

RAD Studio XE6

Product Reviewer's Guide

April 2014

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OVERVIEW

Thank you for your interest in reviewing RAD Studio XE6, Embarcadero's complete software development solution for building true native applications for Windows, Android, iOS and Mac OS X from a single codebase. This Reviewer's Guide will give you an overview of some of the key benefits that developers will enjoy with RAD Studio XE6 as well as a walkthrough by building both multi-device apps and Windows applications.

Companies today need to deliver apps that their customers can use in the office and on the road, on different operating systems and platforms, including the mobile ones. However, coding and managing these apps with platform specific tools can be costly and time-consuming. RAD Studio multiplies developer productivity, enabling your team to develop multi-device apps for Windows, Android, iOS and Mac OS X using a single tool, single programming language and single framework, in record time. At the same time, it generates native and secure applications, that don't rely on any runtime but deliver a native experience on each of the supported platforms.

This unique combination of multi-device development and compiled native code means fast development with no scripting languages or virtual machines getting in the way of awesome app performance.

While no software developer and software development company can ignore mobile, it is also true that there are large and continuing investments for core business applications on the Windows platform. As much as mobile apps are critical to the success of a company, the core Windows applications need to be modernized and updated to Windows 7 or 8.1, also in consideration of the recent End-Of-Support for Windows XP.

This is why RAD Studio XE6 has both

- A mobile focus, delivering C++ support for Android and extending the capabilities of the FMX platform for both Delphi and C++, with monetization and connectivity features (among others)
- And a Windows focus, with new VCL styles and components, including a new taskbar button component.

In addition to the new capabilities in those two focus areas, there is also a new technology, introduced in XE6 for the first time, that lets developers extend their existing Windows VCL applications by easily creating connected mobile companion apps. This technology is called App Tethering, and it is made available with some easy to use components. App Tethering can be used to enable applications on different platforms to communicate seamlessly over WiFi networks.

RAD Studio is the app development suite for companies that need to create true native apps for PCs, tablets, and smartphones and get them to market fast and also maintain existing investments on Windows VCL applications (or build new Windows-centric

solutions). With RAD Studio, you manage one codebase, one team, and one schedule, but support multiple platforms without sacrificing performance and user experience. RAD Studio XE6 offers all of its features for developers using one of the two supported programming languages:

- The powerful C++ language, updated to the C++11 standard
- The easier to use and modern Object Pascal language, with features on par of C# and Java.

Please keep in mind that this Reviewer's Guide is a starting point on the road to reviewing RAD Studio XE6. There are tons of features in the product. There is a wealth of additional information, videos, walkthroughs, and guides to help you get the most out of the product. Please review the full feature matrix, the [RAD Studio XE6 product page](#) and the [Embarcadero Developer Network](#) for the latest information on the product. More links are listed towards the end of this document.

CONTACT INFORMATION

We are here to support you throughout your evaluation period — and beyond. Please do not hesitate to contact us anytime at the numbers and emails below.

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KEY FEATURES AND BENEFITS FOR DEVELOPERS

MODERNIZE YOUR WINDOWS APPLICATIONS

The last several releases of RAD Studio have focused primarily on mobile and multi-device. And while most of our customers are making the move to mobile with our solutions, they all need to continue to support and grow with the Windows platform. As an example, a major event is transpiring in the Windows world; one of the most popular client platforms in the world, Windows XP, is no longer being supported by Microsoft as of April 8, 2014. Embarcadero is committed to supporting the Windows desktop operating system in addition to the major mobile platforms.

Overall, RAD Studio has some great support for native Windows applications, with the best component-based library wrapping the native API (the Visual Component Library, or VCL) and features like 64-bit Windows support, extremely powerful database access with FireDAC, and Visual LiveBindings as modern way to map user interface controls to your data.

Using these features allows our customers to easily migrate their legacy Windows applications onto the latest version of Windows (making them fully Windows 7 and 8.1 compliant), and add features to modernize their desktop applications to the latest technologies and user interface styles, including building Windows application based on the Modern UI (touted by Microsoft only for the WinRT subsystem).

More information at: <http://www.embarcadero.com/products/rad-studio/windows-development>.

EMBRACE MULTI-DEVICE, SINGLE SOURCE

Multi-Device app development means developers do not have to support multiple development projects to deliver their apps natively on multiple platforms (Windows, Android, iOS and Mac). Most vendors who support multi-device development do so via web technologies, scripting or VMs, which are not as optimal as our true native solution. Many of these vendors focus on mobile development solutions that do not support the creation of PC apps for Windows and Mac.

RAD Studio, on the other hand, makes it easy to build script-free, true native (compiled) apps for multiple devices that expose the full range of capabilities and performance in the underlying devices. Building their app in RAD Studio eliminates the need to engage in multiple development efforts for the same application on multiple devices. This means they get to market faster on multiple devices for the first release – and every release after that – while keeping costs down.

In RAD Studio XE6 you can use both the Object Pascal language and the C++ language on all four platforms we support, Windows (32bit and 64 bit), Mac OS X, iOS and Android.

Specifically on Android you can also read

<http://www.embarcadero.com/products/rad-studio/create-android-apps>.

