Marco Tech Blog

February 14, 2019

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today! (/blog/2019-february-24-years-delphi.html)

Today is the 24th anniversary of Delphi 1... and the company is celebrating by releasing Delphi 10.3 Rio Release 1 (or 10.3.1). Happy birthday, and long live Delphi.

Delphi 1 was introduced by Borland on February 14th 1995, so today it marks the 24th anniversary of the product. If you want to see some of the history about the product and its launch, you can refer to my blog post "22 Years of Delphi and it Still Rocks (http://blog.marcocantu.com/blog/2017-january-22years-delphi.html)". In that post, there is a collection of my pictures of the early days of the product, some even predating it.

For today's celebration, I'm going to focus on screenshots, instead, comparing Delphi 1 and its Windows 3 operating system with Delphi 10.3.1 and its Windows 10 operating system. A fairly striking difference... but with some surprises. Before I do that, however, let me spend a second on today's actual announcement.

Delphi 10.3.1 has been Released Today

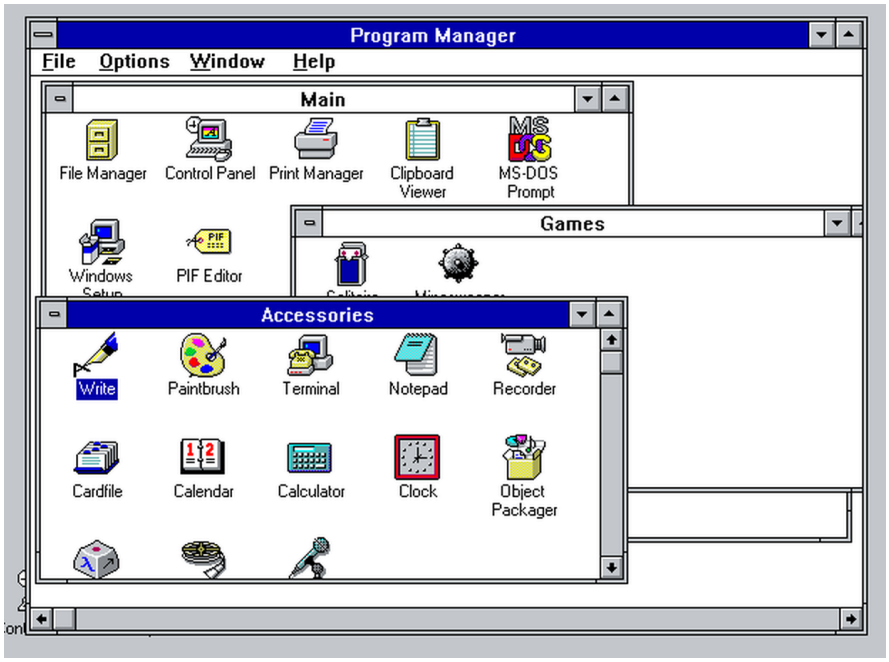
As you can read on Sarina's official announcement https://community.idera.com/developer-tools/b/blog/posts/rad-studio-10-3-1-is-here-happy-birthday-delphi (https://community.idera.com/developer-tools/b/blog/posts/rad-studio-10-3-1-is-here-happy-birthday-delphi). Delphi 10.3.1 is mostly focused on quality, but with some nice addition (particularly the new IDE tools from David). You can also check:

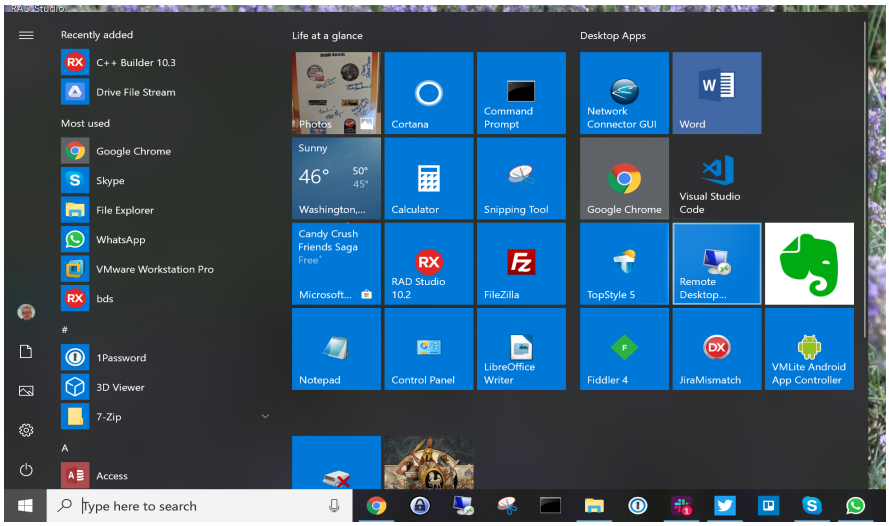
- The docwiki release notes at http://docwiki.embarcadero.com/RADStudio/Rio/en/10.3_Rio_-_Release_1 (http://docwiki.embarcadero.com/RADStudio/Rio/en/10.3_Rio_-_Release_1)
- The list of bugs fixed at http://docwiki.embarcadero.com/RADStudio/Rio/en/New_features_and_customer_reported_issues_fixed_in_RAD_Studio_10.3.1 (http://docwiki.embarcadero.com/RADStudio/Rio/en/New_features_and_customer_reported_issues_fixed_in_RAD_Studio_10.3.1)

Delphi's 24 Years Challange

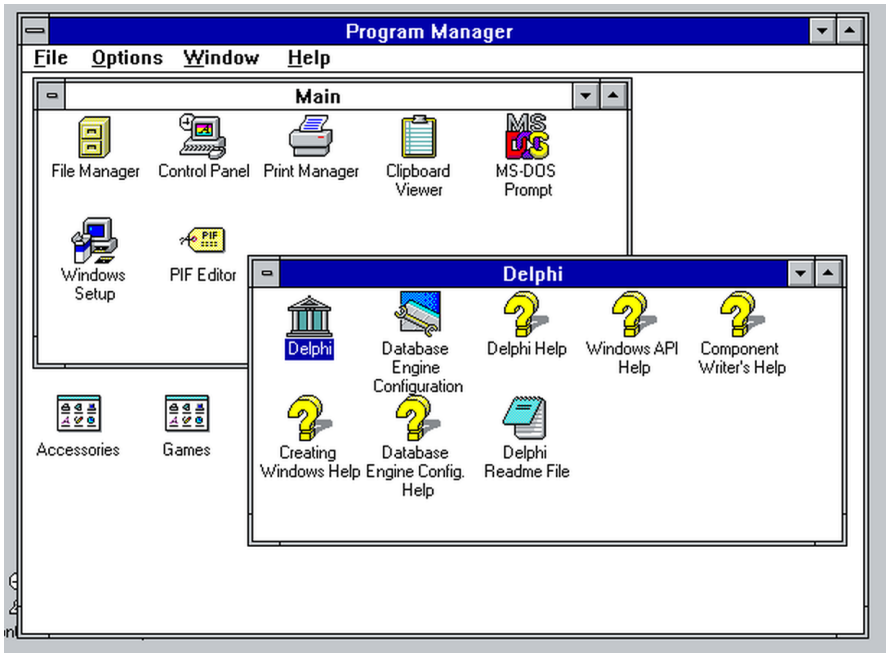
Rather than the recent 10 years challange, let's do a 24 years challange, but using software rather than our selfies. The following images are my contribution. **How did your software look 24 years ago?** Here is how Delphi compares...

