



PaletteBar

An alternative component palette
for Delphi and C++ Builder

Version 3.32

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Table of contents

1. Legal status	3
2. Some Basics	4
3. Installation	4
4. New in this Version	5
5. Using PaletteBar	6
5.1. The Tool bar	7
5.1.1. The Main menu	7
5.1.2. Actual category	7
5.1.3. All Components	7
5.1.4. History	7
5.1.5. Actual form	8
5.1.6. Favourites	8
5.1.7. Edit categories	8
5.1.8. Configure Palette	8
5.1.9. Configure PaletteBar	8
5.1.10. Show help for component	8
5.1.11. About PaletteBar	8
5.2. The Component list	9
5.3. The A-Z bar	9
5.4. The Search bar	9
5.5. Inserting components	10
5.6. Edit Categories	10
5.7. Configure PaletteBar	11
5.8. Additional languages	14
6. Known Issues	15
7. Credits	15
8. Program history	16

1. Legal status

PaletteBar is **FREEWARE**. Freeware means, that you can use this software without paying anything for it.

This software is protected under the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Union and other countries.

Please note, that I can't take any warranty for the function of this software on any machine or software environment.

You have to use it for your own risk!

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2. Some Basics

The component palette in the Borland IDE is a little bit badly arranged, and if you installed a lot of components then you spend more time in clicking and searching than in developing your application.

So, it is time for a new way of adding components and work with big component packages. It's time for **PaletteBar**!

PaletteBar works with the following Borland IDEs:

- **C++Builder 6**
- **Delphi 6 Personal Edition**
- **Delphi 6 Standard / Professional / Enterprise**
- **Delphi 7 Personal Edition**
- **Delphi 7 Professional / Enterprise / Architect**

A version for Kylix Open 3 is under development and will be available soon.

3. Installation

Please make sure, that your IDE is not running while you are installing PaletteBar!

Run the **PB330.EXE** setup program and follow the installation advices.

Please select the Version you like to install. Use "Architect, Enterprise, Professional" for PaletteBar with CLX-Support, use "Standard, Personal Edition" for the IDE's without CLX, or choose the IDE's you prefer manually from the list.

The setup program copies all necessary files to the folder you have chosen.

After setup, PaletteBar is ready to use...

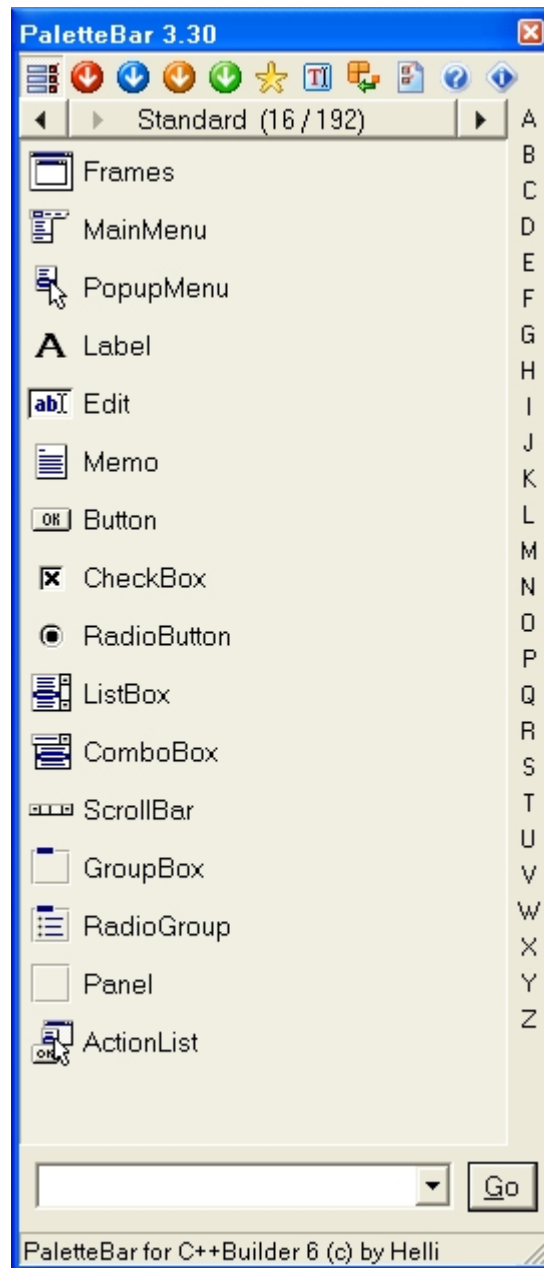
4. New in this Version

- Fixed initialisation problem

Some windows DLLs are loaded faster since a few weeks, maybe any updates from Microsoft... Ok, Delphi's loads faster and when PaletteBar comes to initialise the list of components, the Delphi IDE has not initialized the built in component bar, which is read out by PaletteBar. So only one category is read out (mostly Standard), others are not filled.

