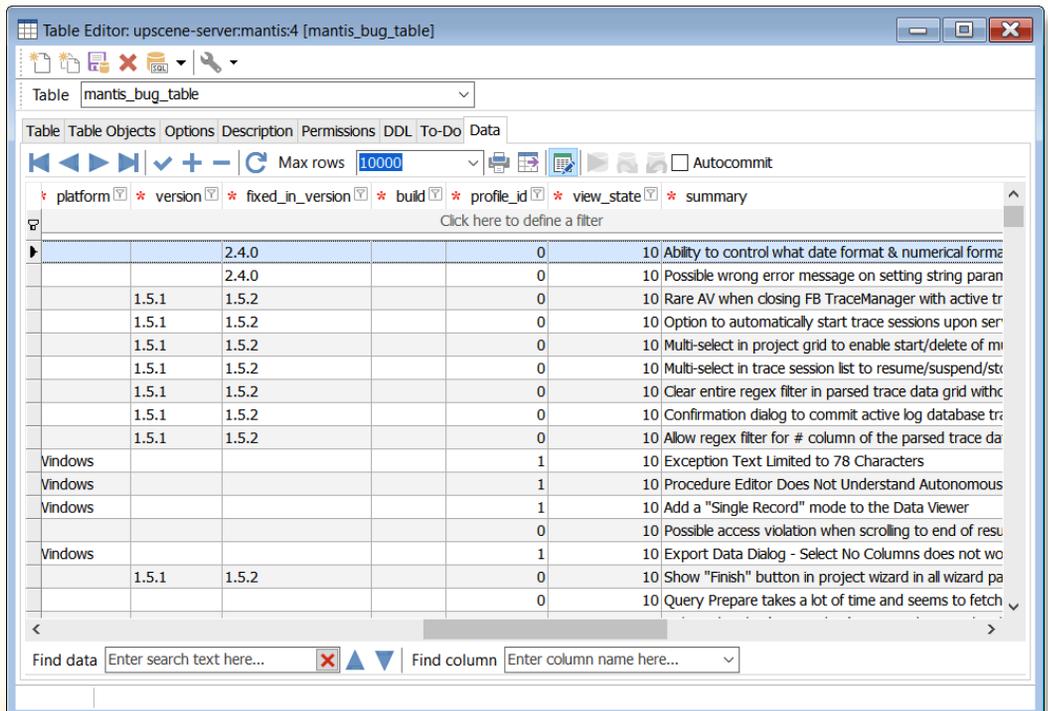


Figure 16: Table Editor with additional Data tab





Different database systems all use a slightly different syntax for these statements, from within the editors, you can easily modify the object properties and **Database Workbench** will generate system specific **Data Definition Language (DDL)** statements for you.

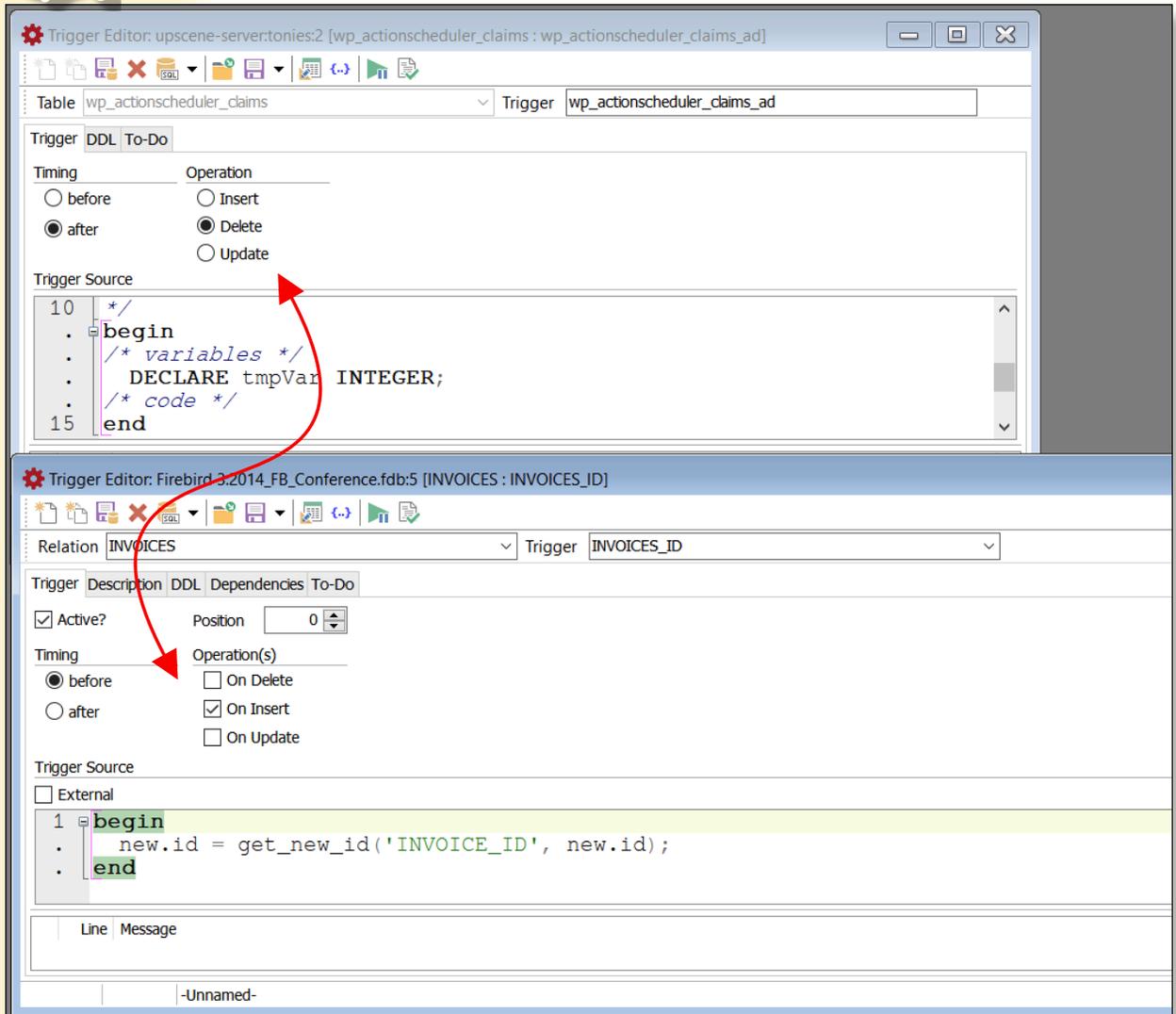


Figure 17: Trigger Editor for MySQL and Firebird, similar interface, small differences

The user interface shows you the different possible data types, options for indices, triggers and constraints. It allows you to create complex objects using mouse and keyboard, all without having to know the exact DDL syntax or available options. It's fast and easy.

### SQLITE WITH DATABASE WORKBENCH

The **SQLite module** was recently added to Database Workbench, it fully supports all SQLite features include third party extensions.

Although **SQLite** is not server-based, it fits neatly into the application, instead of registering a server, you register the **SQLite library and optional extensions**. After that, you can register your databases. You can register multiple versions of the library or with different sets of extensions depending on your requirements.





Figure 18: Registering an SQLite library with an extension

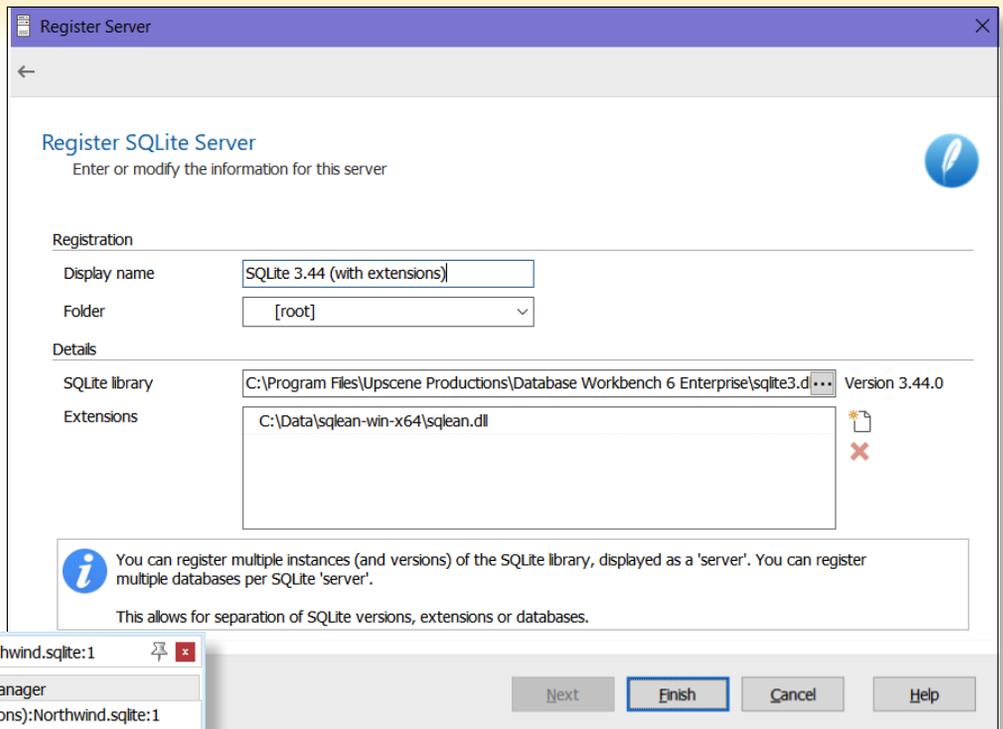
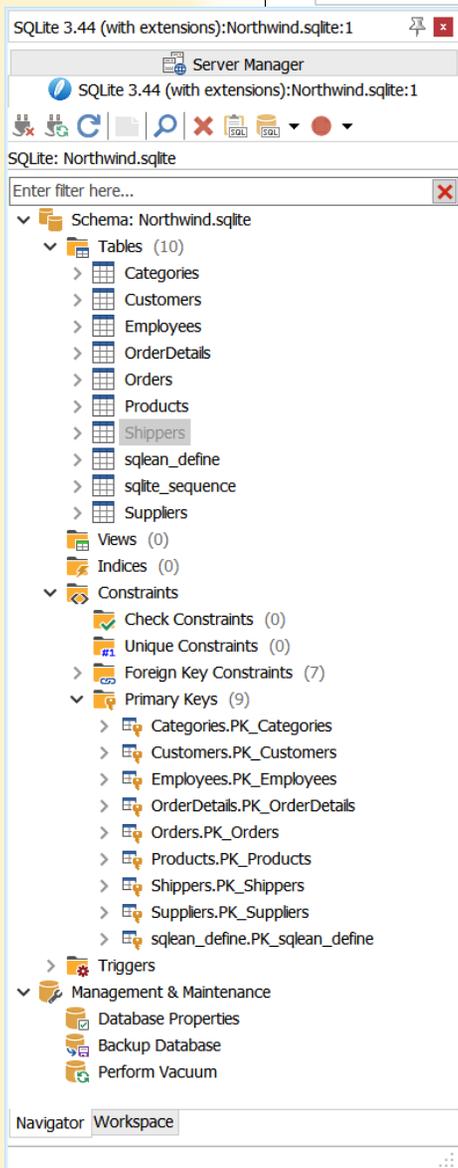


Figure 19: The "Northwind" SQLite database



**Registering or creating a database is as easy as selecting an existing file or entering a new filename.** You can now open the database and view or create the meta data and data.

The Database **Navigator** displays the tree with schema objects and several **"Management & Maintenance"** options for commonly used database information and tasks. Although **SQLite** is easy to use, you'll notice that during development you can run into problems.

For example, **SQLite does not support adding or removing constraints for existing tables.** There's a number of steps to take:

- ❶ Create a new table with the constraints
- ❷ Transfer the data from the old table to the new
- ❸ Drop views that rely on the old table
- ❹ Rename the new table
- ❺ Recreate the triggers on the table
- ❻ Recreate the views

**Database Workbench** has this all automated for you.

In the **Table Editor** you can add or drop constraints and the application will generate the required **SQL** statements for you. This makes modifying your SQLite database much easier. On the next page of this article (12 /33) is an example, no views or triggers available.



```

Complete Modifications
. PRAGMA foreign_keys = false;
. CREATE TABLE OrderDetails_2179375
. (
.   OrderDetailID Integer,
5   OrderID      Integer,
.   ProductID   Integer,
.   Quantity    Integer,
.   CONSTRAINT PK_OrderDetails PRIMARY KEY (OrderDetailID),
.   CONSTRAINT FK_OrderDetails_Orders2 FOREIGN KEY (OrderID) REFERENCES Orders (OrderID) ON DELETE
10  CONSTRAINT FK_OrderDetails_Products1 FOREIGN KEY (ProductID) REFERENCES Products (ProductID)
11 );
. INSERT INTO OrderDetails_2179375 (OrderDetailID, OrderID, ProductID, Quantity) SELECT OrderDetailID, OrderID, ProductID, Quantity FROM OrderDetails;
. DROP TABLE IF EXISTS OrderDetails;
. ALTER TABLE OrderDetails_2179375 RENAME TO OrderDetails;
15 PRAGMA foreign_keys = true;
    
```

Figure 20: The statements after modifying a foreign key constraint for a table

SQLite database properties, or so-called PRAGMAS, can be easily modified in Database Workbench as well: it displays the available options, just click and select and use OK to finish the job.

Database Properties for Database "Northwind.sqlite"

Database Properties  
View and edit database pragmas

Alias: Northwind.sqlite

Database: C:\Data\Northwind.sqlite

Auto Vacuum: None

Automatic Indexing

Foreign Key Constraints

Check Constraints

Journal Mode: Delete

Journal Size Limit: -1 (-1 means 'no limit')

Locking Mode: Normal

Max Page Count: 1,073,741,823

Page Size: 4096

Recursive Triggers

Secure Delete

Synchronous: Off

Temp Store: Default

User Version: 0

WAL Auto Checkpoint: 1,000 (0 means 'off')

Buttons: OK, Cancel, Help

Figure 21: Editing database properties for SQLite

## TOOLS FOR WRITING QUERIES

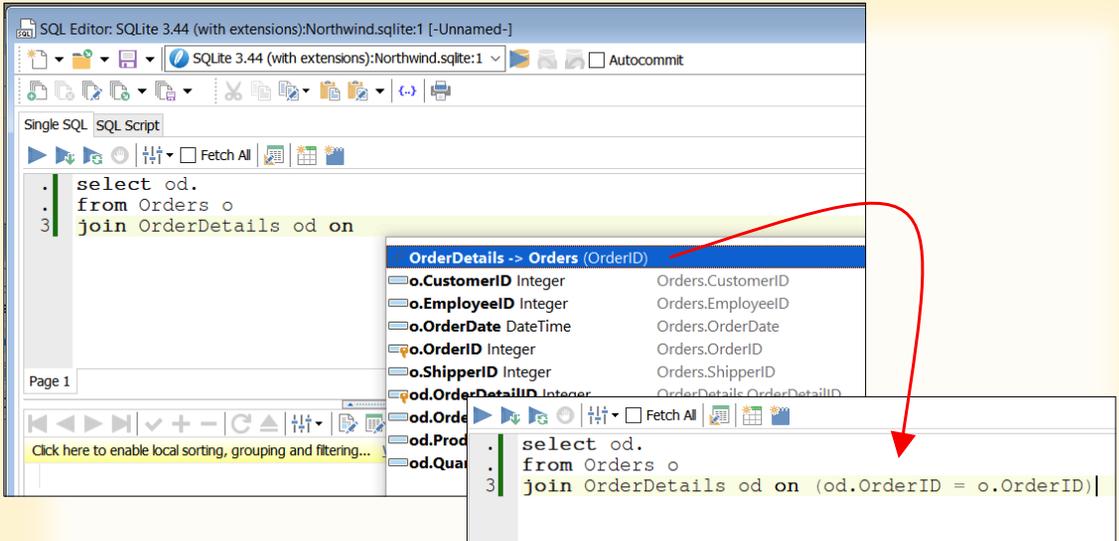
Writing **SQL queries** is part of day-to-day database development. **Database Workbench** offers several tools to make this easier for you.

The **SQL Insight tool** can help you when writing queries by hand. As is the case for other text editors for programming, this tool parses what you've written so far and offers suggestions in a drop down box. **This helps you to quickly select tables, columns and write JOINS.**



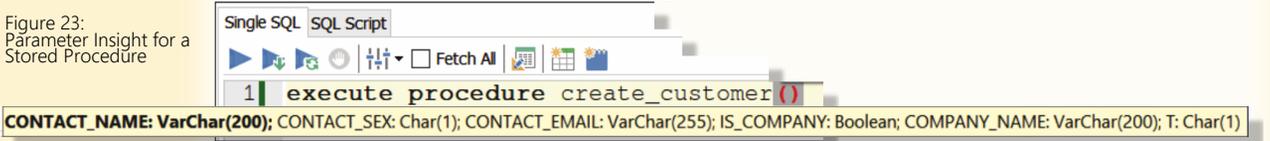


Figure 22: SQL Insight with Join Completion



SQL Insight understands table aliases when selecting columns, parses definition of temporary views and uses **foreign key constraints** available in the database for **JOIN-completion**. Additionally, **Parameter Insight** shows the parameter names and data types when trying to execute stored procedures from SQL or when calling built-in **DBMS functions**.

Figure 23: Parameter Insight for a Stored Procedure



Another query writing tool is the ability to **drag and drop object names**, like tables and columns. You can **drag lists of columns** as well. You can drag from the **Database Navigator** or the **Describe Companion**, the latter supports selecting multiple items from the list of available columns. These 3 tools are available in all code editors as well.

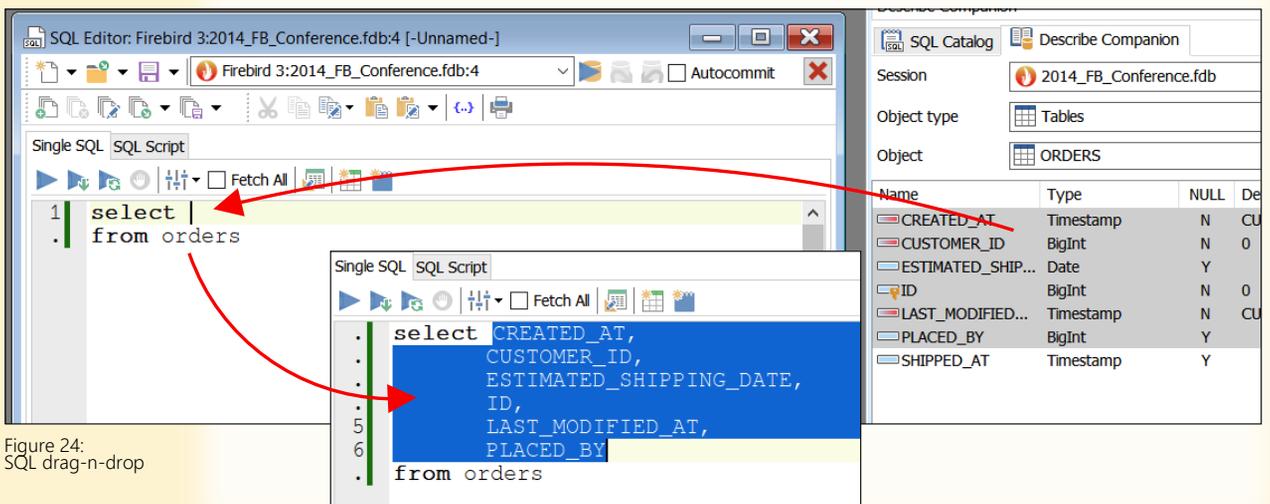


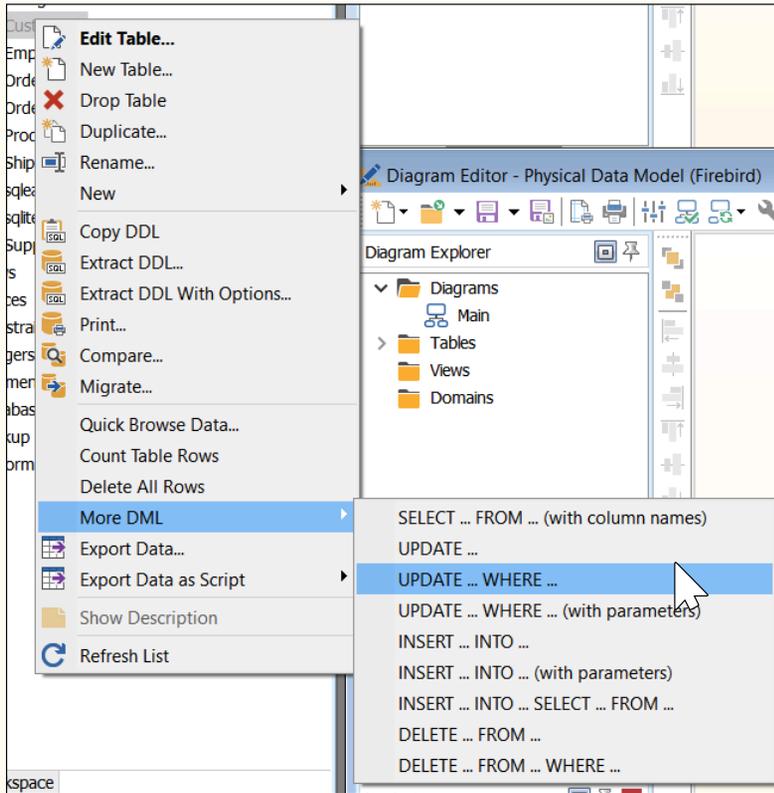
Figure 24: SQL drag-n-drop





Figure 25: The "More DML" context menu item offers quick SQL

Alternatively, using the context menu on a table allows you to quickly create an SQL statement for SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE or DELETE. Just fill in the blanks and execute!



The **Visual Query Builder** offers another environment to **write your SQL queries**. If you open the tool with a query available, the query is parsed and displayed in the builder. If not, you'll start with an empty canvas. Double click tables or views in the tree to add them or drag them onto the canvas. It will **automatically add JOINS** if foreign keys are available in the database. You can also drag from one column to another to create a JOIN. Use the context menu on the line to display the join options.



The screenshot shows the Visual Query Builder interface. On the left is a tree view of the database schema. The main canvas displays a query tree with five tables: (5)ORDERS, (1)ORDER\_COMMENTS, CUSTOMERS, (3)CONTACTS, and (2)COMPANIES. Lines connect the tables to show their relationships. Below the canvas is a grid for selecting columns. The grid has columns for Output, Expression, Alias, Sort Type, Sort Order, Aggregate, Grouping, Criteria, and Or... The 'Output' column is checked for several columns from the tables. Below the grid is a SQL query window. The query is as follows:

```

. ORDERS.CREATED_AT,
. ORDERS.LAST_MODIFIED_AT,
. ORDERS.ESTIMATED_SHIPPING_DATE,
10. ORDERS.SHIPPED_AT,
. ORDER_COMMENTS.ORER_COMMENT,
. COMPANIES.COMPANY_NAME
FROM
. CUSTOMERS
5. INNER JOIN ORDERS ON ORDERS.CUSTOMER_ID = CUSTOMERS.ID
. LEFT JOIN ORDER_COMMENTS ON ORDER_COMMENTS.ORDER_ID = ORDERS.ID
. INNER JOIN COMPANIES ON COMPANIES.ID = CUSTOMERS.ID
. INNER JOIN CONTACTS ON ORDERS.PLACED_BY = CONTACTS.ID
    
```

A red circle highlights the FROM clause and the first two JOIN clauses in the SQL query. A red arrow points from this circle to the 'FROM' section of the query tree in the main canvas.

Figure 26: Visual Query Builder with several visualized joins

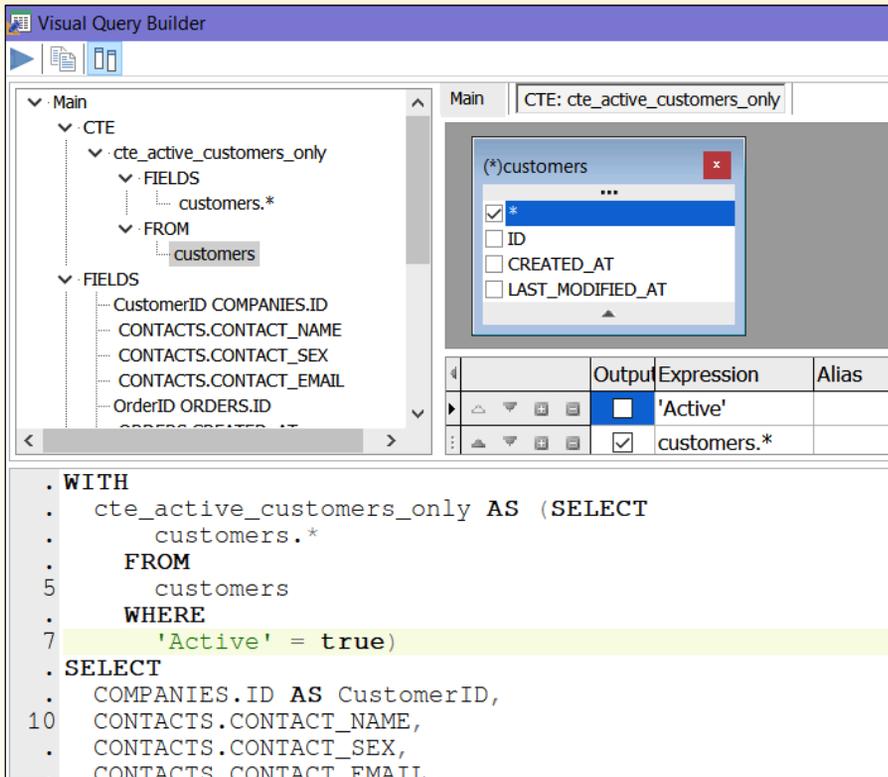
Simply checking a column adds it to the output, additional options can be modified in the grid. **WITH THIS TOOL YOU CAN WRITE SQL QUERIES WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF SQL.**

So for example, it's ideal for people writing ad-hoc reports (*more on that later*). Queries can be complex, you can go beyond a single **SELECT** and also add **UNIONS**, or add a **Common Table Expression (CTE)**, all these will show up in the query tree outline and selecting a particular query or **CTE** in the tree will display it on the canvas.





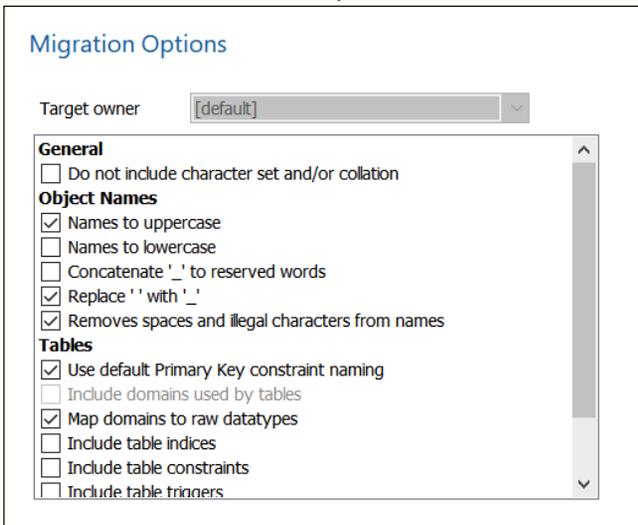
Figure 27: Visual Query Builder with a CTE on a separate tab



### CROSS DATABASE DEVELOPMENT: MIGRATING, COMPARING AND DATA-TRANSFER.

As **Database Workbench** supports multiple database systems, it also features **special cross database development tools**. With the **Database Migration tools** you can convert tables, views, indices and constraints from one database system to another.

Figure 28: Options for database migration



**Data types and other options will be automatically converted.**

For example, while **MySQL** uses **VARCHAR** for character data, **Oracle** uses **VARCHAR2**. **Firebird** uses **BLOB SUB\_TYPE TEXT**, while **SQL Server** uses **TEXT**. Some systems use **AUTOINC** as a data type, while others use it as an attribute to any **INTEGER-based** column. No need to remember these differences, **Database Workbench** does it all for you. Migrating an existing database like this help speed up your cross-database development efforts a lot. Very helpful.