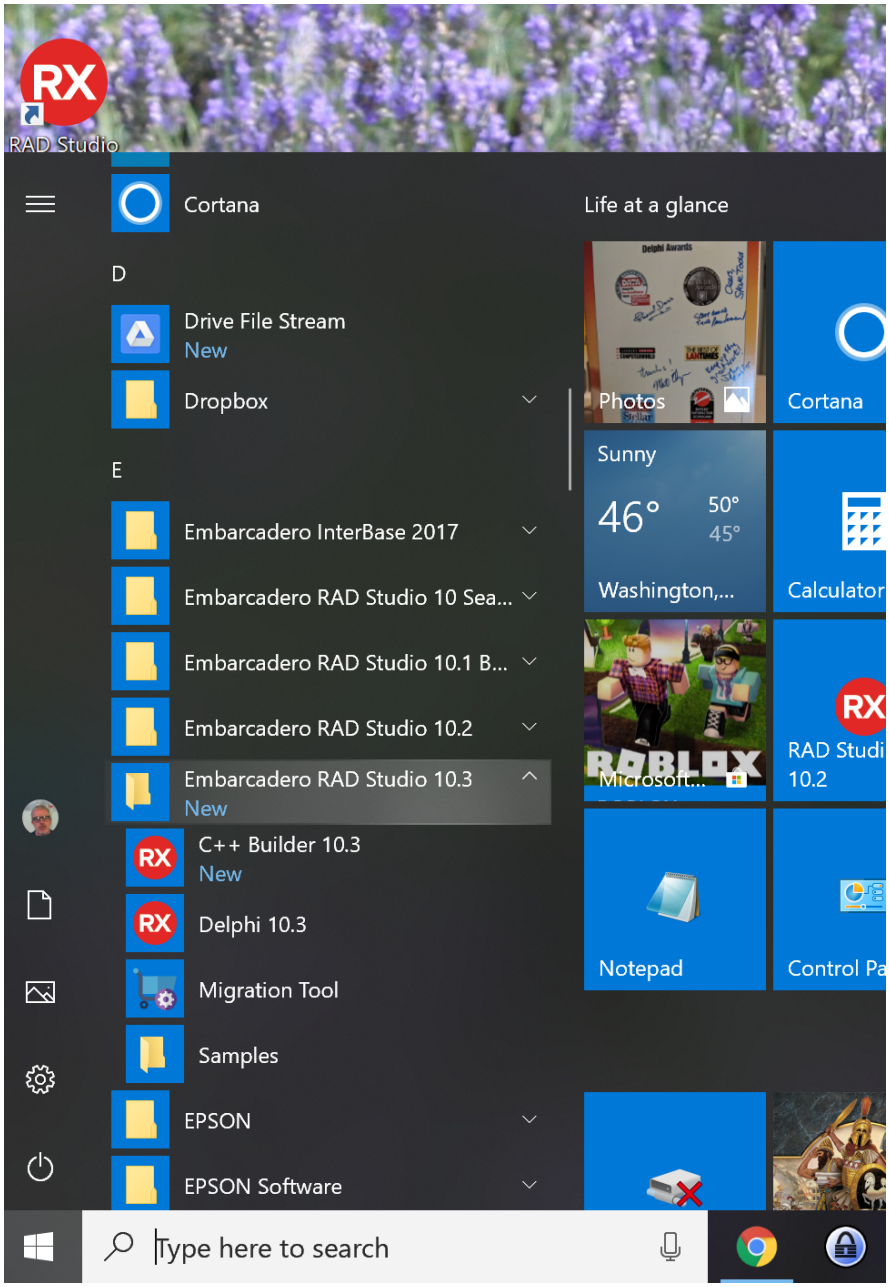
Let me start by showing the **operating system way to find and start applications**, 24 years ago and today:



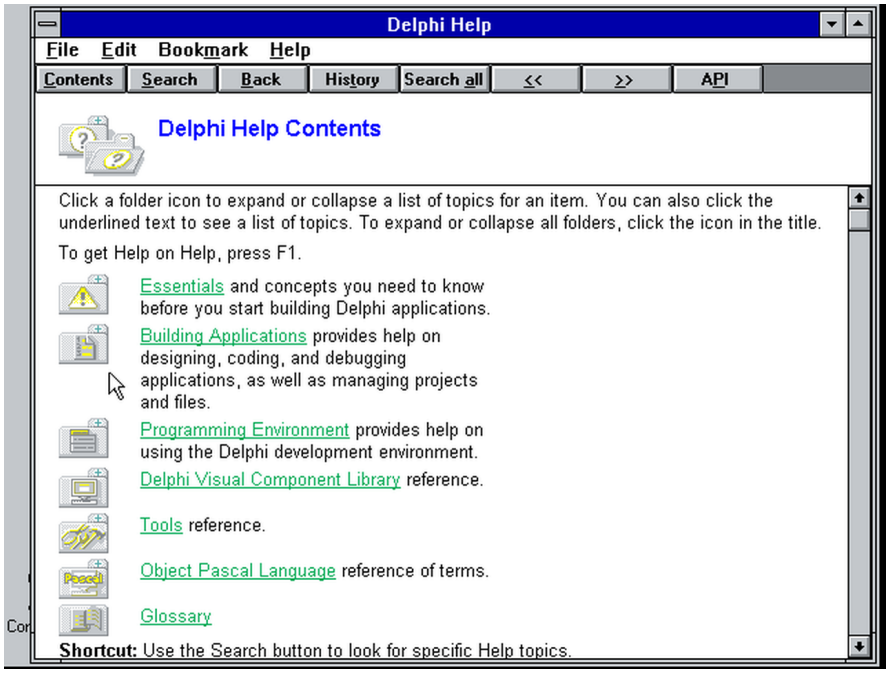


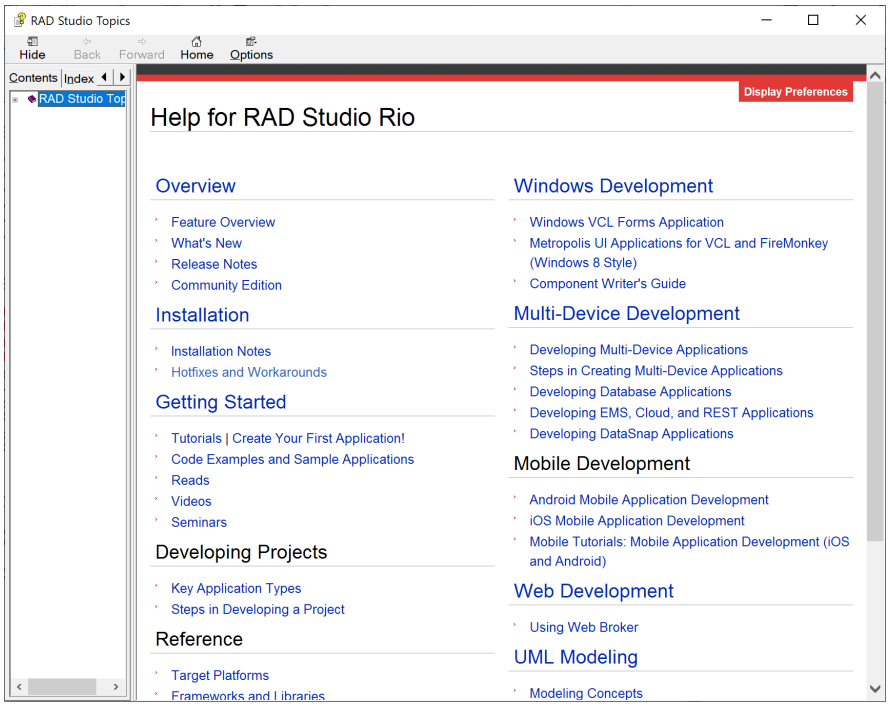
Where did you find the **Delphi start icon** and where do you find it today?


Program Manager
File Options Window Help
Main
File Manager
Control Panel
Print Manager
Clipboard Viewer
MS-DOS Prompt
Windows Setup
PIF Editor
Accessories
Games
Delphi
Delphi
Database Engine Configuration
Delphi Help
Windows API Help
Component Writer's Help
Creating Windows Help
Database Engine Config. Help
Delphi Readme File

