



Xbase++ 1.90

ServiceLevel #1

feature overview & summary

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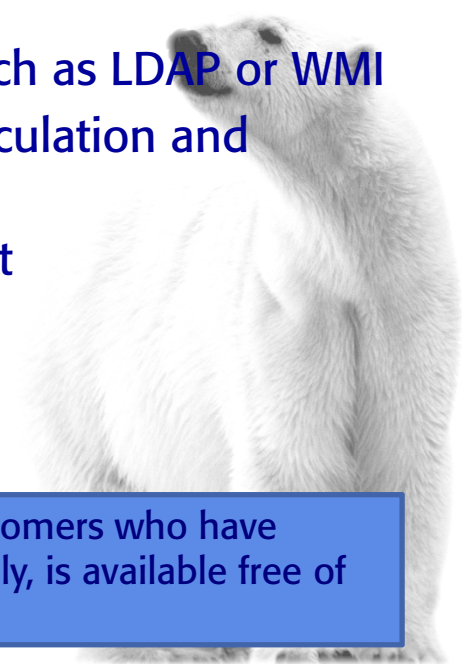
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SL1 Feature-Overview

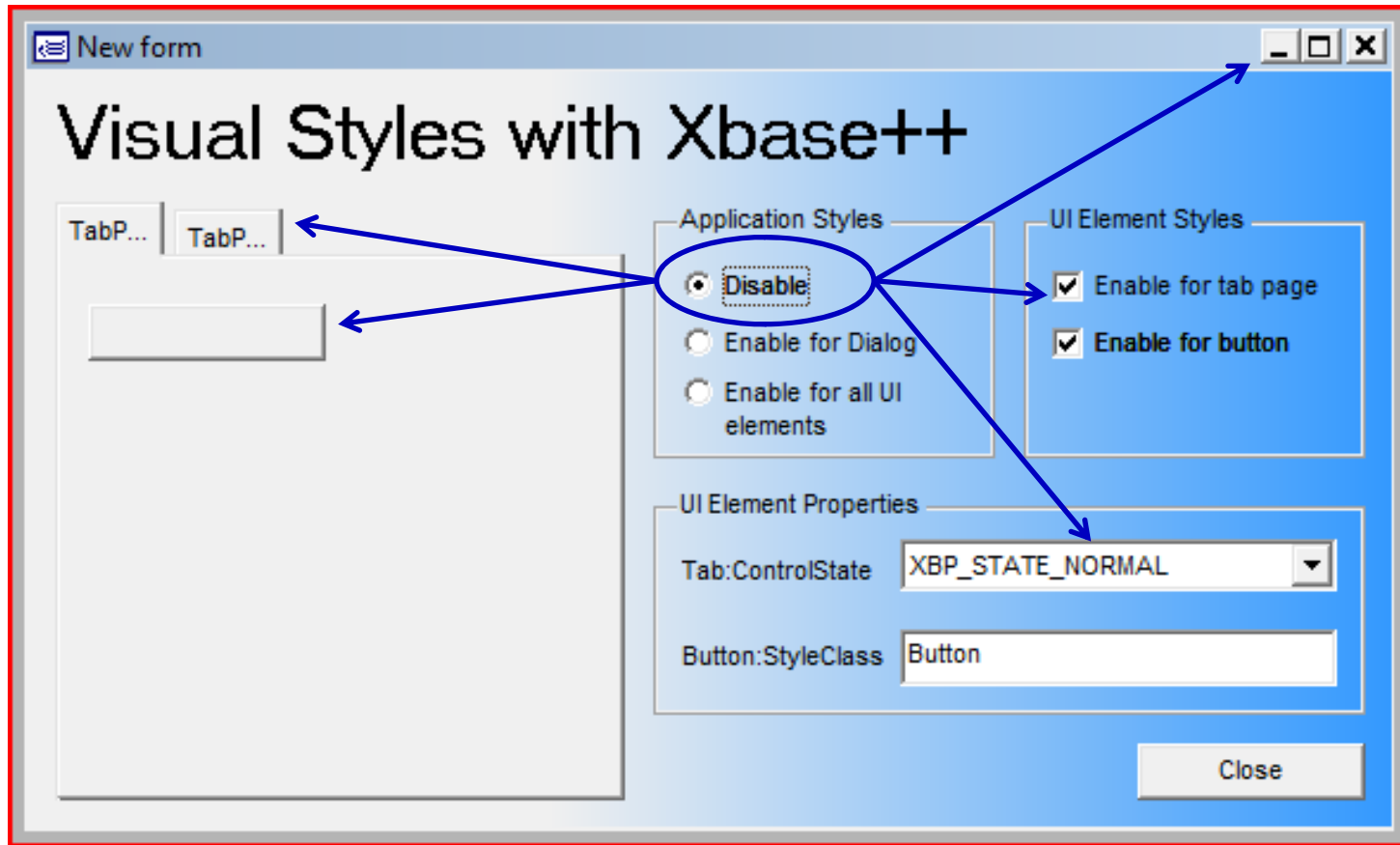
- Consolidates all previous Hotfix-Rollups
- Includes fixes for PDRs which are not covered in Hotfix-Rollups
- Official support for Windows Vista SP1 and Windows Server 2008.
- *) NEW: Visual-Theme-Support for Xbase Parts under XP and Vista
- *) NEW: Owner-Drawing for XbpBrowse(), XbpCellGroup(), XbpColumn(), XbpMultiCellGroup(), XbpQuickBrowse(), XbpStatic() and XbpTabPage().
- *) NEW: GraXXX functions to ease development of owner-drawn Xbase Parts
- *) NEW: Owner-Drawing now supports Visual-Styles
- *) NEW: GetObject() now supports Active Directory Services, such as LDAP or WMI
- *) NEW: Functions related to Random-Number, UUID, Hash-Calculation and Unicode
- *) NEW: The Xbase++ OOP Language was enhanced to support INTRODUCE/FINAL/OVERRIDE for Method declarations.
- Increased runtime reliability
- Optimized memory layout