5. Using PaletteBar

After installing PaletteBar, the menu “PaletteBar” appears next to the Tools-menu of the IDE. Select the entry “PaletteBar” to show up the main window. Place it anywhere on your desktop, the window remembers size, position and whether it was opened the last time you ran the IDE. As you see below, you can dock it anywhere in the IDE. Please remember to save your IDE-Desktop to restore docking state at next loading.



Initial window of PaletteBar, docked to Objectinspector

5.1. *The tool bar*

On top of the window you see a tool bar with 11 buttons. You see also a list of the components, which are on the actual tab of the built in component palette. On the right side you see the "A to Z bar". On the bottom of the window you see the so called Searchbar.

5.1.1. **The main menu**



The first button is the main menu of PaletteBar; all other Buttons are represented in this menu, and not further explained.

Here you find all the pages of the common component palette. On the first run, all known pages are listed under the menu entry "Others"

If you have already configured your individual categories (see chapter 4.5 Configure Category), then you see in addition to "Others" menu entries for the Meta categories you have entered.

5.1.2. **Actual Category**



Show all components of the category you have chosen. The name of the category is shown below in the header of the component list.

5.1.3. **All components**



Shows all components you have installed in one big list.

5.1.4. **Actual Form**



Show all components on the currently edited form. Please note, that a form editor must be activated in the IDE (the form has to be the top window) to use this feature.

5.1.5. **History**



List all components you have already used in this session. If you want to store the history

from session to session, you can choose the "Save History" option from the "Configure PaletteBar" menu.

5.1.6. **Favourites**



Lists all your favourite components. To add a component to the favourite list, simply right click on the component in the list and choose "Add to favourites". In the favourites list you can delete components in the same way (right click context menu).

5.1.7. **Edit Categories**



Shows a dialog box where you can edit the "meta" categories. (See chapter 4.5, "Edit Categories")

5.1.8. **Configure Palette**



Run the standard IDE dialog for configuring the pages of the common component palette.

5.1.9. **Configure PaletteBar**



Brings up the configuration dialog PaletteBar wizard. (See chapter 4.6 "Configure PaletteBar")

5.1.10. **Show Help for Component**



If a component is selected in the list, you can call the online help with the corresponding help page for the component.

5.1.11. **About PaletteBar**



Shows Information about the program version.

5.2. *The Component List*

In the component list you see the components according to the selection you have made: Actual category, All components, History, Actual Form or Favourites.

Clicking the Header of the list sorts the list in alphabetical or reverse order. For “Actual category”, the list is also shown in the original order from the built in component palette.

With the left and right arrows in the header, you can browse through the component categories installed in your IDE.

5.3. *The A-Z Bar*

Selecting an item from the A-Z Bar scrolls the component list to the first item that begins with the corresponding letter.

If you have selected the “Filter mode” feature from the context menu or from the global configuration, the list shows only the components with the corresponding letter.

5.4. *The Search bar*

With the Search bar you can search for a component or a group of components. Just enter the text you want to look for in the edit field and press the “Go” button. PaletteBar searches all components and lists those with matching the text you entered. For example enter the text “button”, and PaletteBar shows you all components with “button” in their names, (TButton, TSpeedButton, TRadioButton and TSpinButton for example).

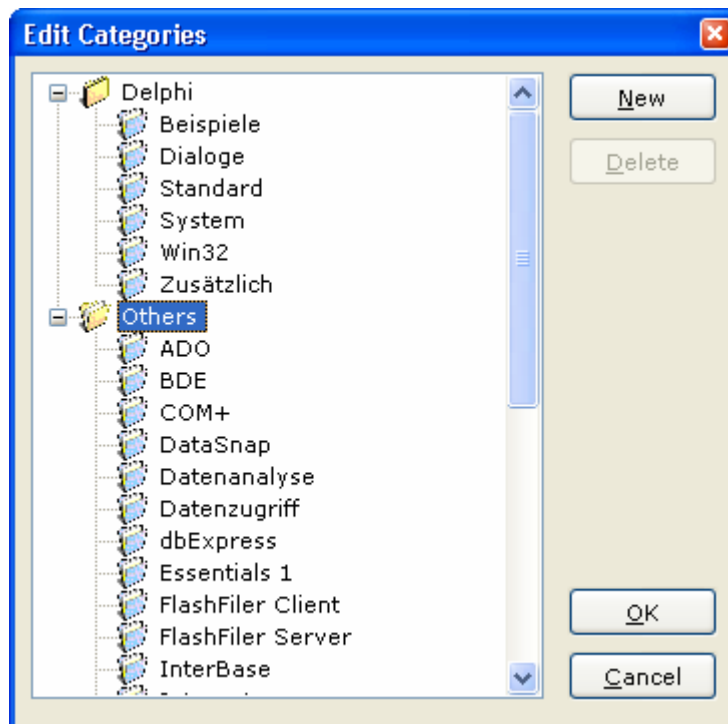
PaletteBar saves your searched keywords and you can choose them again from the combo box.