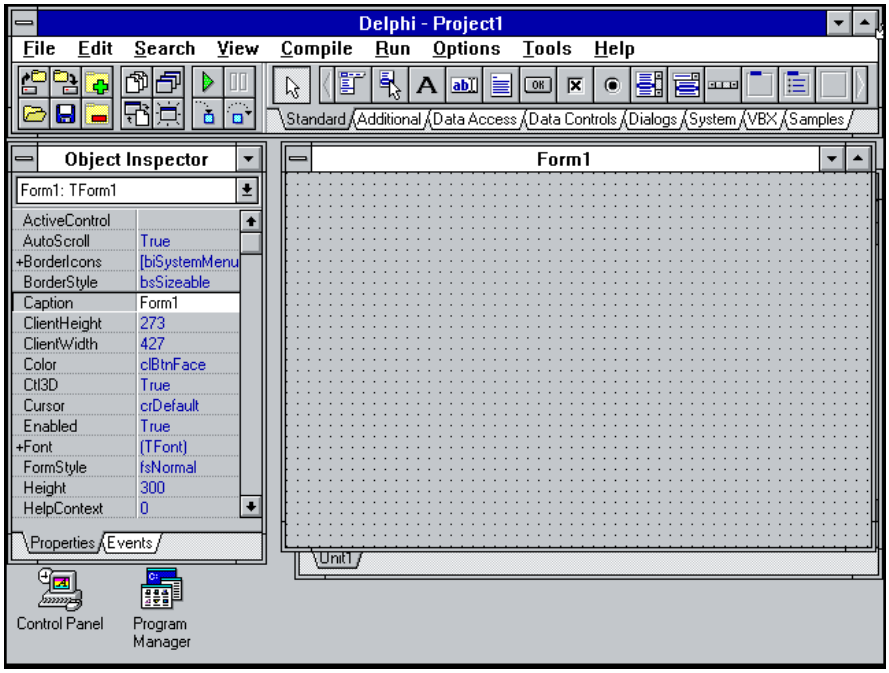


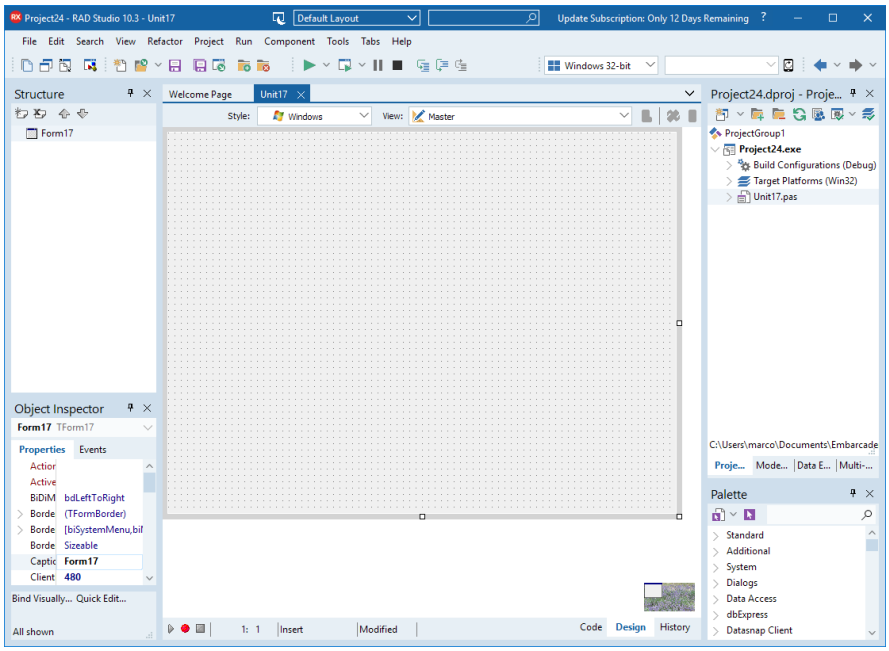
On Delphi 1, there was a direct link to the **help file**, you now have to enable from the product:



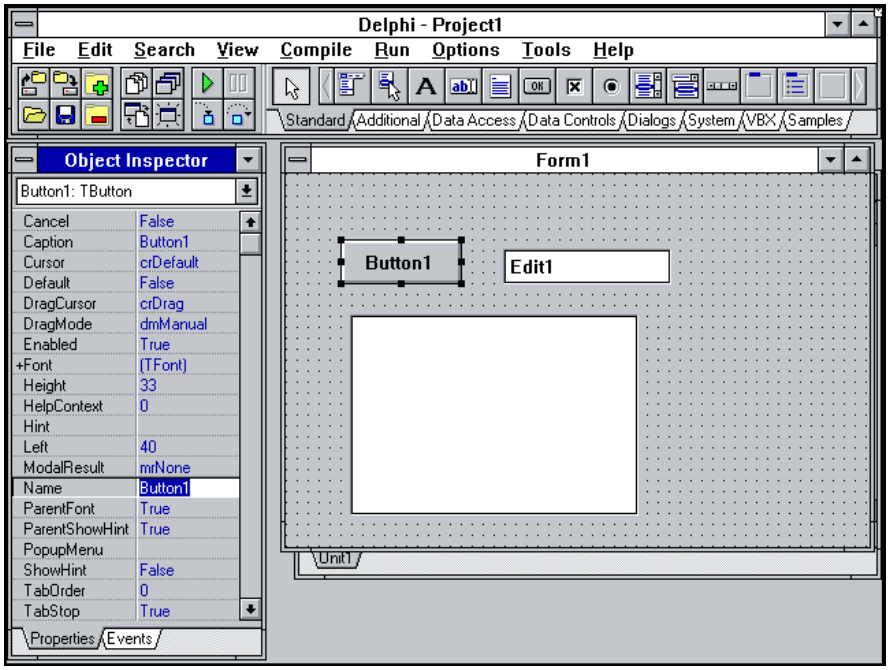


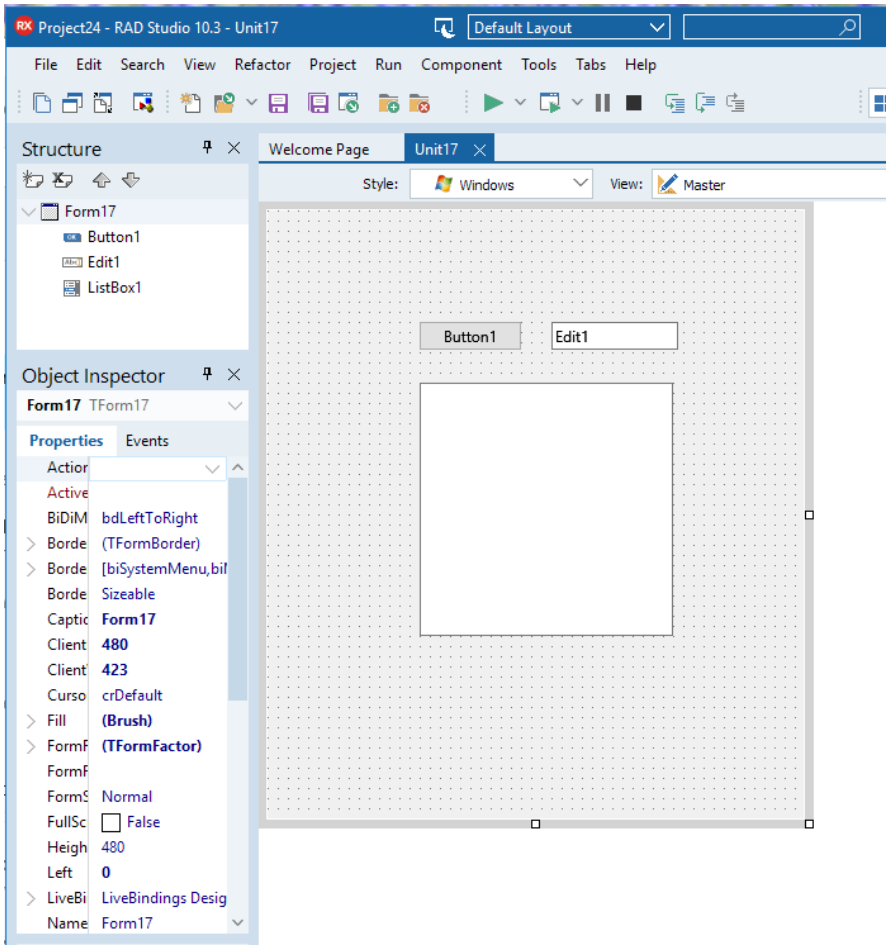
After **starting Delphi** 1 you got a new project and a new VCL form by default, as there were not many other options. Today you get a Welcome page and from that you can create a project, for Windows/VCL or multi-device/FMX (like below):