*) SL1 with these features is free of charge for active Subscription customers or customers who have purchased Xbase++ within the last 12 months. SL1 with PDR fixes and Hotfixes only, is available free of charge for any registered Xbase++ 1.9 customer.



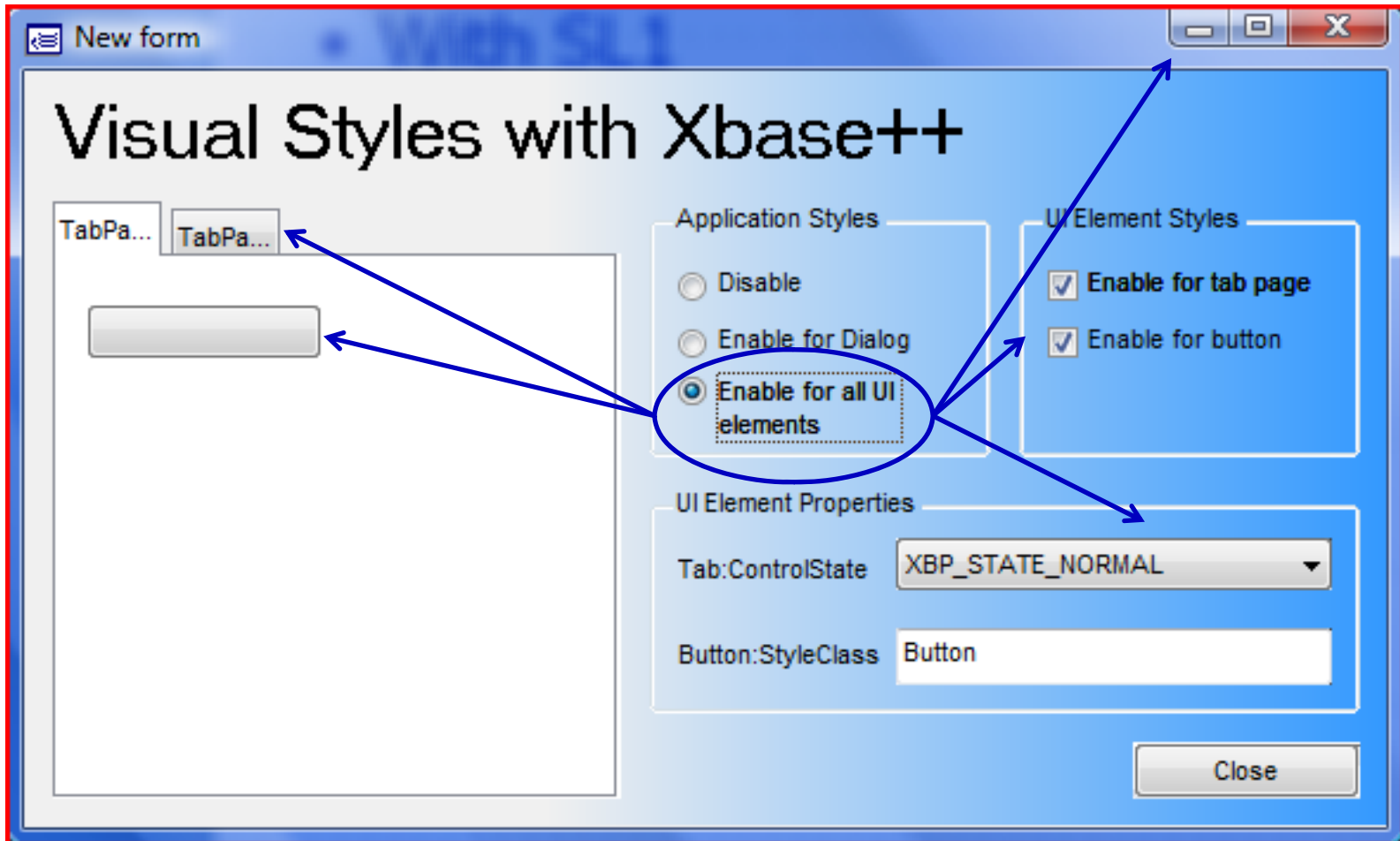
Visual-Styles & Themes

- Before SL1:



Visual-Styles & Themes

- With SL1

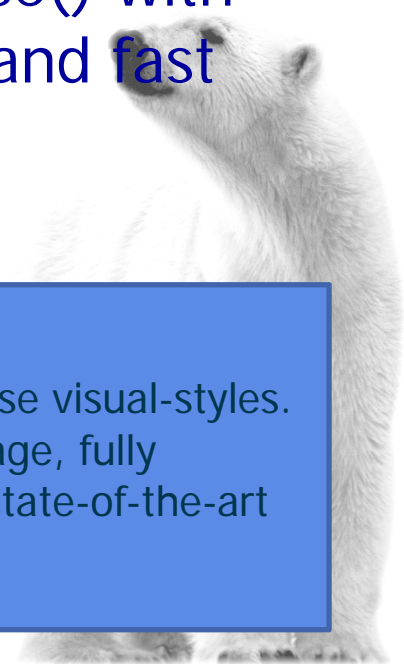


Benefits of Visual-Style & Themes

- Xbase++ applications conform with the platform specific visual appeal under XP and Vista Aero.
- Support for 3rd. Party skinning products, such as WinDresser or Window-Blinds (www.stardock.com). Give your application the look & feel of a Apple Macintosh UI.
- You can still mix traditional SAY/GET or TBrowse() with Graphical User Interface elements for an easy and fast migration.