TRUE NATIVE

For each of the four operating systems and both languages we ship specific compilers that generate native Intel or ARM v7 binary executable files. This is why we consider our solution at “True Native app development”. A native solution lets developers deliver script-free, device native apps optimized for each underlying hardware platform – creating faster, richer apps that end users love. Many other tool vendors are using the term “native” app development to describe web technologies and scripts wrapped into an app package to deliver an app-like user experience. This approach means that developers are limited in both performance and capabilities.

True native apps in RAD Studio are script-free and run directly on hardware CPU delivering the following advantages:

- **Fast** – Uncompromised native device performance with full native API and CPU control when you need it, and not limited by or slowed by script interpreters and VMs.
- **Inherent Security** – Many app development vendors use Java, JavaScript, and WebKit runtimes which are notorious hacker targets presenting inherent security risks on mobile devices. Our native code doesn’t rely on any of these libraries— and doesn’t expose developers to the risk of having their apps reverse-engineered (with no need to running the app through an obfuscator).
- **Predictable** – Apps run directly on the device CPU, as intended by the device vendors, and are not slowed by additional software layers and random garbage collection. On mobile devices, our compilers use an advanced and deterministic Automatic Reference Counting (ARC) memory manager.
- **Better User Experience (UX)** – Apps take full advantage of device capabilities and performance, including sensors and the camera, and can connect to native and third party libraries.

THE FASTEST WAY TO DELIVER APPS

RAD Studio lets you create a visual prototype, incorporate feedback, and get your app to market fast. Most visual prototyping environments only create a visual mock-up; they do not generate a working prototype. This means clients and team members can’t truly experience the app concept and developers also must start from scratch when moving from prototype to development.

Visual Development in RAD Studio lets developers or designers quickly create no-code visual mockups with live data or simulated data and deploy to actual target devices (PC, phone, tablet) or simulate on Windows or Mac giving clients and team members a far more accurate and impressive prototype experience. RAD Studio prototypes use actual framework objects, so developers can go from prototype to development without wasted effort, saving development time and resources.

WHAT'S NEW IN RAD STUDIO XE6

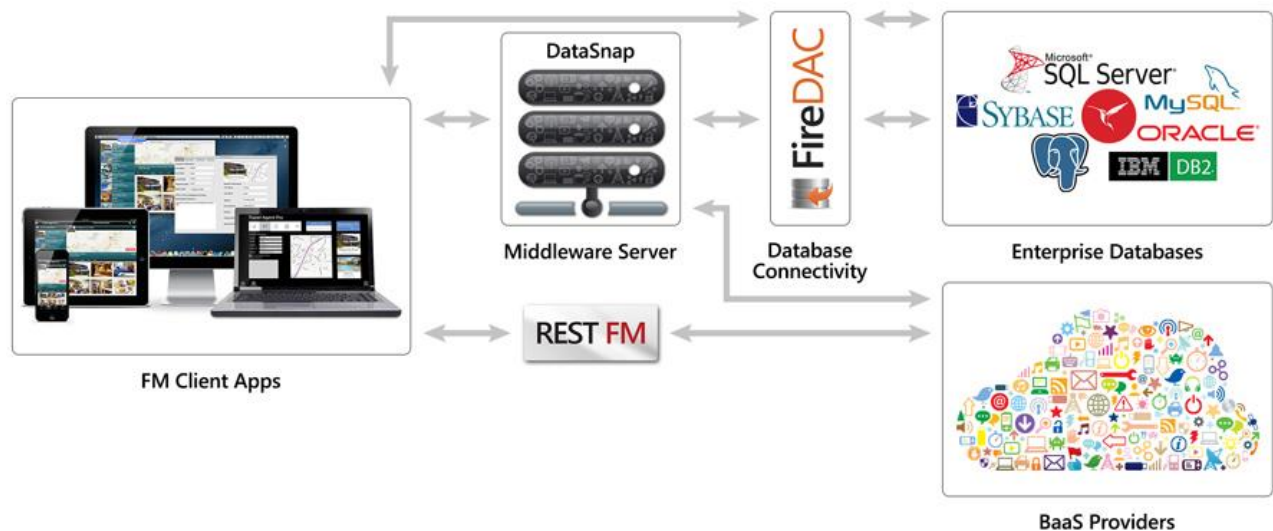
RAD Studio XE6 delivers the best in Windows and multi-device development for PCs, tablets and smartphones. RAD Studio XE6 allows you to build and deliver apps written in C++ or Object Pascal for Android and iPhone and iPad in addition to Windows and Mac, connect with more data, more easily, and much more!

With RAD Studio XE6, Embarcadero addresses customer's needs for Windows and mobile, adding specific new features in both areas:

- XE6 adds C++ support for Android. This feature completes the support for the major operating system platforms with both supported languages, Object Pascal and C++. C++Builder developers can create the same type of applications and targets the same operating systems of those using Delphi and Object Pascal.
- XE6 adds many important features for our Windows focused developers. VCL specific support for modern Windows 7 and 8.1 styles, modern Windows taskbar components for previewing and interacting with multi-windowed applications, and the ability to extend Windows applications with mobile companion apps are a few of the key features in this release for modernizing their applications.
- RAD Studio XE6 includes new components support for cloud-based, RESTful web services, known as *Backend as a Service* (or BaaS). The tools supports out of the box common BaaS services like push notifications, user management, and file/object management in the cloud. BaaS support enhances the existing Multi-device Application Platform which includes multi-tier development with DataSnap and strong database access with FireDAC. XE6 now offers a complete solution that reaches from the client device, all the way up to the enterprise infrastructure, and beyond to cloud-based web services.