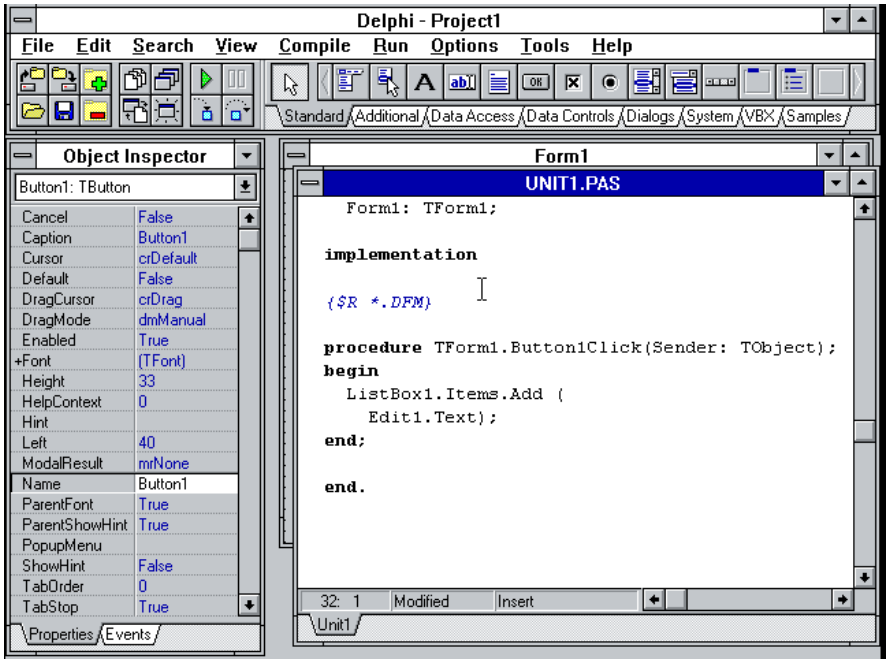


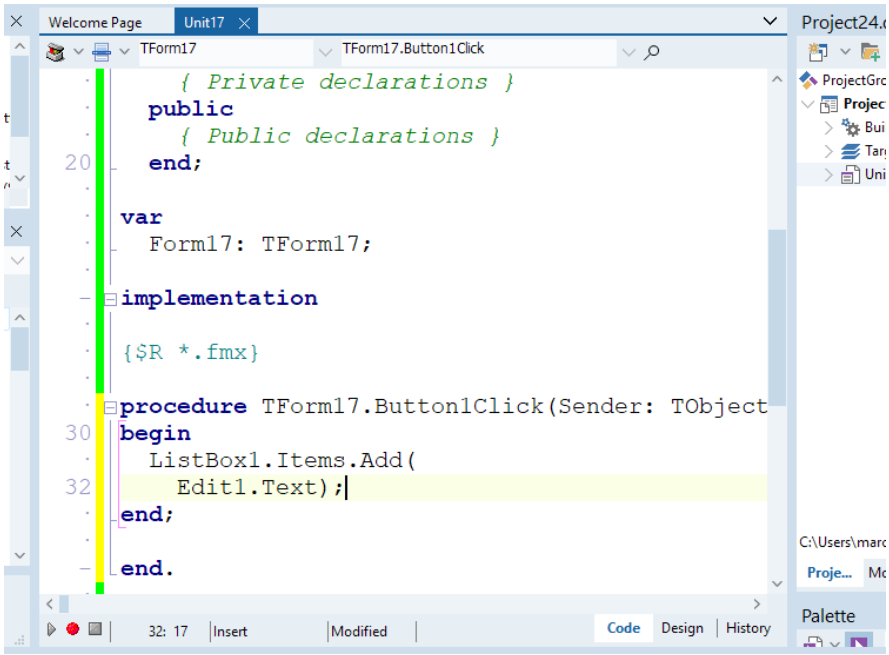
OK. Now let's **use old and new Delphi to create the same application**! Here are a button, an edit, and a listbox (rebuilding one of the most classic introductory demos of the product). The one below uses FireMonkey:



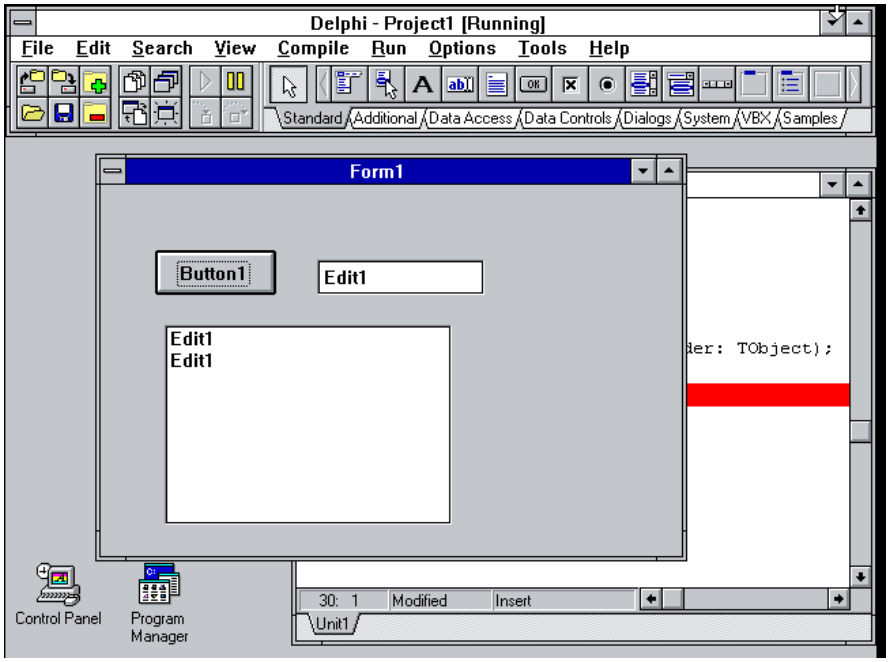


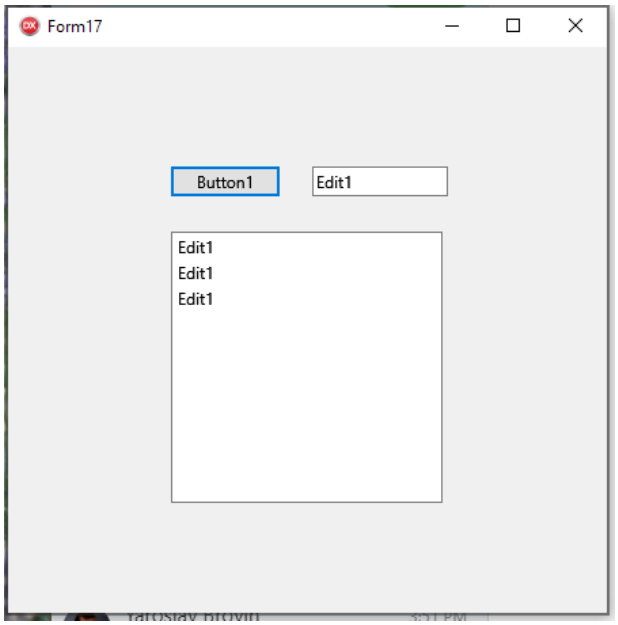
Great user interface (kidding!). Let's write an **event handler for the OnClick of the button**. Oh wait, that code looks **INCREDIBLY SIMILAR**! Talk about code portability over 24 years and different frameworks!

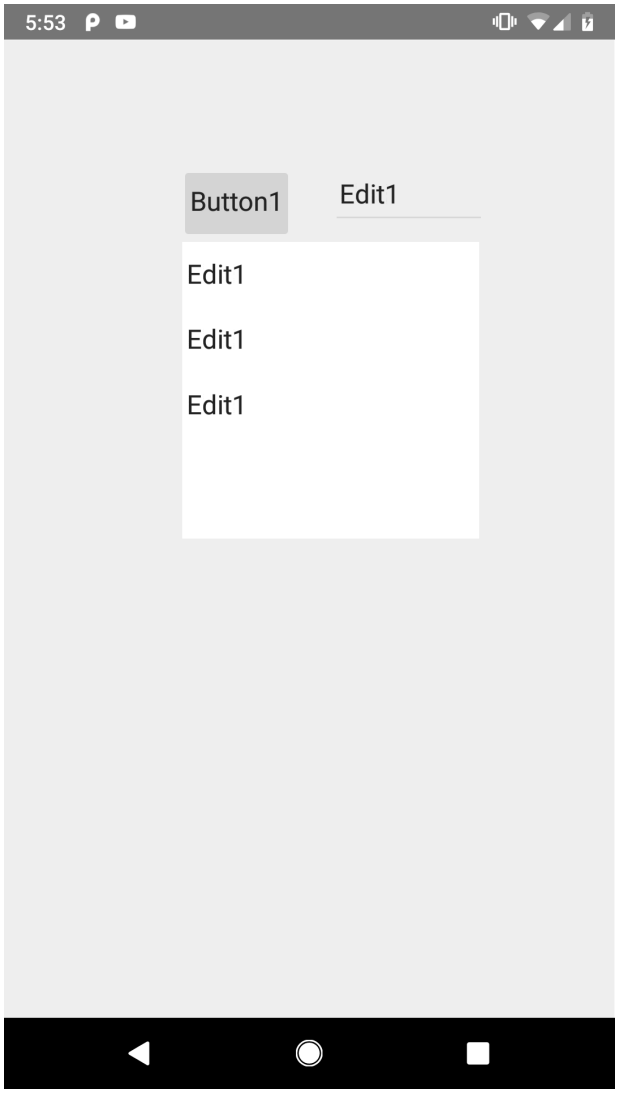




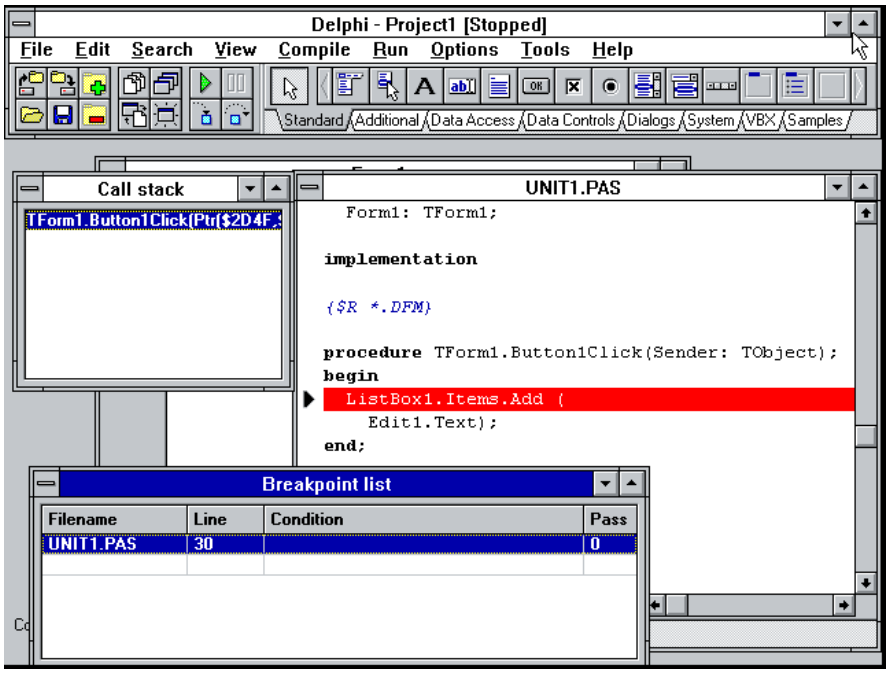
Perfect. Let's now **run the application**, on **Windows 3** for Delphi 1 and on **Windows 10** for Delphi 10.3... but the same exact source code compiles and runs on **Android 9** now!