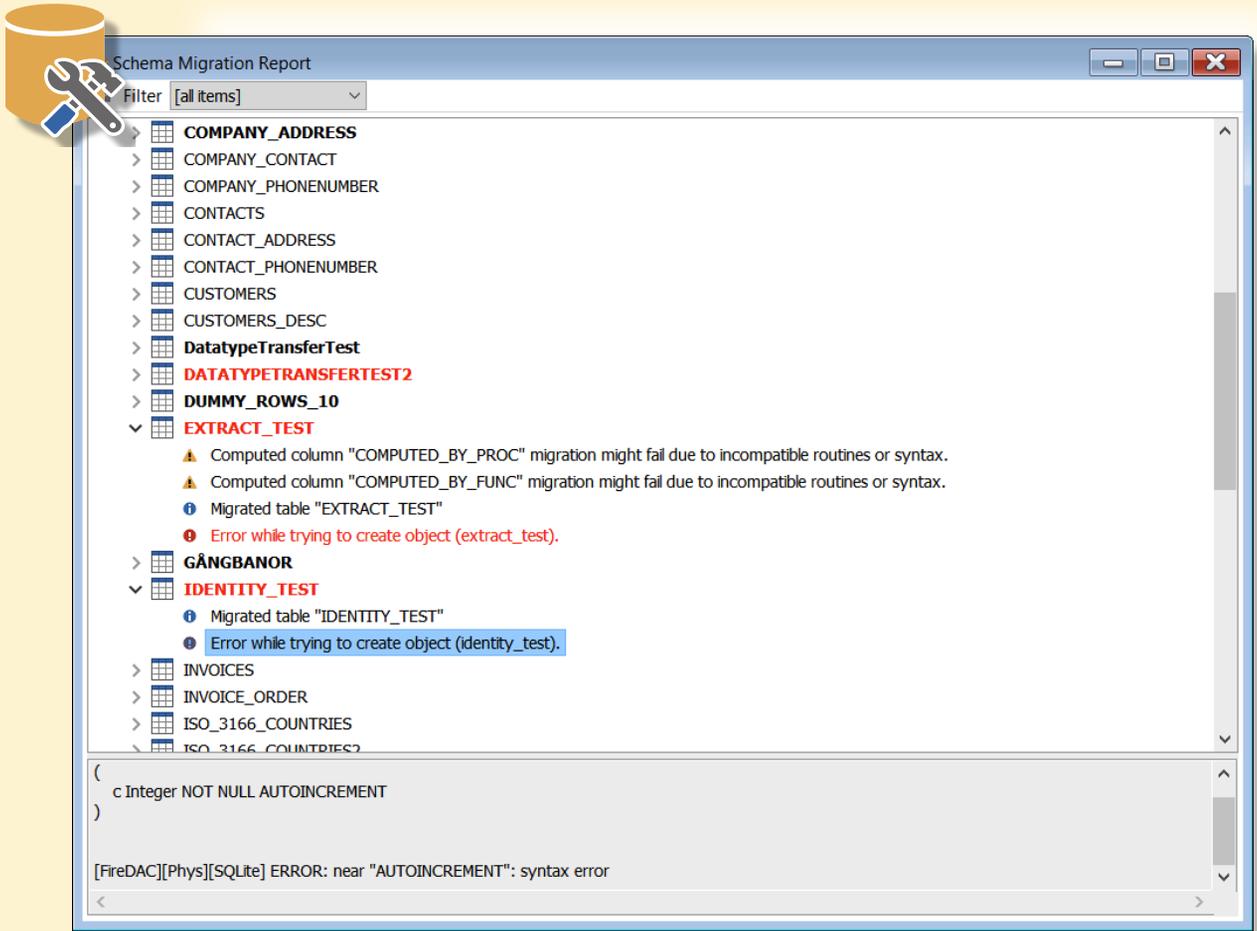


Figure 29: Migration report with detailed warnings and error messages

If you want to check meta data of one database against another, you can use the **Database Compare Tool**. Useful for detecting changes between development and production database, or checking database versions for deployment. It can even compare databases between different database systems, using the same data type conversions as the **Database Migration Tool**.



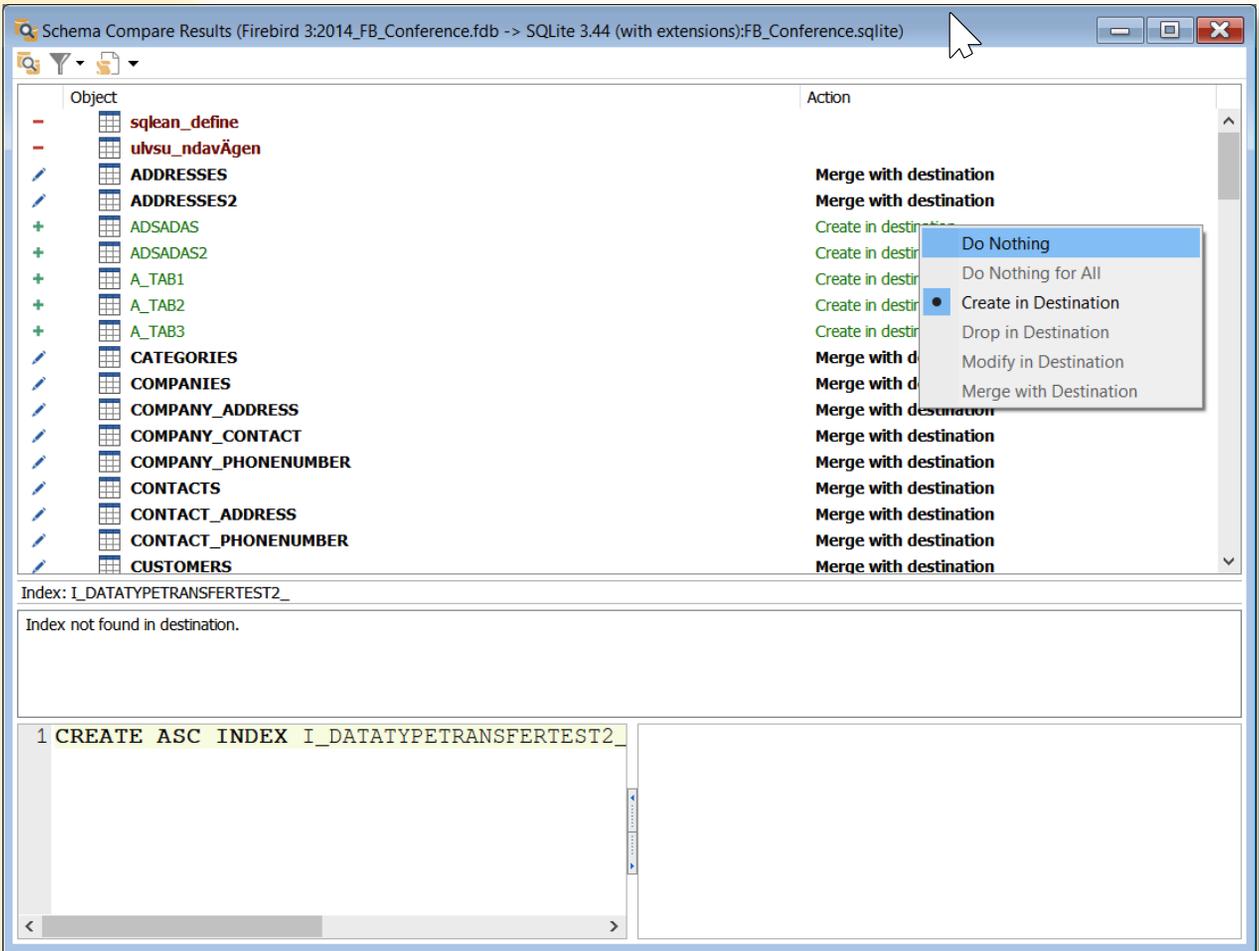


Figure 30: Compare result, you can define what action to take. The results are shown after **comparing** and **Database Workbench** can generate a change script you can execute on the **destination database** to **modify the schema** objects.

To move data between databases, the **DataPump** tool can be used. It supports transferring all data, even large binary data, as fast as possible. After selecting both a source and destination database, the tables can automatically be arranged in the correct order as per the foreign key constraints in the database. For example, an **ORDER record** can only exist for a particular **CUSTOMER record**, so the data in table **CUSTOMER** needs to be moved first.



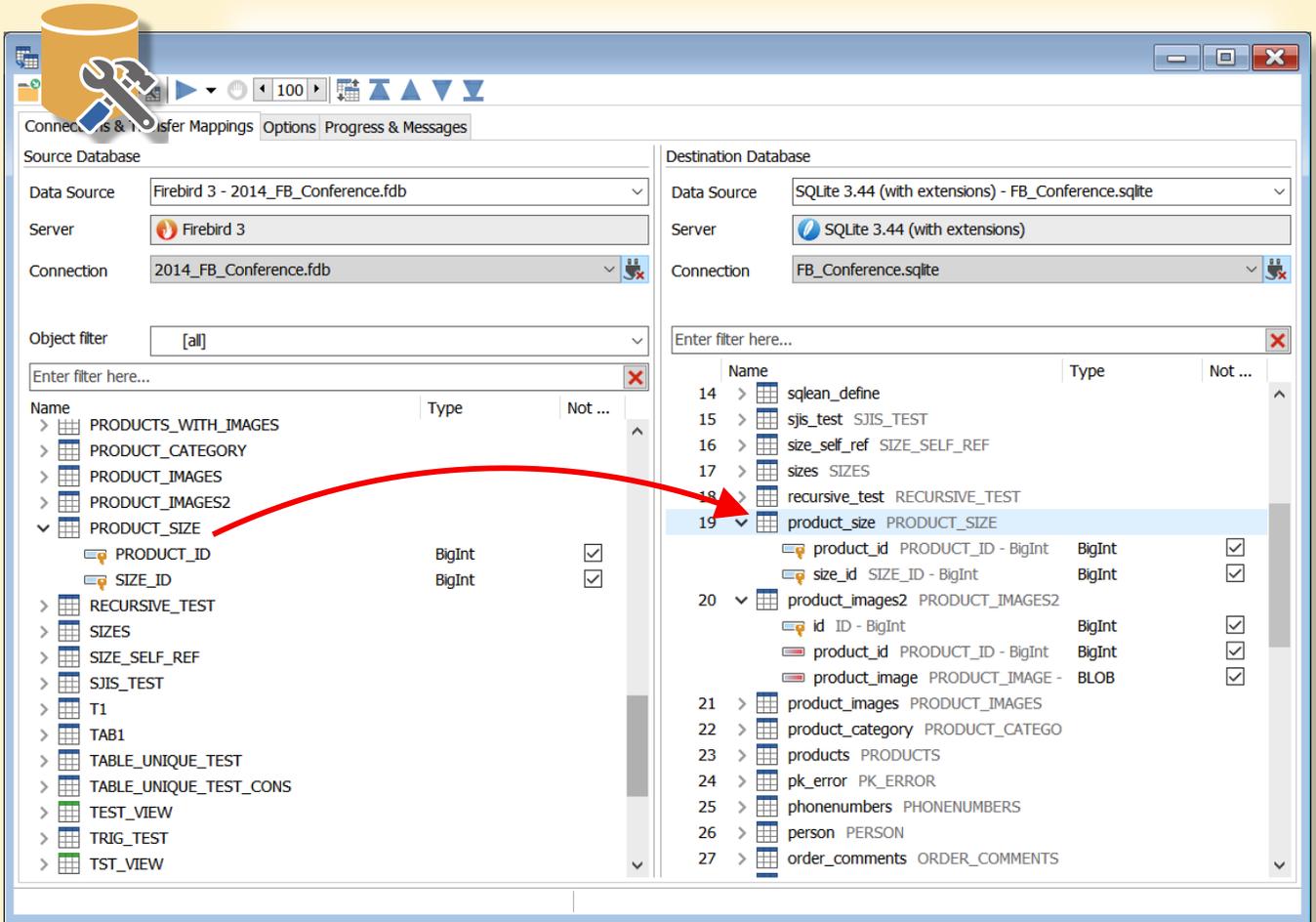


Figure 31: DataPump with linked transfers

You can either simply transfer data from one table to another, or modify how the DataPump fetches the data from the source table: this can be done by setting a **WHERE-clause** for the source, or even more complex, by using a completely self-written SQL statement to fetch data. This can be useful if the data for the target table needs to come from multiple source tables, for example, or from a selectable stored procedure.

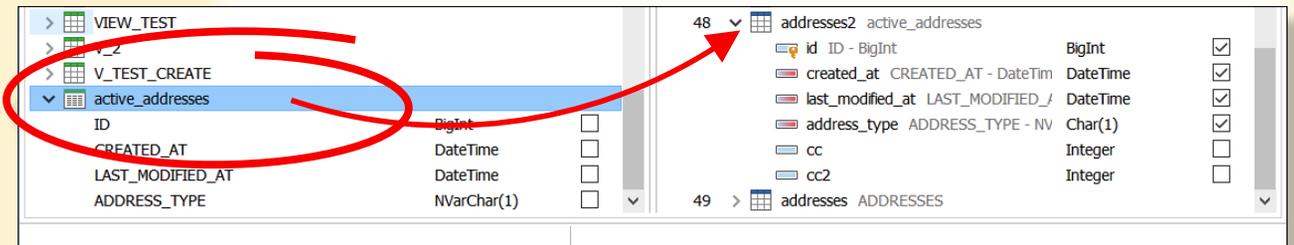


Figure 32: SQL based source to transfer data to destination table

The **DataPump** can disable triggers in the destination databases to **avoid business logic coded into the destination database being executed**. It can also disable indices and enabled them afterwards, to increase data transfer speed.





### TESTING & DEBUGGING

If you haven't got existing data, the **Test Data Generator** tool can help you to create fake data for testing purposes. You need data to test your performance, reporting, user interface and so on, **never test with a (near) empty database.**

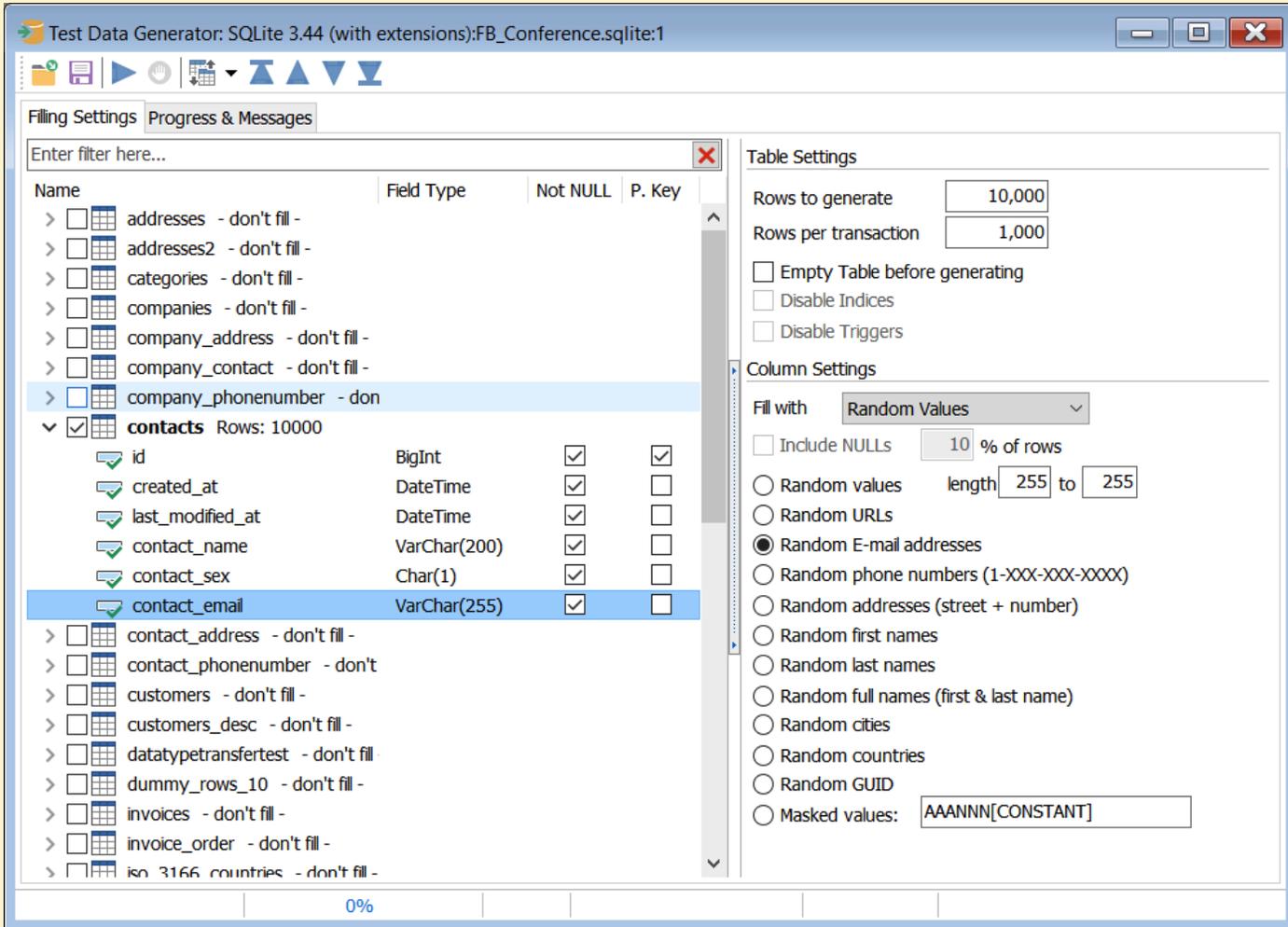
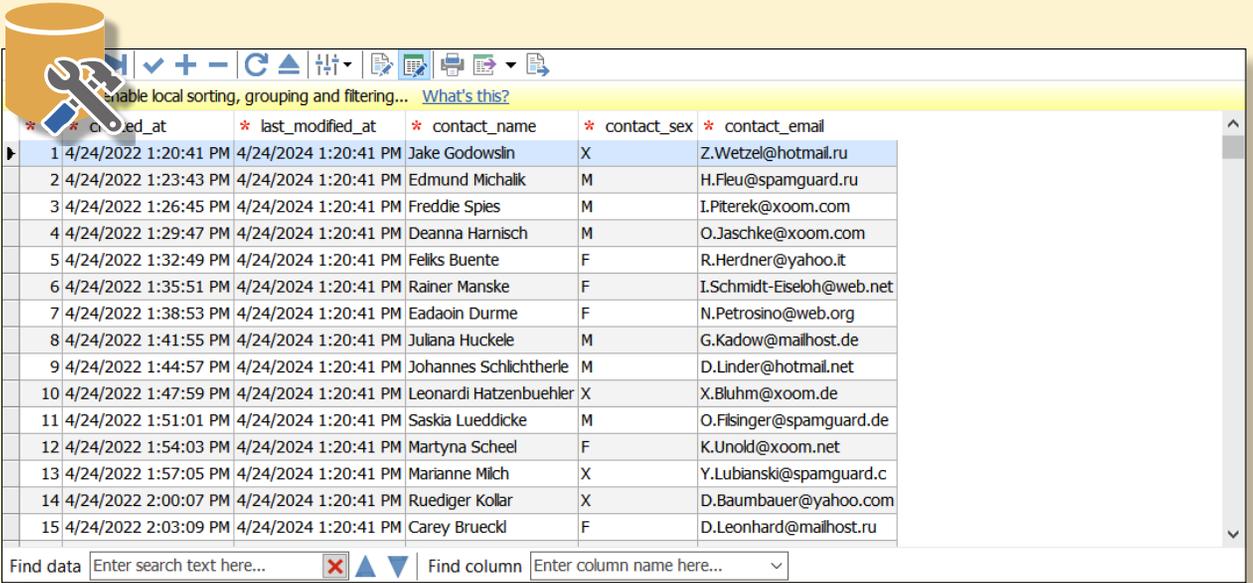


Figure 33: Test Data Generator with example options

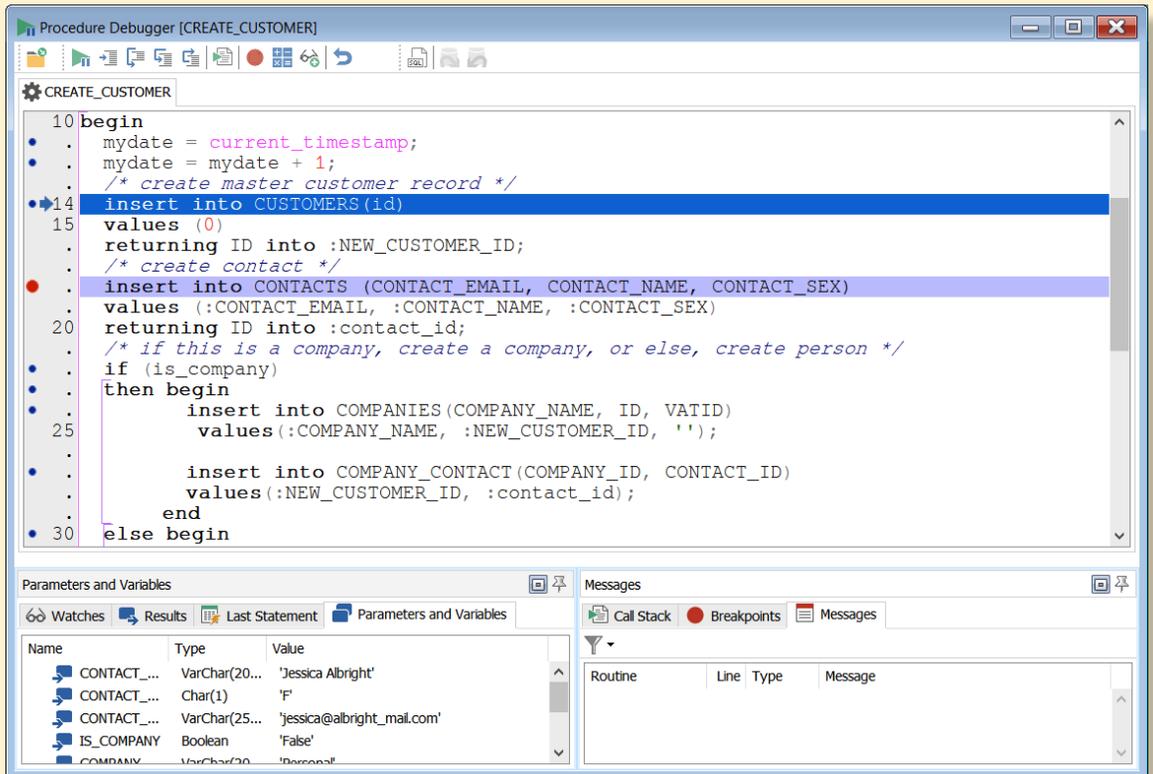
In order to **fill the database with real-life-like data**, it can generate fake e-mail addresses, street names, first and last names, postal codes, it can use existing images, generate large pieces of text, and more.





* created_at	* last_modified_at	* contact_name	* contact_sex	* contact_email
1 4/24/2022 1:20:41 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Jake Godowslin	X	Z.Wetzel@hotmail.ru
2 4/24/2022 1:23:43 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Edmund Michalk	M	H.Fleu@spamguard.ru
3 4/24/2022 1:26:45 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Freddie Spies	M	I.Piterek@xoom.com
4 4/24/2022 1:29:47 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Deanna Harnisch	M	O.Jaschke@xoom.com
5 4/24/2022 1:32:49 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Felks Buente	F	R.Herdner@yahoo.it
6 4/24/2022 1:35:51 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Rainer Manske	F	I.Schmidt-Eseloh@web.net
7 4/24/2022 1:38:53 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Eadaoin Durme	F	N.Petrosino@web.org
8 4/24/2022 1:41:55 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Juliana Huckele	M	G.Kadow@mailhost.de
9 4/24/2022 1:44:57 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Johannes Schlichtherle	M	D.Linder@hotmail.net
10 4/24/2022 1:47:59 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Leonardi Hatzenbuehler	X	X.Bluhm@xoom.de
11 4/24/2022 1:51:01 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Saskia Lueddicke	M	O.Filsinger@spamguard.de
12 4/24/2022 1:54:03 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Martyna Scheel	F	K.Unold@xoom.net
13 4/24/2022 1:57:05 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Marianne Milch	X	Y.Lubianski@spamguard.c
14 4/24/2022 2:00:07 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Ruediger Kollar	X	D.Baumbauer@yahoo.com
15 4/24/2022 2:03:09 PM	4/24/2024 1:20:41 PM	Carey Brueckl	F	D.Leonhard@mailhost.ru

Figure 34: Result of the above settings for data generation



```

CREATE_CUSTOMER
10 begin
  . mydate = current_timestamp;
  . mydate = mydate + 1;
  . /* create master customer record */
14 insert into CUSTOMERS (id)
15 values (0)
  . returning ID into :NEW_CUSTOMER_ID;
  . /* create contact */
  . insert into CONTACTS (CONTACT_EMAIL, CONTACT_NAME, CONTACT_SEX)
  . values (:CONTACT_EMAIL, :CONTACT_NAME, :CONTACT_SEX)
20 returning ID into :contact_id;
  . /* if this is a company, create a company, or else, create person */
  . if (is_company)
  . then begin
  .     insert into COMPANIES (COMPANY_NAME, ID, VATID)
  .     values (:COMPANY_NAME, :NEW_CUSTOMER_ID, '');
  .
  .     insert into COMPANY_CONTACT (COMPANY_ID, CONTACT_ID)
  .     values (:NEW_CUSTOMER_ID, :contact_id);
  . end
30 else begin

```

Name	Type	Value
CONTACT_...	VarChar(20...	'Jessica Albright'
CONTACT_...	Char(1)	'F'
CONTACT_...	VarChar(25...	'jessica@albright_mail.com'
IS_COMPANY	Boolean	'False'
COMPANY...	VarChar(20...	'Person'

Figure 35: Result of the above settings for data generation

Alternatively, a much more feature rich application to generate fake test data, named **Advanced Data Generator** is available as well, see [https://www.upscene.com/advanced\\_data\\_generator/](https://www.upscene.com/advanced_data_generator/) If you use code on the database itself, **triggers, stored procedures, stored functions or packages, Database Workbench** offers a **debugger** for this code. While **Oracle and PostgreSQL** provide a debugging interface, InterBase, Firebird and MySQL do not. In order to debug code for those database systems, Database Workbench emulates the code as if it were executed on the database, step by step, line by line.



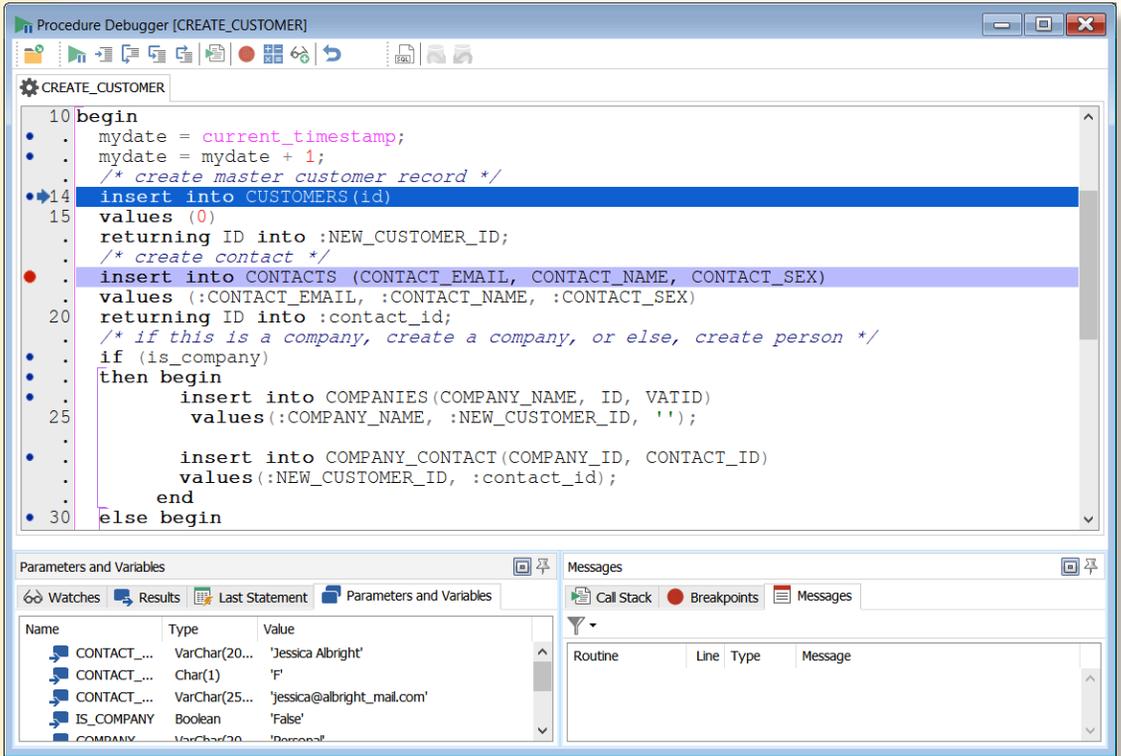


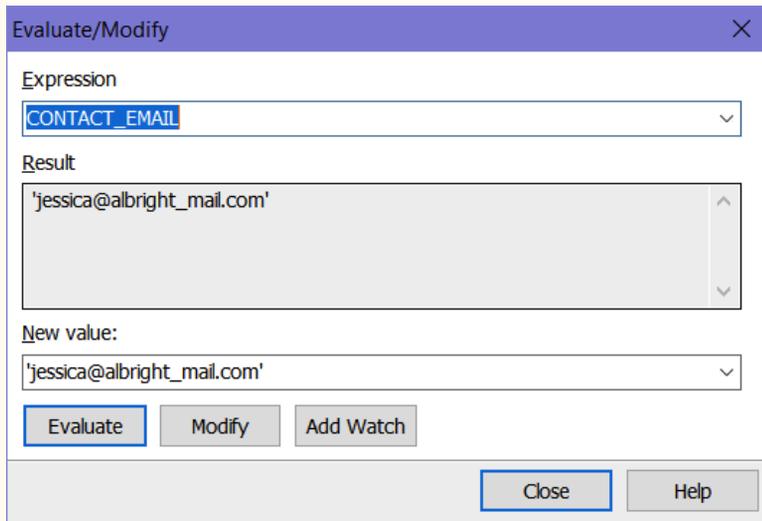
Figure 36: Stored Procedure debugger, with breakpoint set

When you start a stored routine, the debugger will prompt you for input values.