FROM BAAS TO MEAP

This Multi-Device Application Platform makes it possible for developers to deliver truly connected, modern mobile apps on multiple client OS's and device form factors. The image below shows some of the available n-tier and cloud-based architectures you can easily build with RAD Studio XE6:



There is more information on this topic at <http://www.embarcadero.com/products/rad-studio/connect>.

While BaaS providers offer a very simple and scalable solution for storing and sharing data from mobile (and desktop) applications, for enterprise-level connectivity into corporate databases the solution needs to follow the blueprint of a Mobile Enterprise Application Platform (or MEAP). RAD Studio has had a solution in that area, called DataSnap. If DataSnap is not a new solution, what makes it more interesting today?

The answer lies in the fact that developers approach mobile apps in a different way than past app development approaches. It is not just about a local or web app that reaches out to a server over the network. It is about a local app that needs to run on Android and iOS and Windows, in both tablet and smartphone form factors, reaching out to enterprise database infrastructures, as well as more modern cloud-based, RESTful web services. These apps are real time, dynamic, constantly communicating with the backend, and delighting the user with a responsive touch UI in the process.

COMPANION APPS AND APP TETHERING

Another open issue for many RAD Studio developers has been trying to figure out how to participate in this new mobile world, when they have large existing Windows VCL apps in the market. Although, RAD Studio has been delivering multi-device functionality for some versions, it has been difficult for some of them to visualize porting their complete app over to a mobile platform. The truth is, they don't have to and shouldn't. A typical Windows VCL app contains far more functionality than they need to expose on a mobile platform.

RAD Studio XE6 will help them expand and extend their Windows VCL apps onto mobile by building mobile companion apps that "tether" to an existing Windows VCL app and

deliver specific functionality that make sense to present in a mobile form factor. As well as help them update their VCL apps onto the latest Windows operating systems Windows 7 and Windows 8.1.

MODERNIZING WINDOWS APPLICATIONS

As mentioned earlier, Windows VCL application modernization is one of the core areas for XE6. There are several specific features available for this goal:

- A new Taskbar component, for showing progress in the taskbar button for your application, add overlay icons on taskbar buttons, presenting previews of multiple windows that are selectable in your app
- New custom styles to give your applications an updated Windows or custom look. This release also extends the support for styles supporting application menus, the system menu, and popup menus alike.
- Sensors components available for VCL applications, to handle GPS and motion sensors in modern Windows 8 tablets (based on Intel CPUs)
- Specifically for C++ developers, support for runtime packages in the 64-bit version of the compiler and toolchain (like in the 32-bit counterpart)

BRAND NEW MOBILE FEATURES

Beside the additional support for Android development with the C++ language, the mobile platforms have been enhanced with several new features:

- BaaS support, with ready-to-use drivers for Kinvey and Parse (and more coming)
- Monetization support using specific components for mobile advertising and in-app purchase, which support for Android and iOS with the same component and architecture.
- Google Glass style and design time surface, to prepare your mobile apps for the next generation wearable devices

ACCESS TO CLOUD BASED RESTFUL WEB SERVICES

RAD Studio XE6 further extends and refines the REST Client library (introduced in XE5), available on all platforms, and focused on simplifying the invocation of REST web services by any third party provider.

The library features authentication support and JSON response manipulation, with dataset and LiveBindings mappings. The three core components make it easy to parameterize your requests in many different ways and access to hundreds of web services easily. This technology is also the foundation of the BaaS support introduced in XE6.

INTEGRATED ACCESS TO MORE DATABASES WITH FIREDAC

FireDAC is a universal data access technology that can be used both on multi-tier servers, in client/server architectures, and for accessing local databases on desktop and mobile platforms. In XE6, FireDAC is now more integrated into the development environment and an integral part of the user experience.

FireDAC database components and drivers are fully integrated into RAD Studio, Delphi and C++Builder. FireDAC gives you native high-speed direct access from Delphi and C++Builder to InterBase, SQLite, MySQL, SQL Server, Oracle, PostgreSQL, DB2, SQL Anywhere, Advantage DB, Firebird, Access, Informix, and many more local/embedded, mobile and enterprise databases.

These features is available in two different editions:

- FireDAC local/embedded connectivity with select databases is part of the Professional editions of RAD Studio, Delphi and C++Builder
- FireDAC local/embedded and remote enterprise connectivity to the full range of databases is part of the Enterprise, Ultimate or Architect editions of RAD Studio or can be purchased separately for the Professional edition.

Finally, a significant feature of FireDAC is it makes very easy to migrate from BDE and other obsolete database access technologies, because of the similar model and migration scripts that ship with the product.