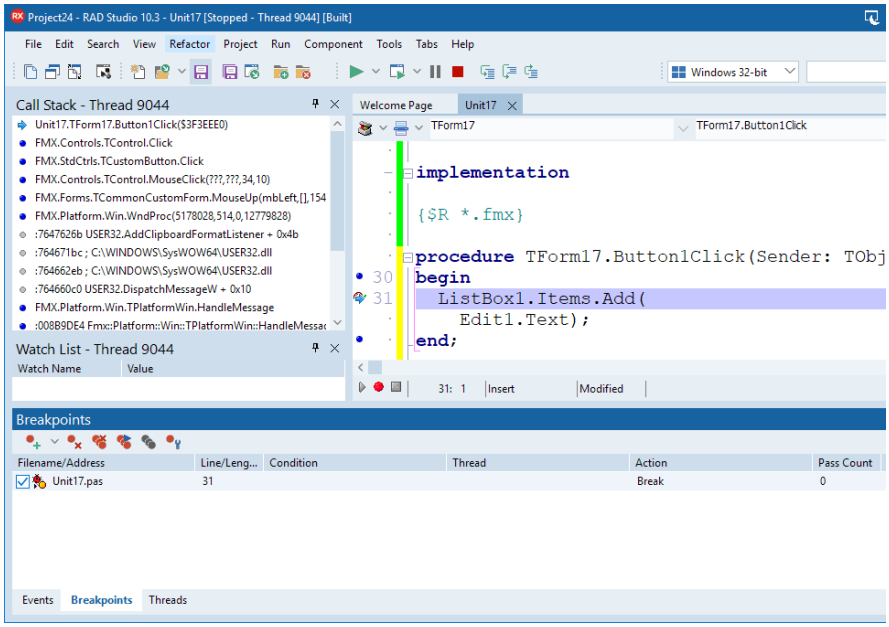

Delphi - Project1 [Running]
File Edit Search View Compile Run Options Tools Help
Standard Additional Data Access Data Controls Dialogs System VBX Samples
Form1
Button1
Edit1
Edit1
Edit1
der: TObject);
Control Panel
Program Manager
30: 1
Modified
Insert
Unit1


Form17
Button1
Edit1
Edit1
Edit1
Edit1

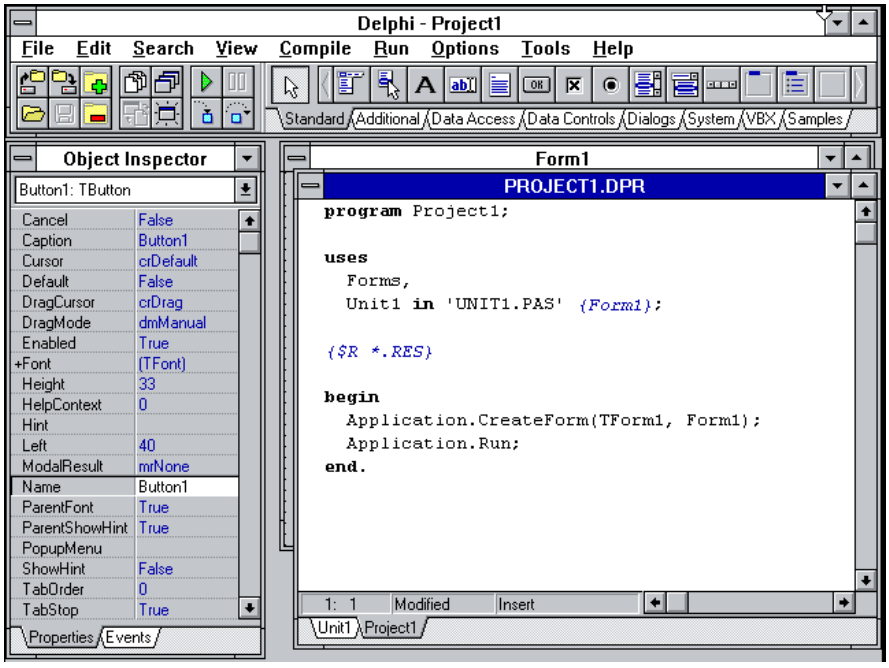


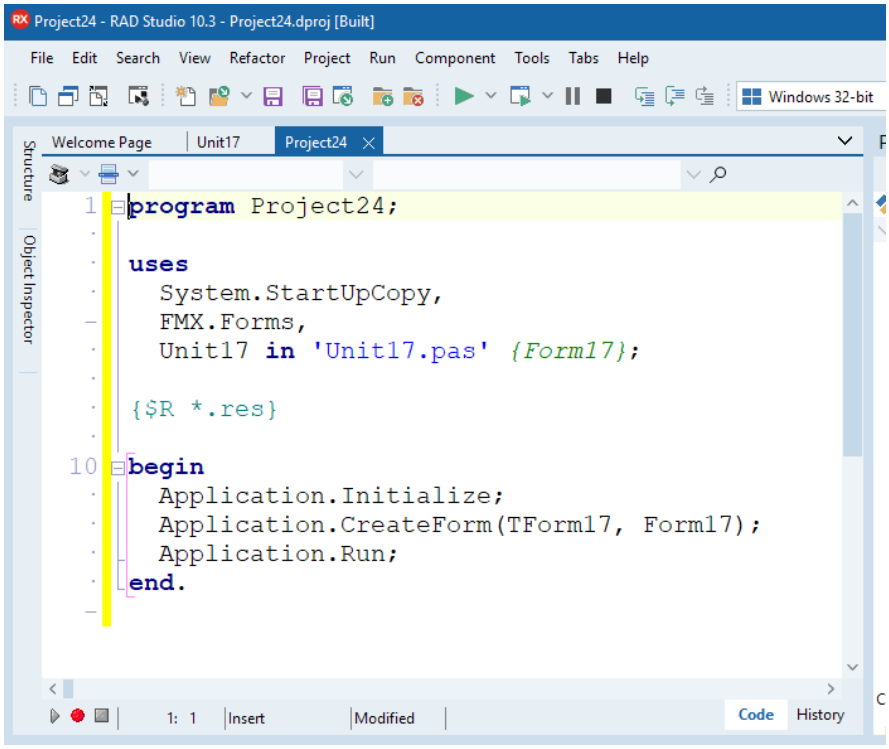
Of course you could and still can **debug your application** (now also on mobile):



