Alternative way of localizing Turbo Delphi Pro applications

Erik Lindberg

Abstract: Multilizer provides users with different ways of localizing software; a user can directly localize an EXE file and rely on VCL's localization architecture based on resource files. Or a developer can choose a different way of localization by using Multilizer Localization Components. This article covers the component localization.

Award-winning localization architecture

Multilizer has developed since 1996 a set of localization components. Developer simply drops a *Dictionary* component on the application main form, and a *Translator* component on each form that needs to be localized. During run-time the Translator component translates the form by using translations that it gets from a repository which is implemented as a Dictionary component.

Software that uses Multilizer components is based on this dictionary-translator localization architecture.

Multilizer products based on this architecture were 3 times awarded the prize of Best Localization Tool by Delphi Informant Magazine readers.

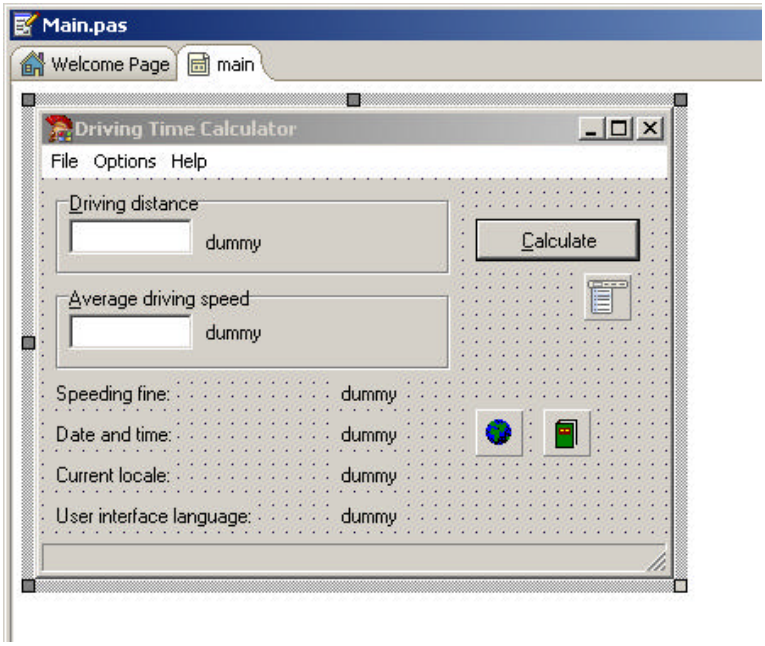

Figure 1: Application in design-time in Turbo Delphi Pro.

Components

Dictionary components are the most important component in dictionary-translator architecture. User or the software uses its properties for example for setting the

active language. In addition dictionary component's events can be used for efficient handling of language changes for example.

More importantly active language can be changed on run-time without creating the forms anew. So the UI language can smoothly change whenever user wants to.

As Dictionary component is the translation storage, there are different components that offer different ways of storing translations in the software. Depending on the chosen Dictionary component, translations can be stored in database, mld-file, resource files, database, plain text file, etc. Or developer can use *User dictionary* to freely decide the format and place where the software keeps its translations.

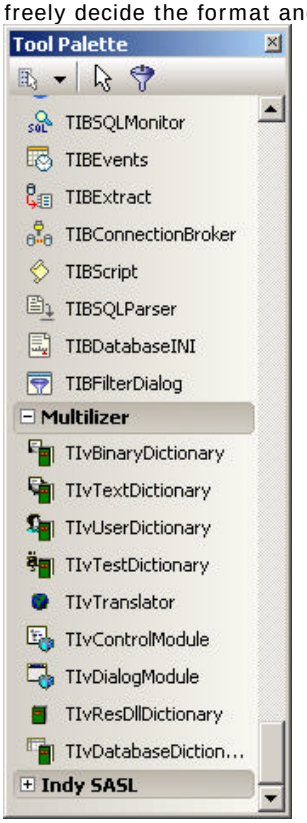

Figure 2: Multilizer Components in Turbo Delphi tool palette

Translator components do the work of translating the user interface on run-time. User can specify which properties are translated. By default Translator component automatically detects the localizable properties on the form.

Module components help translator component to translate complex properties, such as Treeview properties for example. In addition there is a DialogModule that helps to translate common dialogs; Delphi's common dialogs work out-of-the-box! Developers can inherit also their own modules to translate virtually anything in the software.

Latest innovations

Latest innovation in Multilizer Localization Components is a new dictionary called *ivResDllDictionary*. This dictionary component reads the translations from resource files (which can be generated by Delphi ITE or Multilizer for VCL) but yet it implements the dictionary-translator architecture.

At first it might sound strange to replace VCL localization architecture with components, but there are some pros for doing that. Just to mention a few:

Anyone that has tried to implement run-time language change in software that uses resource files knows that it might require major modifications in the software.

Developer can easily prevent the localization of a form, or even certain properties by setting the properties of Translator component accordingly.

Developer can add secondary dictionary component to allow end-user customization in the software.

Other localization architectures

Multilizer also provides users with other ways of localizing software. **Multilizer for VCL** can read in an executable compiled with Delphi and write out resource files. The software will in this case use *VCL Localization Architecture* in run-time; at startup the software tries to load a resource file matching user's language. If this fails, the software uses the texts in the main EXE instead. More on this in Delphi help files.

Availability

Latest release of **Multilizer Localization Components 6.2** is now available for Turbo Delphi Pro developers. Localization Components don't work in Turbo Explorer, but other way of localization needs to be used (see other localization architectures). Earlier component versions don't support Turbo products.

Check http://www.multilizer.com/download for more.