More information on FireDAC at <http://www.embarcadero.com/products/rad-studio/firedac>.

FULLY INTEGRATED INTERBASE SUPPORT, WITH MOBILE DATABASE ENCRYPTION

RAD Studio XE6 ships with a developer version of InterBase, a license to deploy IBLite on Android and iOS devices, and a trial license for the InterBase ToGo technology, that offers full database encryption on mobile devices, a very important features for Enterprise developers worried about the security of their data on mobile platforms (often required by regulation compliance).

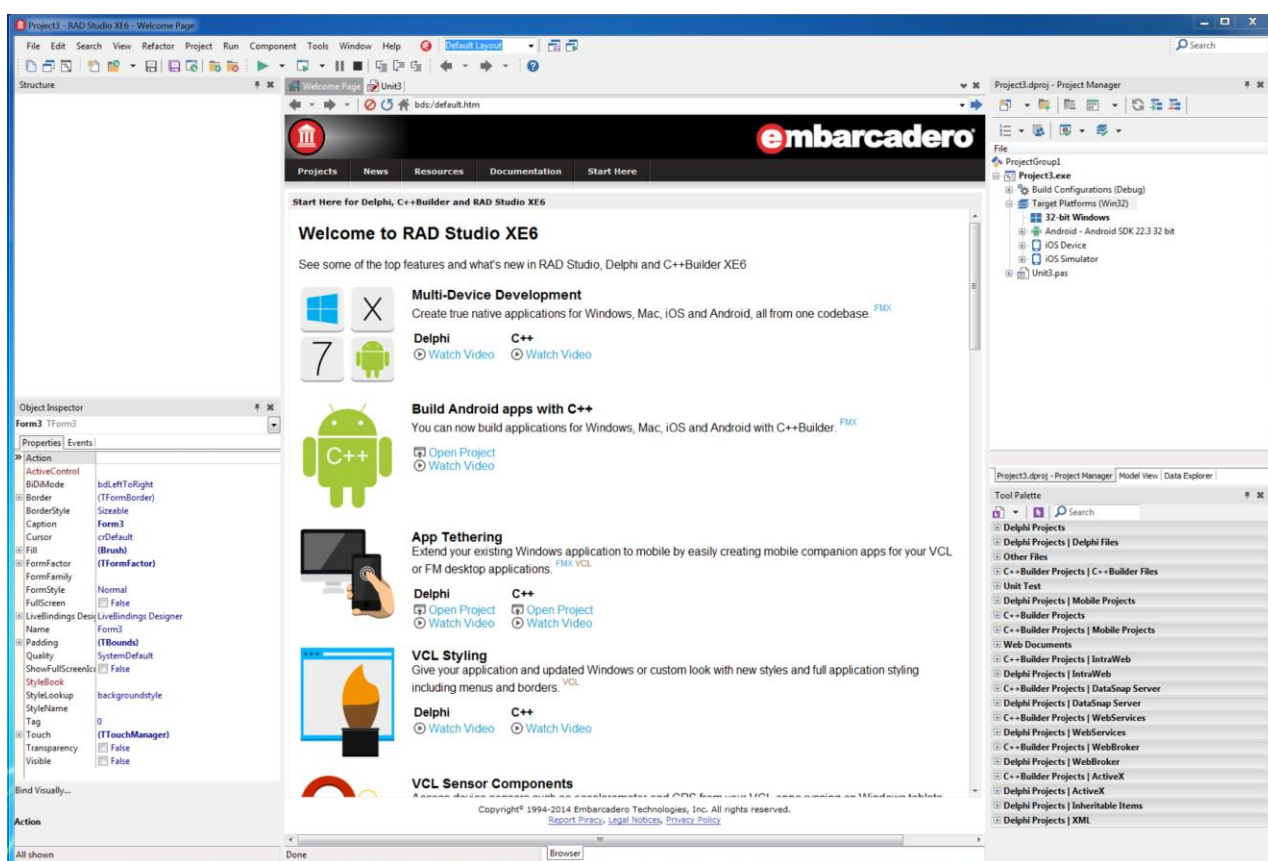
You can read more about InterBase at <http://www.embarcadero.com/products/interbase>.

RAD STUDIO XE6 WALKTHROUGH

INSTALLING XE6

If you don't have a reviewer license for RAD Studio XE6, you can obtain a free XE6 30-day trial from https://downloads.embarcadero.com/free/rad_studio. A download and install can take approximately a couple of hours depending on your download speed and on the selected installation features.

After installation, the RAD Studio XE6 IDE will load and you are now ready to review the product. You will be presented with a Start Here welcome page, featuring configuration instructions and some simple projects and code snippets that can help you get started:



The various sample projects cover some of the mobile capabilities and the most recent features of the products for Windows and mobile. There are several short videos you can play to understand these short demos, as well as get your system properly configured for mobile development. We recommend looking at the videos and opening and compiling some of the demos as a way to get started.