5.5. *Inserting Components*

To insert a component to your form is quite simple: Just click on the component you wish to insert, hold down the left mouse button and drag the component to your form. The component is inserted at the position, you release the mouse button.

5.6. *Edit Categories*

If you select “Edit Categories” from the tool bar or the main menu, you get the following dialog to add “meta categories”.



The Edit Categories dialog

“Meta” means that this category did not contain components directly, but contains groups of categories. This helps you to navigate quicker through the components than with the built in palette, because you can jump directly to any component page you like.

On initial run, PaletteBar adds automatic all pages from the built in component palette to the Meta category “Others”.

You can add your individual Meta categories by clicking the button “New”. The new category is inserted at the end of the list with the name “new category”. You can always edit the name of the Meta categories (except “Others”) by double clicking the entry or pressing the F2 key when the entry is selected.

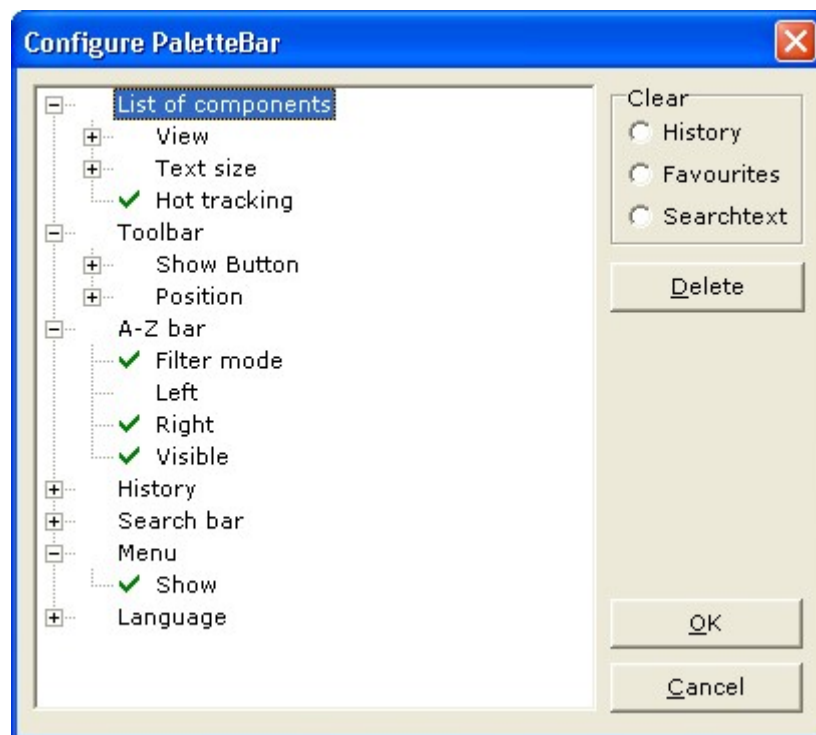
To add a category (with components) to a meta category simple drag and drop the category item to the meta category you wish to put it. If you want to copy the category – i.e. to have the category under more than one Meta category – hold down the shift key on your keyboard when dropping.

To delete a Meta category, select the entry and click the "Delete" button. The categories in the Meta category you wish to delete are added automatic to "Others".

Please note, that you can not delete categories or the Meta category "Others"; also, you can not have a category more than once in a Meta category.

5.7. *Configure PaletteBar*

With the new designed configure dialog (select "Configure PaletteBar" from the tool bar or the main menu), you can configure PaletteBar for your individual needs.



The Configure dialog

5.7.1. List of components

Configure the look and feel of the component list. You can also configure the list by the context menu of the list (clicking with the right button into the list).

- *View*

Select the display options for the list. Choose "Symbols" to show only the symbol for the component, choose "Text" to show only the text, or choose "Symbol and Text" to show both of them.

- *Text size*

Select "Small", "Middle" or "Big" size for the text used in the component list.

- *Hot tracking*

Select "Hot tracking" (selecting components by moving the mouse over the components instead of clicking to select) for the list, or deselect, if you don't like this feature.

5.7.2. Toolbar

Configure the look of the tool bar. You can also configure the tool bar by its context menu.

- *Show Buttons*

Select the buttons you want to have displayed on the tool bar.

