DSP 7.5
for BDE 5

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What is DSP ?

DSP is a Database Structure Printer.
It generates a simple report, in text format (file DSPVIEW.TXT) that is, by default, sended to the Windows NOTEPAD. An internal preview is also available since release 7.5.
As DSP is fast and as the resulting text can be viewed onscreen at any time, don't waste paper and protect the nature...
DSP can also generates a complete database dictionary. Tables, fields, indexes, referential integrity, all is recorded into a structured paradox database. Each generated table has special fields to let you specify Display name and object security. Those fields can be used within an application. DSP 7.5 has a dictionary view form.

Why DSP ?

I know, there are a lot a utilities that print BDE tables structure. First, I must say that DSP is certainly one of the very first, release 1.0 was created using Delphi 1.0, so this work is not a way to re-invent the wheel. Second, most tools in this category are too simple, others are without source or use one page for each table (and think that even recycled paper uses complex chemical process to be produced, something worst than using natural paper !).
What I wanted was so simple: just a list of tables of a database with all important information.
Of course, needs always grow... So now, DSP can also generates a database dictionnary !

How to use DSP ?

Install DSP in any directory you want and put its icon on Windows desktop: you'll use it often... That's all !
Of course the BDE (5) must be installed on your computer, but if you're interested in BDE table structure printing, one can think you already have the BDE installed, logical no ?

Once DSP in executed, you choose in the list of databases the which you want to analyze. The name of the current database is shown in a edit box just under the list. You can also click the button "Select a directory" to open a disk directory (useful for DBF and DB tables with no alias defined).
Select one option by clicking the Generate button (notepad view or internal preview). A progression bar will be displayed at the form bottom.
Once DSP job is done, the NotePad or the internal preview is called and the resulting text is displayed.
You can now just look, copy to clipboard to print the text with your word processor or store the text in a safe place (it's a good idea to store the database structure analysis with source code, this can help one day).
Remember: each analysis clear the preceding resulting text on disk (DSPVIEW.TXT)...

To generate a database Dictionnary click on Dictionary button and choose the right option (the second option allows to browse an existing dictionary using default table names).
Dictionnay window will show a conceptual data model of the model. You can click on each entity to change default table name (default names start with "star.." because DSP is a part of something greater called "Star Project"). If you change table names, you will not able to use the "view dictionnary" option.
The edit area at the top of the windows allows you to choose the destination directory of the dictionnary tables.
That's all... Click on "Ok", the dictionnary will be created.
To understand dictionnary structure, use DSP to get an analysis !

Help ?

There's a little button at bottom right corner that displays some help. Of course, this program is so simple, no help is needed.

Disclaimer

I have developed DSP because I needed it for my personal use. I have debugged the application as well as possible - on my own system it works fine. But I take no responsibility for any damages and disadvantages or loss of data occuring when you use the files in this archive. If you find a bug, please contact me.

DSP is freeware, you can use it with no charge, you can distribute it on Internet, Compuserve and BBS but you can't take any money for this, you can just charge nominal distribution fee.

If you don't agree to those conditions, you are not allowed to use "DSP"!

I'll be glad to ear you, perhaps just to say that you find DSP usefull...

Exchange-ware

DSP is an exchange-ware, that means that you can get full source code if you send me some personal and original code. Please, I said: personal and original. Don't send me a freeware you found on the Net, I have it, certainly !

Of course, the code you'll send to me must be really orginal and usefull, as DSP is itself.

The author

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I'm a Delphi specialist since Delphi 1 beta release and since Turbo Pascal for CP/M ! I'm Borland Certified for Delphi 32 bits Client/Server. I use AMC Designor for database design, and ROSE for program analysis (OMT / UML).

I'm also a composer, working on neo-classic and electronic music.

Enjoy programming, enjoy Delphi...