Note: It is highly recommended to use an Android device for your review (the Android emulator can be very slow especially within a Virtual Machine and FireMonkey apps)

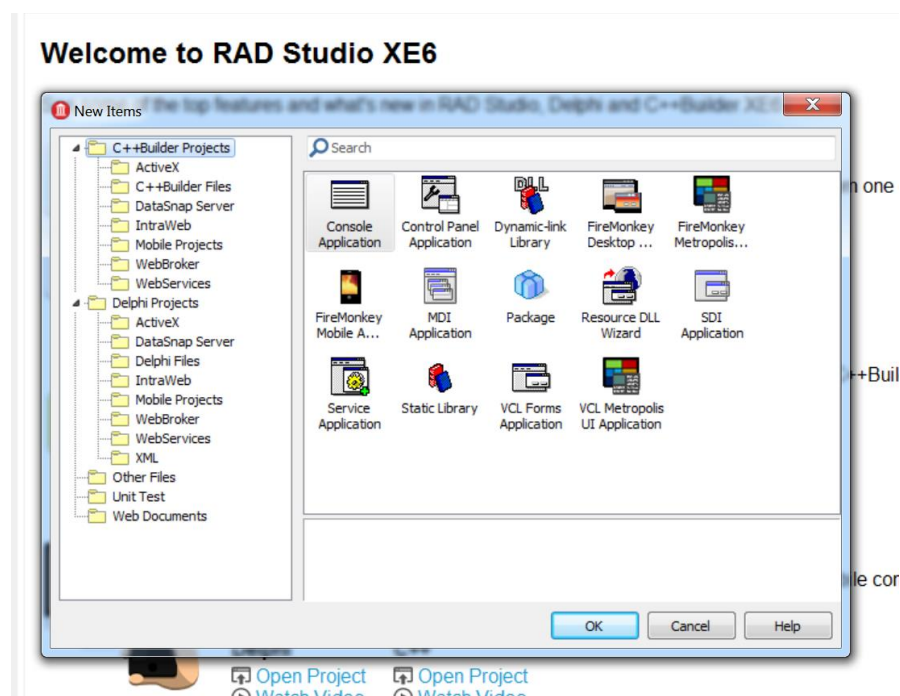
require GPU support). The configuration videos have instructions on how to setup the USB drivers for your device if you have not already.

MULTI-DEVICE APP DEVELOPMENT

After installing RAD Studio XE6, you will have the opportunity to decide what application(s) you want to build:

- Android and iOS mobile apps
- Windows and Mac OS X apps
- Windows-specific VCL applications
- FireMonkey HD and 3D apps
- Local and Remote database apps
- Advanced multi-tier servers
- Web services based server
- Cloud-enabled apps
- Web-based applications
- And many others

Below is the initial page of the File | New | Other dialog box, listing all of the possible types of projects and files a developer can create in RAD Studio:



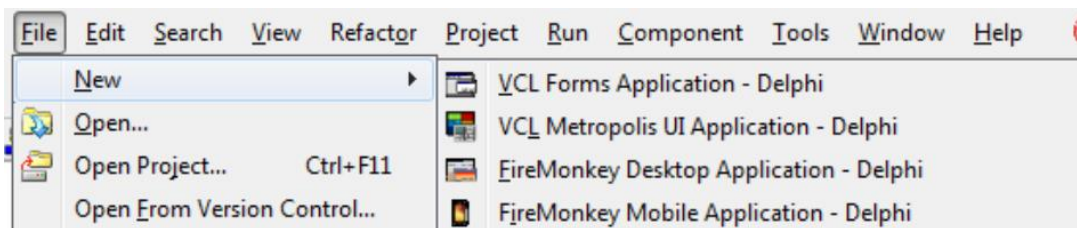
RAD Studio XE6 supports building almost any type of native app imaginable but we'll focus only on some of the new features for this review. This walkthrough guide touches

only on a couple of new XE6 features, but cannot offer a complete roundup of the tool and its capabilities.

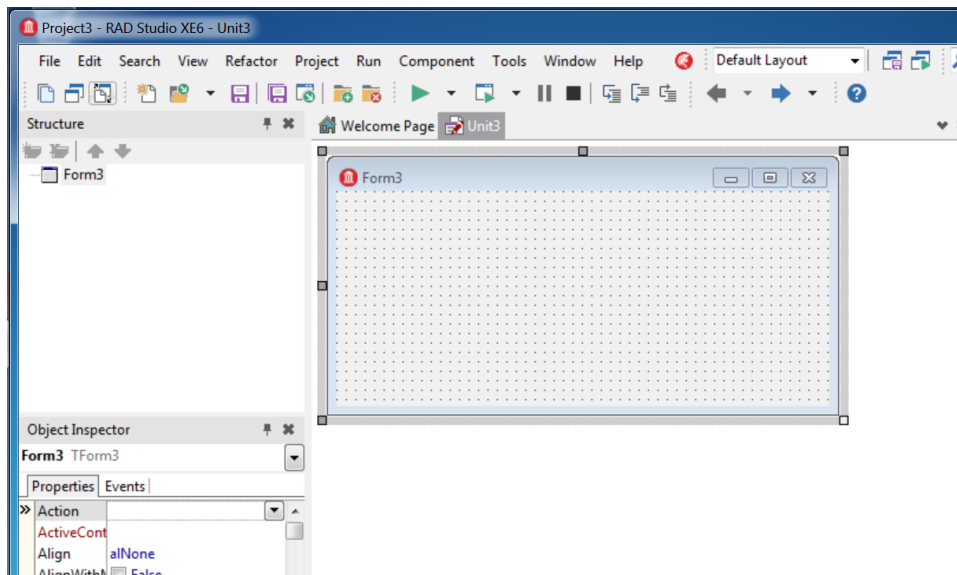
The specific goal of this walkthrough is to show you how to build a simple desktop VCL application and a mobile companion app, the first written using the Object Pascal language, and the second in C++.