If it's a trigger, you can browse the table for values.

Continue to start the actual routine. From here going forward, you're able to execute the stored routine statement by statement, just like with **Delphi or Lazarus**. You can modify variable or parameter values or execute SQL statements to check the current state of data.

Figure 37: Evaluate/Modify dialog to modify values of parameters and variables



After the routine has finished, you can use the **Debugger SQL Editor** to rollback or commit the transaction.





### AD-HOC REPORTING

With the reporting tool, you can create your own reports based on any database query. **You can start creating a report from the Workspace tab of the Database Navigator,**

or from the **Report Manager** under the **Tools** menu item. While reports in the Workspace are saved for that particular database configuration, a report in the **Report Manager** has the added benefit of possibly being used for multiple databases if these include the same tables used as a source for data.

In order to create and test your query, the **Visual Query Builder** is opened. After composing your query, click OK and you'll see the Report Editor.

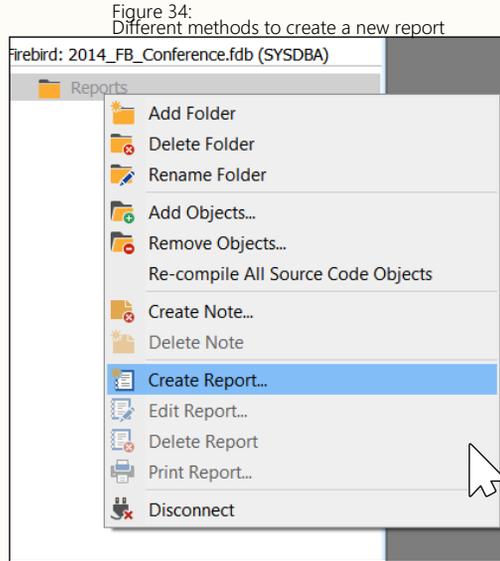
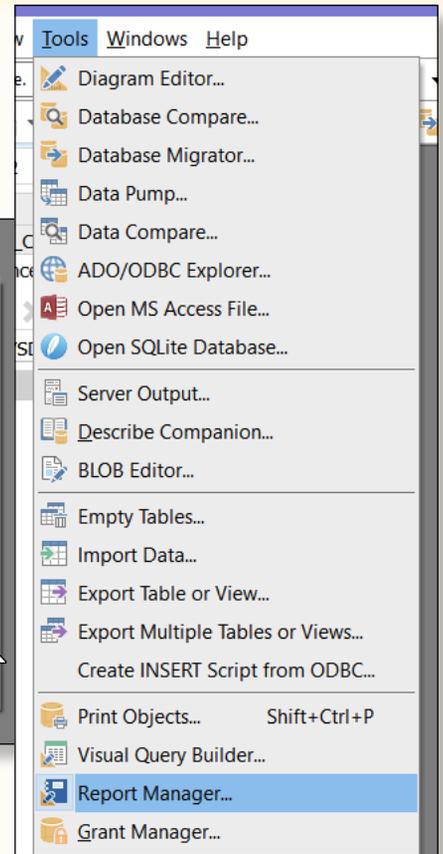
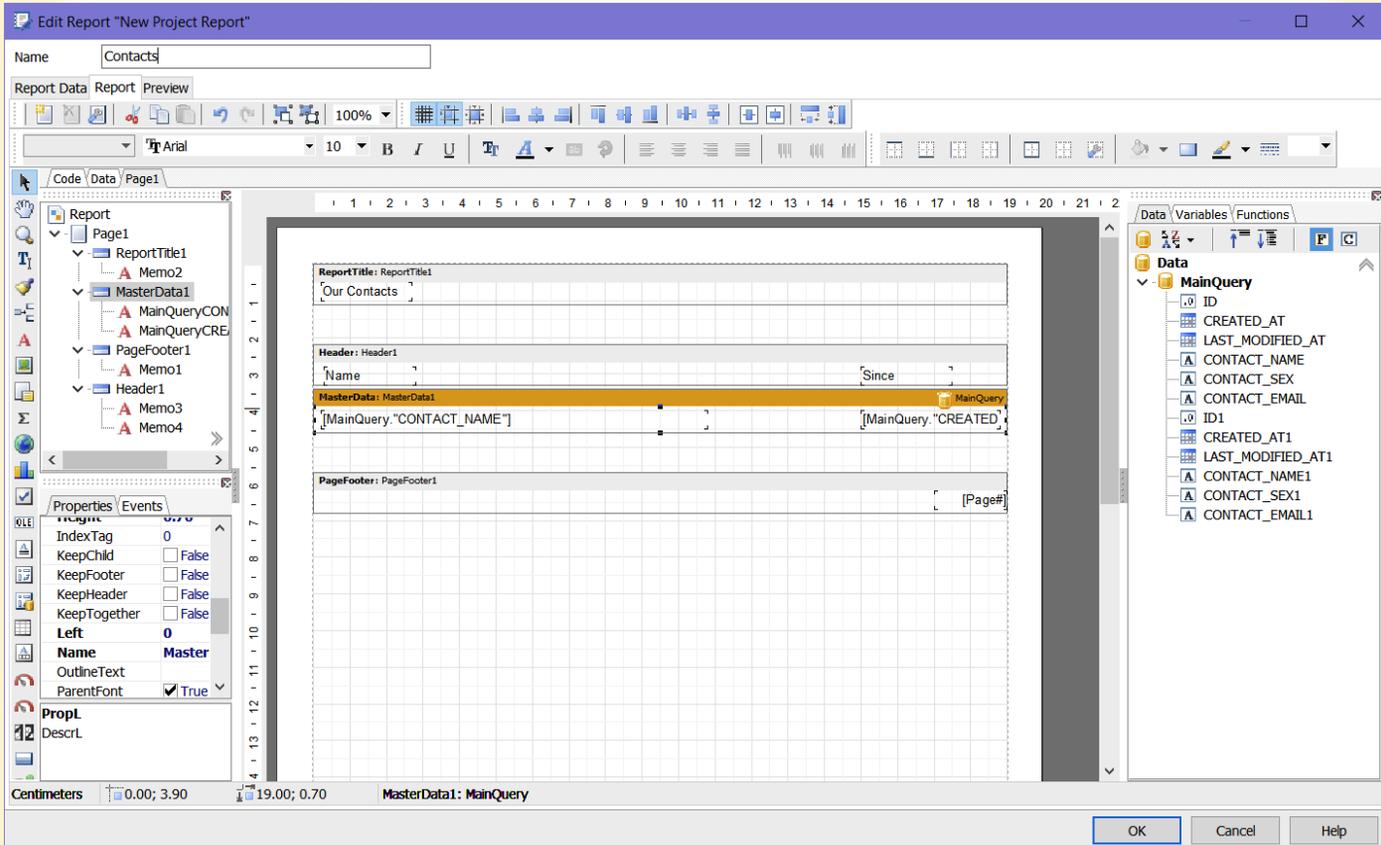


Figure 34: Different methods to create a new report



You can preview the results from within the **Report Editor**, just click the tab **Preview** and the report will fetch the data and display it.

Figure 38: Report Editor



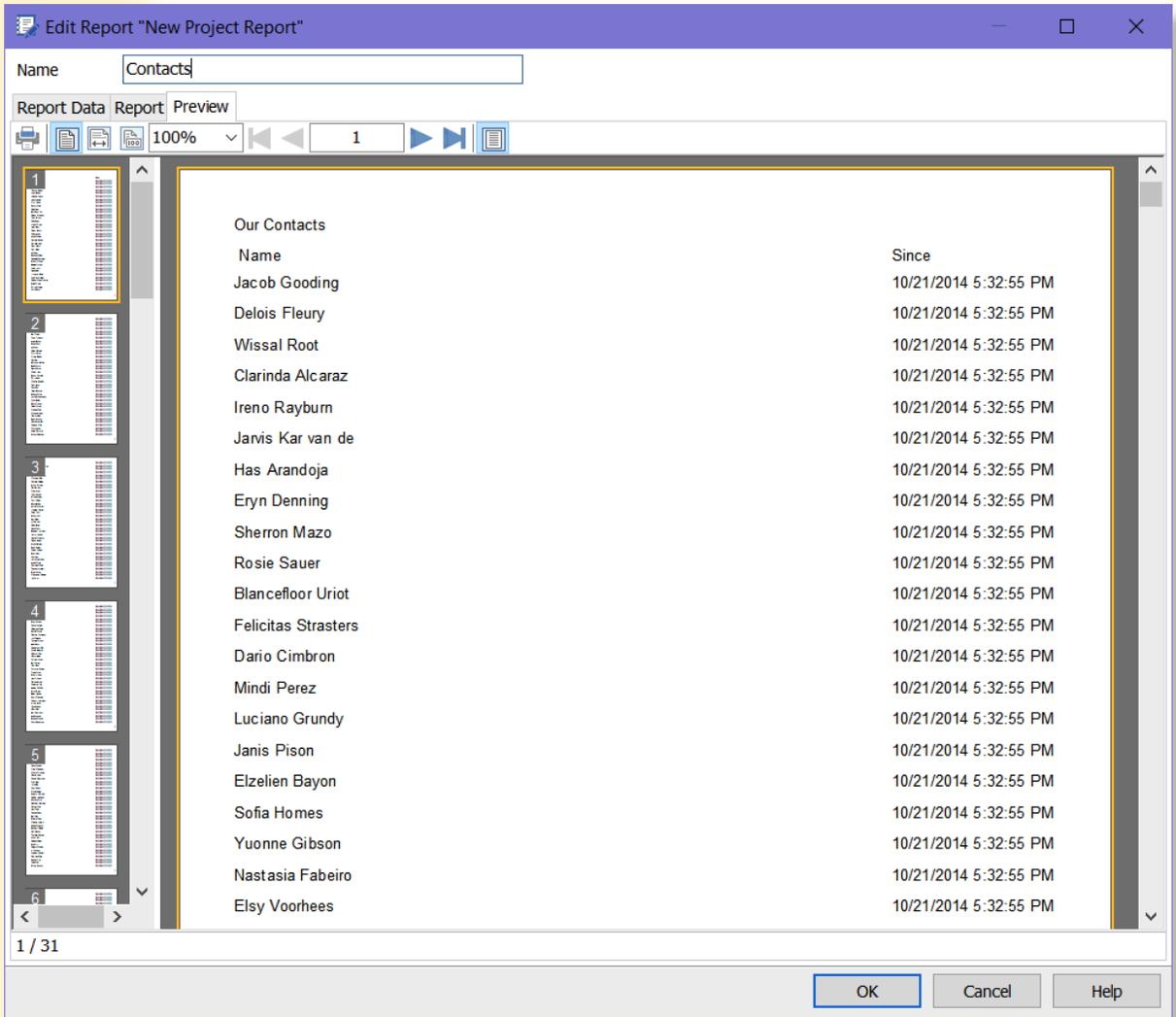


Figure 39: Report Preview

## DATABASE DOCUMENTATION

And there's another printing feature. A visual overview of your database and relations between tables can be created using the modeling tools, either reverse-engineer an existing database or create the database from a model.



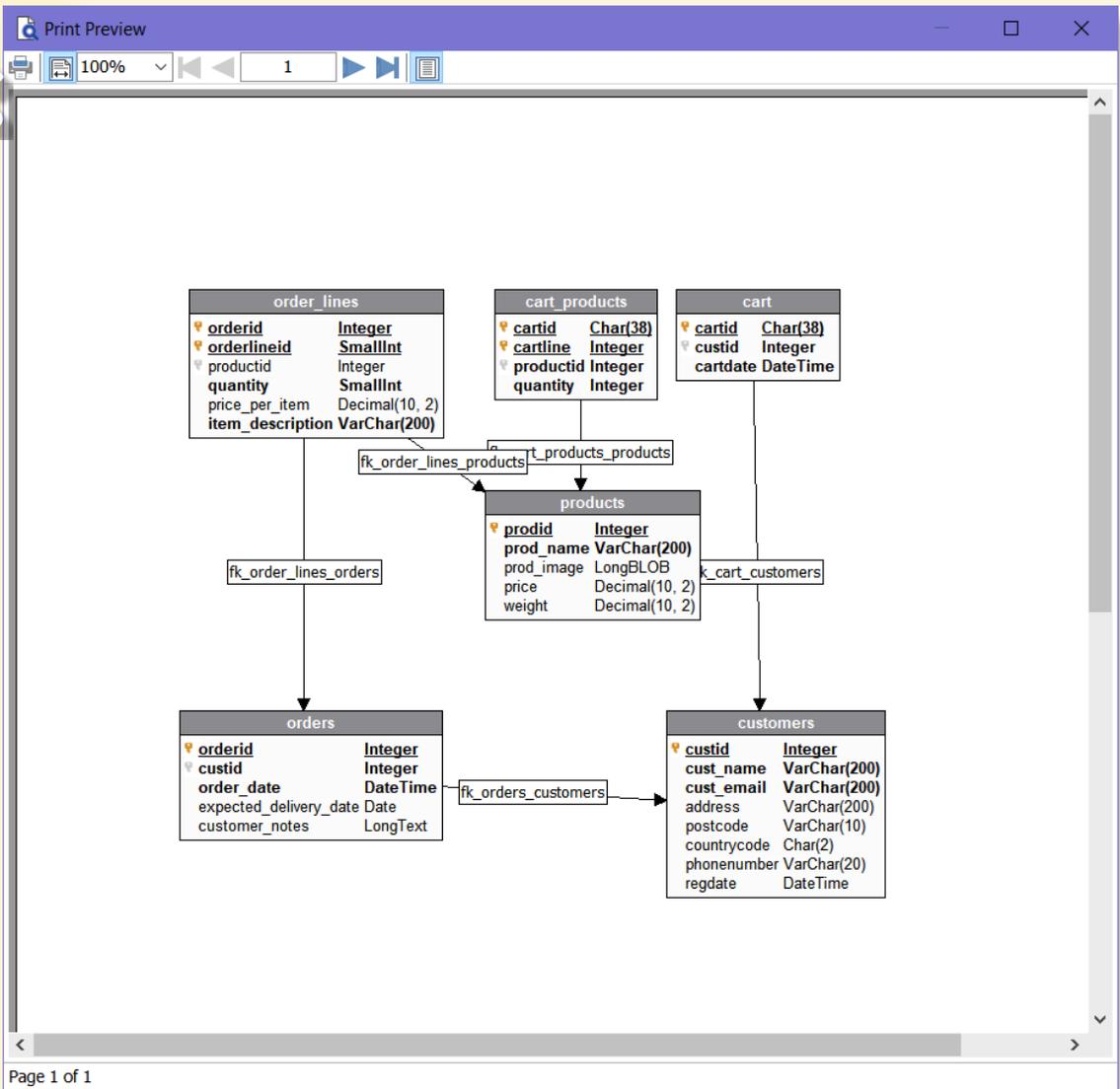


Figure 40: Print preview of a reverse engineered database

But there's more: **indices, triggers, stored procedures.**

Detailed documentation for tables inside the database using table and column descriptions is supported by nearly all database systems. But you need a way to use it.

This is where meta data printing comes in.

With this tool you can print (or print-to-PDF) schema objects like tables, views, triggers, indices and so on.

Object descriptions, source code or **DDL** is optional.

You can print all, or a selection of items. Also useful when you want to give a third party documentation, for example, for a set of database View's that can be used for export data or custom reporting functionality.





Figure 41: Database schema object printing

The screenshot shows two overlapping windows. The top window, titled 'Print Metadata [2014\_FB\_Conference.fdb]', has a table of 'Available Objects' with columns 'Name' and 'Description'. The bottom window, titled 'Print Preview', shows a preview of the schema for two tables: '1. ADDRESSES' and '2. COMPANIES'. The 'ADDRESSES' table has columns: ID (BigInt), CREATED\_AT (Timestamp), LAST\_MODIFIED\_AT (Timestamp), and ADDRESS\_TYPE (Char(1)). The 'COMPANIES' table is partially visible. The 'Print Preview' window also shows the DDL for the 'ADDRESSES' table.

Figure 42: Database search can search for objects and in source code

The screenshot shows the 'Search Database: 2014\_FB\_Conference.fdb' window. The search term 'customer' is entered in the search field. The search results are displayed in a tree view under the 'Procedures (9)' category. The results include 'CREATE\_CUSTOMER' and 'NEW\_CUSTOMER\_ID'. The source code for 'NEW\_CUSTOMER\_ID' is shown, including SQL statements like 'insert into CUSTOMERS(id)', 'returning ID into :NEW\_CUSTOMER\_ID;', and 'values(:COMPANY\_NAME, :NEW\_CUSTOMER\_ID, ...)'. A red circle highlights the search field and options, and a red arrow points to the search results.

### OTHER VALUABLE TOOLS

There's not enough room here to show you all the tools, but let's highlight two more. **The Database Meta Data Search tool** let's you search for objects inside your database. It can search for object names, but also **searches inside the source code of views, triggers and stored routines.**





For columns, it can even search for appearances in column defaults or data types (*either a raw data type or domain/user defined data type name*). As not all database systems support dependency tracking or don't support it at the same detail level, using the *Database Search tool* can help you to keep track of objects, occurrences in different places or use in code or default definitions.

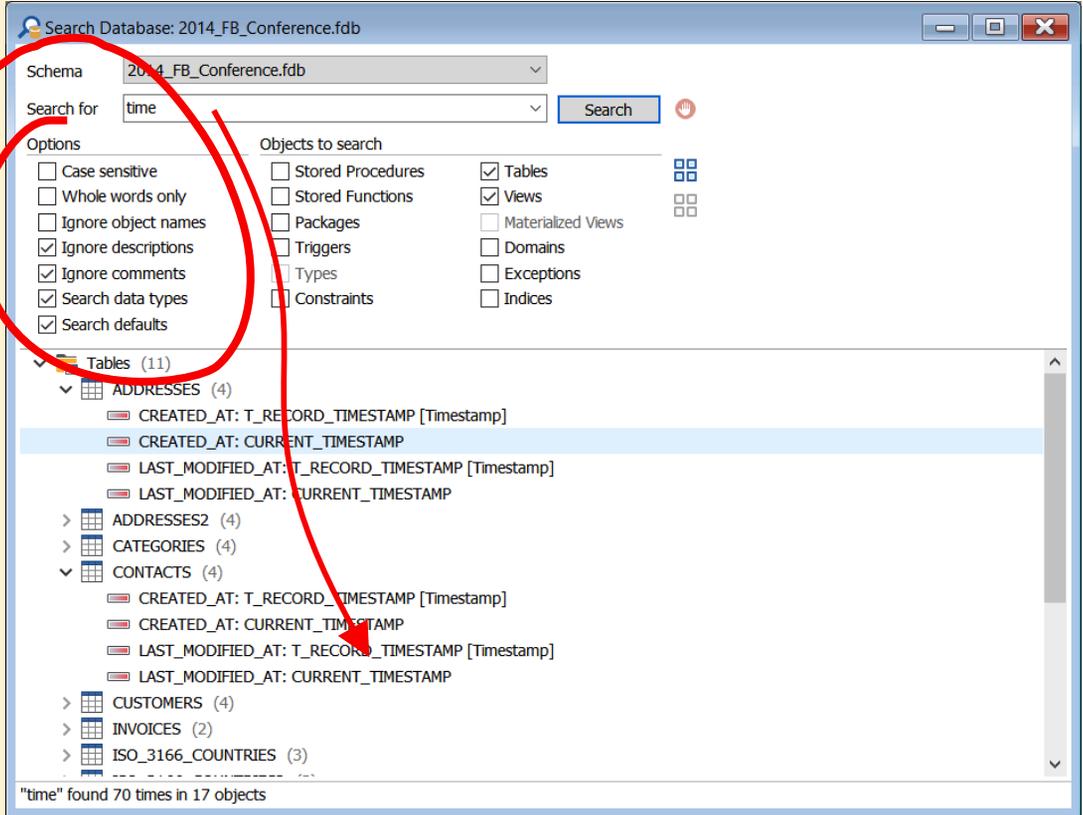
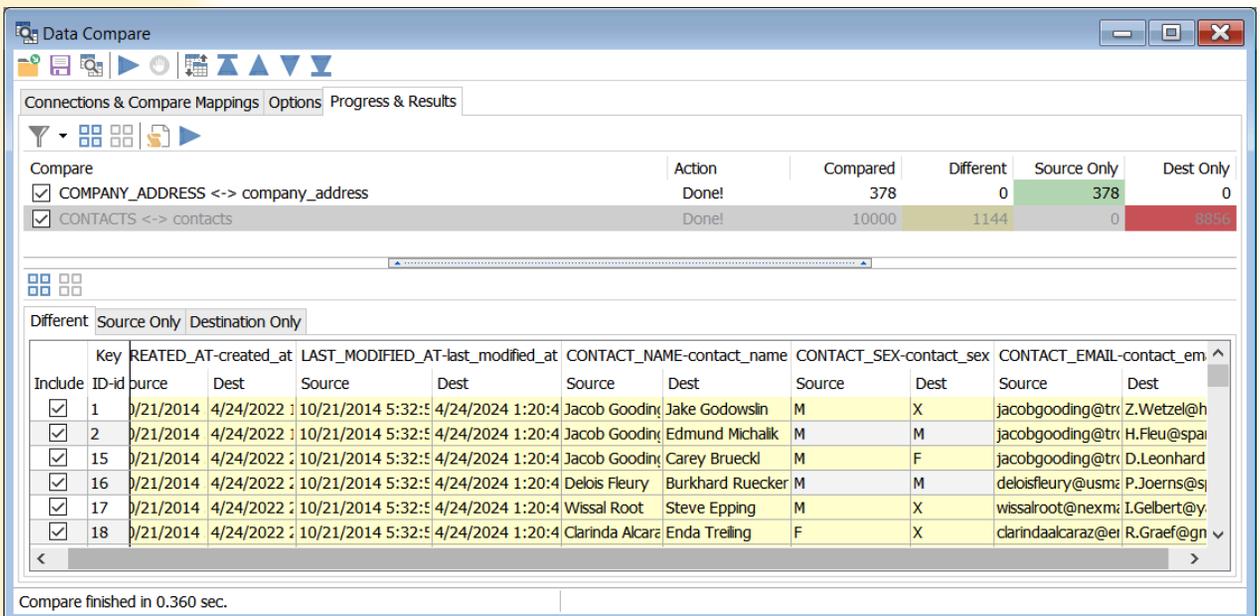


Figure 43: Database search can also search for data types and column defaults

Besides the fore mentioned *Meta Data Compare*, there's also a *Data Compare tool*. Especially useful for **data analysis, checking of logging functionality or simply to compare** one state of a database to another. Just as with the **DataPump** tool, you link tables in a source and destination database together. If the columns are different in name, you can link those manually as well.

Figure 44: Data Compare with linked tables



Compare finished in 0.360 sec.



A database contains more than just text or numbers, it can also contain images, **HTML or documents like PDFs**. You can view these with the **BLOB Editor**, either found under the Tools menu item, or directly embedded in the SQL Editor.

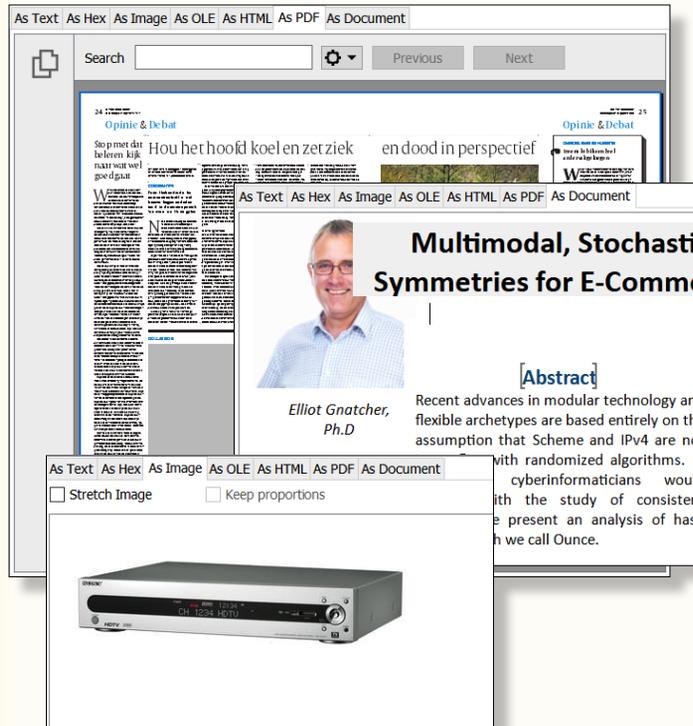


Figure 45: BLOB Editor, shown with PDF, document and image

When you browse data, the **BLOB Editor** will attempt to automatically detect the type of data, if it's an image, it will display the image, if it's a PDF, it will display the PDF.

If it can't determine the type of the content, it will display a hex-editor. The **BLOB Editor** supports and detects the following formats: **DOC, DOCX, RTF, PDF, HTML, XML, ICO, SGI, PCX, PSD, BMP, GIF, TIFF, PSP, PNG, EPS, WMF** and **JPG**.

**ENTERPRISE EDITION & TEAMSERVER**

**Database Workbench** requires you to register servers and possibly databases so you can use those with the application. These are stored in configuration files in your Windows profile.

But if you're working with a team of developers, it might be easier to store these in a central repository. **Database Workbench TeamServer** offers this for the **Enterprise** edition in addition to your local repository.

When a **TeamServer** registered databases is opened, the Workspace can contain shared items as well: notes, folders, reports, TO-DO items.

The **TeamServer Console** allows you to create groups of privileges for users and administer the privileges for each user and group. For example, allow users to create public notes in the workspace, register a shared server or database.

You can also control which team members are allowed to create or drop databases for a server, create backups and so on.

**TeamServer** also offers a **Version Control System (VCS)** for shared databases. After adding a database to the **VCS**, you can add individual objects. Once added, **Database Workbench** will no longer allow you to modify or drop the object, you first need to lock it for editing.



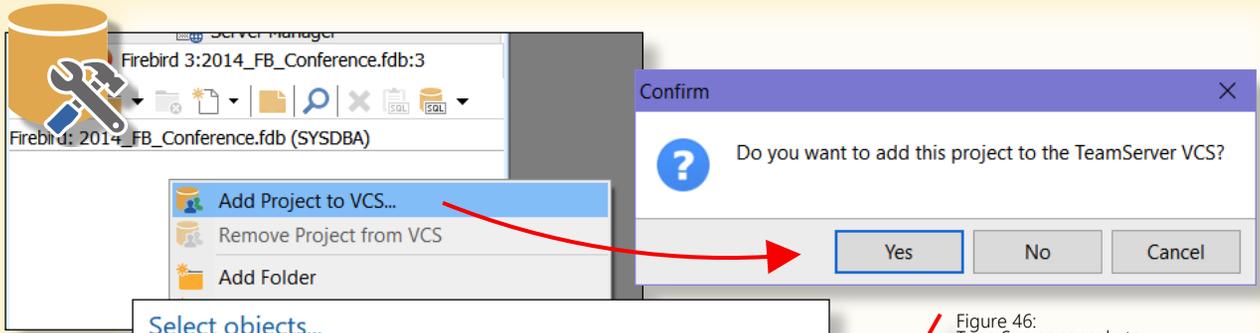
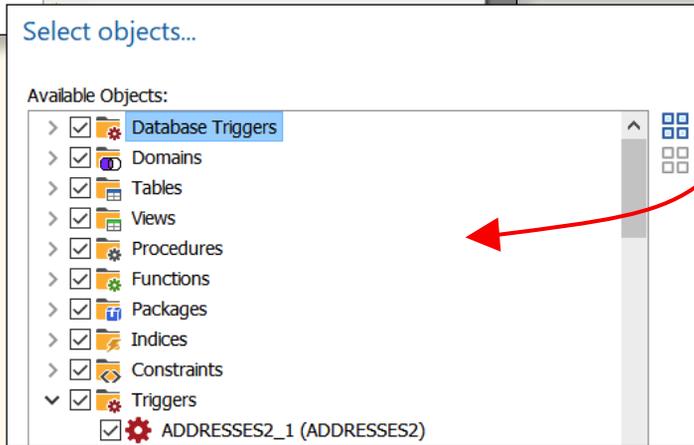


Figure 46: TeamServer console to administer users and privileges



You can lock, unlock or check in the objects via the context menu in the Database Navigator or via the toolbar button in each object editor.

