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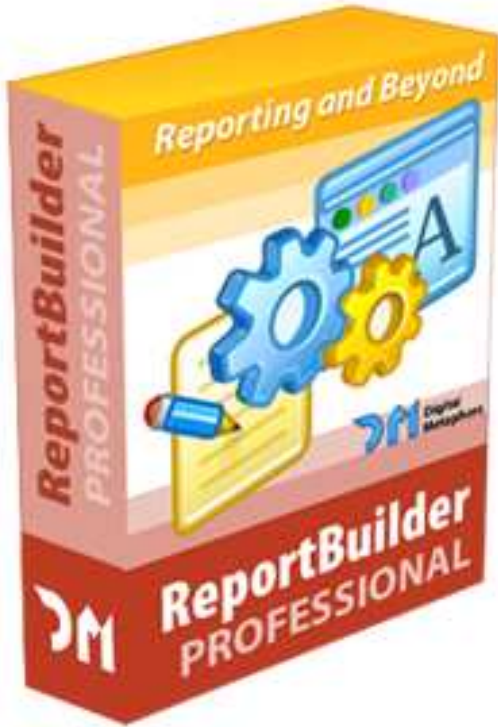
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ReportBuilder Professional Edition

allows you to build end-user reporting solutions that can be distributed royalty-free!

Use DADE to visually define and link SQL queries. DADE enables developers and end-users to quickly and easily build and link SQL queries that can be saved as part of the report definition.



- Includes all features of ReportBuilder Standard Edition
- Distribute DADE royalty-free, as part of an end-user reporting solution. DADE adds a Data tab to the Report Designer that provides an easy to user interface for building and linking SQL queries.
- Use the CrossTab Component to calculate and display values in a multi-dimensional grid format.
- Build full featured End-User reporting solutions that can be distributed royalty-free.

Sum of Amountpaid	YearOfSaleDate							Grand Total
State	1988	1989	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	
AL		171,551.30	39,797.70		10,567.85			221,916.85
BC	17,840.00	0.00		784.90		17,917.00		36,541.90
CA	7,259.55	19,812.00		3,546.00	268,724.00	22,847.60		322,189.15
Corfu	766.80	0.00			87,141.90	9,897.00		97,805.70
FL	46,319.70	152,306.00	4,720.80	40,908.00	19,040.70			263,295.20
GA	18,532.00	1,664.80		0.00				20,196.80
HI	91,054.00	4,445.00	3,531.80	78,346.55	51,521.50	7,423.35		236,322.20
Jamaica	31,070.20			10,140.00	25,436.50	5,037.10		71,683.80
Manitoba		31,847.00		0.00	3,650.00			35,497.00
NC		33,829.45						33,829.45
Ontario	4,996.00	1,572.45			5,654.80			12,223.25
OR	8,833.00	39,367.10		1,240.00	130,470.90			179,911.00
St. Croix	37,755.00	15,380.00	59,608.95	58,142.00	29,669.45	55,794.25		256,349.65
TX		0.00				5,983.00		5,983.00
(blank)	49,580.05	287,030.40	54,720.15	79,989.30	324,580.95	43,813.75	0.00	839,714.60
Grand Total	314,006.30	758,805.50	162,379.40	273,096.75	962,441.55	162,730.05	0.00	2,633,459.55

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With ReportBuilder Pro, you get everything included in ReportBuilder, plus a set of components that enables end-users to perform the data access, report layout, and report output activities of the reporting equation. This goal is achieved by delivering visual, easy-to-use solutions.



Data

Within the work environment of the Data tab, end users can quickly create dataviews, which can then be used to supply data to reports. Dataviews are usually created via the Query Wizard or Query Designer. Both of these tools are visual; they also allow the end-user to select the tables, fields, search criteria, and sort order necessary for the report. Behind the scenes, an SQL statement is generated and used to retrieve the data from the database. A screen shot of a completed dataview is shown below.

The solution described above is the standard behavior within the data workspace. However, the developer can customize this user-interface by doing one of three tasks:

1. Register a replacement query wizard or query designer.
2. Remove the query wizard or query designer.
3. Create new dataview template classes that can simplify the data selection process even further by establishing the relationship between the tables in the database and presenting an alternative user-interface (such as a single form that allows search/sort criteria to be entered).

The bottom-line is that the Data area contains a turnkey solution that can be used out-of-the-box, but if customizations are needed, an architecture has been provided so that those customizations are possible.

Design

The Design workspace contains the actual layout of the report. The user-interface is identical to the one presented to developers using ReportBuilder at Delphi design-time; in other words, it is full-featured and professional. The Office97 interface-style makes the Design workspace especially easy to learn for end users. A Report Wizard is available for creating reports quickly. You can customize this interface by replacing any of the dialogs it uses and by registering your own report wizards.

