

Column: From Editor
Figures: NONE
File for Companion Disk: None

Bug Fixes Available at microsoft.com

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In the olden days of Fox Software, the gang would fix bugs and release patch disks. Some of you remember the 11 sets of patches for FoxPro 2.0, including two that were released, ahem, four days apart. The patches were shipped out for free (I think), but you had to know about the patches and request them.

Distribution of bug fixes is a lot easier these days - nearly painless - because of the web - just go to the site and download them. But you still have to know about them. And if you don't "know someone", how are you going to find out? You could visit the web site of the manufacturer of every product you use, but that's not always a great solution. And even if you had the time, sometimes it takes a lot of digging.

Visual Studio SP-1 ("SR" = Service Pack - 'softie speak for bug fixes) is now available for free order and download from Microsoft. It addresses specific binary compatibility issues with certain runtime files in Visual Studio 6.0 - none of which I found applicable to VFP - but is probably still worthwhile getting.

A more important update - and one that's fairly well hidden - is the new Setup Wizard. If you've gotten to the point of shipping a VFP 6 application, you have possibly run into one or more of the half-dozen defects in the current Setup Wizard. A couple were pretty ugly, I think - but remember that FoxPro 2.5 shipped - and *then* everyone found out that the Standard version didn't work - period. Turns out everyone was testing the Extended version with their brand new 386 machines. Similarly, testing the Setup Wizard is pretty tough considering you need a functioning app first.

What's been fixed? Options for creating a DEP file are now saved in WZSETUP.INI. Set Mark To "." doesn't blow out the distribution disks; neither does installing multiple OCX files in the source directory. FOXHHELP.EXE is now copied correctly if you check the HTML Help Engine checkbox. And if you have two files with the same name but in different directories - like if you were shipping a couple of sets of tutorial data - each is copied correctly now.

And there's an updated VFP 6.0 Component Gallery and updates to several FoxPro Foundation Class (FFC) files, and an ActiveX control updater that will automatically update the Treeview, Listview and Imagelist controls to the latest versions.

Where do you get these new updates? Pop over to msdn.microsoft.com/vfoxpro, and select Samples and Downloads, Product Updates, or if you want the direct URL, try <http://msdn.microsoft.com/vfoxpro/downloads/updates.asp>. Note that you have to have registered your copy before you can get access to the page.