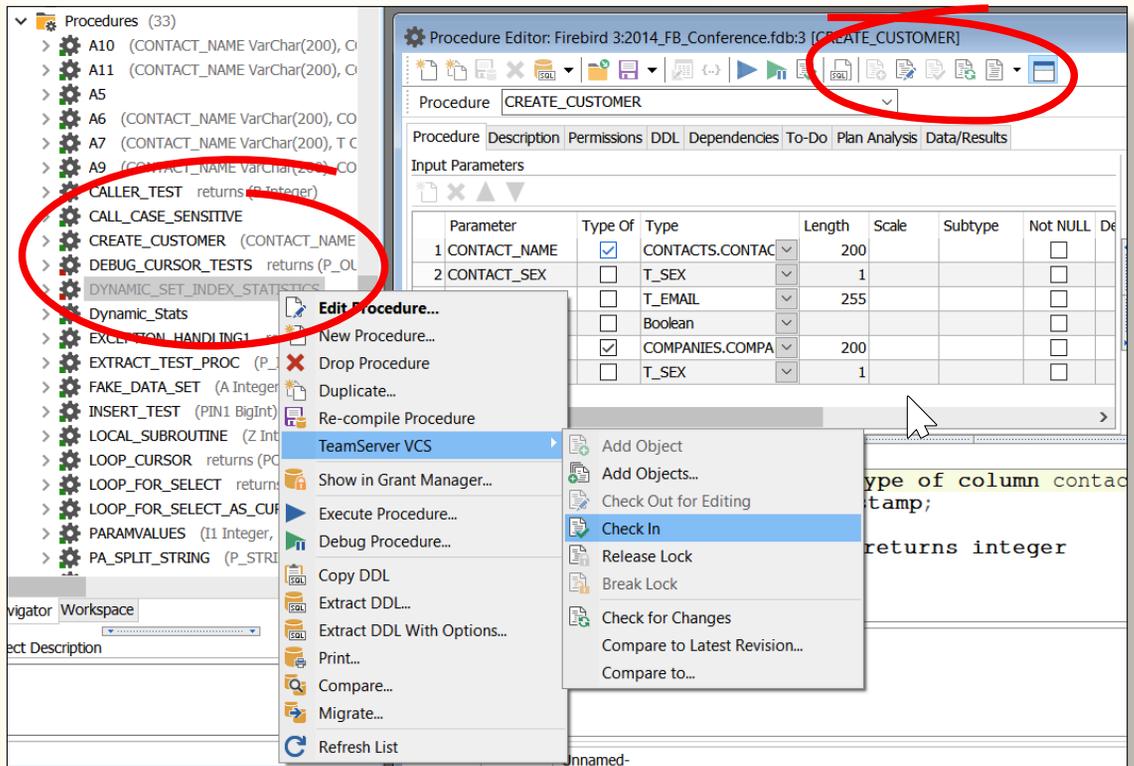


Figure 47: Objects in the VCS show a status indicator, editors have VCS related functionality





If you modify an object, **Database Workbench** automatically saves the generated **DDL** statements to the **VCS**, as to keep a record of all changes. You can check for changes against the **VCS** or compare between object revisions.

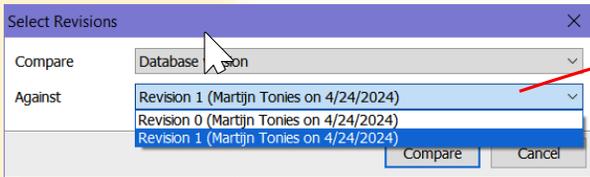
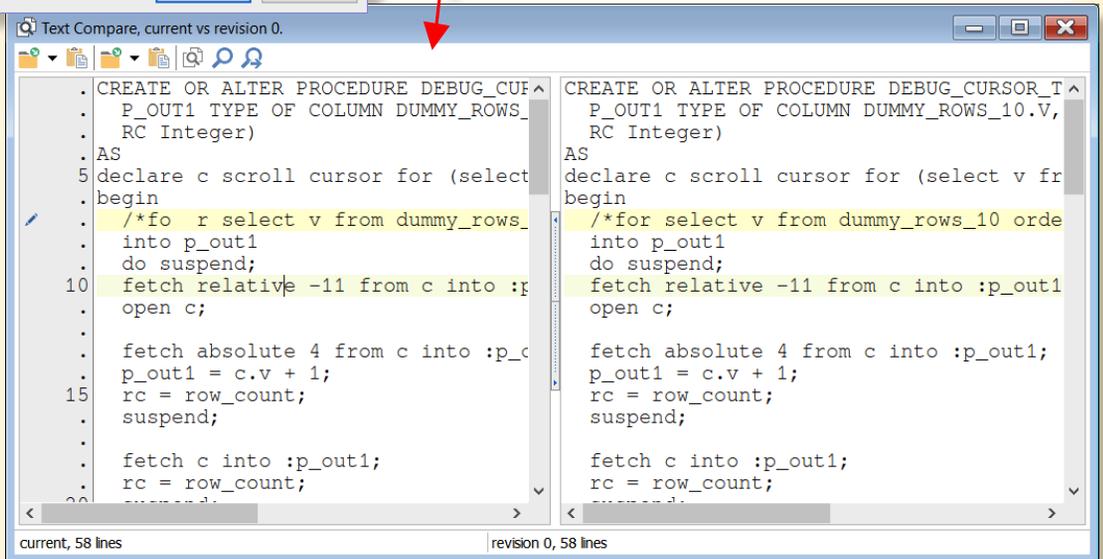


Figure : 48  
You can compare the current database to revisions in the VCS



Each **TeamServer** user or group can have different privileges for the **VCS**, allowing each user to lock objects or not, break an existing lock and so on.

### CONCLUSION

this is an exceptional tool for database developers. Its incredible possibilities makes me very enthusiast. Even for simple small databases its is very helpful. I haven't seen for a long time a developer that makes such a good and incredible tool. I think he deserves an award.

It does what I like so much:

**The user interface is logically structured and senses where the questions or expectations are for use..**



# ADVERTISEMENT



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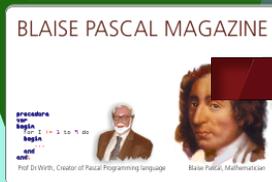
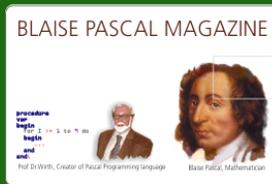
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The original article can be found here: <https://www.cnet.com/pictures/take-an-early-look-at-intels-glass-packaging-tech-for-faster-chips/>



**Inside Intel's Chip Factory** there is a possible view in to the future:  
It looks and is simply ordinary glass.

Intel is transitioning its CPU's to a new architecture in order to meet the rapidly increasing demand for more powerful computing capabilities.

Computer processors are very intricate technological machines. Engineers selectively extract precise combinations of atoms from the periodic table to create materials capable of directing streams of electrons through intricately patterned circuits at extremely fast rates.

However, the next significant advancement in enhancing the efficiency of our laptops and increasing the strength of artificial intelligence may originate from conventional glass.

Intel has provided a comprehensive explanation of the glass technology during its Innovation event in San Jose, California. At a large, technologically advanced structure located in the hot desert landscape of the Phoenix area, Intel converts small tabletop-sized sheets of glass into rectangular sandwiches of circuitry, similar to the procedures used in building processors.

Intel has initiated a lengthy process of transitioning to a new technology that involves placing chips on a glass substrate instead of the current organic resin that resembles epoxy. The newly developed glass foundation, referred to as a substrate, provides the essential speed, power, and space required for the chip industry's transition to a new technology that involves assembling several "chippets" into a single, larger processor.

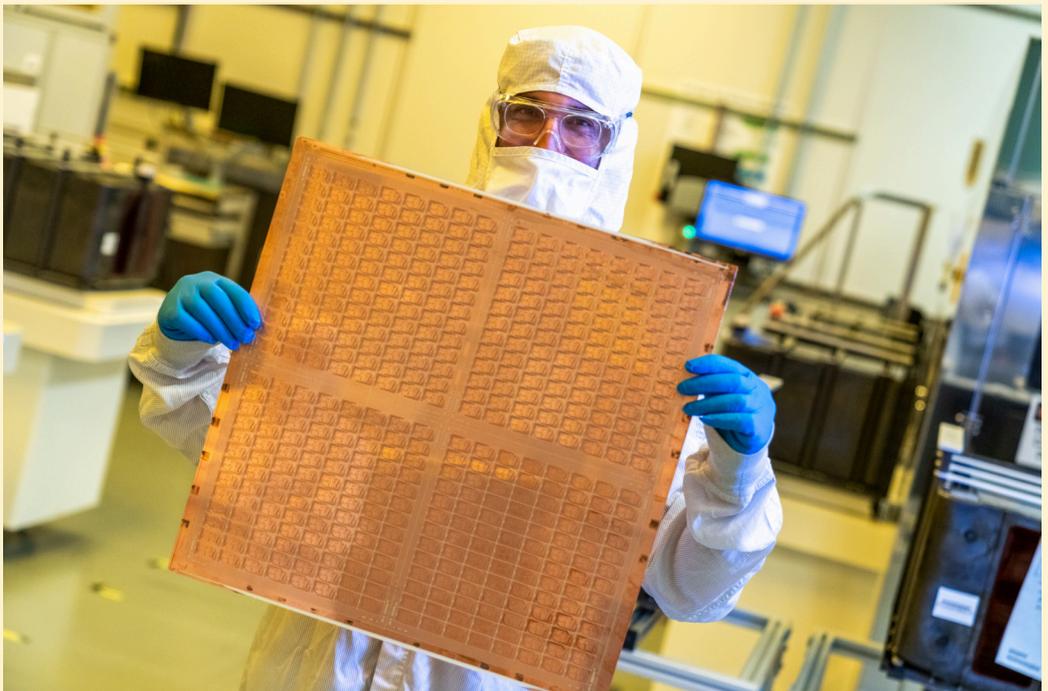
Essentially, this implies a novel method to uphold Moore's Law, which measures advancements in packing additional transistor circuitry elements into a CPU.

The **A17 Pro CPU** in Apple's new **iPhone 15 Pro** boasts a staggering 19 billion transistors.

The Ponte Vecchio supercomputing processor developed by Intel has a processing capacity exceeding 100 billion. Intel anticipates that by the end of the decade, computers will have a staggering one trillion transistors.

Intel adopted the chiplet strategy to narrow the gap with competitors who had better capabilities in CPU manufacture.

According to Creative Strategies analyst Ben Bajarin, Intel can now utilise this technology to exceed its competitors in a time when there is a high need for increased processing power that the industry is struggling to meet. Intel's glass substrate technology showcases their expertise in packaging.





In the future, you can expect more advanced computers and AI technologies that are significantly more intelligent than the ones currently available. The semiconductor industry will transition to glass substrates due to many reasons. The whole chip industry, particularly high-end CPUs, will undergo the glass transition in order to address the problems of chipmaking, (with Intel leading?)



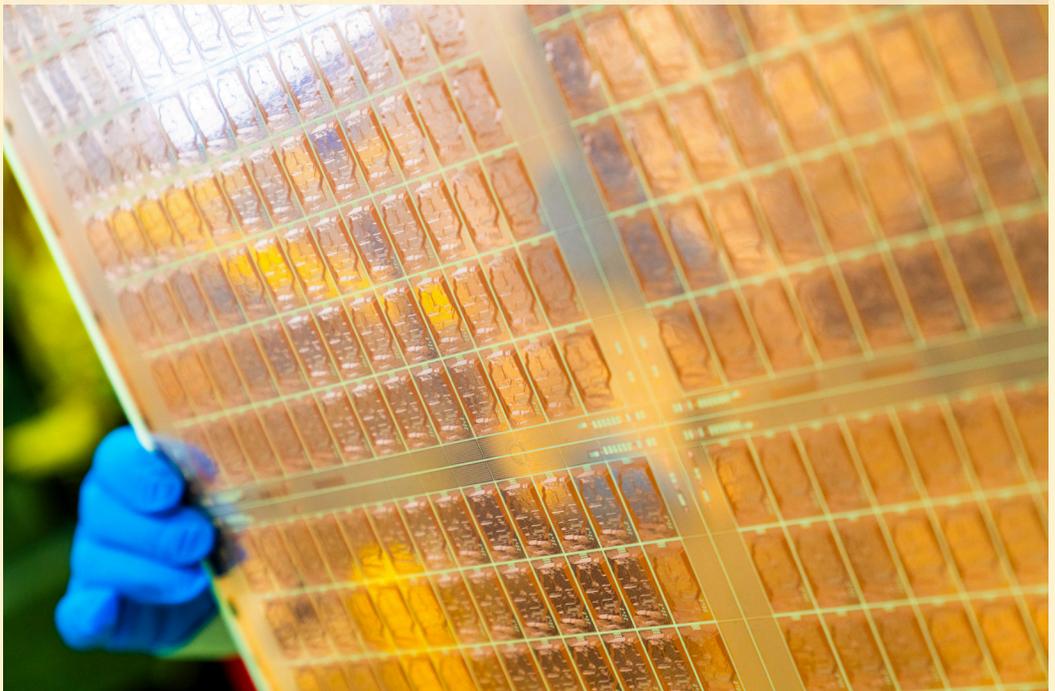
Through extensive collaboration with academics and rigorous testing of innovative techniques over a period of more than ten years, a team of 600 employees based in Chandler has successfully transformed research and development into an operational manufacturing process. "The innovation is complete," stated Ann Kelleher, the executive vice president overseeing technology development at Intel. The utilisation of glass substrate technology provides us with the capability to achieve superior performance for our products in the long run.

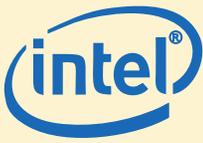
These are confident statements from a business that is currently in the middle of a four-year endeavour to regain the dominance it lost to Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. and Samsung, who are chip "foundries" responsible for manufacturing processors for several electronics companies. Intel's production progress saw a significant slowdown for a period of several years, beginning almost ten years ago. As a result, it relinquished its previously dominant position to the two chipmakers from Asia.

The glass technology integrated beneath a processor is expected to be introduced in the latter half of the decade. Initially, it will be implemented in the largest and most energy-intensive chips, which are utilised in numerous servers housed in data centres operated by major hyperscale companies such as Google, Amazon, Microsoft, and Meta.

The new substrate has the capacity to handle tenfold the power and data connections compared to current organic substrates, enabling a higher volume of data transfer to and from a chip. Minimising warping is crucial for ensuring that processors remain flat and effectively link to the external environment, allowing for the use of chip packages that are 50% larger. It effectively transfers power, allowing semiconductors to operate at higher speeds or with greater efficiency.

Furthermore, it has the capability to operate at elevated temperatures, and when it undergoes thermal expansion, it maintains a consistent rate of expansion with silicon to prevent any potential mechanical malfunctions.





Glass will facilitate the development of next-generation server and data centre processors, which will replace large processors such as Intel Xeons. These processors will be capable of running cloud computing services, such as email and online banking, as well as Nvidia's highly sought-after artificial intelligence processors, which have gained immense popularity due to the widespread adoption of generative AI.



However, if glass substrates reach a more advanced stage of development and become more affordable, this technology will extend beyond data centres to personal computers. It is evident that Intel anticipates this technology being integrated into client applications. referring to personal computers.

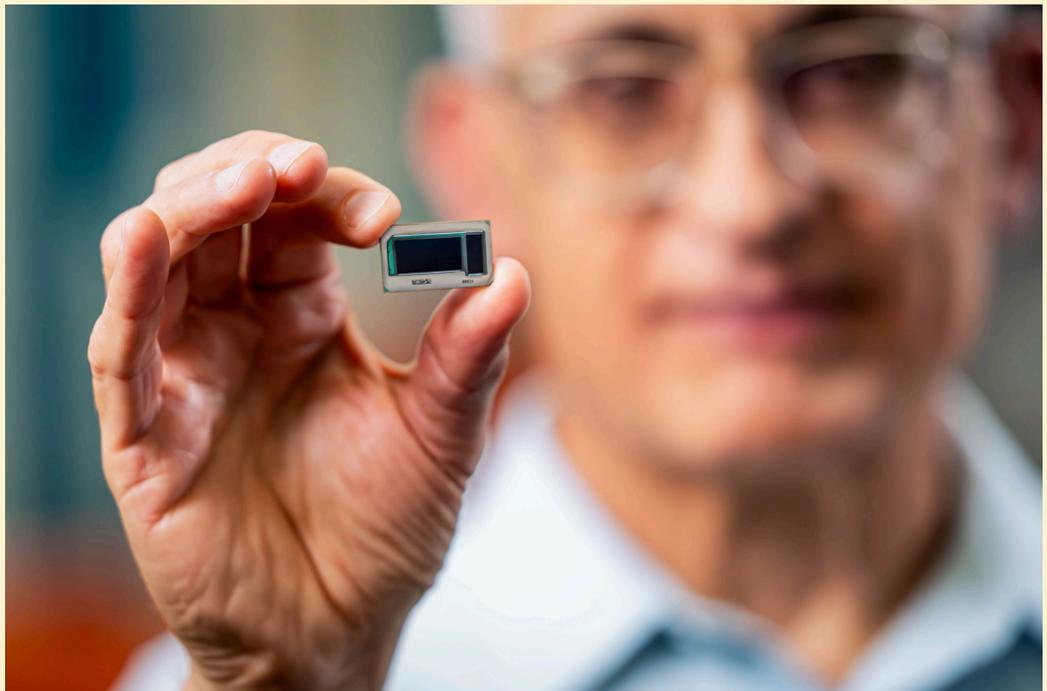
The chipmaking industry is expected to experience a comeback with the development of five nodes within a span of four years. Intel, under the guidance of Chief Executive Pat Gelsinger, who returned to the company in 2021, is making efforts to regain its position at the forefront of the industry. During each press conference and quarterly earnings call, Intel executives repeatedly emphasise the goal of achieving "five nodes in four years."

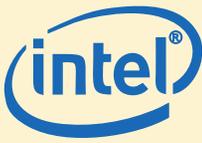
This refers to the ambitious plan to rapidly progress through five significant chip manufacturing advancements in order to catch up with and ultimately surpass TSMC and Samsung by 2025. Kelleher, who is leading the project, states that two of the processes have been finished and the remaining steps are progressing according to the planned timeline.

#### AN ALL-INCLUSIVE BUNDLE

Even if Intel manages to regain its advantage in the lithography production process, which involves imprinting transistors into a silicon surface, the business and its competitors still confront a significant challenge: constructing the housing that connects these chips to a circuit board. Packaging and glass substrates play a crucial role in this context.

The Intel 8086 chip, which was developed in 1978, served as the foundation for all subsequent PC and server processors manufactured by Intel. It consisted of a flat square of silicon with 29,000 transistors. In order to safeguard and connect it to a circuit board, the device was enclosed in a packaging that resembled a flat caterpillar. The device was powered and received data by forty metal legs.





Subsequently, there has been a significant advancement in CPU packaging. The distinction between chipmaking and packaging, which used to be quite basic, is now becoming less clear. Currently, packaging methods employ lithography equipment to engrave their own circuitry, but with less precision compared to CPUs.

Over time, processors have evolved from having caterpillar-like legs to having hundreds of pins resembling a small bed of nails that cover the bottom of the processor. However, in the end, that method proved to be insufficient in providing an adequate number of electrical connections to the circuit board.

Today's packages are equipped with flat metal contact patches located on the bottom of the package. The chip is affixed to the circuit board with significant pressure, amounting to hundreds of pounds, during installation.

A metallic cap positioned on top of a processor effectively dissipates excess heat that would otherwise cause a computer to malfunction. Below the processor lies a substrate featuring a progressively intricate, three-dimensional network of power and data connections that serve to connect the chip to the external environment.

#### THE HIDDEN DEPTHS

Transitioning from current organic substrates to glass presents many problems. Glass is fragile, hence it necessitates cautious handling, for instance.

In order to facilitate the transition, Intel is modifying glass-handling equipment obtained from professionals in the display industry, who possess the knowledge and expertise to handle glass without causing any damage. The display sector is responsible for manufacturing a wide range of products, including small wristwatch screens and large flat-panel TVs. In addition, they are required to engrave circuitry onto glass and have successfully created numerous essential ultrapure materials and meticulous handling procedures.

#### CHALLENGES RELATED TO MICROCHIPS

- ❶ Intel's strategy to recover its chip manufacturing capabilities might potentially revive the United States' manufacturing strength.
- ❷ The practice of stacking chips in a layered manner, similar to pancakes, has the potential to reduce the cost of laptops.
- ❸ Intel gained valuable insights when one of its supercomputer chips was damaged by an elevator collision.

Intel is planning to build a 'Megafab' that may potentially become the largest chip manufacturing plant in the world. The project is estimated to cost around \$100 billion. However, there are distinctions.

Flat-panel displays use electronic components that are sensitive and located exclusively on one side, allowing glass to smoothly move through factories using rollers. Intel constructs a structure consisting of various materials and circuitry, known as redistribution layers, on both surfaces of the glass. Consequently, their computers are required to securely grip the glass solely at its edges. Every panel is meticulously removed from the container, inserted into the machine, rotated into a vertical position, and then inserted further to allow for additional layers to be added to the sandwich.





Like all other products at Intel, it is specifically built for large-scale production rather than small-scale research and development initiatives.

#### INTEL FOUNDRY SERVICES IS ENHANCED BY PACKAGING.

The utilisation of Intel packaging technology is expected to be beneficial for its proprietary data centre processors. It is crucial for Intel's planned corporate restructuring to include becoming a chip foundry, similar to TSMC and Samsung, where it manufactures processors for other firms under its Intel Foundry Services subsidiary.

Intel can offer packaging services, regardless of whether it manufactures the chips and chiplets that are included in the box. However, this can subsequently result in a more extensive customer agreement, wherein Intel fabrication facilities, sometimes known as "fabs," are responsible for constructing both the silicon processor chips and chiplets.

"At IFS, Mark Gardner, the senior director in charge of the Foundry Advanced Packaging group, stated that we possess both competitiveness and capacity." According to him, it is relatively simpler to get a packaging customer compared to a chipmaking customer, as there are fewer technological complexities and shorter timeframes for completion.

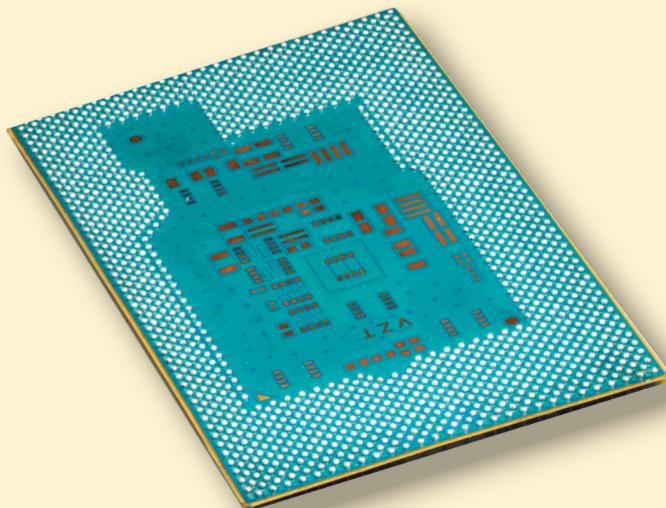
However, when it comes to customer agreements for packaging, it can result in a more profound partnership that extends beyond chipmaking. Specifically, Intel anticipates that its 18A chipmaking process will overtake TSMC and Samsung by 2024.

"It represents an opportunity to establish a connection or gain entry," Gardner stated. "The trajectory of packaging first and advanced packaging then 18A is working well for a specific customer."

The M2 Ultra, which marks the culmination of Apple's two-year shift away from Intel CPUs, is accompanied by two M2 Max chips that have a high-speed interconnect. AMD has increased its market share at the expense of Intel by utilising TSMC and Samsung to manufacture its designs, particularly server chips that incorporate several chiplets.

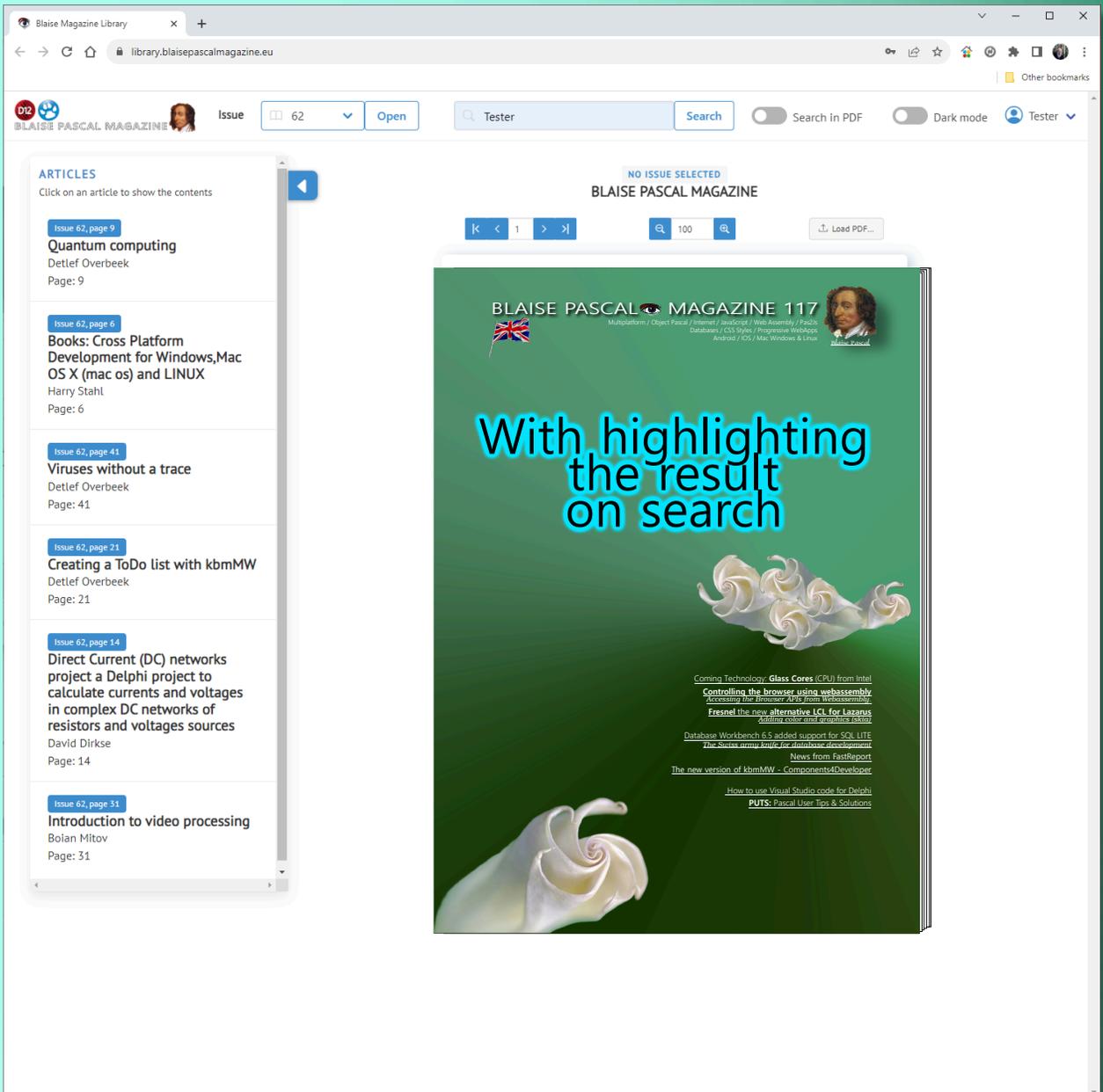
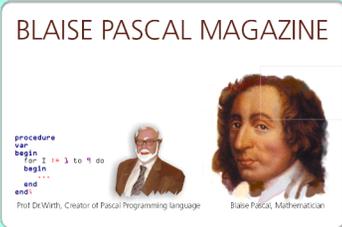
The extent to which the processor business will transition from "monolithic," single-die designs to chiplet designs remains uncertain. There are still benefits in terms of cost and simplicity when one chooses to eschew complex packaging. However, it is evident that the most significant processors, specifically the server and artificial intelligence (AI) processors located in data centres, will evolve into extensive networks of interconnected chiplets.