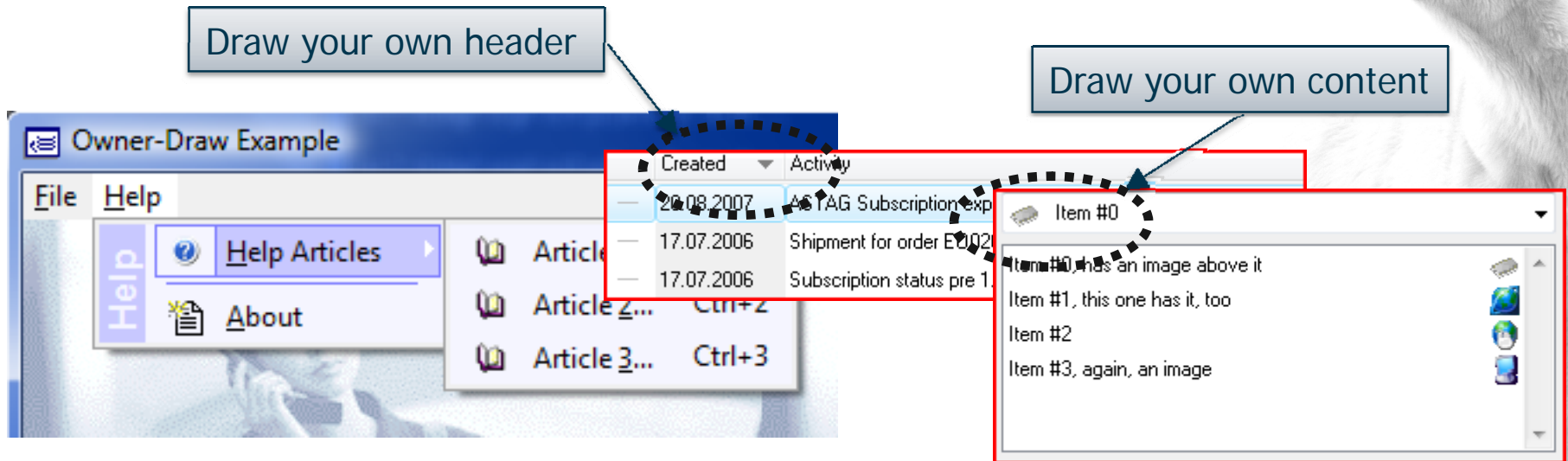
Summary:

In previous Xbase++ versions only some Xbase Parts have been able to use visual-styles. With SL1 all Xbase Parts, even rather complex browser parts or the tab-page, fully conform with the UI of the platform; this leads to a more consistent and state-of-the-art end user experience.



Owner-Drawing

- In Xbase++ 1.9 only `XbpPushButton()`, `XbpListbox`, `XbpComboBox()` and `XbpMenu()` supported owner-drawing.
- With SL1 owner-drawing is supported by `XbpBrowse()`, `XbpCellGroup()`, `XbpColumn()`, `XbpMultiCellGroup()`, `XbpQuickBrowse()`, `XbpStatic()` and `XbpTabPage()`.
- Customers can utilize the full power of the Xbase++ Graphics-Engine to create new visual controls

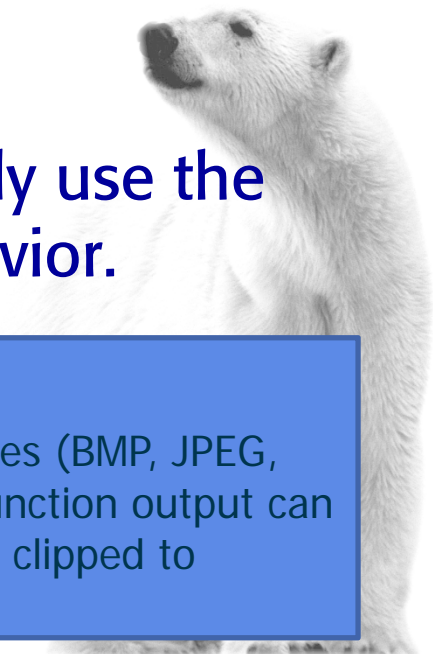


GraXXX functions

- New Graphics Engine functions to facilitate the implementation of owner-drawing:
 - GraBackground() - Draw the background of an Xbase Part
 - GraEdge(), intended primarily for framing objects within the application's user interface
 - GraGradient() - Draws a shape filled with a gradient.
 - GraSegLoad() - Load a graphic segment from disk
 - GraSegSave() - Save a graphic segment to disk
- GraBackground() and GraEdge() automatically use the current style/theme for default drawing behavior.