Preview

The Preview workspace contains the rendered report. The report can be printed to the printer or to various file formats from this workspace.

ReportBuilder Professional | Advantages

Easy-To-Learn User Interface

The ReportBuilder Report Designer utilizes an Office97-style user-interface, complete with speedmenus and docking toolbars, which behave the same as other popular Windows applications. This style greatly reduces the learning curve for end users. ReportBuilder Pro offers a Report Explorer component, which facilitates the organization of data, code and reports. The user-interface for this component is identical to the Windows Explorer, so there is literally nothing to learn. Just drop it into your application and your end users will be instantly productive.

Visual Solutions Throughout

While other products offer a visual solution to simple reporting problems, they generally fail to go the distance in providing a full-blown solution to all areas of the reporting problem. ReportBuilder Pro provides a visual, easy-to-use solution to the problems of data access, report layout, and report output. These solutions are provided in the ergonomically designed user-interface of the Report Designer. Each of the following major areas of reporting is represented by a notebook tab and associated workspace: Data, Design, and Preview. Within the Data workspace, data can be selected through the use of a Query Wizard or Query Designer. The Wizard and Designer provide a visual interface and then generate an SQL query behind the scenes, or through Custom Data View Templates, where you provide views of the data and allow simple search/sort criteria to be specified. The Design workspace allows the end-user to create a report layout and the Preview workspace shows the generated report. Together these workspaces make for highly interactive and productive report creation sessions and deliver an unsurpassed level of functionality and ease of use to your end users.

Extensible Object-Oriented Architecture

The feature set required of a professional reporting product is prodigious. It is impossible to code every feature exactly the way a developer might want to see it implemented in her application. In order to answer the necessity of customization, ReportBuilder has been designed as a reporting platform. This platform allows developers to replace any dialog displayed in the user-interface with one of their own; they can create new report wizards, data pipelines (for native data access to proprietary data formats), devices (for conversion of native ReportBuilder output into any format), and report components (to handle any special reporting requirements). All of these tasks can be accomplished without changing the source to ReportBuilder itself, which is why we say ReportBuilder truly is a reporting platform.

True Delphi Integration

ReportBuilder is a reporting development environment – but it is also coded as a set of real Delphi components. Therefore, you can use the Object Inspector to configure any component in a report or create event handlers for any component in a report, all at Delphi design-time. Event handlers allow you to modify the report layout or perform calculations while the report is generating, which can be vital in getting the exact output you want. While other products may be written in Object Pascal, they may not support standard Delphi constructs like event handlers, form inheritance, or dynamic report creation. The truth is that true Delphi integration is technically challenging, and products that take short-cuts to avoid these challenges must eventually invent other ‘technologies’ to replace what is already provided in Delphi. This practice introduces unnecessary and potentially unstable code into a product. For example, there is a competing product that advertises two types of report creation: code-based and visual. But standard Delphi components - as most developers know - should already have both a visual and run-time interface. True Delphi components are inherently code-based and visual; if they are not, then they are not designed in a standard way and some new ‘technology’ has been invented. The fact that this design also creates two learning curves - one for the visual and one for the code-based - is also a serious drawback.

The bottom line: ReportBuilder leverages standard Delphi technology wherever possible. This leverage keeps unnecessary and potentially unstable code from being introduced into the product and significantly reduces the learning curve for developers who are accustomed to working with standard Delphi implementations.

ReportBuilder Professional Advantages Continued...

Extensible Object-Oriented Architecture

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Superior Documentation

A new reporting tool may look great. But how fast can you get through the learning curve? Where competing products offer scant descriptions or reference-style help, ReportBuilder offers a complete learning system. The Developer's Guide provides documentation on the fundamentals of the product and then guides you through a series of tutorials that show how to build simple to highly complex reports. The more advanced tutorials even show how to deploy your reports in a working application. Once you have completed the tutorials of the Developer's Guide, you are ready to pick apart the large number of demo reports and demo projects provided with the product. These demos provide a concrete example of how some of the more advanced features of ReportBuilder can be used. Finally, the exhaustive, 1,500 topic on-line help provides reference information on the components, properties, methods, and events you will find in the product. The help is done in the same style as the Delphi help itself, so it is very easy to use. Together, these three sources of information - the Developer's Guide, the sample projects and the on-line help - create a learning system that will help you get the most out of ReportBuilder in the least amount of time.

? For more information, please send an e-mail to info@digital-metaphors.com.



ReportBuilder Professional Edition, US \$595

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