Glass substrates are useful in providing chip designers with ample space, communication linkages, and power delivery capabilities, allowing for future expansion.



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## EXECUTING PROGRAMS ON THE SERVER IN

By Michael Van Canneyt



ARTICLE PAGE 1 / 18



### ABSTRACT

In this article we show how to give the user of a browser-based program feedback from long-running processes on the server, using 2 components: one in **PAS2JS**, one in Free Pascal/Lazarus.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

When using a web-based program, not everything can be done in the browser.

Often, tasks are executed through some (Post-Request or Pre-Call) mechanism on the webserver. This can be a simple task such as executing an SQL statement on a database and returning a result, or it can be a more complicated and time-consuming task such as making a backup of a database, indexing PDF files, compiling a project and running a test suite, or even installing the server itself. The output of these remote programs should all be presented through the browser.

To keep programs scalable, these tasks should be performed in the time of 1 second for a HTTP request is already a long time, so executing a time-consuming task and waiting for the result of a single HTTP request is not a good idea:

the HTTP server is occupied with this request, the browser may timeout your request.

Much better is to start the process using a long request, and use a mechanism to poll the status of the executed process. In this article we present one such mechanism.

### 2 ARCHITECTURE

The solution we present here consists of 2 components. One component which is used on the server, and which can be used to start a process, capture its output and poll for the status of the process. The other component takes care of the polling process on the client.

These components are ignorant of the communication mechanism between browser and server, this means that they do not implement the actual RPC calls used to start the process: There are many possible mechanisms, and some may be more suitable for your purpose than others.

The components are called **TProcessCapture** for the server part and **TProcessCapturePoller** for the client (**PAS2JS**) part. The server part takes care of executing a program and redirecting the output to a file, the client part implements the polling mechanism and some callbacks to handle the actual server calls and the result. We'll demonstrate both components with a simple set of programs:

- A test program to be executed. It is used for demonstration purposes only.
- A HTTP server program that allows to serve HTML files and that offers an
- RPC mechanism to start the test program and handle status requests. A simple **PAS2JS** program that will run in the browser and which will remotely execute the test program. It will show the output of the test program in the browser.

We'll start with the test program.

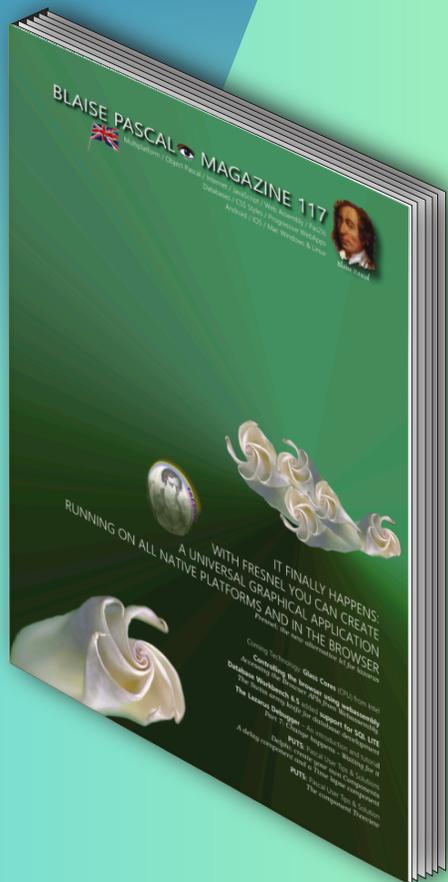
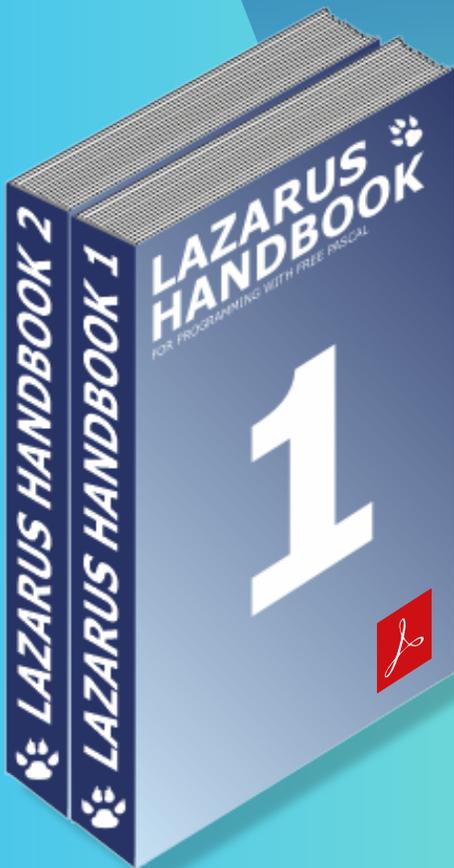
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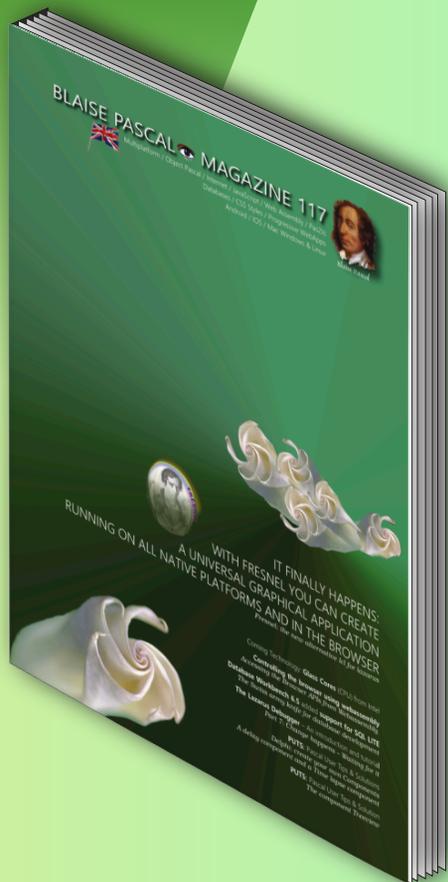
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The summit is organised by GDK Software, in partnership with Embarcadero and Barnsten. It is a two-day event packed with the latest and greatest news and innovations, all about our favourite programming language: Delphi.

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# Delphi Summit 2024

## Agenda

Amsterdam. June 13-14, 2024

### Day 1: Thursday 13th

09:00	<b>Registration</b>		
	<b>Main stage</b>		
10:00	<b>Welcome and opening – Kees de Kraker and Marco Geuze</b>		
10:15	<b>Keynote – Jim McKeeth and Ian Barker</b>		
11:00	Coffee Break & Network		
	<b>Stage Sydney</b>	<b>Stage Alexandria</b>	<b>Stage Rio</b>
11:30	<p><b>Cary Jensen</b> - Selected Advanced FireDAC Technologies</p> <p>FireDAC supports a wide range of powerful and useful operations. This session will discuss and demonstrate four of the more interesting ones, including caching updates, batch move operations, using FireDAC built-in functions, and Local SQL.</p>	<p><b>Fabrizio Bitti</b> - Creating a real-life Blockchain with Delphi</p> <p>Demonstrate how a blockchain works and what it is used for. All with Delphi in a multithread environment to mine the blocks.</p>	<p><b>Steffen Nyeland</b> - I can, therefore IAM</p> <p>Changing your application login process to an IAM (Identity and Access Management) controlled process</p>
12:30	Lunch, Network & Gaming		
13:30	<p><b>Marco Cantu</b> - Building FireMonkey Apps with Style</p> <p>Unlike VCL, styles in FireMonkey don't only determine the graphical elements of a UI control, but also its architecture. In this session, we'll explore how styles work, how to customize controls at runtime, how to build new styled FMXcomponents, and how this all helps building a single-source multi-device UI.</p>	<p><b>Richard Hatherall</b> – Test driven development with WebMocks</p>	<p><b>Serge Pilko</b> – How to replace DataBase components with Rest API calls in Delphi</p> <p>An introduction to REST and creating a cross-platform RESTClient application, using Embarcadero's REST Client library to replace database access components.</p>
14:30	<p><b>Jim McKeeth</b> - Evidence Based Delphi Engineering</p> <p>Why do you write code <i>that way</i>? Chances are it is “the way you’ve always done it.” Learn how to gather the evidence you need to know the <i>right way</i>.</p>	<p><b>Frank Lauter</b> - MVVM - The Delphi Way!</p> <p>A waste of time or a way to keep the source code maintainable? Frank Lauter will present his view on the MVVM pattern and explain which steps are necessary for new and legacy applications.</p>	<p><b>Primož Gabrijelčič</b> - Defensive programming</p> <p>Learn from someone with 35 years of experience how to write code that will be easy to understand now, and in the future. Dive into some of my own ,laughable, terrible code examples with me and get easy-to-reuse advice on how to improve</p>
15:30	Break & Network		
16:00	<p><b>Marco Geuze</b> – Delphi and AI</p> <p>Large language models (LLMs) provide significant help for development. Learn how to use a private LLM in Delphi without giving away your privacy and source code.</p>	<p><b>Bob Swart</b> - REST with WebBroker in Delphi</p>	<p><b>Conrad Vermeulen</b> - From monoliths to microservices</p> <p>In this session, we'll explore the concepts and challenges of monoliths and microservices for web system development. We'll present a new approach using Delphi to create web apps and services that integrate with existing enterprise solutions, enhancing productivity and leveraging team skills. This method supports building decomposable applications at runtime, aligning with modern deployment practices.</p>
17:00	Network & Gaming		
18:00	Day 1 ends		

## Day 2: Friday 14th

09:00	<b>Registration</b>		
	<b>Mainstage</b>		
10:00	<b>Welcome and opening – Kees de Kraker and Marco Geuze</b>		
10:15	<b>Panel discussion with Jim McKeeth, Marco Cantu, Ian Barker and MVPs</b>		
11:00	Coffee Break & Network		
	<b>Stage Sydney</b>	<b>Stage Alexandria</b>	<b>Stage Rio</b>
11:30	<p><b>Ray Konopka</b> - Component Building: Fundamentals This session focuses on the fundamental techniques required for building robust Delphi components. We build a custom component, showing the key classes from which all components descend, followed by an analysis of the anatomy of a component. We conclude with a discussion on the proper way to distribute custom components through runtime and design packages.</p>	<p><b>Patrick Quist</b> – Linux Delphi Services</p> <p>A journey through the Cloud(s)</p>	<p><b>Stefan Glienke</b> – Spring4D</p> <p>Some goodies from the Spring4D collections.</p>
12:30	Lunch, Network & Gaming		
13:30	<p><b>Olaf Monien</b> - REST Easy</p> <p>Connecting to REST APIs and visualizing data on desktop and mobile devices.</p>	<p><b>Christoph Schneider</b> – Firestone Cloud</p> <p>For the Firestore Cloud database, the FB4D open-source library contains everything you need to access it from VCL/FMX applications. In this session, the author will show you how easy it is to write and read a document and to be notified of changes in the database with the new object-to-document wrapper.</p>	<p><b>Patrick Prémartin</b> – Synchronize your databases</p> <p>Our users want to access their data from anywhere, on any type of device, with or without an Internet connection. Some also want to work together offline or online, remotely or on-site, on desktops, laptops, smartphones or tablets. Here's an easy-to-implement solution in Delphi to transform any local database into a synchronized one</p>
14:30	<p><b>Carlos Agnes</b> - The Best of Delphi Underground</p> <p>A set of small Delphi secrets and how they work under the hood. IDE and debugging tips, historical issues like why the base date for TDateTime is 12/30/1899, Exceptions stacks, interface tricks, and the dictionary of secrets.</p>	<p><b>Andrea Raimondi</b> - Algorithmic password hardening</p> <p>From the forgotten lessons of Enigma to generating salts and scrambling passwords, Andrea will guide you through the best ways to keep everything safe.</p>	<p><b>Bruno Fierens</b> – Build a full-stack application within an hour</p> <p>In this session, you'll discover how to leverage a new and innovative approach to build web client applications using TMS WEB Core as well as native Delphi applications on desktop or mobile platforms that work with backend data.</p>
15:30	Break & Network		
15:45	<p><b>Barnsten</b> - License Management, support and subscription Barnsten will inform you about the different Embarcadero licence types that are available. The subscription is also discussed. What is covered by the contract and how can Barnsten help you with your licensing questions. Such as: licence transfer to another user, what about previous versions, how to log a feature request., bug or support case etc. And there will be room for questions after the presentation.</p>	<p><b>NexusDB</b> - Implementing NP-C and NP-Hard Algorithms In this session, we'll delve into the complexities of designing algorithms for NP-Complete and NP-Hard problems. Using the Eternity II puzzle and commercial scheduling software as case studies, we'll discuss why these problems remain unsolved, explore practical algorithmic solutions, and highlight the role of modern hardware and Delphi as the IDE. Gain insights into the impact and practical handling of these problems in real-world</p>	

16:15 **Ian Barker** - What to do if you're old, ugly, and everything is annoying

Join Ian for this session where he applies his uniquely lively style of presentation to the subject of software development in an age where everyone wants your apps to be free, have a name like ZZxQFImbl, and be 'monetized' by a YouTube influencer with green hair, a pierced fingernail, and their own brand of hair removal creme.

16:45 **Door prize giveaway**

17:00 **Closing talk with Jim McKeeth, Kees de Kraker and Marco Geuze**

17:15 Network & Gaming

18:00 Conference ends

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### FOLLOW THE DATA, RATHER THAN THE CODE

So far all our debugging methods had one thing in common. We would pause the app and single step or run to the next breakpoint. And on each pause we would check if our data matched our expectations. The more code our application has, the more stepping we may have to do. In some cases, it can even be hard to tell where to pause for the single stepping.

Now we will have a look, how the debugger can help us finding the right spot. Of course in the scope of this article we can't have a sample project so big that we actually couldn't solve it by stepping. We'll just have to pretend, and also the feature in question works well with any size of app.

```
1. program project1;
2. {$SMODE objfpc}{$SH+}
3.
4. uses SysUtils;
5.
6. function ChangeQuotes(const ASource: String; var ADest: String): Boolean;
7. var
8.   Len: SizeInt;
9.   Src, Dst: PChar;
10. begin
11.   Result := False;
12.   Len := Length(ASource);
13.   SetLength(ADest, Len);
14.   Src := PChar(ASource);
15.   Dst := PChar(ADest);
16.   while Len > 0 do begin
17.     Dst^ := Src^;
18.     if Dst^ = '"' then begin
19.       Src^ := "'";
20.       Result := True;
21.     end;
22.     inc(Src);
23.     inc(Dst);
24.     dec(Len);
25.   end;
26. end;
27.
28.
29. var
30.   s1, s2: String;
31. begin
32.   s1 := 'This '+IntToStr(Random(99))+' is a random number';
33.   writeln('Initial value: ', s1);
34.   if ChangeQuotes(s1,s2) then begin
35.     writeln('With double quotes: ', s1);
36.     writeln('With single quotes: ', s2);
37.   end
38.   else
39.     WriteLn('Nothing changed');
40. end.
```

The code is simple enough. We have a text containing double quotes, the function replaces them with single quotes, and returns true. The 2 versions of the text will be printed.

And as in previous articles the output does not match what we expect:

Initial value: This "54" is a random number

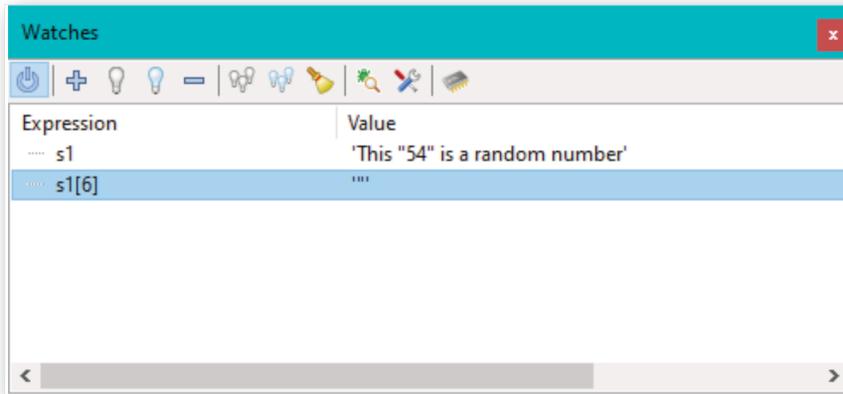
With double quotes: This '54' is a random number

With single quotes: This "54" is a random number

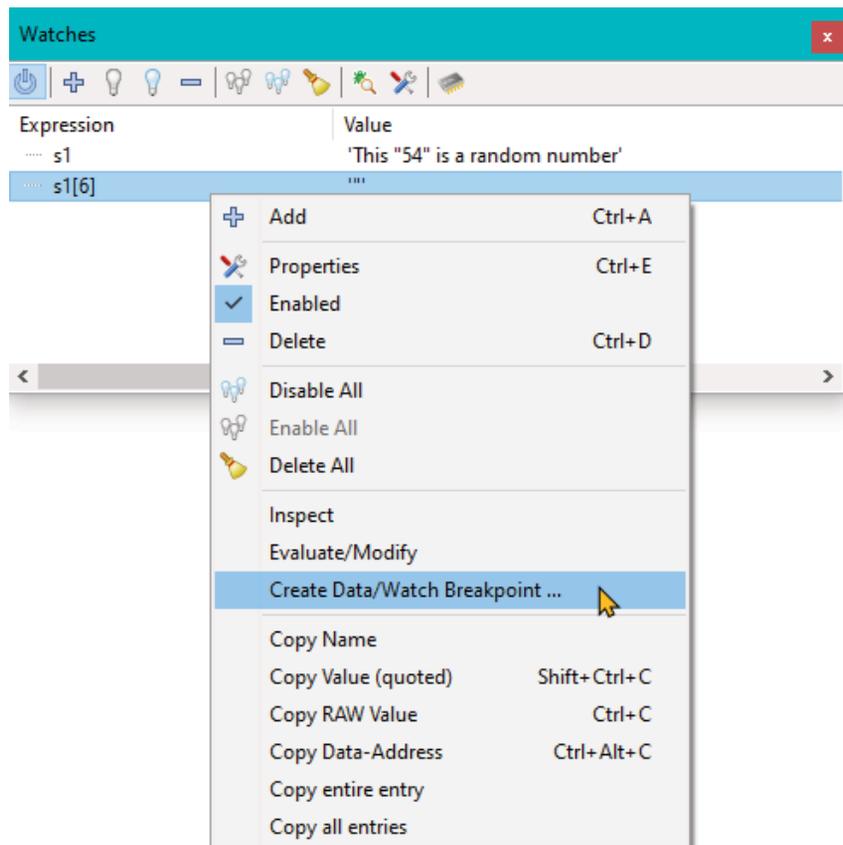




Of the 2 last lines, each line has the quotes that should be in the other line. Well, we need to start the app, and so we need to run to a breakpoint. Let's make that on line 33. We know from the writeln that the value of s1 is ok on that line.



As you can see, I also added `s1[6]` to the list of watches. This is one of the double quotes in the initial string. That double quote is not supposed to change, yet from the 2nd line of output we already know it does get changed. From here we will ask the debugger to do the work, and find the code that makes this change. The command that does this can be found in the **context menu** on the **watch "s1[6]"**.



**"Create Data/Watch Breakpoint"** will open a new dialog. That dialog is also available from the **"Run"** menu **"Add Breakpoint"** → **"Data/Watch Breakpoint"** and from the breakpoint dialogs **"Add"** button's dropdown.





**Breakpoint Properties** [X]

Watch:

Watch action:  Write  Read  Read/Write

Watch scope:  Global  Declaration

Enabled

Condition:

Hitcount:

Auto continue after:  (ms)

Group:

Actions:

Break

Enable Groups

Disable Groups

Eval expression

Log Message

Log Call Stack  (frames limit. 0 - no limits)

Take a Snapshot

Help OK Cancel

In this case all the options have been pre-filled, and we can keep them as they are. We want the debugger to keep track of changes (“write” action) to the value “s1[6]”. And when the value changes the debugger should pause the app and tell us which line it happened. We will go through the other details, once we have seen the feature in action. Pressing “OK” will create a “Watchpoint” or “Data-breakpoint”. Watchpoints are listed with other breakpoints in the breakpoint window.

**BreakPoints** [X]

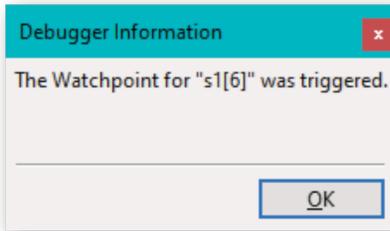
+ - [Icons]

State	Filename/Address	Line/Length	Condition	Action	Pass Cou...	Group
?(On)	s1[6]	Global / Write		Break	0	





All that remains for us to do is to run (F9) the application. And as we do, the debugger will right away inform us:



The debugger will show us the project paused on line 20

```
Result := True;
```

We have to keep in mind, that in order to know the statement that changed the value, the debugger must have executed it already. So it will show us the next statement below the one that made the change.

The offending statement therefore is at line 19

```
Src^ := '';
```

And indeed that clearly is a mistake. We shouldn't assign a value to the source.

Instead of

```
if Dst^ = '' then begin  
  Src^ := '';
```

it should be

```
if Src^ = '' then begin  
  Dst^ := '';
```

As promised the debugger has found the offending line for us. We can fix the bug, and our project correctly outputs:

Initial value: This "54" is a random number

With double quotes: This "54" is a random number

With single quotes: This '54' is a random number

## FINE TUNING – THE SETTINGS

For the above debug session we have just filled in the watched expression and left all settings at their defaults. Most of the settings, are the same as for breakpoints and those have been described in the last article.

However we do have "Watch action" with the options "Read", "Write" and "Read/Write". "Write" is by far the most common action. It tells the debugger to react only if the application writes data to the memory of the variable. That is any data written, even if the new data is identical to the existing data, which means the value does not change.

"Read" on the other hand tells us when the application reads the memory. That may be useful if we have a variable that the app is not supposed to use, but maybe does access via a pointer.

Then the app may not write, but just use the value. And "Read" will catch that. In most cases like this it would be better to use the "Read/Write" option. Since if the app shouldn't access the value, then it should do neither **read**, nor **write**.

The other option that we need to look at is "Watch Scope". This is currently not supported by all debuggers. The GDB backend does support this, but the FpDebug backend does not.

This can be of use, if a **watchpoint** is set on a local variable. Once the procedure owning the variable returns, the memory is no longer reserved for the variable, and another procedure will eventually put a different variable there. Since **watchpoints** work on the memory where the variable is/was, they will then be triggered by changes or access to the new variable using the same memory. Setting "Scope" to "Local" means the GDB based debugger will notice when the procedure is exited, tell you about it and clear the **watchpoint**.





### FINE-PRINT – ABOUT “THE DATA”

So here we go, there are a few caveats. To start with, what **watchpoints** can and can't do is actually determined by your hardware. The following applies to what you get, if you have a modern Intel or AMD CPU. With **FpDebug** you are currently limited to those anyway, with **GDB** you can debug code for **other target CPUs**, but then may get different availability of **watchpoints**. There are a maximum of 4 **watchpoints** available, and each of them can cover up to a pointer-size area of memory. Actually, that is 1, 2 or 4 bytes on 32bit machines, and 1, 2, 4 or 8 on 64bit machines.

For that reason in the above example we could not have watched the entire text of the string. Its length exceeded the 8 bytes by far. Instead we picked a single character. However, there is a 2nd caveat hidden here. It is possible to add a string (**Ansistring**) as **watchpoint**.

**Ansistrings** internally have a pointer to the text. And a **watchpoint** would then act on that pointer. Predicting what a **watchpoint** would react to in this case, requires some knowledge of the internal workings of **Ansistrings**.

Similar traps lay ahead with objects. Here too, variables contain a pointer to the instance. And so the same rules apply. However, in some cases this may be useful, namely if we want to know when a variable is changed to point to a different instance: **"MyVar := SomeOtherObj;"**. This assignment changes the pointer in **"MyVar"**.

Watchpoints can be used for **ordinal** types such as **numbers**, **booleans**, **enums**. And they can be used for small sets too. And while it is often not possible to monitor an entire object or **record**, **individual fields can be monitored, just like individual chars in a string can be**.

### FINE LINE – WHERE EXACTLY DOES THE APP PAUSE

One small note to end the article. **Watchpoints** aren't always exact. Well they are in terms of **assembler**. They will always stop at the **asm** instruction right after the one that makes the change. That is to say, when they stop, the **change has just been made**.

In the **Pascal** source that does not always mean the next line of **Pascal** code. The change could happen in the middle of the **asm** instructions belonging to a line of **Pascal** code, and then the debugger shows you the line that makes the change. If however it happens at the very end of the **asm** belonging to that line, then the debugger will show you the next line of **Pascal** code. So you may have to look one line further up.

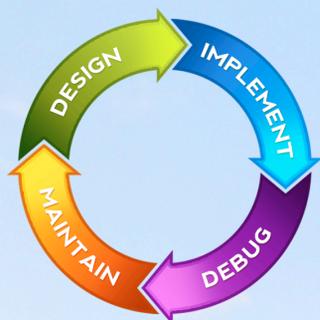
**Watchpoints** are only valid during the debug session in which they were created. **When you start the debugger the next time, addresses may have changed**, and the debugger will not activate any existing **watchpoints**. You will need to delete them and create them again.



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## ABSTRACT

**WebAssembly** modules have no access to the world outside the webassembly virtual machine, except through the **APIs** that are made available from the host environment. The Browser has lots of **APIs**, and in this article we show how to make use of all possible Browser **APIs** in **WebAssembly**. Moreover we will show that you can use these **APIs** as if you were programming Javascript directly.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The **WebAssembly** support of **FreePascal** has been introduced in some previous articles: **FreePascal** can compile your pascal code to **WebAssembly**, and the resulting webassembly file can be run in any hosting environment.

The most used hosting environment is still the browser. Still, many efforts are underway to make **webassembly** usable in dedicated containers: this offers the possibility to create safe sandboxed environments for your programs.

Your programs will be safe and **sandboxed**, because a **webassembly** can only communicate with the world outside the **webassembly** through the APIs that are made available by the hosting environment.

The **webassembly** standard does not specify what **APIs** a hosting environment needs to expose, it only describes how these **APIs** can be exposed.

In order for a **FreePascal** program to run, it requires the host environment to expose the **WASI API** to the webassembly. This **API** is managed separately by the **WebAssembly** committee, and offers some limited services: file access, getting the time and so on.

It provides just the calls that allow the **FPC** team to implement the **SysUtils** unit, which provides these basic services to your pascal program.

Inversely, a **webassembly** module can export some functions, which can be called from the hosting environment.

This situation is shown for the browser in *figure 1 on page 2 of this article*: the **Javascript** in a web page can load a **webassembly** module. The webassembly module imports some routines made available by the **Javascript** (the blue arrow), and exports some functions which can be called from Javascript (the green arrow).

In the browser, calling a **webassembly** function suspends the javascript execution flow: the Javascript waits for the called **webassembly** function to finish, before it resumes execution. It also means no event handlers will be executed while the **Webassembly** is executing.

Running a complete program in **WebAssembly** simply means calling the main function of the application, which must of course be exported from the **webassembly**; In pascal this means the program begin..end block will be executed.

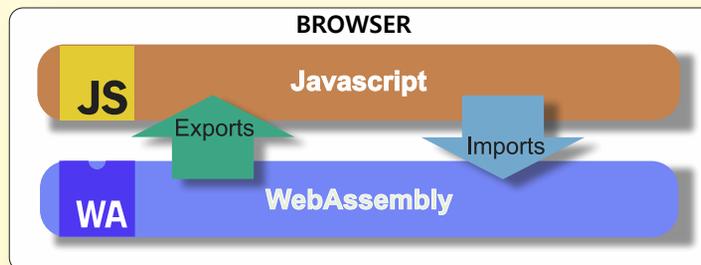


Figure 1: Import and export of functions from and to a webassembly module





## 2 THE JOB FRAMEWORK

The browser has hundreds of **APIs** available in **Javascript**, these **APIs** are standardized and described in the form of interfaces. For a **webassembly** program running in the browser, it would be interesting to have access to the full browser **API**: This would allow the **Webassembly** program to do everything that can be done in **Javascript**, with the additional advantages that no-one can read the code, and that for computationally intensive tasks, the **webassembly** executes faster than **Javascript**.