Reminder:

GraXXX functions support any type of output devices such as printers, files (BMP, JPEG, GIF, PNG or metafile) or windows (UI controls). In addition all GraXXX function output can be scaled, transformed and clipped. E.g. output by GraGradient() can be clipped to produce a rounded gradient rectangle.

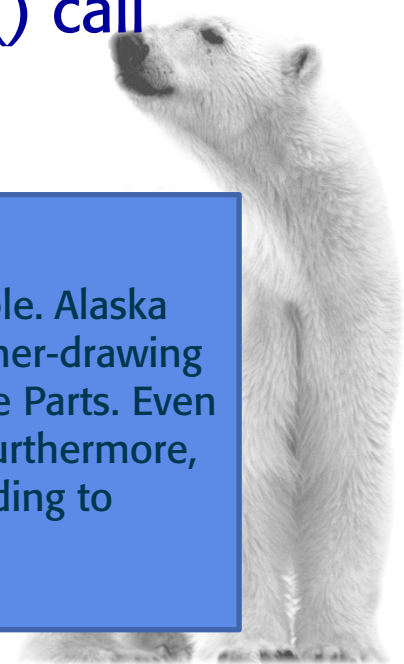


Benefits of Owner-Drawing

- Multiple times faster than using the „old“ `::Paint()` method of Xbase Parts
- Complete control about painting of Xbase Part, you can create your own visual appeal
- Less flickering, no unnecessary paints and background drawings such as it is the case with the `::Paint()` call back or event-handler.

Summary:

With the SL1 enhancements full control of drawing and visual appeal is possible. Alaska Software encourages the add-on vendors for Xbase++ to make use of the owner-drawing feature and release vertical market specific UI controls based on existing Xbase Parts. Even complete new UI controls can be developed based on the `XbpStatic()` part. Furthermore, when utilizing owner-drawing your application consumes lesser resources leading to better performance specifically under Terminal-Server deployment scenarios.



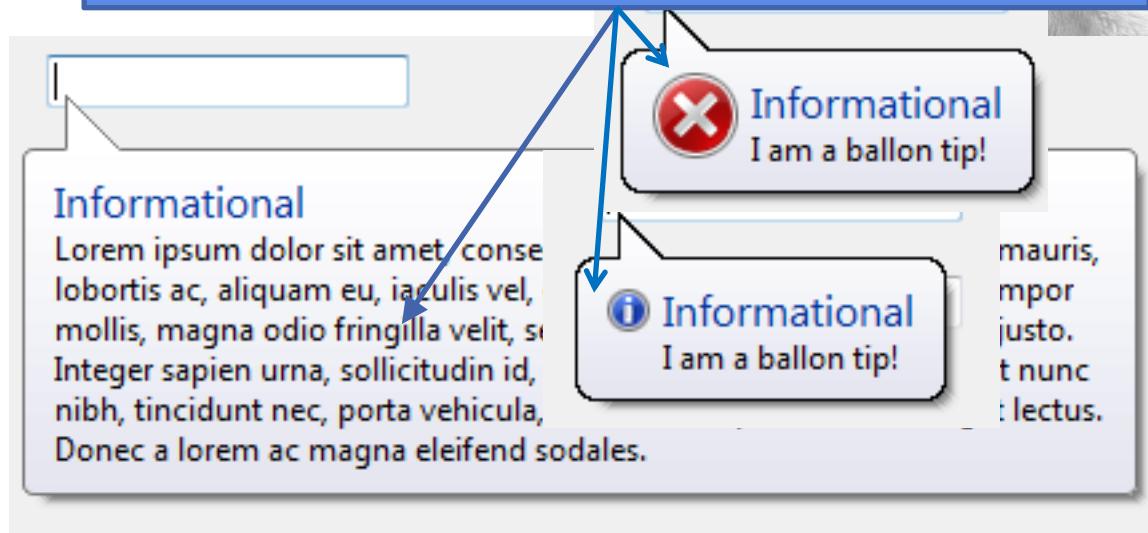
More Xbase Part enhancements:

- Various new events and methods have been added to an array of Xbase Parts.
- XbpSLE() and XbpMLE() now support Cue's and Balloons. Balloons are support by the Windows „Easy of access“ screen-reading feature leading to an increased end-user-experience.

Cue's are a dimmed informational text, shown inside an edit control. A cue is only shown whenever the control has not the input focus. The idea of cues is to give the end-user some hints regarding the data to be entered. The hint automatically disappears whenever the control gets focus or data was entered.

Enter your name

BalloonTips are more flexible than the „old“ ToolTip. Balloons can have a pre-defined icon, can be small or large.



New Classes in SL1

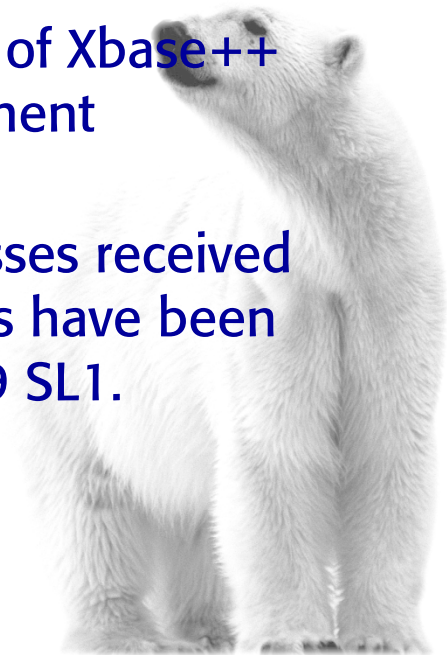
- **XbpIcon():** Supports loading of icons from resource or a file.
- **XppApplication():** Handles application specific events such as suspend/resume.
- **XbpApplication():** Manages default application form, enables Visual-Styles and reacts on property-changes applied via Control-Panel system properties.

Note:

The XppApplication() and XbpApplication() classes have been partially back ported from the Xbase++ 2.0 code base to Xbase++ 1.9 due to the need for a central place to manage application global events in 1.9 applications. Alaska Software noticed that fatal-errors from Xbase++ applications at end-user sites resulted from open dbf-tables or established connections to a dbms server while a hibernate or sleep was processed. This always led to a fatal-error after the application was resumed for a simple reason: The file-handle was closed by the remote server or the connection was cleared by the dbms. The Xbase++ application, however, was not aware of the suspend/resume operation, therefore it still used the old/invalid file or connection handle. With SL1 developers can catch that event and react properly.

Other new stuff...

- **RandomInt(), RandomKey():** Generate weak or strong random-values depending on your requirements.
- **UUIDCreate(), UUIDFromChar(), UUIDToChar():** Simplify uuid management and create unique identifiers for your data.
- **Char2Hash():** High performance SHA1 implementation
- **IsUnicode(), Str2Unicode() and Unicode2Str():** have been added to ease handling of unicode data.
- **GetObject()** and the underlying ActiveX/COM support of Xbase++ 1.9 has been enhanced to support Windows Management Instrumentation.
- In addition, the **Signal()** and **AutomationObject()** classes received new features; moreover hundreds of minor corrections have been applied to the **Online Documentation** of Xbase++ 1.9 SL1.



Xbase++ Runtime enhancements!