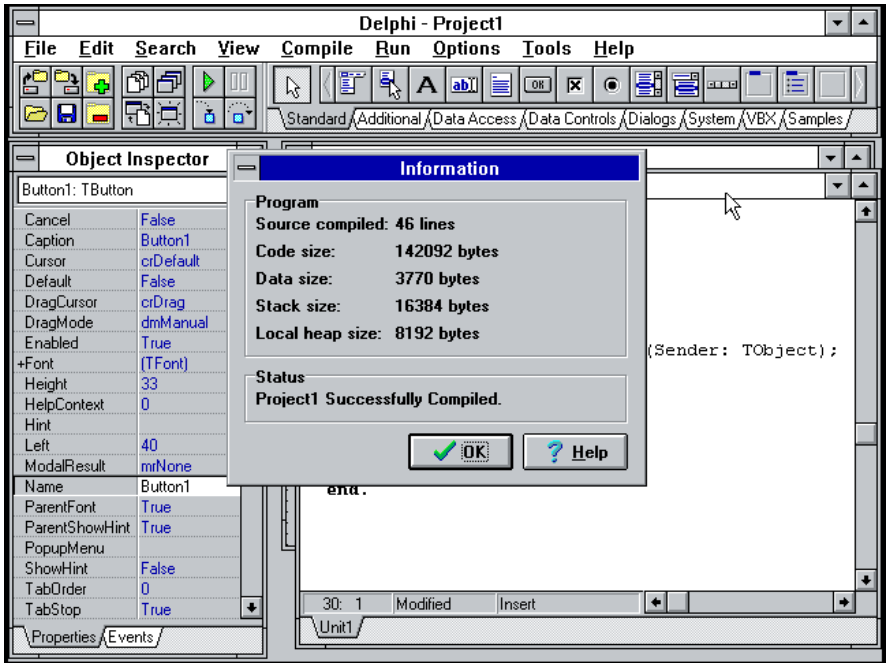


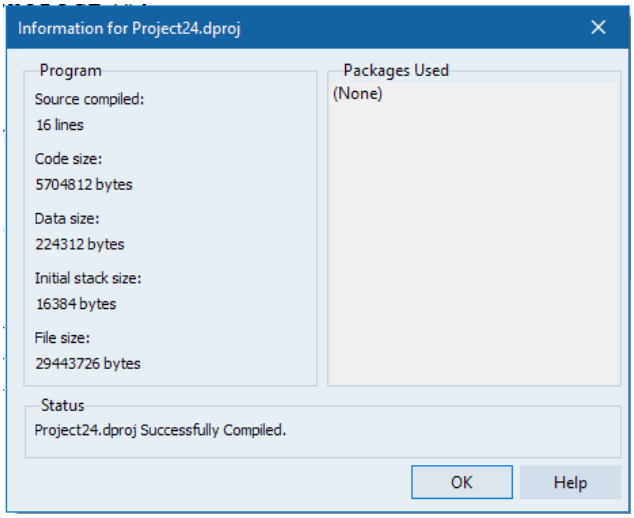
By the way, let's look also to the **project source code** (even if the menu item moved at some point, causing a huge debate among users):



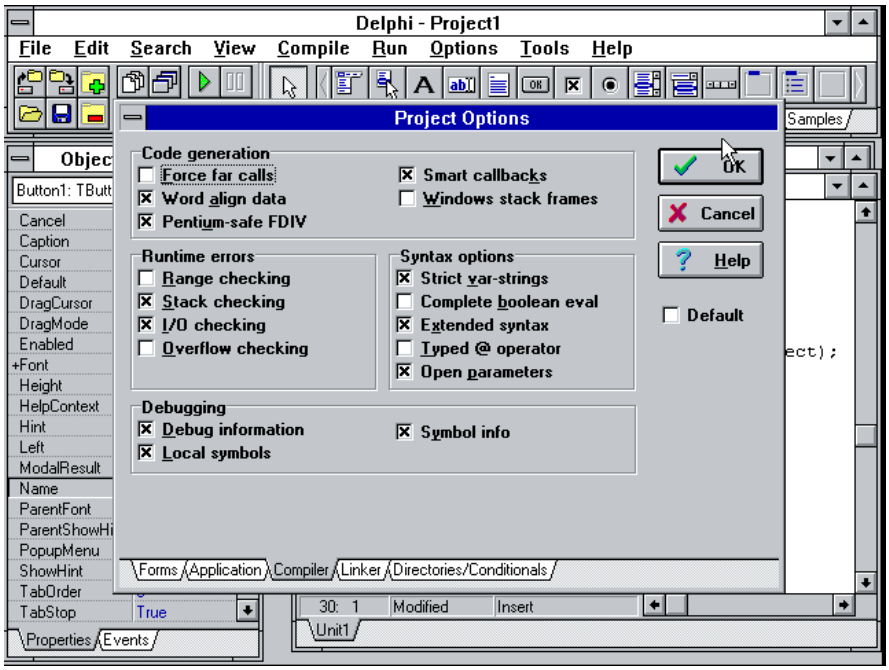


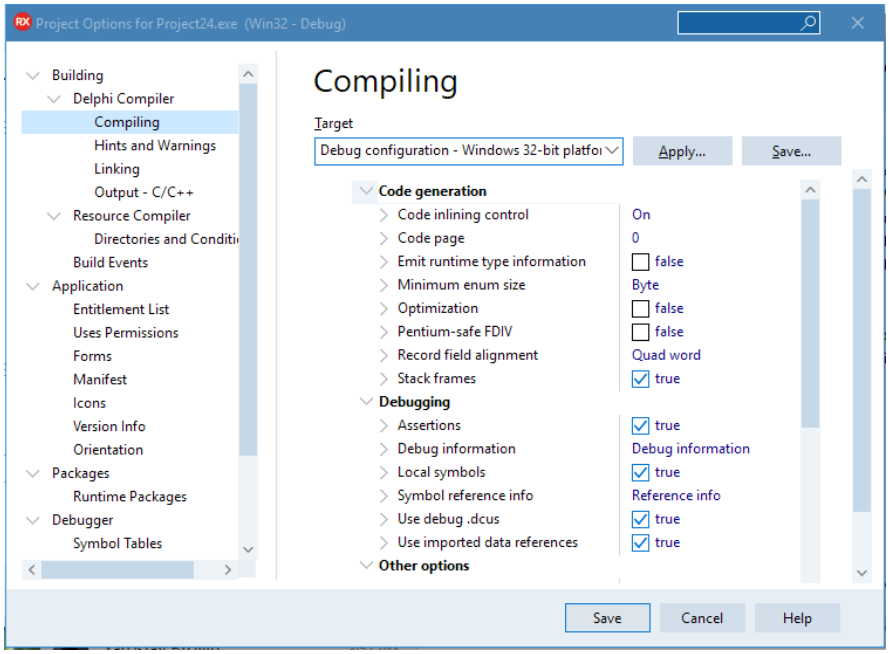
What about getting **information about the compiled program**? The old one was a bit smaller... but still Delphi produces native binary files on all supported platforms!



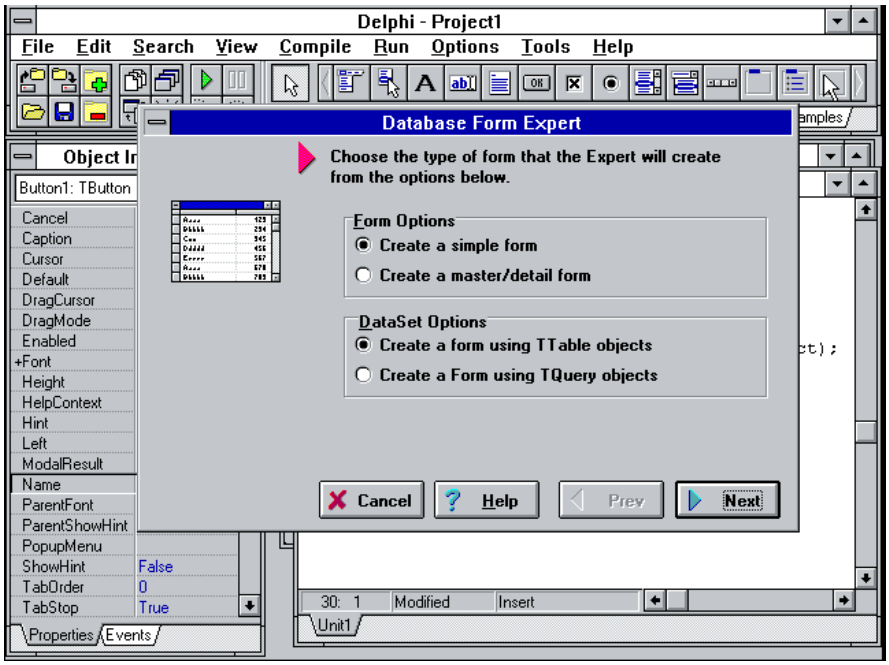


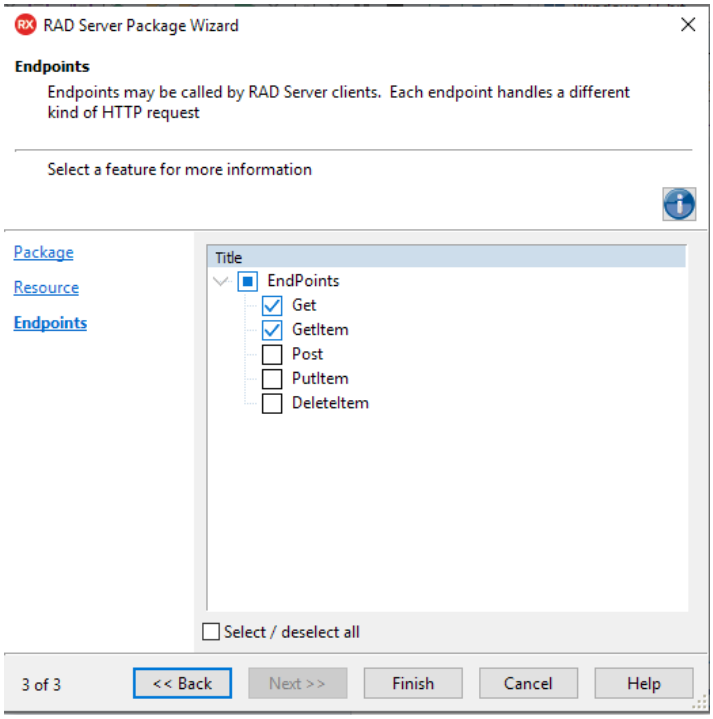
Any project options? Here are the **Delphi compiler / language project options** 24 years ago and today:



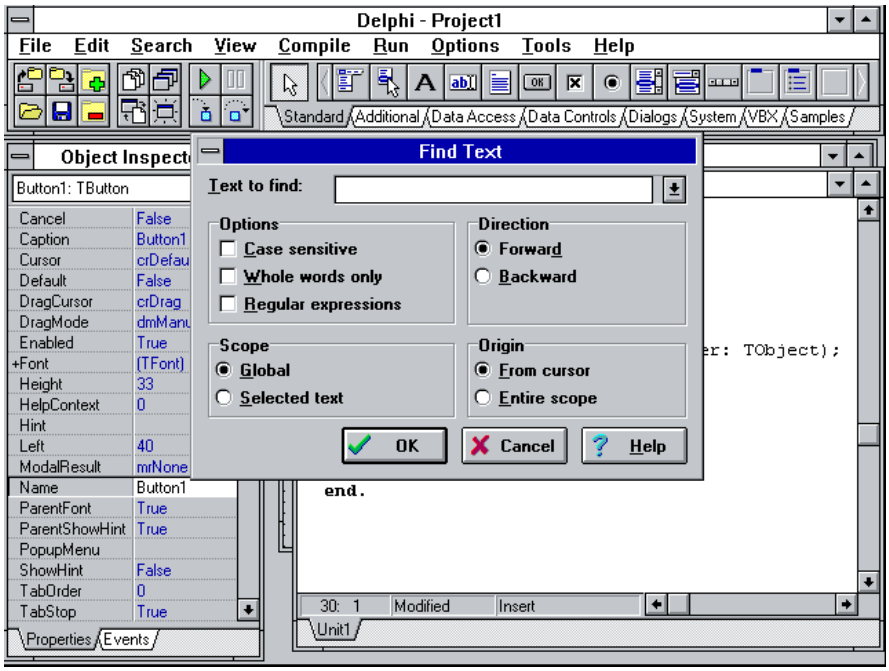


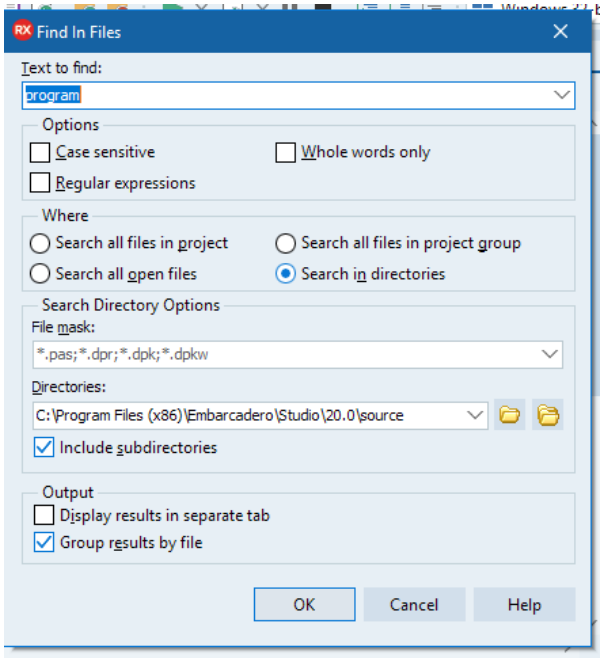
One of the early gems of Delphi 1 was its database support and its **Database Form Expert**. These days we can tout the **RAD Server Wizard**...



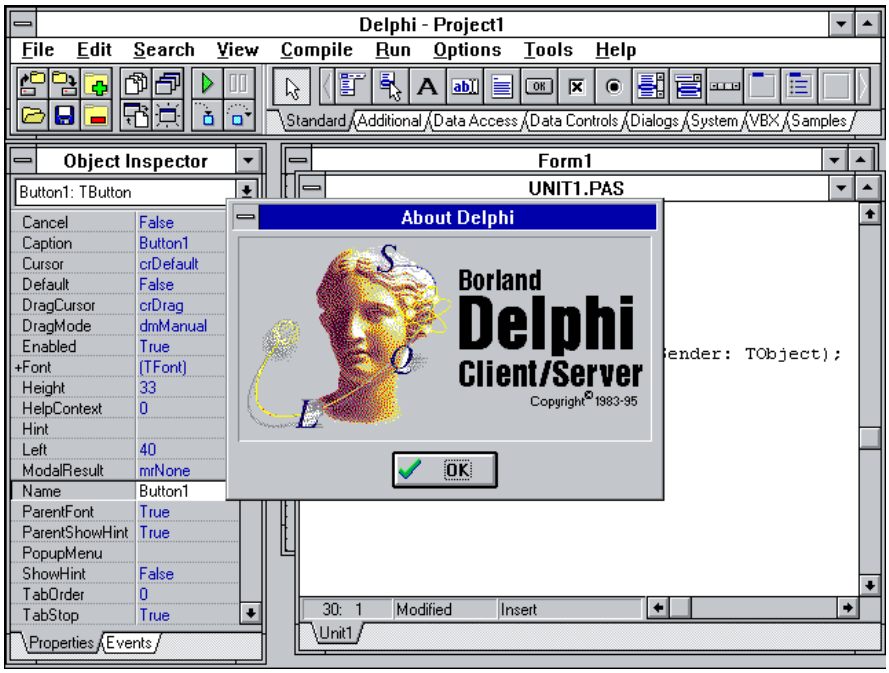


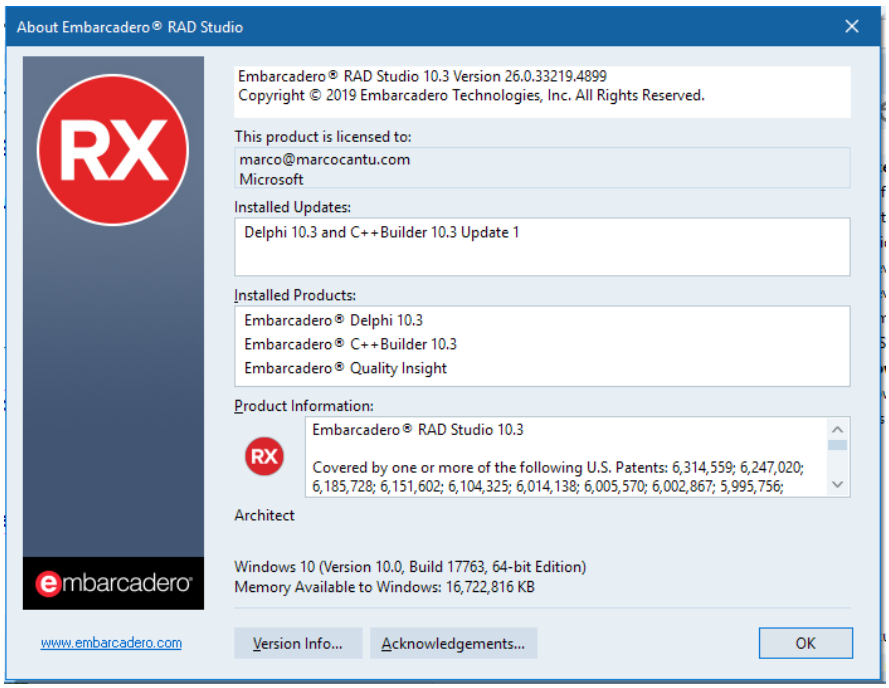
The editor has changed quite a bit, so the **Find Text dialog box**:



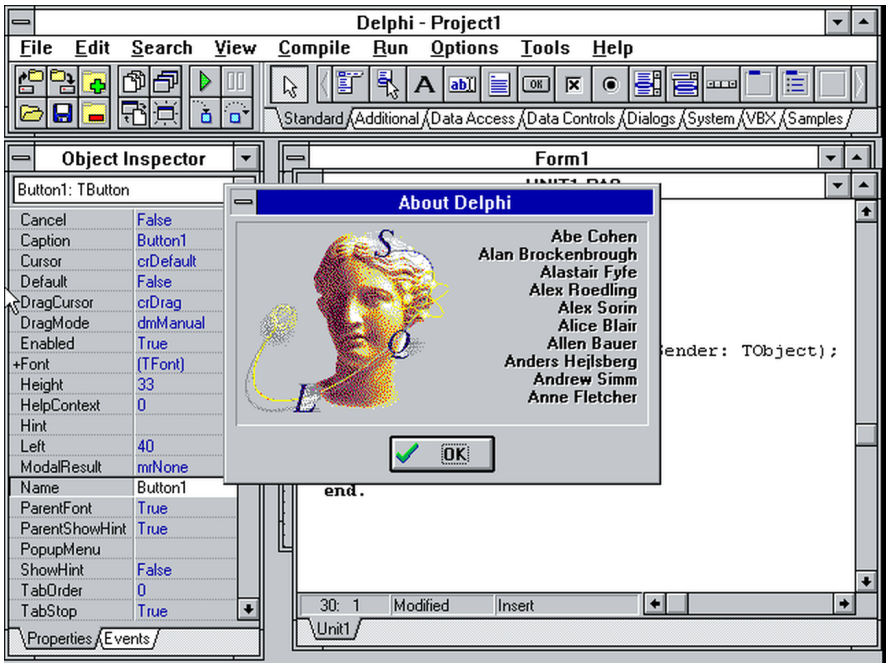


And to conclude here are the **about boxes** of these 2 versions of the product:





Last, but not list the product has always had **Easter Eggs** including the **list of contributors** (the hidden key combination to reveal it is till the same!). Notice in Delphi 1, third from the bottom, the author of the Delphi language, the C# language, and the TypeScript language!