- *Position*

Select the position, the tool bar is displayed. Choose "Top", "Right" or "Left"

5.7.3. A – Z bar

Place the A-Z Bar on the left or the right side of the component list, or switch it off, if you don't want to use it. Select "Filter mode" for activating Filter mode. Refer to chapter 5.3 "The A-Z bar" for more information.

5.7.4. **History**

- *Save history*

If selected, PaletteBar saves the history list when the IDE is shutting down.

You can clear the history list by selecting “clear History” in the context menu of the history list.

5.7.5. **Search Bar**

Select the display options for the Searchbar.

- *Top, Bottom*

Display the Search Bar at the top or the bottom of the window.

- *Visible*

Select, if the Search bar is visible or not

5.7.6. **Language**

Actual you can choose between English, French, German, Portuguese and Turkish.

PaletteBar has the ability to add individual languages “on the fly” by the user. Please refer chapter 5.8 for defining additional languages.

5.7.7. **Clear/Delete**

In the “Clear” field you can choose which list to delete:

- History
- Favourites
- Search text

Press the Delete button to delete the list you choose.

5.8. *Additional languages*

PaletteBar has the ability to add individual languages “on the fly” by the user. The language strings are stored in usual text files in the PaletteBar directory. They are named “palettebar.<lang>”. <lang> is the grammalogue of the language, for example “EN” for English or “DE” for German.

To localize PaletteBar for your language simply translate the content of “palettebar.EN” to your language, and rename it according to your language (i.e. palettebar.FR for French).

To let PaletteBar know your language, you have to register it in another text file named “palettebar.lng”. The file contains the strings that are displayed in the language menu in a special format:

```
<language>_<name>_<grammalogue>
```

<language> is the grammalogue of the language the <name> part belongs to. <name> holds the string for the menu, and finally <grammalogue> is the file extension of the file where the corresponding language strings are stored. Example:

```
EN_English_EN
EN_German_DE
DE_Englisch_EN
DE_Deutsch_DE
```

To add a individual language, you have to add the menu stings as described above. For example French:

```
EN_English_EN
EN_German_DE
EN_French_FR
DE_Englisch_EN
DE_Deutsch_DE
DE_Französisch_FR
FR_Anglais_EN
FR_Allemand_DE
FR_Français_FR
```

If you have added a language please sends it to me (see Email address above) and I put it in the next public release of PaletteBar.

6. Known Issues

- 6.1. In some cases it is possible that the fresh docked PaletteBar main window is not zoomed correct to the extends of its parent. This is not a bug in PaletteBar, because it did not know when it is docked. The whole work is done by the IDE, so this is a bug in the IDE docking routines. Just change the size of the parent window a little bit and PaletteBar zooms to fit in the window.

7. Credits

I wish to thank the following people:

Andrea Jacobs for help and assistance with documentation and translation.

Jacob Thurman for help and assistance with docking functions.

Bruno Sonnino for Portuguese translation.

Phillipe Lucarz for French translation.

Cumhur Semin for Turkish translation.

Jürgen Kehrel, Brian Brunoni, Steve Gouldstone, Ralf Grenzing and Anthony Egerton for suggestions and help.

dageek for CompBar, the inspiration for PaletteBar

8. History

Date	Version	Annotation
12.12.2003	3.32 -	Fixed initialisation problem (only one category filled when loaded)
04.12.2003	3.31	- Fixed problem with getting component Icons
12.10.2003	3.30	- Added Turkish language file - Added browse buttons to the header line - Categories Dialog: a category can now also dragged to the "Others" section - Changed way to get the component images and relations.
16.09.2003	3.21	- Fixed access violation with menu and closed PaletteBar dialog - Added French language file
14.09.2003	3.20	- In the edit field, you can use now the "?" as a place holder for any char - The toolbar can now totally removed, if the menu is displayed in the IDEs main menu. - smaller size, loads now faster - Bug at loading new components fixed
01.09.2003	3.15	New Features: - New A2Z-Toolbar - Added Save-Feature to the search field - Supports IDE version without CLX-Support (D6 Personal and D7 Personal) - Fixed bugs: - IDE crash fixed again (grmb!fx!)
01.08.2003	3.00	New Features: - Supports docking - complete internal redesign - new configuration dialog - Fixed bugs: - IDE crash fixed again
29.06.2003	2.02	Fixed bugs: - IDE crashed at shutdown - Components not inserted on datamodule
28.06.2003	2.01	Fixed bug with changing languages
27.06.2003	2.00	Quantum leap... - Runs now with Delphi 6 and C++Builder 6 - Code optimized, - Actual Form feature added, - added multiple meta categories, - add support for individual languages - extend configuration capabilities, - improved Edit Categories dialog, - and much more...
15.06.2003	1.02	CLX-Problems solved
15.06.2003	1.01	Adding support for Toolbar positioning
14.06.2003	1.00	First Release