- The memory layout of the average Xbase++ application has been optimized, providing more memory available to the Xbase++ application runtime.
- Various corrections and enhancements have been applied to the kernel implementations of the Xbase++ runtime to increase reliability and make the runtime more robust against DllCall() misuse.
- The XppError.Log and XppFatal.Log now automatically append new information instead of overwriting existing entries.

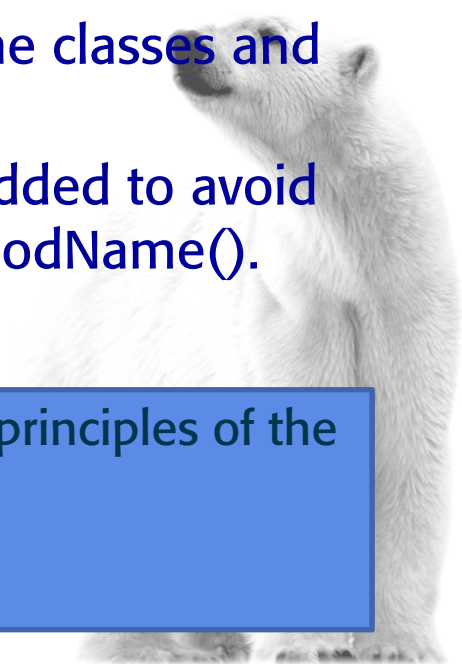


New OO language features

- The compiler now supports FINAL, INTRODUCE and OVERRIDE attributes for methods to manage overriding and hiding of methods in superclasses or subclasses
- Also, FINAL and FREEZE attributes have been added for class declarations to control side-effects of dynamic class creation.
- ACCESS/ASSIGN methods conform now to the encapsulation principles. For more details see "oop-6-rules.pdf".
- Compile-time classes are now substitutable by runtime classes and vice versa.
- SUPER and SUPER:MethodName() syntax has been added to avoid dedicated casting such as SELF:SuperclassName:MethodName().
- 100% backward compatibility is guaranteed!

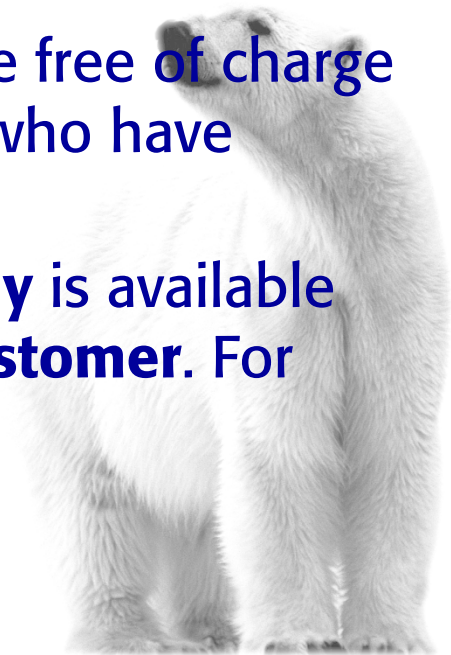
A separate PDF document which outlines the basic rules and principles of the Xbase++ OO Engine can be downloaded from here:

<ftp://ftp.alaska-software.com/documents/oop-6-rules.pdf>



Summary & Eligibility

- Xbase++ ServiceLevel #1 is not just a collection of hotfixes and PDR resolutions. Alaska Software has selectively added features, optimized and enhanced existing functionality to increase developer productivity, application reliability and visual appeal.
- With the changes and new features applied to the OO Engine of Xbase++, Alaska Software has proven to be able to act upon customer demand.
- ServiceLevel #1 with **all new features** is available free of charge to **active subscription customers** or customers who have purchased Xbase++ within the last 12 months.
- ServiceLevel #1 with **Hotfixes and PDR fixes only** is available free of charge to any **registered Xbase++ 1.9 customer**. For more details see „SL1 Feature-Overview“ [here](#).



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