BUILDING A WINDOWS APPLICATIONS

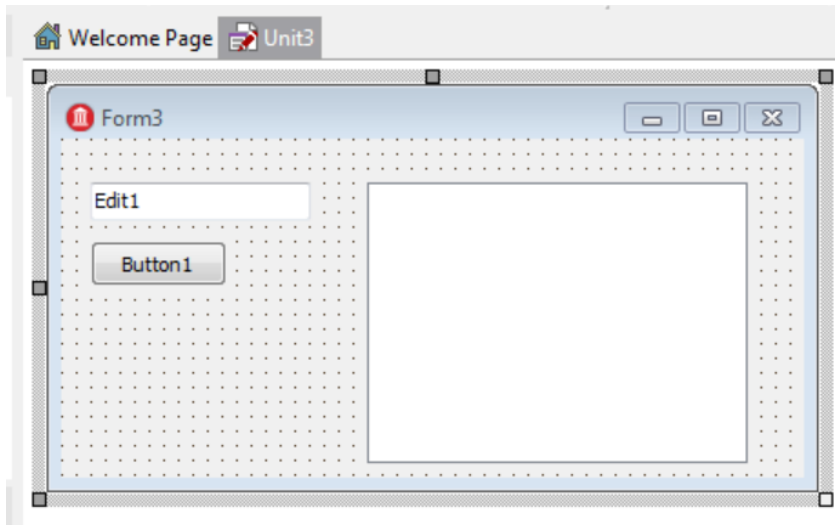
The first step is to create a VCL Delphi application, apply it a modern style, and add some capabilities. For this goal we can pick the options for creating a new VCL Forms Application:



Now you should see the form design surface in the IDE, like the following:

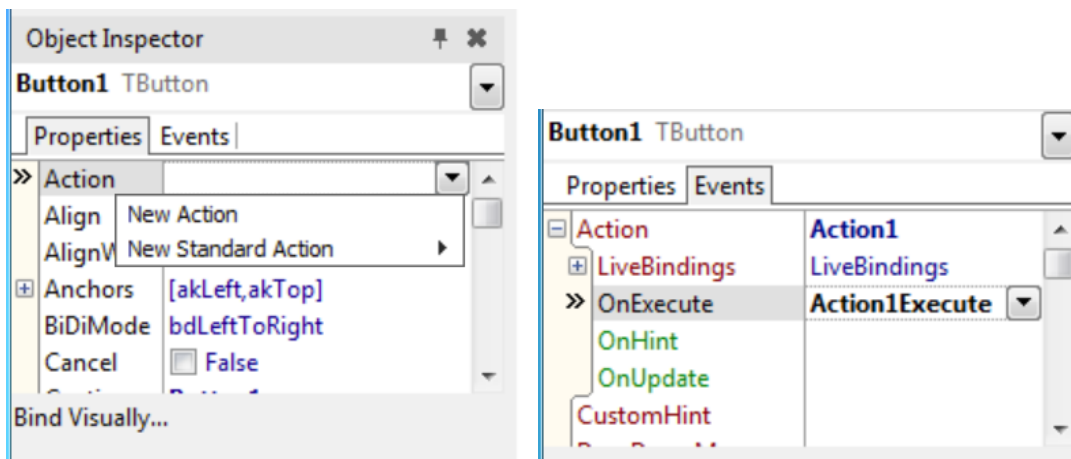


This is the surface where you can place visual and non-visual controls (although there are also specific design surfaces for non visual components called data modules). Using the Tool Palette, you can drop an edit box, a button, and a list box on the form's surface, like in the following:



At this point, for a typical simple demo you'll double click on the button and add an event handler, to perform an action (like adding the input text to the list). However, in this case, we want to have a slightly more abstract architecture will leverage later. So we will also add an *ActionList* component to the form.

After this step, you can select the button, go to the list of the properties in the Object Inspector, and pick *New Action* for its *Action* property (below, on the left), expand the *Action*, go to the events page, and define a handler for the *OnExecute* event of the action (below, on the right).