**Free Pascal** now offers a way to access the **APIs** of the browser: The **Javascript Object Bridge** or **JOB** for short. This development was sponsored by Tixeo, a company interested in porting their software to the browser. The **JOB** mechanism (or **API**) offers a way to create a proxy interface or class in **WebAssembly**, for any **Javascript API**. This means that for every class available in **Javascript**, you can create a class in **WebAssembly** that will have the same declaration as its counterpart in **Javascript**.

Whenever you create an instance of a proxy class in **WebAssembly**, this will automatically create its counterpart in **Javascript**. When you call a method or set a property on the proxy class, this will call the method or set the property on the **Javascript** counterpart of the proxy class. All this is transparent for the webassembly programmer: to the **webassembly**, it is as if he is creating and using browser **Javascript** classes in **WebAssembly**. Schematically, this looks like *figure 2 on page 3 of this article*. **JOB** does the following things to make this possible:

- You can create a Javascript object, and get a reference to this new object.
- You can get a reference to an existing Javascript object.
- Using this reference, you can call the methods of the object or set its properties as if you were manipulating a native **Pascal** object. To illustrate this, in Javascript you can set the caption of a button as follows:

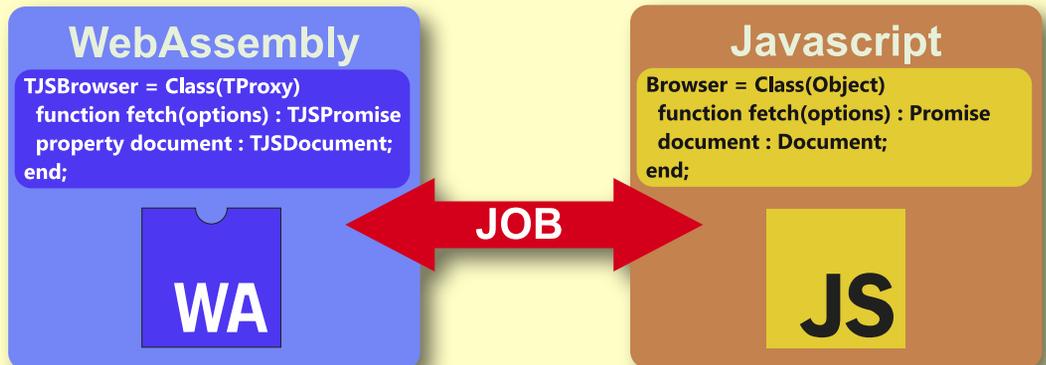


Figure 2: Webassembly proxy classes for Javascript classes

```
document.getElementById("mybutton").innerText="Press me";
```

when using **JOB**, in your **webassembly** Pascal program you can write

```
document.getElementById('mybutton').innerText:= 'Press me';
```

Which is of course a **one-to-one** translation of the **Javascript** code. To understand what happens, let us analyse this code. First of all, the 'document' variable is used. The document is exposed in the browser. using **JOB**, we can define an interface and instantiate a variable:

```

Type
// The API we want to use.
IJSDocument = interface(IJSNode)
  function getElementById(const aElementId: UnicodeString): IJSElement;
end;

// A class that implements this API.
TJSDocument = class(TJSNode)
  function getElementById(const aElementId: UnicodeString): IJSElement;
end;

var
  JSDocument : IJSDocument;
initialization
  JSDocument:=TJSDocument.JOBCreateGlobal('document');
end.

```





The `JOBCreateGlobal` call will retrieve a reference to the document instance in **Javascript**, and uses it to create an instance of the `TJSDocument` proxy for the `Document` class. The `getElementById` method is implemented as follows:

```
function TJSDocument.getElementById(const aElementId: UnicodeString): IJSElement;
begin
    Result := InvokeJSObjectResult('getElementById',
                                   [aElementId],
                                   TJSElement) as IJSElement;
end;
```

The `InvokeJSObjectResult` method call is part of the **JOB API**, and it executes a method in **Javascript**: the name of the method to call must be specified, as well as any arguments that the method needs.

Since the result will be an object, the **Javascript** side of **JOB** will return simply a reference to the resulting object in **Javascript** (*internally, this is an integer*). To convert this reference to an actual class instance, the class of the object is specified (`TJSElement`):

An instance of this class will be created, passing it the reference returned by the **Javascript** side of **JOB**.

When the `getElementById` call returns, the result is a **IJSElement** interface.

On this result, the `innerHTML` property can be set. This is also handled by **JOB**:

All properties of a **Javascript** object can be represented by **JOB** as native pascal properties:

```
Type
IJSElement = interface(IJSNode)
    function _GetinnerHTML: UnicodeString;
    procedure _SetinnerHTML(const aValue: UnicodeString);
    property innerHTML: UnicodeString read _GetinnerHTML write _SetinnerHTML;
end;

TJSElement = class(TJSNode)
    function _GetinnerHTML: UnicodeString;
    procedure _SetinnerHTML(const aValue: UnicodeString);
    property innerHTML: UnicodeString read _GetinnerHTML write _SetinnerHTML;
end;
```

The implementation of the **Read/Write** accessors is quite simple:

```
function TJSElement._GetinnerHTML: UnicodeString;
begin
    Result := ReadJSPropertyUnicodeString('innerHTML');
end;

procedure TJSElement._SetinnerHTML(const aValue : UnicodeString);
begin
    WriteJSPropertyUnicodeString('innerHTML', aValue);
end;
```

The use of interfaces make sure that when an (*intermediate*) object is no longer needed, the object also released on the **Javascript** side. To make all this possible, on the **Javascript** side, the **JOB API** consists of (*currently*) 11 API methods. When these 11 methods are implemented, the **webassembly** can use proxy classes to execute any method on any object in the browser.

A default **Javascript** implementation for **JOB** has been developed using **PAS2JS** (*naturally*), but one could write this **API** in plain **Javascript** as well. The **JOB** technology is implemented in 2 units:

- Job.js** for the **webassembly** program: it implements the various **JOB** calls that handle encoding a call to the **Javascript** side of things, sends the call description to the **Javascript** environment and when the call returns, it retrieves the result and converts it, if needed, to an object instance.
- Job Browser** for the **PAS2** program. This implements the decoding of a call, executes the call on the **Javascript** object, and when the call returns, it encodes the result and sends it back to the **WebAssembly**.

There is a third (*shared*) unit which contains some common constants and types that make up the **JOB API**.





### ③ WEBIDL2PAS REVISITED

In the above code examples, we showed how to access arbitrary methods and properties of some Javascript objects. The examples made use of an interface and a class that implements this interface. It makes clear that for every method you wish to call and for every property you wish to get or set, a small piece of 'glue' code needs to be created: a proxy object for every **Javascript** object. If all classes and **APIs** of the browser must be encoded like this, this is a lot of work. You could call the **JOB** methods directly, in that case no classes and no glue code needs to be produced. The disadvantage of that approach is that there is no type safety, and no code completion if you want to code in the **IDE**. You also will need to manage the lifetime of the objects explicitly.

Luckily, there is no need to code all these proxy classes. This task can be automated. All browser **APIs** are standardized by the **W3C** committees using a **IDL (Interface Definition Language)** called **WebIDL**. All browser creators use these **IDL** files to implement their **Javascript APIs**. The **Mozilla** foundation maintains these files, they are available at:

<https://hg.mozilla.org/mozilla-central/file/tip/dom/webidl>

or on:

<https://github.com/mozilla/gecko-dev.git>

There are some really minor differences between these archives, most likely due to the time it takes to synchronize. As you can see in these archives, there are more than 700 files, representing all the **APIs** made available by the browser.

In a previous article on **Pas2js**, the **webidl2pas** tool that comes with **Free Pascal** and **PAS2JS** was discussed. This tool can transform a **.webidl** file to a **Pascal** external class definition that can be used by **Pas2JS**. The tool has been adapted so it can now also create the proxy classes to access all the browser **APIs** from **webassembly**.

By downloading and concatenating all **.webidl** files from the above sources and applying some small patches (*the files are not perfect, and one or two constructs are not possible in Pascal*), a pascal unit can be produced that describes all these **APIs**.

Such a file has been committed to the **FPC** git repository: **job web** (*the file is located in packages/wasm-job/examples*). The file is huge. The interface section is about 80.000 lines long and contains roughly 1600 interface declarations, and a similar amount of classes.

This represents all the available browser **APIs**:

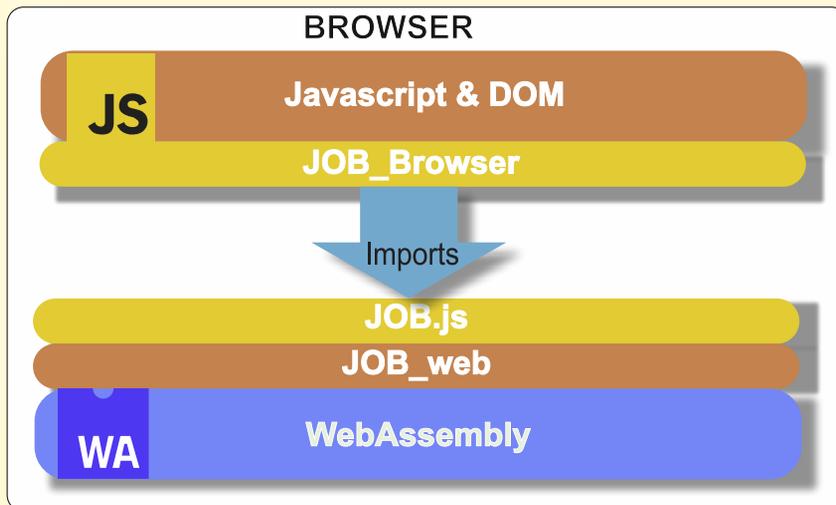


Figure 3: The various layers used in webassembly to use the browser APIs





by using this file in your webassembly program, you have direct access to all possible browser APIs. Diagrammatic, the architecture of a web application wishing to use the Javascript and DOM APIs using JOB looks like figure 3 on page 6.

#### ④ A JAVASCRIPT CAMERA APPLICATION

To make all this a little more understandable, we'll create an example: a web page where we have a video element, connected to the camera, and a canvas where we can create a picture (*a still*) of what the camera is showing. Basically, a camera application as you would have it on your smartphone.

We will make this application first in **Javascript**, then in **PAS2JS** and lastly we'll make it using a **webassembly program**. We'll show how the code is similar at each stage.

The HTML for this webpage will be the same in all 3 cases.

The actual program will be in the **camera.js javascript** file:

```
<!doctype html>
<head>
  <meta http-equiv="Content-type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
  <title>Video capture still - Javascript</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/bulma.min.css">
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/camera.css">
  <script src="camera.js" type="application/javascript"></script>
</head>
<body>
  <div class="container">
    <h1 class="title is-1">Capture still from video</h1>
    <div class="columns">
      <div class="camera column">
        <video id="video">Video stream not available.</video>
      </div>
      <div class=" column">
        <canvas id="canvas" ></canvas>
      </div>
    </div>
    <div class="box columns is-centered">
      <div class="column is-3">
        <button id="start" class="button is-info"></button>
        <button id="still" class="button is-link"></button>
      </div>
    </div>
  </div>
</body>
</html>
```

As usual we use some **Bulma CSS** classes to format the page.

There are 4 elements which are important, so they have an id attribute:

- video** a video element, which will show the camera feed.
- canvas** a canvas element, which will show the still.
- start** a button to start the camera feed. When pressed, this will ask for permission to use the camera. Note that this button does not show a caption, it will be set in code.
- stil** a button to create a still (*photo*) from the camera feed. Similarly, the caption for the button will be set in code.

The id attribute is used to get a reference to the elements when the page is loaded, in the **camera.js javascript** program:





JAVASCRIPT CODE



```
var video = null;
var canvas = null;
var context = null;
var photo = null;
var startbutton = null;
var stillbutton = null;

function startup() {
  video = document.getElementById('video');
  canvas = document.getElementById('canvas');
  context = canvas.getContext('2d');

  startbutton = document.getElementById('start');
  startbutton.innerText = 'Start video';
  startbutton.addEventListener('click', start video);

  stillbutton = document.getElementById('still');
  stillbutton.innerText = 'Create still';
  stillbutton.addEventListener('click', createstill);
}

window.addEventListener('load', startup);
```

**NOTE** how a reference to each of the 4 elements is stored in a variable. We also store context for the canvas, this context is used later to draw on the canvas. The startvideo event handler is called when the user clicks the 'start' button:

JAVASCRIPT CODE



```
function startvideo(ev) {
  navigator.mediaDevices.getUserMedia({
    video: true,
    audio: false
  })
  .then(function(stream) {
    video.srcObject = stream;
    video.play();
  })
  .catch(function(err) {
    console.log("An error occurred: " + err);
  });
}
```

The getUserMedia call will ask for permission to use the camera. This function returns a promise, and when the promise resolves, the stream is coupled to the video element. Lastly, the 'click' handler for the 'still' button draws the current video frame on the canvas:

JAVASCRIPT CODE



```
function createstill(ev) {
  canvas.width = video.clientWidth;
  canvas.height = video.clientHeight;
  context.drawImage(video, 0, 0, video.clientWidth, video.clientHeight);
}
```

And that's all there is to creating a camera program using the browser. You can load this page from a webserver using the browser, or you can open it by double clicking the file in the file explorer: your default browser will open and show the application. In both cases, the program will function.





### 5 THE CAMERA APPLICATION IN PAS2JS

In a first step, we will code the camera application in **PAS2JS**.

This will allow us to transform the **Javascript** to **PASCAL**, without concerning ourselves with the details of using **WEBASSEMBLY**.

The first thing to do is to add the mandatory **script** tag for running a **PAS2JS** application to the HTML:

```
<script>
  window.addEventListener('load', rtl.run);
</script>
```

Then we translate our program piece by piece. We will put all code in a class, it will become apparent in the next example why this is necessary.

Pascal Code



```
TCameraApp = class
  video      : TJSHTMLVideoElement;
  canvas     : TJSHTMLCanvasElement;
  context    : TJSCanvasRenderingContext2D;
  startbutton : TJSHTMLElement;
  stillbutton : TJSHTMLElement;
  function StartStream      (JS : JSValue) : JSValue;
  function DoError         (JS : JSValue) : JSValue;
  Procedure StartVideo     (Event : TJSEvent);
  Procedure CreateStill    (Event : TJSEvent);
  procedure Run;
end;
```

This class declares the same variables and functions as our Javascript code.

The main difference is of course that **Pascal** is a strongly typed language, and we must specify the types of all variables, method arguments and function results.

The main program simply creates an instance of this class and calls the **Run** method:

Pascal Code

```
With TCameraApp.Create do
  Run;
```

The run method looks suspiciously familiar:

Pascal Code



```
Procedure TCameraApp.Run;
begin
  video := TJSHTMLVideoElement(document.getElementById('video'));
  canvas := TJSHTMLCanvasElement(document.getElementById('canvas'));
  context := TJSCanvasRenderingContext2D(canvas.getContext('2d'));

  startbutton := TJSHTMLElement(document.getElementById('start'));
  startbutton.innerText := 'Start video';
  startbutton.addEventListener('click', @startvideo);

  stillbutton := TJSHTMLElement(document.getElementById('still'));
  stillbutton.innerText := 'Create still';
  stillbutton.addEventListener('click', @createstill);
end;
```

As you can see, this method is an almost copy-and-paste of the main javascript method. The biggest difference is the typecasts, which are of course needed to keep the **Pascal** compiler happy.



The **StartVideo** callback is slightly different. **PAS2JS'** Web unit contains a typed definition of the constraints argument to the `getUserMedia` call.

Using an instance of this class allows us to make sure that the correct elements are specified.

We also don't use anonymous methods (*although this would be possible*),

but use named functions to handle the various possible outcomes of the promise:





Pascal Code



```

Procedure TCameraApp.StartVideo(Event: TJSEvent);
var
    constraints : TJSMediaConstraints;
begin
    constraints:=TJSMediaConstraints.new;
    constraints.video:=True;
    constraints.audio:=False;
    Window.navigator.mediaDevices.getUserMedia(constraints)
        ._then(@StartStream)
        .catch(@DoError)
end;
    
```

The StartStream method is executed when the promise resolves correctly. The promise resolved result (**JS**) must be typecast to the correct class before we can assign it to the srcObject property of the video element:

```

Function TCameraApp.StartStream(JS : JSValue) : JSValue;
begin
    Result:=Undefined;
    video.srcObject:=TJSHTMLMediaStream(JS);
    video.play();
end;
    
```

Other than that, the code is identical to the Javascript implementation. The same is true for the DoError method:

```

Function TCameraApp.DoError(JS : JSValue) : JSValue;
begin
    Result:=Undefined;
    console.log('An error occurred: ' + String(JS));
end;
    
```

Lastly, the 'click' event handler of the still button is again almost a copy and paste of the corresponding Javascript code.

```

Procedure TCameraApp.CreateStill(Event: TJSEvent);
begin
    canvas.width:=video.clientWidth;
    canvas.height:=video.clientHeight;
    context.drawImage(video, 0, 0, video.clientWidth, video.clientHeight);
end;
    
```

And with this the demo application is translated to **pascal**.

The workings of this application are no different from the pure **Javascript** version, and the **Pascal** code is - disregarding its **Pascal** nature - the same as the Javascript code.

## 6 THE CAMERA APPLICATION IN WEBASSEMBLY

Lastly, we come to the part that is the focus of this article: the webassembly program. To make this application using **webassembly**, we need to create actually 2 applications: the **webassembly loader program**, and the **webassembly program** itself.

The former is a small boilerplate application, created with **PAS2JS**. It is a generic program that **can be used to load any webassembly program that uses JOB to communicate with the browser APIs**.

The webassembly program is actually a library:

in the initialization, the necessary callbacks are set up and then it needs to return control to the browser in order for the **Javascript** event loop to be run. The program logic is implemented in **TMyApplication**. This class is a descendant of **TBrowserWASIHosApplication**. The **TBrowserWASIHosApplication** class, in turn, is a **TCustomApplication** descendant which allows you to start a WebAssembly module written in Free Pascal: it has been introduced in an earlier article on FPC Webassembly support. The class needs very little methods: a constructor, the DoRun method, and an OnBeforeStart method. **Note** the **JOB Browser** unit in the uses clause: this unit contains the **TJSObjectBridge** class, which is the implementation of the JOB mechanism:





Pascal Code



```
Program camera;
{$mode objfpc}

uses
  JS, Classes, SysUtils, Web, WasiEnv, WasiHostApp, JOB_Browser, JOB_Shared;
```

Type

```
TMyApplication = class(TBrowserWASISHostApplication)
Private
  FJOB: TJSObjectBridge;
  function OnBeforeStart(Sender: TObject;
    aDescriptor: TWebAssemblyStartDescriptor): Boolean;
Public
  constructor Create(aOwner : TComponent); override;
  procedure DoRun; override;
end;
```

The TJSObjectBridge is the class that registers the needed **JOB** functions in the webassembly. Under normal circumstances, only 1 property of this class needs to be set in order for it to do its work: the `WasiExports` property.

Other than that it performs its work completely in the background.

So, we create an instance of TJSObjectBridge, pass it the WasiEnvironment so it can register itself with the **Webassembly** modules that are loaded later on, and store a reference to it in **FJOB**:

```
Constructor TMyApplication.Create(aOwner: TComponent);
begin
  inherited Create(aOwner);
  FJOB:=TJSObjectBridge.Create(WasiEnvironment);
  RunEntryFunction:='_initialize';
end;
```

The last line in this function sets `RunEntryFunction` to `_initialize`.

This must be done because our **webassembly** module is a library:

The default run entry point (*used for programs*) is `_start`.

For a library, only the initialization of the library must be performed,

and the exported function that handles this initialization is called `_initialize`.

In the `DoRun` method, we simply call `StartWebAssembly`, passing it the name of the created **webassembly** function

```
Procedure TMyApplication.DoRun;

var
  wasm : String;

begin
  Terminate;
  // Allow to load file specified in hash: index.html#mywasmfile.wasm
  Wasm:=ParamStr(1);
  if Wasm="" then
    Wasm:='wasmcamera.wasm';
  StartWebAssembly(Wasm,true,@OnBeforeStart);
end;
```

The `ParamStr(1)` retrieves the first name after the hash sign in the URL.

If set, then it is interpreted as the name of the webassembly file to load. If not set, we use `'wasmcamera.wasm'` as the name.

The `StartWebAssembly` function will load the requested webassembly and executes the run entry function. (*in our case, \_initialize*). The last parameter is an event which is executed right before calling the run entry function:

this allows the caller to do extra initialization after the webassembly module was loaded, but **before** the `start` function is called.

The event handler sets the `WasiExports` property of the TJSObjectBridge instance to the list of exported functions from the webassembly:





Pascal Code



```
Function TMyApplication.OnBeforeStart(Sender: TObject;
    aDescriptor: TWebAssemblyStartDescriptor): Boolean;
begin
    FJOB.WasiExports:=aDescriptor.Exported;
    Result:=true;
end;
```

The JOB framework needs a single exported function which it uses to call callback functions (event handlers) in webassembly. It searches this function in the list in WasiExports. All that is left to do is to create and initialize an instance of our application class and call the Run method, the usual code needed when using the application class:

```
var
    Application : TMyApplication;
begin
    Application:=TMyApplication.Create(nil);
    Application.Initialize;
    Application.Run;
end.
```

With this, the loader for our **webassembly module** is finished. **NOTE** that there is no code specific to our camera application: this is completely generic code that can be used to load any **webassembly** module which needs the **JOB** framework. So now we turn to the code for our **webassembly** module, which is implemented as a library. It starts out in the usual way:

```
library wasmcamera;
{$mode objfpc}
{$H+}
{$codepage UTF8}
```

```
uses SysUtils, Variants, Job.Js, JOB_Web;
```

Note that it uses the **Job.Js** unit with the implementation of the webassembly side of the **JOB** mechanism, and the **JOB WEB** unit, which was generated by the webidl2pas tool. Then it defines the TCameraApp class:

```
type
    TCameraApp = class
        Video: IJSHTMLVideoElement;
        Canvas: IJSHTMLCanvasElement;
        StartButton: IJSHTMLButtonElement;
        StillButton: IJSHTMLButtonElement;
        Context: IJSCanvasRenderingContext2D;
        function StartStream(const Res : Variant) : Variant;
        function DoError(const Res : Variant) : Variant;
        procedure StartVideo(Event: IJSEvent);
        procedure CreateStill(Event: IJSEvent);
        procedure Run;
    end;
```

As you can see, this class is virtually identical to the class for the **PAS2JS** program. The only thing that changes are some types: Instead of classes (*using prefix TJS*) we use interfaces (*using prefix IJS*). The **PAS2JS JSValue** is replaced with **Variant**:

both correspond to the any type in the **IDL** descriptions of the **APIs**. The **Run** method, which actually will initialize our application, is almost a copy of the pas2js code:

```
Procedure TCameraApp.Run;
begin
    Video:=TJSHTMLVideoElement.Cast(JSDocument.getElementById('video'));
    Canvas:=TJSHTMLCanvasElement.Cast(JSDocument.getElementById('canvas'));
    Context:=TJSCanvasRenderingContext2D.Cast(Canvas.getContext('2d'));

    StartButton:=TJSHTMLButtonElement.Cast(JSDocument.getElementById('start'));
    StartButton.InnerHTML:='Start video';
    StartButton.addEventListener('click', @StartVideo);

    StillButton:=TJSHTMLButtonElement.Cast(JSDocument.getElementById('still'));
    StillButton.InnerHTML:='Create still';
    StillButton.addEventListener('click', @CreateStill);
end;
```





**NOTE** the calls to the **Cast** class method in order to do a typecast from one interface type (*in this case* `IJSElement`) to another interface type. This is needed in order to be able to do some reference count housekeeping. A regular typecast would result in wrong reference counts and could lead to objects being destroyed in **Javascript** when they're still used in the webassembly. Other than that, the code is identical to the **PAS2JS** code or the **Javascript** code: no trickery is needed to set the callbacks, a real **pascal** event handler can be used. It should be noted that all event handlers are declared with 'of object', meaning that only methods of classes can be used as callback handlers, plain routines cannot be used. The `StartVideo` callback handler also looks surprisingly familiar:



```

Procedure TCameraApp.StartVideo(Event: IJSEvent);
var
  constraints : TJSMediaStreamConstraints;
begin
  constraints:=TJSMediaStreamConstraints.Create;
  constraints.video:=True;
  constraints.audio:=False;
  JSWindow.navigator.mediaDevices.getUserMedia(constraints)
    ._then(@StartStream)
    ._catch(@DoError)
end;

```

Except for a constructor that is named `Create`, as opposed to the customary `New` in **PAS2JS**, the code is identical.

The `getUserMedia` returns a promise, and when this is resolved `StartStream` is called, which is again a copy of the **PAS2JS** method:

```

function TCameraApp.StartStream(const Res : Variant) : Variant;
var
  Stream : IJSMediaStream;
begin
  Stream:=IJSMediaStream(Res);
  Video.srcObject := Stream;
  Video.play();
end;

```

In case of an error, `doError` is called. Again, no change in code:

```

Function TCameraApp.DoError(const Res : Variant) : Variant;
begin
  writeln('Error accessing the webcam: '+string(Res));
end;

```

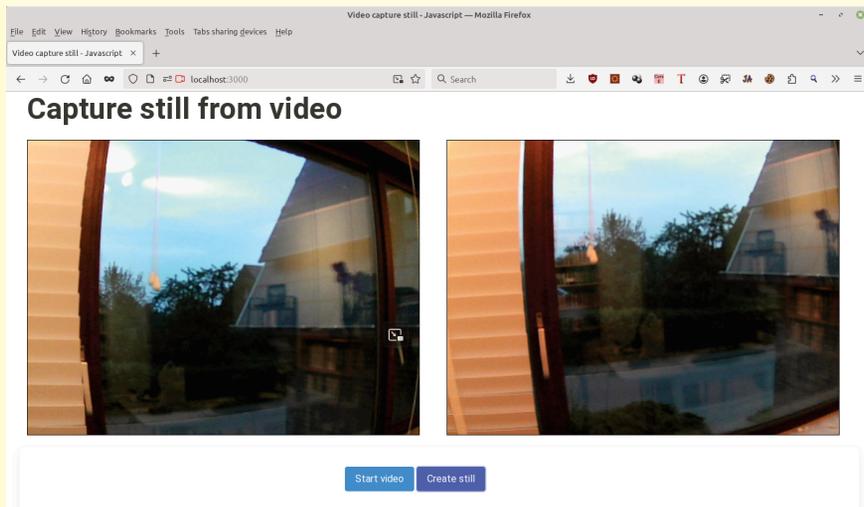


Figure 4: The webassembly camera program at work





Pascal Code



The code for the `CreateStill` method, is also unchanged:

```
Procedure TCameraApp.CreateStill(Event: JSEvent);
begin
  Canvas.width:=Video.clientWidth;
  Canvas.height:=Video.clientHeight;
  Context.drawImage(Video,0,0,Video.ClientWidth,Video.ClientHeight);
end;
```

All that is left to do is to export a callback function which the **JOB** framework needs (`JOBCallBack`, implemented in the `Job.Js` unit), and to create an instance of our camera application class:

```
Exports
  JOBCallBack;

begin
  With TCameraApp.Create do
    Run;
end.
```

For all practical purposes, the webassembly program can be coded as the **javascript** version or **PAS2JS** version would be coded. The result of all this work is shown in figure 4 on page 11 of this article.

## 7 USING CUSTOM OBJECTS

**JOB** is used to give access to all the browser **APIs**. However, is it also possible to use custom objects created in **PAS2JS** or any other **Javascript API** from any **Javascript** framework?

The answer is 'Yes, of course'. You can perfectly code a webassembly proxy for a **PAS2JS** pascal class or a **Javascript** class. If a `.webidl` exists for the **Javascript** class, the proxy code could be generated by the `webidl2pas` tool.

**Javascript** classes have a function that serves as the constructor.

If this is a globally registered function, the **JOB** framework will find the function: it looks for the constructor function in the global (`window`) scope.

All that is needed is to declare the name of this function in the **webassembly proxy** class.

For **PAS2JS** classes, you can specify a constructing function in the host environment. Given the following class implemented in **PAS2JS**:

```
TMyObject = Class(TObject)
private
  fa: String; external name 'a';
public
  Constructor Create(aValue : string);
  Property a : String Read fa write fa;
end;

constructor TMyObject.Create(aValue: string);
begin
  fa:=aValue;
end;
```

You can create a constructor function to create a **Javascript** instance of this function.

The constructor function accepts the name of the requested object, and the parameters for the constructor which are provided in an array of `JValue` (variants, for all practical purposes).

In the host application presented earlier, this would mean adding a method as follows:

```
Function TMyApplication.CreateMyObject(const aName: String;
                                       aArgs: TJSValueDynArray): TObject;
begin
  Result:=TMyObject.Create(String(aArgs[0]));
end;
```





**NOTE** that because the aName parameter contains the requested class name, you can use a single constructor function to construct many classes.