That's all, I'm considering doing a full video... but maybe for next years birthday! Enjoy the celebration of a long time product still alive and kicking, with a great past but also a great present and future. And if you are an active update subscription customer, enjoy **Delphi 10.3.1**! If not, you can still buy it, use a trial, or download the **new Community Edition**.

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posted by marcocantu (http://www.marcocantu.com) @ 6:13PM (/blog/2019-february-24-years-delphi.html) | 19 Comments [0 Pending] (/blog/2019-february-24-years-delphi.html#FeedBack)

19 Comments

MacOS 64 bit

Hi Marco,
I can see no mention of MacOS 64 bit in the release notes. Please don't tell me it hasn't made it in Again! That might be it for me with Delphi if it hasn't. Been waiting far too long for it. Is this not 10.3.X release where it was promised?! After having originally been promised for 10.3 (yes I know promised is not the legally correct word). If it is in and I've just missed it, great and apologies, but I can't see anything.

Pete

Comment by Peter Gates [()] on February 14, 18:25

I really miss the good HELP content

I miss the time that Delphi's Help was complete and things were really easy to find.

Comment by Carlos H. Cantu [https://www.firebirdnews.org (https://www.firebirdnews.org)] on February 14, 18:32

Missing Cmake Update

I was there when Delphi 1 came out. Component based design is still until now a concept that is only realized in Rad Studio. It is a better alternative to the spring network. Component based design should better be promoted and taught by Idera.

In the update today I was missing some progress in Cmake compatibility. I am waiting for tutorials that show how to compile popular C++ frameworks.

Comment by Subdiakon Gerhard Eichhorn on February 14, 19:08

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Long life to Delphi.

Comment by Manoel Pedro G.M. Junior on February 14, 19:44

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Let's also not forget that you could take that Delphi 1 application and compile it in Delphi 10!

Comment by Natalie Vincent on February 14, 23:42

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Thanks Marco for bringing back those memories.... I was a turbo pascal user who migrated to Delphi after windows became popular. Still have some clients using my software developed using Delphi 2!!!..

Comment by Ilangovan on February 15, 03:12

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Congratulations and thanks for the "family slideshow."

Comment by Gary Whizin on February 15, 06:16

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Welcome news, the Delphi anniversary, thanks, Ganymed!

24 years - only or already?!

Never knew exactly when Delphi started (1995), but I remember it gave me a head start in 1997, enabling me to write the interactive 30000+ line multimedia space encyclopedias with combined astronomical/astronautical code integrating everything I had developed in the decades before!

Compliments for the attractive announcement of the youngest Delphi version that still impresses someone like me who enjoyed this evergreen product for 22 years, just being a little bit too old now at 76 to enjoy it fully...

Dad

www.Stanek.ch

Comment by Bruno Stanek, mathematician [http://www.Stanek.ch (http://www.Stanek.ch)] on February 15, 10:44

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

I have left my previous company 3 months ago,
and also I left Delphi..

I don’t know when I will be using it again..
Looking at those great screenshots you put up
here really makes me like playing an retro game..

I really miss Delphi..

Comment by IMissDelphi [https://helloacm.com (https://helloacm.com)] on February 15, 12:46

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Was a great program, till they priced it out of reach
of the average PC owner. For what I need, I've
switched to the free Pascal compiler with the Lazarus
IDE for Windows development.

Comment by Derrick on February 15, 15:32

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Congrats! I started with C++Builder in 97, and it had "occupied" a significant portion of my spare time (and fun) in my college days. It was (and still is! IMHO) the most elegantly packaged set of classes that are not only powerful, versatile, but also truly intuitive-to-use. The component-oriented programming model is still, IMO, the most revolutionary idea on GUI and native application development. After 24 years, I just can't believe people could not come up with another set of classes that can supersede the frameworks of VCL (on the other side, a solid testimony to the forward-looking nature of Delphi/CB).

My effort of writing apps with CB tapered off after I left college and moved completely under Linux. Kylix (Open) continued the fun for just a little while, but sadly, it went away. Then, I had desperately waited for another Linux IDE to continue this fun, but it was a long wait and a lot of suffering and compromises. Right now, I still have my CB1/CB3 installed in my Linux box using playonlinux (CB XE2 on my Windows laptop), but I gradually picked up Pascal because Lazarus was the closest thing to Delphi in Linux. I noticed that new Delphi releases now support Linux, but I think I am happy with Lazarus. The only thing missing is a cross-platform CB. If Kylix could be resurrected, I will be so thrilled!

All I want to say is, I've had a lot of fun from CB/Delphi, and thank all the architects and developers for making this wonderful tool! In my eyes, they are still the best!

Comment by FangQ [http://mcx.space (http://mcx.space)] on February 15, 17:21

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Commenting to Derrick:
Was a great program, till they priced it out of reach
of the average PC owner. For what I need, I've switched to the free Pascal compiler with the Lazarus
IDE for Windows development.

There is always the Community Edition which is free for both commercial (<$5000 in sales) and non-commercial use.

Comment by J. Kelly Wilkerson [()] on February 15, 18:34

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

@Derrick.. not true.. for personal use you can go for it (as I found out to my surprise about 8 months ago).. has been so nice to use Delphi again (after Java)...
Thanks for all your hard work Marco...

Comment by Ralph on February 15, 23:15

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Dear Marco,

In August, no Android app without 64-bit support can be uploaded to the Google Play Store. Delphi doesn't support Android 64 now.

On this occasion you will not be able to use any workaround because it is a matter of compiler, not code or libraries.

Can you report something about this? Do you understand that silence can generate an enormous distrust? At the last Google restriction (API LEVEL 26) you were very late. Fortunately you could use a workaround, but now it will be impossible.

Are you really not going to say anything?

And about Mac OS 64? Neither? E you had delayed this and now again?

Do you think the silence is the better choice?

Thanks.

Comment by Juan Martinez on February 16, 15:56

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Long live Delphi
Can't download Delphi Community edition due to error when downloading Roboto Fonts. It downloads Interbase redist, Livepreview but when it comes to Roboto Fonts I get:
Operation Error
Cannot load data from Server
[500] Internal Server Error.

It happens in Windows 10. I installed correctly in Windows 7.
Can you point me in the right direction to solve it?
Thanks

Comment by Chema on February 17, 10:12

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

The beat goes on ... Long Live Delphi!
From Desktop to Client Server to n-Tier to mobile, Delphi provides a path forward, without losing the path behind ... I tip my hat to the Delphi Team ... GO Delhi Team GO!!!

Comment by keith tolbert on February 18, 14:57

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

24 years is great and all (I've been there since Delphi 1), but how long do you need to get an upgrade installer working? ;-)
A complete uninstall and reinstall with a huge download for a 0.0.1 increment? It even asks me if I want to strip out all my preferences stored in the registry?
Surely you can make upgrades easier?

A small gripe but I am glad Delphi is still here!

Comment by Chris M on February 19, 08:50

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Oh! I started with TP 3.0 and am a structural engineer. Never felt let down all these years, though there was a time in the middle when people did not see why I was hell bent on Delphi. Still love Delphi, for what I have achieved using it. I could not have designed some wonderful structures if not for Delphi. Thanks for the images.

Comment by Pradyumna M on February 20, 05:02

24 years of Delphi... and Delphi 10.3.1 is out Today

Who remembers Lloyd's Delphi Help file? The first version had a HOST of great Delphi tips, on top of a nice collection of programming related humour. I think I used this help file during Delphi 1 development already.

Comment by Donald Klopper on May 10, 08:56

Post Your Comment

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