

Borland® Delphi™ 8

for the Microsoft® .NET Framework

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

What is the Microsoft® .NET Framework?

The .NET Framework is the programming model of the Microsoft .NET environment for building, deploying, and running Web-based applications, rich client applications, and XML Web Services. .NET manages much of the underlying application infrastructure, enabling developers to easily build secure and memory-safe Enterprise applications. The .NET Framework includes the common language runtime .NET foundation class libraries, ASP.NET runtime, and ADO.NET for database connectivity.

What is Borland's strategy for Microsoft® .NET?

The Borland strategy for the Microsoft .NET Framework is to provide leading development solutions that seamlessly integrate application lifecycle components to form a complete Enterprise .NET Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) solution. Borland's .NET strategy fully supports Microsoft technologies and also includes full-featured support for integration with technologies of major Enterprise vendors, such as Oracle®, IBM®, and Sun (Java™). The Borland .NET strategy is anchored on complete support for the Microsoft .NET Framework, including ADO.NET, ASP.NET, Windows® Forms, Web Forms, and application interoperability through XML Web Services, or native managed connectivity with J2EE.™

Borland is the first company to license the Microsoft .NET Framework Software Development Kit (SDK) for distribution, underscoring Borland's commitment to providing fast, flexible .NET-connected solutions. The demand for .NET development is building and is clearly the future for Windows applications in the enterprise. Borland delivers a vendor-neutral starting point for developers to begin the journey to this new and powerful platform.

What is Borland® Delphi™ 8 for the Microsoft® .NET Framework?

Borland® Delphi™ 8 for the Microsoft® .NET Framework is your evolution to the .NET revolution. Simplify your move to .NET today with Delphi language RAD development for the .NET Framework, including VCL Forms, Windows Forms, ASP.NET, Web Forms, Web Services, ADO.NET, and more. Developers can immediately use their Delphi language and framework skills and much of their existing investments in Delphi application source code to start developing Windows applications for .NET. Delphi 8 includes Borland® Enterprise Core Objects (ECO™) for design-driven development and Borland® Optimizeit™ Profiler for the Microsoft® .NET Framework to help developers identify and remove performance hazards. Delphi 8 is pure .NET and pure Delphi.

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How is Delphi 8 packaged?

Delphi 8 comes in three editions—Architect, Enterprise, and Professional. Educational pricing is available for the Architect and Professional editions. Software Assurance is available with each edition.

How do I order Delphi 8?

Borland is a worldwide organization with offices in Europe, South America, Asia Pacific, and the United States. Please visit http://www.borland.com/company/borland_worldwide.html to find your local Borland office.

Where can I learn more about Delphi 8?

Find more information on the Borland Web site at <http://www.borland.com/delphi>. The Borland Developer Network site has newsgroups, developer community information, and more at <http://bdn.borland.com>.

Technical Questions

Is the VCL component library included in Delphi 8?

Yes. Delphi 8 includes both design and development support for both Microsoft .NET Windows Forms and Delphi VCL forms and controls. VCL for the Microsoft .NET Framework is a set of standard VCL controls that helps make transitioning Delphi skills and source code to .NET even easier. In addition to the standard VCL visual controls, a robust set of database controls is also supplied to make the transition of existing database applications easier, as well. These include Borland® Database Engine (BDE), dbExpress,™ and IBX components and drivers for a wide variety of database engines and servers.

Can I reuse my existing Win32® Delphi applications?

Many Win32® VCL-based Delphi applications will port to .NET using the Delphi 8 VCL controls for the .NET Framework. Direct Win32 API calls and external x86 DLLs are supported with minor source code changes. Existing third-party Win32 VCL controls are not directly supported. However, many are expected to be available in .NET variants.

Will Delphi 8 support .NET on non-Windows® platforms?

Delphi 8 is designed and tested for .NET on the Windows platform. Delphi 8 applications may run on non-Windows .NET implementations; however, Borland is not testing or certifying on non-Windows platforms.

Does .NET support existing COM and COM+ components?

The Microsoft .NET Framework enables you to call existing Component Object Model (COM) and COM+ components, and it enables .NET Framework-based components to be exposed to COM and COM+ development. Additionally, a considerable amount of COM+ 1.0 "plumbing" has been simplified in the .NET Framework.

What is Borland® Enterprise Core Objects (ECO™)?

Enterprise Core Objects, or ECO, is a runtime platform that manages a software application's infrastructure, allowing developers to focus on business requirements rather than on application infrastructure.

An application built on ECO is powered by a Unified Modeling Language™ (UML™) model in runtime—a model that allows the ECO platform to map objects to a persistent storage, display objects in a user interface, version objects if desired, cache objects for better performance, evaluate constraints, allow for object-level transactions, and much more.

The ECO design-time tools consist of the ECO Space Designer, the ECO wizards, and the ECO set of components. Together with the integrated UML class diagram designer, these ECO components enable developers to work with a design-driven approach, developing applications that utilizes real-world objects such as Order and Customer.

What is the advantage of using ECO™?

When developing an application with ECO, most of the low-level work in application development is minimized, resulting in increased productivity during development. The development is based on design models; therefore, the resulting application more likely will adhere to the requirements.

When an application must be changed, the greatest benefit of using ECO is realized. The model information is used to automatically transform the database and necessary source code, resulting in a predictable maintenance process.

The less code, the more automatic the process and the higher the software quality—in terms of both robustness and in meeting the requirements. The outcome for the developer is increased productivity, predictability, adaptability, and quality.

Who should use ECO™?

Any .NET developer or architect who requires fast development of future adaptable applications.

Does Delphi 8 support ADO.NET?

Yes. Delphi 8 fully supports ADO.NET and includes the Borland® Data Provider for ADO.NET for high-performance, high-productivity, heterogeneous support for both desktop and enterprise database servers.

Does Delphi 8 support ASP.NET and Web Forms?

Yes. Delphi 8 fully supports ASP.NET, SOAP/XML Web Services, and the RAD visual creation of ASP.NET Web Forms applications.

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Which databases are supported in Delphi 8?

Architect and Enterprise:

Windows Forms: The Borland Data Provider for ADO.NET (BDP) offers enterprise driver support for Oracle 9i™, IBM® DB2® 8.1, Microsoft® SQL Server™ 2000 and SQL Server,™ and Borland InterBase® 7.1. The BDP also offers local driver support for Borland InterBase,® MSDE® 2000, and Microsoft Access.®

VCL .NET Forms: dbExpress.NET for MSSQL 2000, MSDE, InterBase, Informix,® DB2, Oracle,® MySQL,™ and iAnywhere.®

Professional:

Windows Forms: The Borland Data Provider for ADO.NET offers local driver support for Borland InterBase, MSDE 2000, and Microsoft Access.

VCL.NET Forms: dbExpress.NET for InterBase, MSDE, and BDE.NET for dBase® and Paradox.®

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