Registering the constructor function with the **JOB** framework is done using the RegisterObjectFactory call of the TJSObjectBridge class:

```
FJOB.RegisterObjectFactory('MyObject',@CreateMyObject);
```

You can do this call right after creating the TJSObjectBridge class.

If some **Javascript** class does not register itself in the global scope, then the **JOB** implementation will not find it without help. You can register a function that creates a regular **Javascript** object in a similar manner as for a **Pascal** class:

Pascal Code



```
function TMyApplication.CreateBrowserObject(const aName: String;
                                           aArgs: TJSValueDynArray): TJSObject;
begin
  Result:=TJSObject.New;
  Result['Aloha']:=String(aArgs[0]);
end;
```

In the above example, a plain **Javascript** 'Object' instance is created, but in fact any **Javascript** object can be returned.

This constructor function must also be registered with the RegisterJSObjectFactory call:

```
FJOB.RegisterJSObjectFactory('MyBrowserObject',@CreateBrowserObject);
```

The reason that two different calls are needed is that, from an **Object Pascal** point of view, the **Javascript** TJSObject inheritance tree is distinct from the **Object Pascal** TObject inheritance tree.

After these calls, when the webassembly part of **JOB** needs to create an instance of **MyObject** or a **MyBrowserObject**, the correct registered function will be called to create an instance.

The necessary housekeeping will be done as it is done for Browser-provided objects: associate an **ID** with the object, and return that **ID** to the **webassembly**.

The **webassembly** proxy interface and class for the TMyObject class look as follows:

```
IJSTestObj = Interface (IJSObject)
  ['{DE03E9A4-3960-4090-A3FA-387B61E8AEA9}']
  function GetStringAttr : UnicodeString;
  procedure SetStringAttr(const aValue : UnicodeString);
  property StringAttr : UnicodeString Read GetStringAttr
  Write SetStringAttr;
end;

TMyTestObj = Class(TJSObject,IJSTestObj)
  constructor Create(a: String);
  class function JSClassName: UnicodeString; override;
  function GetStringAttr : UnicodeString;
  procedure SetStringAttr(const aValue : UnicodeString);
  property StringAttr : UnicodeString Read GetStringAttr
  Write SetStringAttr;
end;
```

The implementation of the proxy class is simple. The JOBCreate method of TJSObject can be used to construct a new object. In order to do its work, it needs to know the class name of the **Javascript** class.

It expects the JSClassName class function to return the correct class name, so we override that function and let it return the name we used to register our constructor function:





Pascal Code



```
class function TMyTestObj.JSClassName: UnicodeString;
begin
    Result:='MyObject';
end;

constructor TMyTestObj.Create(a: String);
begin
    Inherited JobCreate([a]);
end;
```

The `JOBCreate` method accepts parameters as an array of const, which are encoded and sent to the browser side. The implementation of the property getters and setters are simple:

```
function TMyTestObj.GetStringAttr: UnicodeString;
begin
    Result:=ReadJSPropertyUnicodeString('a');
end;

procedure TMyTestObj.SetStringAttr(const aValue: UnicodeString);
begin
    WriteJSPropertyUnicodeString('a',aValue);
end;
```

Similarly named `ReadJSProperty*` and `WriteJSProperty*` calls exist for all simple Pascal types, you must choose the function that corresponds to the type of the property in your Javascript class.

**NOTE** that the name of the field is given as 'a': this is the **Javascript** name of the field in the **Pascal** class: it was forced to 'a' using the external name 'a' modifier in the class declaration. Without this modifier, **fa** would need to be used.

If a property must be set using a *setter/getter*, then you must adapt the proxy code accordingly, of course: you must then code a call to the *getter* and *setter*.

The class is now ready for use in your webassembly program:

```
var
    T : JSTestObj;
begin
    Writeln('Creating TMyTestObj object');
    T:=TMyTestObj.Create('solo');
    Writeln('Property :',T.StringAttr);
end;
```

**SOURCE CODE** The expected output is of course 'solo' for the property value. The **SOURCE CODE** that demonstrates this is included in the **PAS2JS** suite of demos, under the `demo/wasienv/job/simple` directory. or **you can download it from your Blaise Pascal Magazine code page:**  
<https://www.blaisepascalmagazine.eu/en/your-downloads/>

### 8 CONCLUSION

With the **JOB** technology, it is now possible to use all browser APIs in a **webassembly** program without having to resort to lots of import/export routines: **a list of 11 functions is sufficient** to create and use every possible browser object. To the best of the author's knowledge, currently the only other compiled language – compilable to **WebAssembly** – that offers this possibility is **Rust**.

As indicated above, the job web unit is large. This is somewhat of a disadvantage:

the compiler takes a lot of time compiling this unit, well over 1 minute.

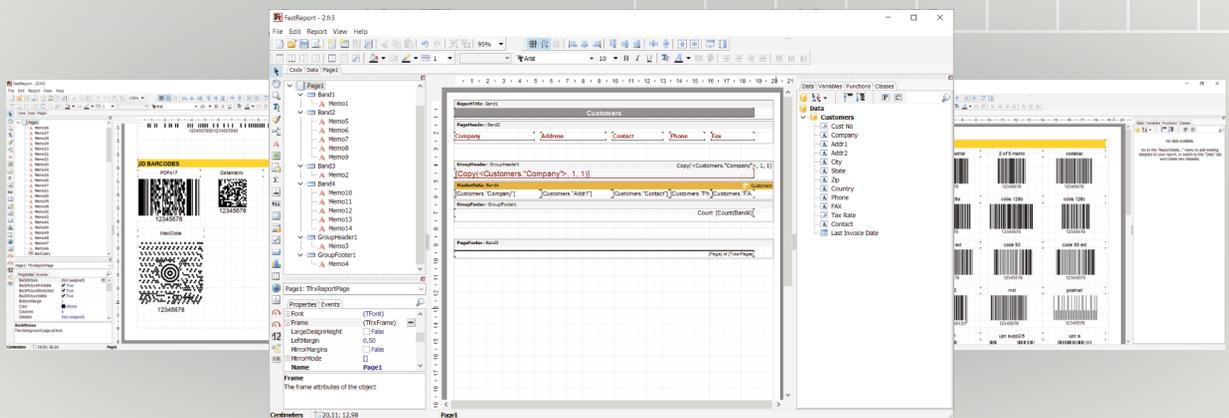
The reason is the use of interfaces, which result in a lot of hidden code to call methods on an interface, and the resulting unit is well over 65Mb. While the linker **removes all unused code** and your program will contain only the **needed code**, the unit must be compiled (*tuckily only once*) and this takes time.





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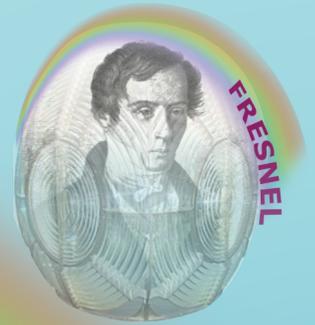




BY MICHAEL VAN CANNEYT

## ABSTRACT

At the end of the year 2022, Project **Fresnel** was announced: a new graphical interface for **Pascal** applications, based on CSS. Since then, work has been steadily progressing on this new framework. In this article an overview of **what is possible today is presented**.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

**Project Fresnel** was announced in this magazine a little over 1.5 years ago: Issue 107/108. Work was started immediately, and work on project Fresnel has not stopped since. As a reminder, the main goals of project Fresnel were:

- To create a **set of controls** (or *widgets*) that are streamable, so descendents of **TComponent**: the **widgets can be manipulated in the IDE**.
- **Layout is determined completely by CSS**.
- **Multiple drawing backends** must be supported.
- **No dependency on the Lazarus LCL**.
- **Fresnel-Based Forms can coexist with LCL forms** in a native application.

The end goal is a **UI framework** that will allow to create an **application UI** once, and let it **run on any OS and in the browser**. Conceptually, the architecture of such an application is depicted in figure 1 on page 1 of this article.

The application code only uses the **Fresnel API** to display the graphical user interface, other functionality is implemented on top of the operating system API. **Fresnel** components use the **Fresnel** backend to do the actual drawing.

A **Fresnel backend** uses the **graphical API** of the operating system – or a library that makes the drawing easier – to do the actual drawing.

**Fresnel components** do **not** access the APIs underlying the backend. This ensures that **Fresnel** components will work with any backend. Several backends can be implemented, and when running your application, you choose the backend in function of the operating system for which you're compiling your application.

In this article, we report on the progress made on each of these goals.

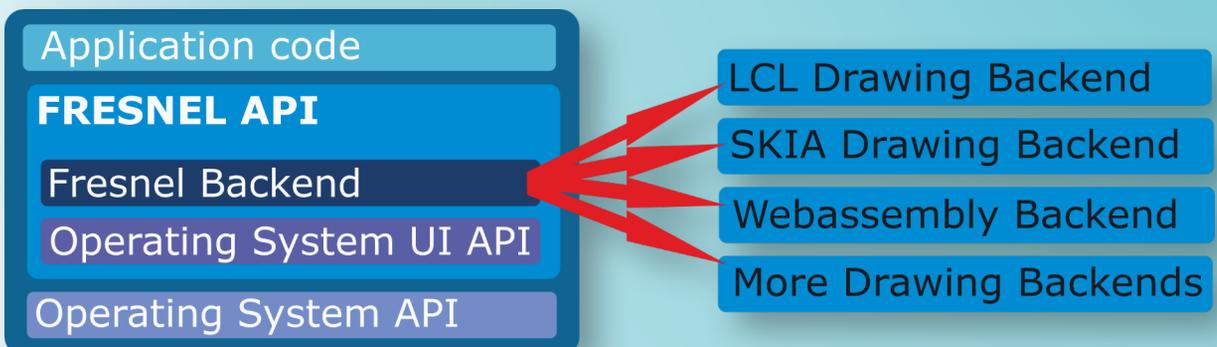


Figure 1: A Fresnel application





## ② WIDGETS OR CONTROLS

A basic set of controls (widgets) has been developed:

- ViewPort** This essentially encapsulates the visible portion of a form. It is the toplevel control in a **Fresnel** graphical window, and has a stylesheet associated with it that determines the style of the elements in a form.
- Form** is a descendent of a viewport. This is a viewport which can exist by itself.
- Div** is a basic building block of a graphical UI: a box for which you can specify sizes, borders, background and foreground colors etc.
- Span** is similar to a Div but has different layout flow behaviour: spans will be placed next to each other (*'inline' display, in CSS terms*).
- Label** Is exactly what the name implies: it resembles a Div but allows you to specify a caption to be shown in the box.
- Image** A component to show an image.

This means that today you can do the following

```
Div2:=TDiv.Create(Self);
with Div2 do
begin
  Name:='Div2';
  Parent:=Body1;
  Style:='border-color: black; height:50px; '+
        'position: absolute; border: 2px; '+
        'left: 30px; top: 100px; width: 50px; '+
        'height: 60px;';
end;
```

As you can see, the layout of the component is determined by the **Style** property.

Furthermore, these controls can be installed in the IDE, and you can create a **Fresnel Form** in the designer.

This part is still experimental. To do so, you need to recompile the **Lazarus IDE** with the trunk version of **Free Pascal**, as **project Fresnel** requires the use of some units that are not yet present in the released version of **Free Pascal**.

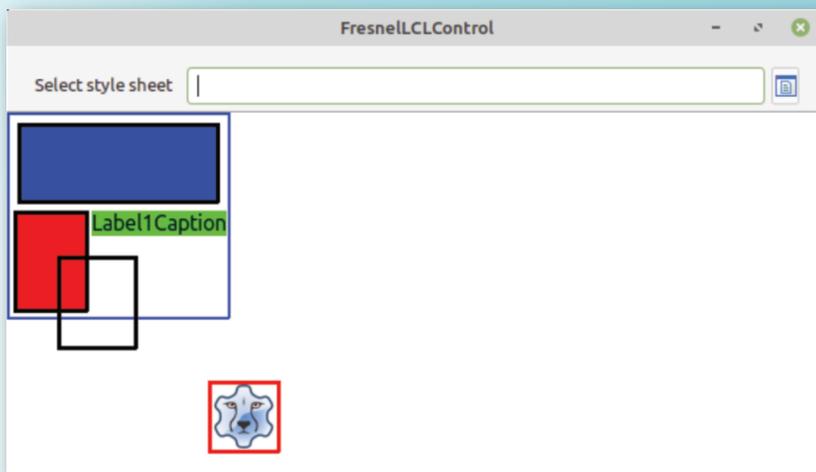


Figure 2: Using stylesheet 1





### ③ CSS LAYOUT

The primary goal of project **Fresnel** is to have the layout determined by **CSS**.

**CSS** originated in the browser, and became a powerful tool for creating good-looking UIs which is used in all browsers. Prior to starting **Project Fresnel**, **Free Pascal** already had a **CSS** parser available. This parser was extended to make it more robust, and an engine was developed to determine the **CSS** properties that are applicable to a given widget (control).

So today, we can specify the **CSS** of a control using the `Style` property, or using the style sheet of the viewport: the stylesheet can be specified in the `StyleSheet` property.

```
Viewport.StyleSheet.LoadFromFile('style2.css');
```

*Figures 2 on page 2 and figure 3 on page 4* show the same application, but with a different stylesheet loaded. As expected, the controls adjust their properties (*and location*) according to what is specified in the **CSS**.

Needless to say, there is still a lot of work to be done: there are many **CSS** properties, and currently only the most basic properties are implemented: enough to create simple layouts, without too much of the special effects that make **CSS** such a powerful mechanism.

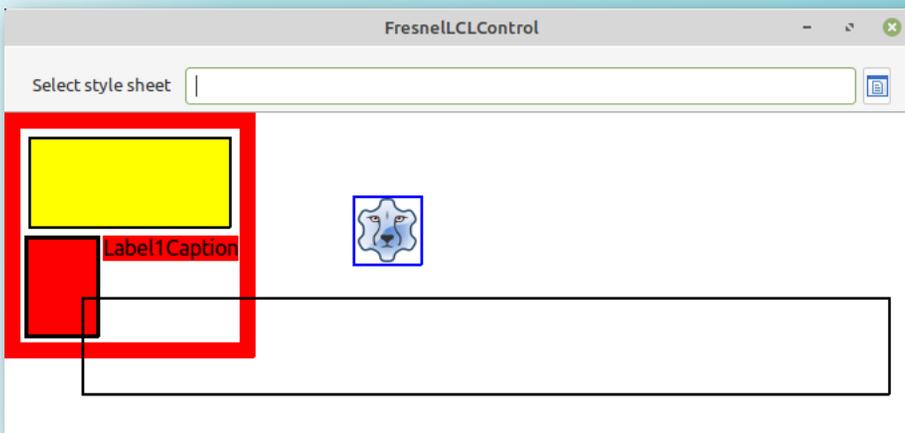


Figure 3: Using stylesheet 2

### ④ FRESNEL EVENT HANDLING

In the **LCL**, the event handlers such as `OnClick`, `OnMouseMove` can be assigned in the Object Inspector.

**The same is true for Fresnel widgets:**

Fresnel is designed from the start to be **RAD-enabled**. While not specifically specified in the goals of **Fresnel**, the occasion was to used to address some of the shortcomings of the **VCL** and **LCL** event mechanisms, and a complete redesign of the event mechanism was put in place.

The first thing to mention about the new event mechanism is that the signature of the event handlers is different from in the **LCL**. The **LCL** uses the following notification event handler (with slight variations):

```
TNotifyEvent = procedure(Sender: TObject) of object;
```

Here, `Sender` is the component instance from which the event originates. You need to typecast the sender to access its properties. **The basic event handler in Fresnel looks like this:**

```
TEventHandler = Procedure(Event : TAbstractEvent) of object;
```





The **Event** parameter is of type **TAbstractEvent**, which looks like this:

```
TAbstractEvent = Class(TObject)
// Sender of the event
Property Sender : TObject Read FSender Write FSender;
// Event ID used for create
Property EventID : TEventID Read FEventID;
end;
```

The **Sender** is still available as a member of the event. Depending on the actual event, a descendent of **TAbstractEvent** is passed on, which contains the necessary information pertaining to the event. For instance, the mouse events all descend from **TFresnelMouseEvent** :

```
TFresnelMouseEvent = Class(TFresnelUIEvent)
Public
Property ControlX : TFresnelLength;
Property ControlY : TFresnelLength;
Property PageX : TFresnelLength;
Property PageY : TFresnelLength;
Property ScreenX : TFresnelLength;
Property ScreenY : TFresnelLength;
Property X : TFresnelLength;
Property Y : TFresnelLength;
Property Buttons : TMouseButton;
Property Button : TMouseButton;
Property ShiftState : TShiftState;
Property Altkey : Boolean;
Property MetaKey : Boolean;
Property CtrlKey : Boolean;
Property ShiftKey : Boolean;
end;
```

As you can see, a lot more information is available.

But there is more: for every event, multiple handlers can be registered. The basic **Fresnel** component exposes a **EventDispatcher** property, which is of type **TEventDispatcher**:

```
TEventSetupHandler = Procedure(Event : TAbstractEvent) of object;
TEventSetupCallBack = Procedure(Event : TAbstractEvent);
TEventSetupHandlerRef = Reference to Procedure(Event : TAbstractEvent);

TEventDispatcher = class(TPersistent)
// Various forms to register an event handler
Function RegisterHandler(aHandler : TEventCallback;
aEventName : TEventName) : TEventHandlerItem;
Function RegisterHandler(aHandler : TEventHandler;
aEventName : TEventName) : TEventHandlerItem;
Function RegisterHandler(aHandler : TEventHandlerRef;
aEventName : TEventName) : TEventHandlerItem;

// Dispatch an event.
// Calls the registered handlers for that event,
// in the order they were registered.
// Returns the number of handlers that were called;
Function DispatchEvent(aEvent : TAbstractEvent) : Integer;
end;
```

This is roughly modeled after many other event dispatching mechanisms in other toolkits (**Gtk**, **Qt**) and in the browser. There are 2 things to note about this mechanism:

- ❶ You can register **multiple handlers for the same event**. Behind the scenes, setting the **OnClick** handler will use the event dispatcher to set one 'click' event handler. Setting the event handler to **Nil** will remove the handler from the dispatcher.
- ❷ Event handlers no longer need to be object methods. It can also be an **anonymous** method, or a plain procedure or a local procedure.

At the moment, you still need to typecast the **Event** to get to the properties, but a mechanism using **generics** to register a correctly typed event handler will be put in place.





## 5 BACKENDS

Another important goal for **Project**

**Fresnel** is that it must be cross platform and must support different drawing backends: the widgets or controls are not aware of the backend in use to draw them.

All they get is a canvas on which they can draw themselves if so required. (*form*) and the events sent by the operating system, and the second service is to provide a canvas to draw on. These two services are defined independently and can be coded independently.

A backend needs to provide two services: The first is to manage the top-level windows This means that you could have a backend (*for example Gdk3/Gtk3, to manage the windows and events*) that uses various drawing backends (**Skia** or **Cairo**).

**Currently, 3 working backends for the Fresnel widgets exist**, and a 4th is in the works:

**LCL** This was the first backend created for Fresnel. The fresnel controls are drawn on an **LCL Canvas**. This can be a canvas that is embedded in a **LCL form** on a `TFresnelControl`: this is a control that embeds the **Fresnel viewport**; all drawing happens within this control. It can also be a **Fresnel LCL form**: a form that is **completely standalone**. Events are generated by the **LCL** and are transformed into **Fresnel events**. It is this backend that is used when designing a **Fresnel form** in the IDE.

**Gtk3 using Skia** The **Gtk3** backend is a backend which relies on the **Skia** library to render the Fresnel controls. **Skia** is a fast **2D library** by **Google** which runs on various platforms (*all major OSes and mobile devices*). By creating a **Skia** drawing backend, the **Fresnel** framework should run on all platforms that **Free Pascal**, **Skia** support. **Skia** by itself does not offer event handling, so it is paired with **Gtk3**, which is also cross-platform.

**WebAssembly** Lastly, a **WebAssembly** backend is made. **Free Pascal** supports creating webassembly binaries, and these binaries can be run in the browser. A **Fresnel** backend was made which uses the browser canvas and the browser events to deliver the needed functionality to **Fresnel**. It will be presented in the rest of this article.

More backends can of course be made:

Using one of the existing backends, it should not be difficult to create a backend that sits directly on top of the OS' native UI mechanisms:

- **LCL** backend with a **Skia** renderer backend.
- **WinApi** backend with a **Skia** renderer backend.
- **WinApi** backend with a **WinApi** renderer backend.
- **WinApi** backend with a **BGRA** renderer backend.
- **Apple Cocoa** backend with a **Metal** renderer backend.
- **Apple Cocoa** backend with a **Skia** renderer backend.

One such backend which is planned by the **FPC** team is **PAS2JS**: This would allow running a Fresnel application as a **Javascript** application.





## ⑥ COMPILING FRESNEL

To compile **Fresnel**, the development version of **FPC** is needed: **Fresnel** uses some mechanisms which are available only in the development version of **FPC** (for example, the **CSS parser**).

**Fresnel** itself is implemented in a series of Lazarus packages.

You can compile **Fresnel** and use without it the **lazarus** packages, if you so desire.

- FresnelBase** this package contains the **basics of Fresnel**: the controls, the CSS handling, the event mechanism and the rendering backend specification (it is defined as an interface definition). **This package does not depend on the LCL - this was one of the design goals.**
- FresnelLCL** This contains the **LCL backend for Fresnel**: a renderer that **can render a Fresnel form on a form or in a LCL control.**
- FresnelDsgn** Installing this package allows you to **design a Fresnel form in the Lazarus IDE, as you would design a LCL form**: You can **add Fresnel forms to a standalone Fresnel application** or a **LCL application** and **drop Fresnel elements** onto the **fresnel Forms** and use the **Object Inspector to set properties** like the **Style property**.

Then there are 3 other packages that provide other backends:

- fresnel** This package **automatically chooses a backend** depending on some defines. On **linux it will choose the Gtk and Skia backend** to provide a window and an event mechanism. The **drawing itself is done using Skia**. This is still a work in progress.
- fresnelwasm** This package **contains the webassembly part** of the **WebAssembly backend**. The webassembly backend needs two parts: one in **webassembly**, one in the **browser**. This package contains the **webassembly side** of the **Fresnel webassembly** backend.
- p2jsfresnelapi** This package **contains the javascript part** of the **WebAssembly backend**, it must be used in the **browser host application** that loads the **Fresnel Webassembly** program.

## ⑦ A FRESNEL APPLICATION USING THE LCL

As an example, we'll show a **Fresnel** application using an **LCL form** and a **TFresnelLCLControl** to host the **Fresnel** controls. The main form's published section only contains an '**OnCreate**' handler, the rest is added manually:

```
TMainForm = class(TForm)
  procedure FormCreate(Sender: TObject);
private
  Body1: TBody;
  Div1, Div2: TDiv;
  Img1: TImage;
  Span1: TSpan;
  Fresnel1: TFresnelLCLControl;
  label1: Fresnel.controls.TLabel;
public
  procedure CreateControls(ViewPort: TFresnelViewPort);
end;
```

In the **OnCreate** event, we create the **LCL TFresnelLCLControl** that will host all Fresnel controls. We set it to take all available space, and load a stylesheet:





```

procedure TMainForm.FormCreate(Sender: TObject);
begin
    Fresnell:=TFresnellLCLControl.Create(Self);
    with Fresnell do
        begin
            Name:='Fresnell';
            Align:=alClient;
            Viewport.Stylesheet.LoadFromFile('style1.css');
            Parent:=Self;
        end;
        CreateControls(Fresnell.Viewport);
    end;

```

In the CreateControls method, we create the Fresnel Controls:

```

Procedure TMainForm.CreateControls(ViewPort : TFresnelViewport);

Function CreateControl(aClass : TFresnelElementClass;
                       aName : String;
                       aParent : TFresnelElement = nil) : TFresnelElement;

begin
    if aParent=Nil then
        aParent:=Body1;
    Result:=aClass.Create(Self);
    Result.Name:=aName;
    Result.Parent:=aParent;
end;

begin
    Body1 :=TBody(CreateControl(TBody,'Body1',ViewPort));
    Div1 :=TDiv(CreateControl(TDiv,'Div1'));
    Span1 :=TSpan(CreateControl(TSpan,'Span1'));
    Label1 :=TLabel(CreateControl(TLabel,'Label1'));
    Label1.Caption:='Label1Caption';
    Div2 :=TDiv(CreateControl(TDiv,'Div2'));
    Img1 :=TImage(CreateControl(TImage,'Img1'));
    Img1.Image.LoadFromFile('image.png');
end;

```

**Note** that we do not need to set any position or color properties. This is all taken care of by the **CSS**.

The **Image** property of the **TImage** widget deserves some extra attention.

This property is of class **TImageData**, which is defined as follows:

```

TImageData = class(TPersistent)
Public
    Constructor Create(aOwner : TComponent); virtual;
    Destructor Destroy; override;
    Procedure LoadFromFile(const aFilename : String);
    Procedure SaveToFile(const aFilename : String);
    Procedure LoadFromStream(const aStream : TStream;
                           Handler:TFPCustomImageReader = Nil);
    Procedure SaveToStream(const aStream : TStream;
                          Handler:TFPCustomImageWriter = Nil);
    Procedure Assign(Source : TPersistent); override;
    Property Data : TFPCustomImage;
    Property ResolvedData : TFPCustomImage;
    Property Width : Word;
    Property Height : Word;
    Property HasData : Boolean;
Published
    Property FileName : String;
    Property ImageName : String;
    Property ImageList : TBaseCustomImageList;
    Property ImageIndex : Integer;
end;

```





## 2 A FRESNEL APPLICATION USING THE LCL - 2

The **LCL** and **VCL** use two approaches to specify an image:

directly through a **TGraphic** or indirectly using an **ImageList** and an **ImageIndex** property. Which one is used depends on the actual control.

In **Fresnel**, these two approaches have been combined in one single class: **TImageData**. Thus, every **Fresnel** control that needs to specify an image, has both mechanisms enabled.

The **TImageData** offers also a third mechanism to load images: a **ImageName**, which is used to look up an image by name in a central image store. The central image store can look up image files by name, and can handle multiple sizes and multiple screen resolutions. It caches the images in memory.

Thus `Img1.Image.ImageName:='image';` would look for an image file using a standard format ('.png') in a standard set of directories. Both the format and the directory structure are globally configurable. This mechanism makes it easy to configure a set of standard images for an application. The images are loaded and kept in memory using **Free Pascal's** **TFPCustomImage** class, which can handle many image formats by default. The main program file for our program looks like any other program:

```
program StylesheetDemo;
{$Mode objfpc}{$SH+}
uses Interfaces, // this includes the LCL widgetset
    Forms, MainUnit;

begin
    RequireDerivedFormResource:=True;
    Application.Scaled:=True;
    Application.Initialize;
    Application.CreateForm(TMainForm, MainForm);
    Application.Run;
end.
```

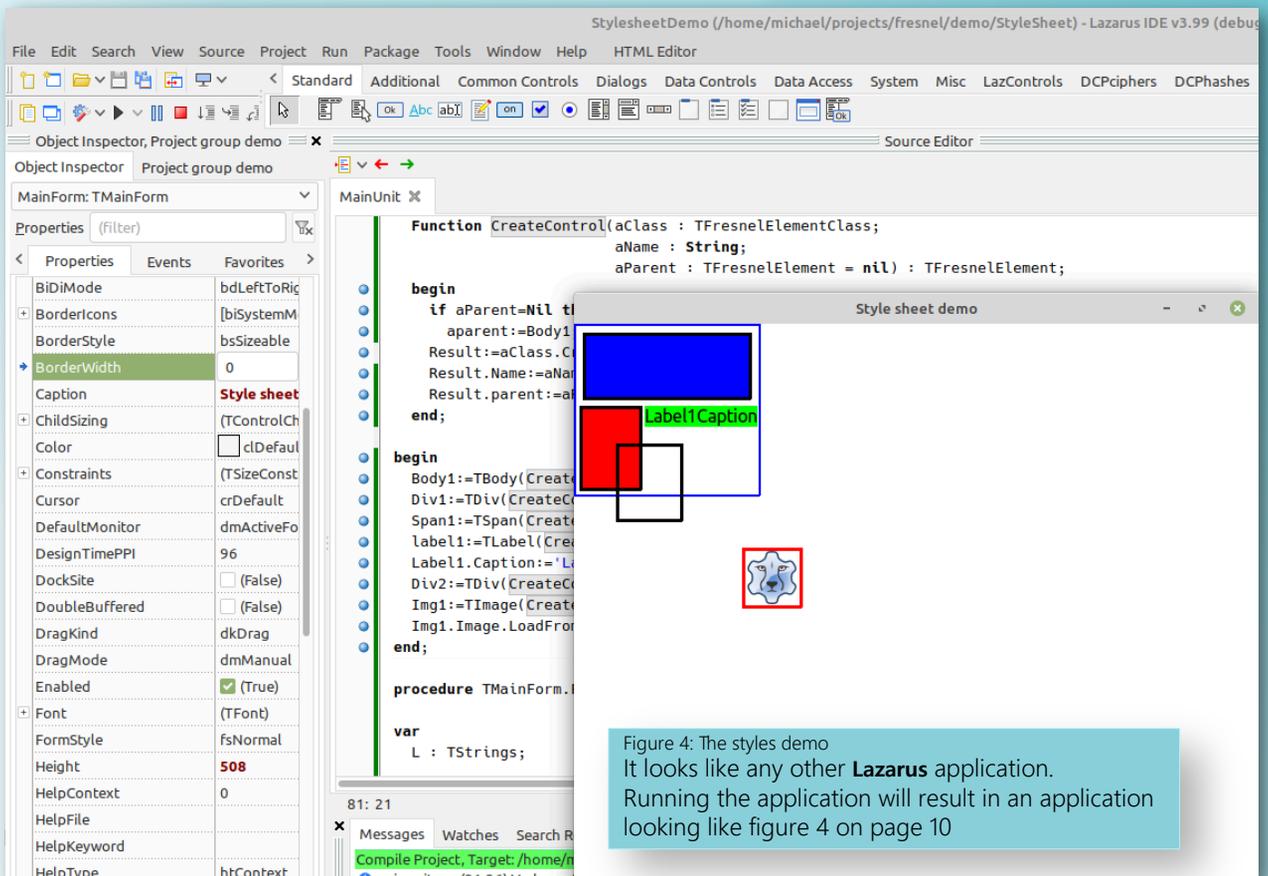


Figure 4: The styles demo  
It looks like any other **Lazarus** application.  
Running the application will result in an application looking like figure 4 on page 10



## ⑧ USING THE WEBASSEMBLY BACKEND

To run a fresnel program in a webassembly backend, you need two programs. One is the

**webassembly** program itself, the other is the Javascript program that loads the **Webassembly** file in the browser.

This **Javascript** program we create of course with PAS2JS.

We'll start with the webassembly program itself. Due to the nature of webassembly, the fresnel program must be created as a library:

As explained in the article on using the browser's API, when the browser runs a

**webassembly** program, it suspends the Javascript execution. As long as the **webassembly** program runs, no event handlers will run. So, we need to create a library that initializes the application, and then returns control to the browser, so it can start receiving events. The events are processed in the fresnel tick callback which is called at regular intervals by the browser, although this mechanism may change in the future. This method must be exposed by the library:

```
library basic;
uses
  nothreads, fresnel.forms, fresnel.wasm.app, form.main, fresnel.wasm.api;

procedure __fresnel_tick (aCurrent,aPrevious : double);

begin
  fresnel.wasm.api.__fresnel_tick(aCurrent,aPrevious);
end;

exports
  __fresnel_tick;
begin
  Application.HookFresnelLog:=True;
  Application.Initialize;
  Application.CreateFormNew(TMainForm,MainForm);
  Application.Run;
end
```

The first line in the initialization of the library sets up a hook: the fresnel log will be written to standard output, and will show up in the browser console. The rest of the application startup code looks the same as a standard **Lazarus LCL** application. The **CreateForm** has been replaced with **CreateFormNew** so the **CreateNew** constructor of the form is called: Currently there are no resources in the **webassembly** (*this is being worked on*). Calling **CreateNew** makes sure no resources are loaded.

To demonstrate that the events mechanism works as expected also in the browser, our main form will also hook some events. For this reason, we define an enumeration to select the events that we want to listen to.

```
Type
  THookEvent = (heClick,heMouseMove,heMouseUp,heMouseDown,heMouseEnter,
               heMouseLeave,heFocus,heFocusIn,THookEvents = set of THookEvent;

{ TMainForm }

TMainForm = Class(TFresnelForm)
private
  procedure HookAllFresnelComponents;
  procedure LogEventData(Event: TAbstractEvent);
  procedure LogMouseEvent(Event: TFresnelMouseEvent; LogData: Boolean);
Public
  procedure DoClick(Event: TAbstractEvent);
  procedure DoGeneralEvent(Event: TAbstractEvent);
  procedure DoMouseMove(Event: TFresnelMouseEvent);
  constructor CreateNew(aOwner : TComponent); override;
  procedure HookEvents(aEl: TFresnelElement; Publ: Boolean);
end;
var
  MainForm : TMainForm;

const
  RaiseParcelMagazine[Low(THookEvent)..High(THookEvent)];
```





The form is populated in the same way as our **LCL** version, in our constructor, we call `CreateControls`. This time we pass **Self** as the viewport, since the Fresnel form is the actual viewport:

```
constructor TMainForm.CreateNew(aOwner : TComponent);
```

```
const
  GlobalStyle = 'div {padding: 2px; border: 3px; margin: 6px;}';
begin
  Inherited CreateNew(aOwner);
  Width := 640;
  Height := 480;
  Stylesheet.Text := GlobalStyle;
  CreateControls(Self);
  HookAllFresnelComponents;
end;
```

**NOTE** that the `Width` and `Height` of the form are set: The form is the only component which has a width and height property - this is logical, since it is the top-level control. We'll come to the last line shortly, they hook all **fresnel** events for all controls on the form. Note that we only set the globally applicable **CSS styles** in the `StyleSheet` property:

these styles will be used for all controls, in addition to the **CSS** styles specified in the `'style'` property of each control. In `CreateControls`, we demonstrate that the **CSS** styles can also be directly applied to the controls by setting the `style` property:

```
Procedure TMainForm.CreateControls(ViewPort : TFresnelViewport);
```

```
  Function CreateControl(aClass : TFresnelElementClass; aName : String;
    aParent : TFresnelElement = nil) : TFresnelElement;
```

```
begin
  if aParent = Nil then
    aParent := Body1;
  Result := aClass.Create(Self);
  Result.Name := aName;
  Result.Parent := aParent;
end;
```

```
begin
  Body1 := TBody(CreateControl(TBody, 'Body1', ViewPort));
  Div1 := TDiv(CreateControl(TDiv, 'Div1'));
  Span1 := TSpan(CreateControl(TSpan, 'Span1'));
  Label1 := TLabel(CreateControl(TLabel, 'Label1'));
  Label1.Caption := 'Label1Caption';
  Div2 := TDiv(CreateControl(TDiv, 'Div2'));
  Img1 := TImage(CreateControl(TImage, 'Img1'));
  Img1.Image.LoadFromFile('image.png');

  // Apply styles
  Body1.Style := 'border: 2px; border-color: blue;';
  Div1.Style := 'background-color: blue; border-color: black; height: 50px;';
  Span1.Style := 'width: 50px; height: 70px; background-color: red; '+
    'border: 3px; border-color: black; margin: 3px;';
  Label1.Style := 'background-color: green;';
  Div2.Style := 'border-color: black; position: absolute; border: 2px; '+
    'left: 30px; top: 100px; width: 50px; height: 60px;';
  Img1.Style := 'border-color: red; height: 50px; position: absolute; '+
    'border: 2px; left: 150px; top: 200px; width: 48px; height: 48px;';
end;
```

Basically, this is the contents of the style sheet used in our previous example, but applied directly to the controls. To demonstrate events, we set some event handlers on the events. The `HookAllFresnelComponents` simply loops over all controls and calls `HookEvents`





```

procedure TMainForm.HookAllFresnelComponents;
Var
  C : TComponent;
  I : Integer;
  UsePublished : Boolean;
begin
  UsePublished:=False;
  HookEvents(Self,UsePublished);
  For I:=0 to ComponentCount-1 do
    begin
      C:=Components[I];
      if C is TFresnelElement then
        HookEvents(C as TFresnelElement,UsePublished);
    end;
  end;

```

The UsePublished parameter allows you to select which mechanism must be used: Specifying True will set the traditional property, specifying False will use the AddEventListener mechanism of the event dispatcher:

```

procedure TMainForm.HookEvents(aEl: TFresnelElement; Publ : Boolean);
begin
  if Publ then
    begin
      aEl.OnClick      :=@DoClick;
      aEl.OnMouseMove :=@DoMouseMove;
      aEl.OnMouseEnter :=@DoMouseMove;
      aEl.OnMouseLeave :=@DoMouseMove;
    end
  else
    begin
      aEl.AddEventListener('click',@DoGeneralEvent);
      aEl.AddEventListener('mousemove',@DoGeneralEvent);
      aEl.AddEventListener('mouseenter',@DoGeneralEvent);
      aEl.AddEventListener('mouseleave',@DoGeneralEvent);
      aEl.AddEventListener('focus',@DoGeneralEvent);
    end;
  end;

```

The general event handler DoGeneralEvent, which is registered using AddEventListener, logs the event and in case of a mouse event logs a little more:

```

procedure TMainForm.DoGeneralEvent(Event: TAbstractEvent);
begin
  LogEventData(Event);
  if Event is TFresnelMouseEvent then
    LogMouseEvent(Event as TFresnelMouseEvent,False);
end;

```

The logging events do little more than writing the event data to standard output:

```

procedure TMainForm.LogEventData(Event: TAbstractEvent);
const
  Fmt = 'Event class %s type: %s, sender : %s';
var
  S : String;
begin
  if Event.Sender=Nil then
    S:='(Nil)';
  else
    begin
      S:=Event.Sender.ClassName;
      if Event.Sender is TComponent then
        S:=TComponent(Event.Sender).Name+' (+S+)';
    end;
  Application.Log(etInfo,Fmt,[Event.ClassName, Event.EventName, S]);
end;

```





```

procedure TMainForm.LogMouseEvent(Event: TFresnelMouseEvent; LogData : Boolean);
const
  Fmt = 'Mouse Event (X: %f, Y: %f, Button: %s, Buttons: %s)';
var
  Btn,Btns : String;
begin
  if LogData then
    LogEventData(Event);

  Btn := GetEnumName(TypeInfo(TMouseButton),Ord(Event.Button));
  Btns := SetToString(PTypeInfo(TypeInfo(TMouseButton)),Longint(Event.Buttons),True);
  Application.Log(etInfo,Fmt, [Event.ControlX,Event.ControlY,Btn,Btns]);
end;

```

**Note** the use of **RTTI** to convert button enumerated and sets to actual button names. Some event handlers have a typed version of the parameter, as can be seen in the DoMouseMove event handler, which receives a TFresnelMouseEvent parameter:

```

procedure TMainForm.DoClick(Event: TAbstractEvent);
begin
  Application.Log(etInfo, 'You clicked '+(Event.Sender as TComponent).Name);
end;

procedure TMainForm.DoMouseMove(Event: TFresnelMouseEvent);
begin
  LogMouseEvent(Event,True)
end;

```

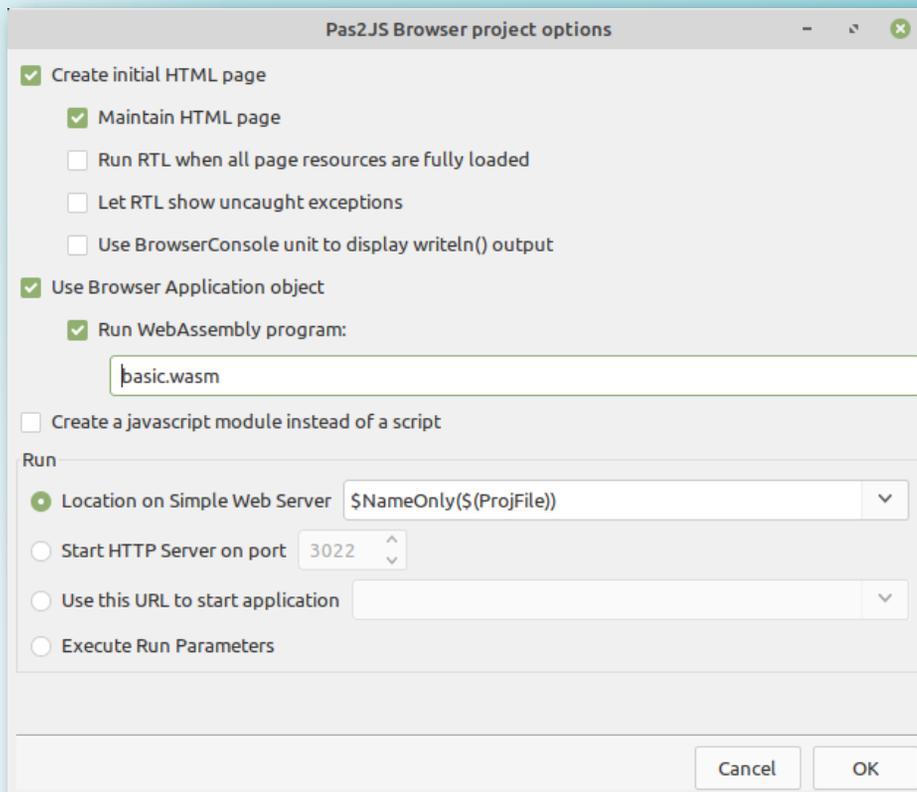


Figure 5: Creating a loader application

With this, our webassembly application is finished. The structure is identical to the **LCL** application. The differences (*events*, *styles*) were simply additions to the code in the regular **LCL** application.





9

## THE WEBASSEMBLY LOADER

To run our **webassembly** program in the browser, we need a **Javascript** program that loads the **webassembly** in the browser, provides it with the image file and finally that provides the **Fresnel** canvas.

To this end, we create a 'Web Browser application' in the IDE. In the dialog that appears, we check the 'Use Browser Application object' and 'Run Webassembly program' options and enter a filename, as in *figure 5 on page 12*.

Setting these options will create a skeleton project which we can adapt to our needs. We'll rename the application class to `TFresnelHostApplication`. The wizard will have added in the `DoRun` method a call to `StartWebAssembly` with the filename we entered. We'll need to change that.

The first thing to do is to provide the necessary **Fresnel API methods** to the **webassembly**. The **PAS2JS WebAssembly** hosting environment has a mechanism to do this:

to provide APIs to a webassembly module, a descendant of the `TImportExtension` class must be created and instantiated.

Such a descendant has been made for the **Fresnel API**, a class called **TWasmFresnelAPI**. This class is implemented in the `fresnel.pas2js.wasmapi`, part of the `P2jsfresnelapi` package.

All that we need to do is to create an instance of the `TWasmFresnelAPI` class, passing the **WASI** environment to the constructor. We do this in the constructor of our application class:

```
constructor TFresnelHostApplication.Create(aOwner: TComponent);
begin
  inherited Create(aOwner);
  FFresnelApi := TWasmFresnelApi.Create(WasiEnvironment);
  FFresnelAPI.LogAPICalls := True;
  FFresnelAPI.CanvasParent := TJSHTMLInputElement(document.getElementById('desktop'));
  RunEntryFunction := '_initialize';
end;
```

Since our **Webassembly** module is a library, the function to execute when running it, is not the usual `start` as for a program, but **initialize**, which simply executes the initializations sections of the units included in the library and the main library routine.

We set 2 properties on the **FresnelAPI** instance

- ❶ We choose to log the API calls (*Every API call is logged to the screen*)
- ❷ We set the parent element for the canvas: for every Fresnel form, a HTML canvas is allocated. All these canvases are positioned below the **CanvasParent** element.

## ❩ FILESYSTEM SUPPORT FOR WEBASSEMBLY

The **Fresnel** application loads an image from file using the usual **Object Pascal** file handling mechanisms. How can we provide this file ?

The **WASI** standard provides all the **API** calls to open files and read data from files, as well as directory listing mechanisms. It is up to the hosting environment to provide an implementation of these calls.

The **Pas2JS webassembly** hosting environment has implemented these API calls, and uses a plugin mechanism to handle the actual reading from file.

The browser offers a standardized API to access the computer's filesystem in a sandboxed manner:

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/FileSystem>





This basically reserves a (*hidden*) directory for use of your web application.

Your application can only access files and directories inside this directory, and these directories are **private** to each webpage. This **API** would seem ideal to provide a filesystem to a **webassembly**.

However, there is a catch: the filesystem **API** is an **asynchronous API**.

The **WASI API** is **synchronous**, and this means that currently, the **filesystem API** is not usable.

So something else must be found. Before the **FileSystem API** was generally available, a pure **Javascript** implementation of a **FileSystem** emulation was created, called **BrowserFS**. It was modeled after the **NodeJS filesystem API**.

This implementation is now known as **ZenFS**:

<https://github.com/zen-fs>

The **ZenFS API** comes with various backends that are synchronous:

**InMemory** : Stores files **in-memory**. This is cleared when the webpage is closed.

**WebStorage** : Stores files in **local or session** storage.

**This means the filesystem can be persisted, even when the webpage is closed.**

**PAS2JS** comes with the necessary units to make use of this **API**, and here is a plugin for the **WebAssembly** hosting mechanism to provide a filesystem. So, how to use the **ZenFS** filesystem to provide an image file to the **webassembly** module? Before starting the **webassembly**, we load the necessary files from the webserver, and store them in our in-browser filesystem emulation.

Since loading the files from the server is **asynchronous**, this loading needs to be completed **before we can start the webassembly**. The **ZenFS** filesystem needs to be initialized. This initialization is also **asynchronous**, so we must wait for it to complete **before we can start our webassembly program**. To make our life a little easier, we will introduce an **asynchronous** method:

```
procedure RunWasm ; async;
```

This means we can use await in the **RunWasm** method to let the filesystem initialization finish before calling **StartWebAssembly**. The code from the **DoRun** method generated by the application wizard in **Lazarus** is replaced with the following:

```
procedure TFresnelHostApplication.DoRun;
begin
  RunWasm;
end;
```

The actual work now happens in **RunWasm**, which starts by initializing the **ZenFS** file system. The initialization means that you tell **ZenFS** where to mount various file systems, similar to the way this happens on a typical unix or linux operating system. You can use various filesystems at the same time, but for our needs, we'll mount a single filesystem using **WebStorage**:

```
procedure TFresnelHostApplication.RunWasm;
var
  aCount : Integer;
begin
  Terminate;
  await(tjsobject, ZenFS.configure(
    new(
      ['mounts', new([
        '/', DomBackends.WebStorage
      ])]
    )
  ));
  FS:=TWASIZenFS.Create;
  WasiEnvironment.FS:=FS;
  aCount:=await(LoadFiles);
  Writeln('Loaded ',aCount,' files.');
```

```
  StartWebAssembly('basic.wasm',true,@OnBeforeStart,@OnAfterStart);
end;
```





After the **ZenFS**

filesystem is initialized, we

create an instance of the **WASIZenFS**

class, and assign it to the **WasiEnvironment**.

Before starting the **webassembly**, we load the

needed files into our **virtual filesystem** using **LoadFiles**.

As mentioned before, this is an **asynchronous** call, so we wait for it to complete.

Lastly, the **webassembly** is started, **specifying 2 callbacks**: one to be executed before, one to be executed after the start of the webassembly.

Before diving into these calls, let's see how we can load files into our browser-based filesystem. The **TFresnelHostApplication** class offers 3 calls to preload files from the server into the filesystem emulation:

```
function PreLoadFiles(aFiles : TPreLoadFileDynArray) : TPreLoadFilesResult; async;
function PreLoadFiles(aFiles : Array of string) : TPreLoadFilesResult; async;
function PreLoadFilesIntoDirectory(aDirectory: String;
                                   aFiles: array of string): TPreLoadFilesResult; async;
```

As you can see, all calls are **asynchronous**. The first call is the raw download mechanism.

You specify the files to preload using an array of records:

```
TPreLoadFile = record
  url : String;
  localname : string;
end;
```

The URL contents will be downloaded and put into the **local filesystem** as a file with the given path and name. (NOTE that if you specify directories, you must create any directories before loading files into them ) The second form of the **PreLoadFiles** call accepts an **array of strings**.

This should be an even amount of strings, where each pair is a **URI** and a **local filename**: these are simply transformed into an array of **TPreLoadFile** records. The **PreLoadFilesIntoDirectory** is a utility function that stores all downloaded files in a single directory. The **LoadFiles** function uses this latter utility function, and is really simple:

```
function TFresnelHostApplication.LoadFiles: Integer;

const
  Files : TStringDynArray = ('image.png','style1.css','style2.css');

var
  Res: TPreLoadFilesResult;
  I : Integer;
begin
  result:=-1;
  Res:=await (PreloadFilesIntoDirectory('/',Files));
  For I:=0 to Length(Res.failedurls)-1 do
    With Res.failedurls[i] do
      Writeln('Failed to preload file: ',url,' : ',error);
  Result:=res.loadcount;
end;
```

The **TPreLoadFilesResult** gives info about the number of loaded files and any errors that may have occurred.

All that remains to be discussed are the 2 callbacks that were passed to the **StartWebassembly** call.

The **OnBeforeStart** event is called before the **webassembly** is started, and we use it to pass the functions that are exported from the **webassembly** to the **Fresnel API**:

```
function TFresnelHostApplication.OnBeforeStart(Sender: TObject;
                                               aDescriptor: TWebAssemblyStartDescriptor): Boolean;
begin
  FFresnelApi.InstanceExports:=aDescriptor.Exported;
  Result:=true;
end;
```





### The fresnel API

needs access to the exported functions in order to call the timer function `fresnel_tick`. This is exactly why the `OnAfterStart` event handler is needed: once the **webassembly** module has been initialized, we start the fresnel timer:

```
procedure TFresnelHostApplication.OnAfterStart(Sender: TObject;
      aDescriptor: TWebAssemblyStartDescriptor);
begin
  Writeln('Starting timer');
  FFresnelApi.StartTimerTick;
end;
```

Last but not least, we need the main program code to set the ball rolling. This looks like any **Free Pascal or Lazarus** code, with a small addition to set up the console output: the `Writeln` statements from the **webassembly** are caught and displayed in the browser console log, but also in a special HTML element (with id "pasjsconsole"):

```
var
  Application : TFresnelHostApplication;
begin
  ConsoleStyle:=DefaultCRTConsoleStyle;
  HookConsole;
  Application :=TFresnelHostApplication.Create(nil);
  Application.Initialize;
  Application.Run;
end
```

With this, the loader program is finished. All we need now is a HTML page which will execute the code. We need 2 special tags in the HTML: one is the parent for the canvas (with id "desktop") and one is needed to display the output of the `writeln` statement. We also need to load **ZenFS** : 2 Javascript files are needed: **browser.min.js**. This is the core **ZenFS** module. **browser.dom.fs**. This is the **ZenFS** module that allows to store files in the browser local storage. Add some **CSS** styling with **Bulma CSS** to the mix, and this is our web page:

```
<!doctype html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <meta http-equiv="Content-type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
  <title>Fresnel - Webassembly Backend</title>
  <link href="bulma.min.css" rel="stylesheet">
  <script src="browser.min.js"></script>
  <script src="browser.dom.js"></script>
  <script src="fresnelhost.js"></script>
</head>
<body style="background-color: yellow">
  <div class="container">
    <h1 class="title is-3">Fresnel WebAssembly Backend</h1>
    <div class="columns">
      <div class="column">
        <h1 class="title is-5">Fresnel graphical interface:</h1>
        <p>This demo demonstrates a Fresnel Program compiled in WebAssembly,
          using a custom canvas backend.</p>
        <div id="desktop" style="min-height: 480px;">
        </div>
      </div>
      <div class="column">
        <h1 class="title is-5">Webassembly console output:</h1>
        <div class="box" id="pasjsconsole"></div>
      </div>
    </div>
  </div>
  <script>
    rtl.showUncaughtExceptions=true;
    window.addEventListener("load", rtl.run);
  </script>
</body>
</html>
```





## 10 FILESYSTEM SUPPORT FOR - CONTINUATION 4

When all this is loaded in the browser, the application will look like figure 6 on page 17. Note the yellow background on the HTML body. This is done to demonstrate clearly that the fresnel background (white) is observed when showing an image with transparency, such as the lazarus icon.

**Fresnel WebAssembly Backend**

Fresnel graphical interface:

This demo demonstrates a Fresnel Program compiled in WebAssembly, using a custom canvas backend

Webassembly console output:

```
Wasm log[etDebug] TCustomFresnelForm.WSMouseXY El=TMainForm PagePos=(558,298) ControlPos=(558,298)
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 558.00, Y: 298.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 558.00, Y: 298.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
Wasm log[etDebug] TCustomFresnelForm.WSMouseXY El=TMainForm PagePos=(576,298) ControlPos=(576,298)
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 576.00, Y: 298.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 576.00, Y: 298.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
Wasm log[etDebug] TCustomFresnelForm.WSMouseXY El=TMainForm PagePos=(611,298) ControlPos=(611,298)
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 611.00, Y: 298.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 611.00, Y: 298.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
Wasm log[etDebug] TCustomFresnelForm.WSMouseXY El=TMainForm PagePos=(634,298) ControlPos=(634,298)
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 634.00, Y: 298.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 634.00, Y: 298.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
Wasm log[etDebug] TCustomFresnelForm.WSMouseXY El=TMainForm PagePos=(646,296) ControlPos=(646,296)
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 646.00, Y: 296.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
Wasm log[etInfo] Event class TFresnelMouseMoveEvent type: MouseMove, sender : (TMainForm)
Wasm log[etInfo] Mouse Event (X: 646.00, Y: 296.00, Button: mbLeft, Buttons: [])
```

## CONCLUSION

In this article, we've shown that the goals that were outlined for **project Fresnel** are attainable:

We have **3 working backends**,

a **CSS-driven layout, multiple platforms**,

a powerful event mechanism. With the Skia renderer available,

there should be no problem to create a universal graphical application which **runs on all native platforms and in the browser**. All this using a **single codebase**, and **running at native speed**. And obviously, all this using your favourite programming language: **Object Pascal**.



# PROJECT FRESNEL: THE TIME IS NOW - AN UPDATE



## APPENDIX

code can be downloaded here

<https://gitlab.com/freepascal.org/lazarus/fresnel>

### Fresnel

This repository contains the sources for Project Fresnel

### What is project Fresnel ?

Project Fresnel is a new UI paradigm\* for Lazarus projects.

Instead of using LCL controls, CSS-based custom drawn controls will be used to create your UI.

*\*In science and philosophy, a paradigm is a distinct set of concepts or thought patterns, including theories, research methods, postulates, and standards for what constitute legitimate contributions to a field. The word paradigm is Greek in origin, meaning "pattern."*

### Why is this project needed ?

The design of the **VCL** and **LCL** is old. In the browser, **UX** (*User eXperience*) and **UI** have evolved far beyond what the **LCL** has to offer, largely thanks to the strength of **CSS**.

The choice for **CSS** as a mechanism for lay outing and display is therefore logical.

This will also allow to reuse existing **CSS** frameworks.

### What's with the name ?

UI is about look and feel. Look and feel means light.

**FRESNEL** is a French Physicist who made important contributions to the wave theory of light.

### Goals of project Fresnel:

100% Pascal code.

Create a **set of controls** that are independent of the **LCL**.

The **layout and look** of the controls are governed by **CSS**.

A **Lazarus** application must be able to run **LCL** forms alongside '**Fresnel**' forms.

This will ensure easy porting.

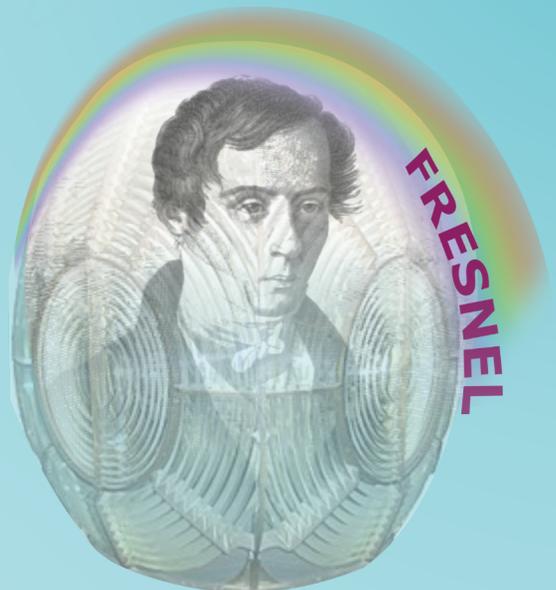
Different drawing backends must be possible.

### Skia:

To use Skia4Delphi you must put the library into the library path:

```
Linux 64bit: export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=fresnel/  
bin/Binary/Shared/Linux64  
Macos X64: export DYLD_LIBRARY_PATH=fresnel/  
bin/Binary/Shared/OSX64
```

For more insight in Fresnel see also the article of Issue 107/108 Page 65 of Blaise Pascal Magazine



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