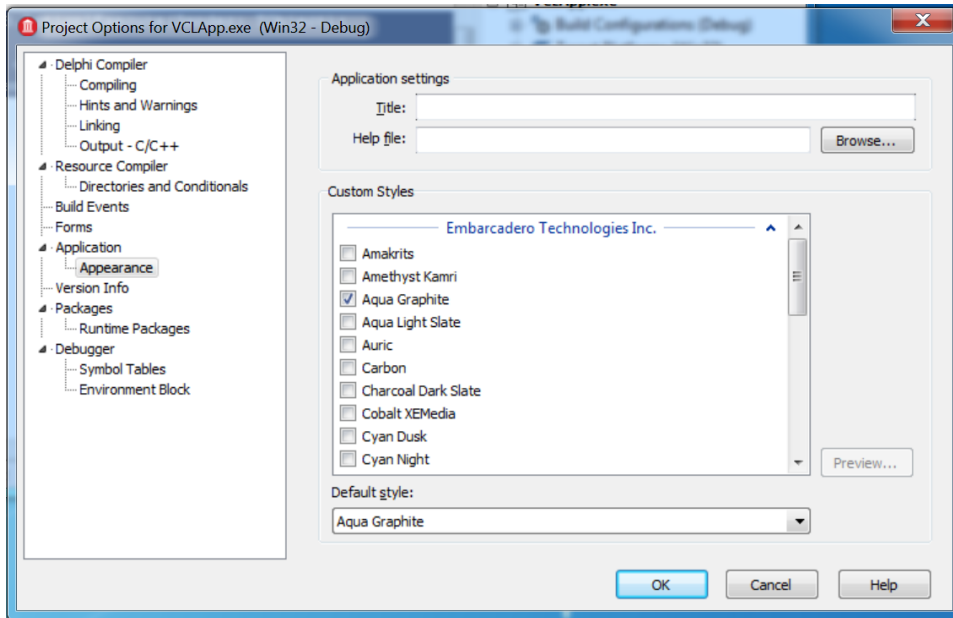
Notice that now that the button and the action are connected, you need to edit the *Caption* of the action to actually change the button's caption. At this point, write some code of the *OnExecute* event like:

```

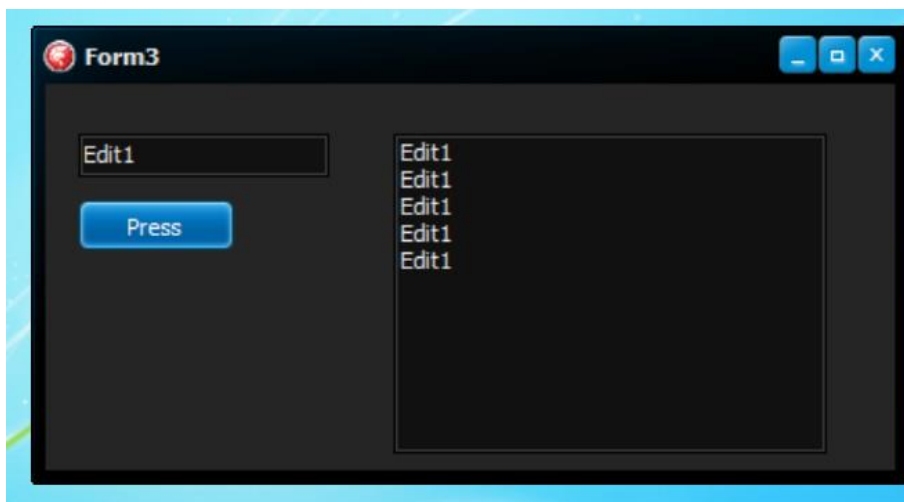
procedure TForm3.Action1Execute(Sender: TObject);
begin
  if Edit1.Text <> '' then
    ListBox1.Items.Add(Edit1.Text);
end;

```

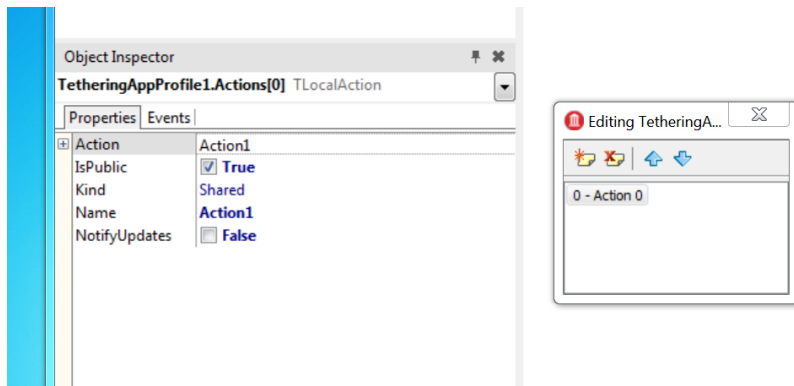
You can now run this application and test it. But before we do so, let's give it a modern look by styling it. Go to the Project Options, Applications | Appearance, select one of the available styles, like below (where I picked *Aqua Graphite*):



Now let's run the resulting applications and see the look and feel:



Given the next step will be to run control this application using a mobile companion app, the final touch of our program will be to enable app tethering. To accomplish this you need to add two components to the VCL application, a TetheringManager component and a TetheringAppProfile. The first requires no specific configuration. The second, the app profile, needs to be connected with the manager, requires a unique name in the Group property, and a properly configured action in its Actions collection, referring to the Action1 object we have already defined for the ActionList component:



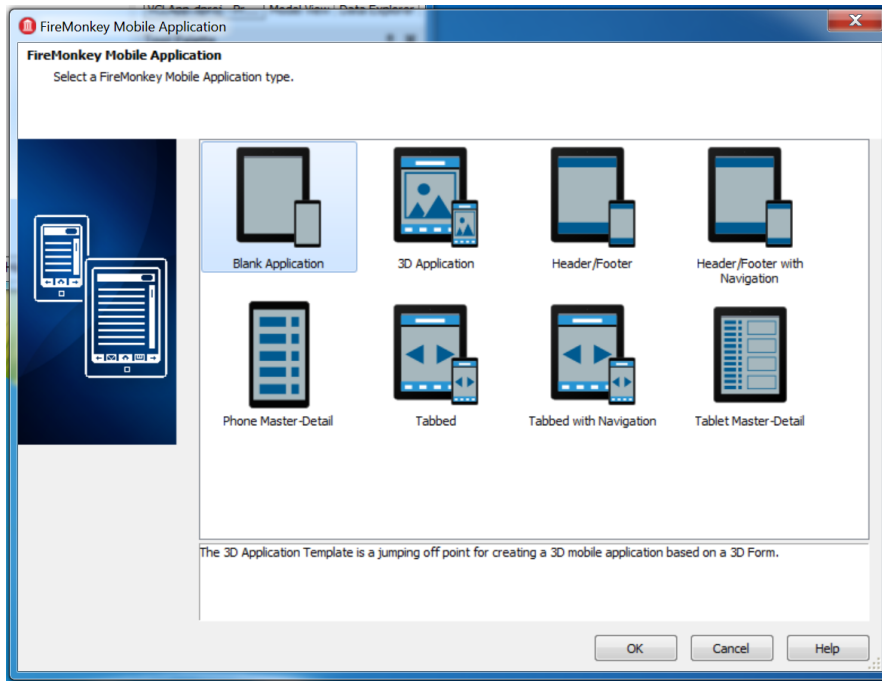
Make sure the action Kind is set to Shared and IsPublic is set to True. These are the default values so there is actually nothing specific you have to do. There is no source code to be written to activate the tethering manager and have the VCL applications available to listen to remote requests. The only configuration is in the two tethering components, and is summarized by the following textual description of the components properties (from the form DFM file):

```
object TetheringManager1: TTetheringManager
    Text = 'TetheringManager1'
end
object TetheringAppProfile1: TTetheringAppProfile
    Manager = TetheringManager1
    Text = 'TetheringAppProfile1'
    Group = 'PushButtonProfile'
    Actions = <
        item
            Name = 'Action1'
            IsPublic = True
            Action = Action1
            NotifyUpdates = False
        end>
end
```

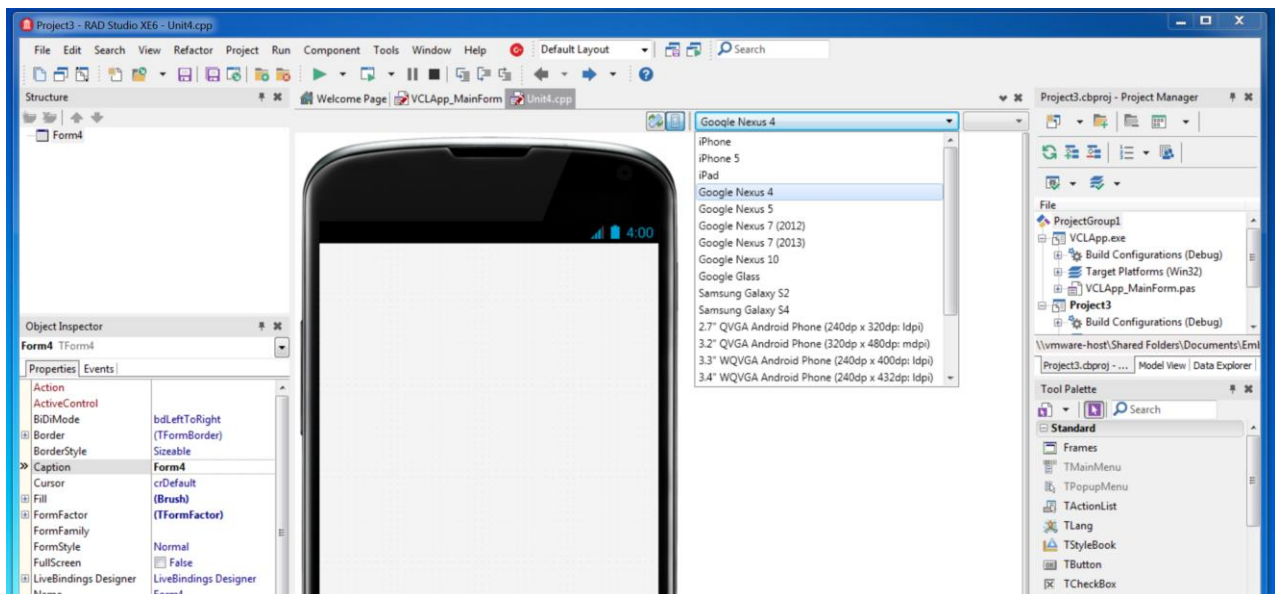
Now you can simply run the application, which will behave exactly like before but might trigger a firewall request to enable a socket connection.

BUILDING THE MOBILE COMPANION APP

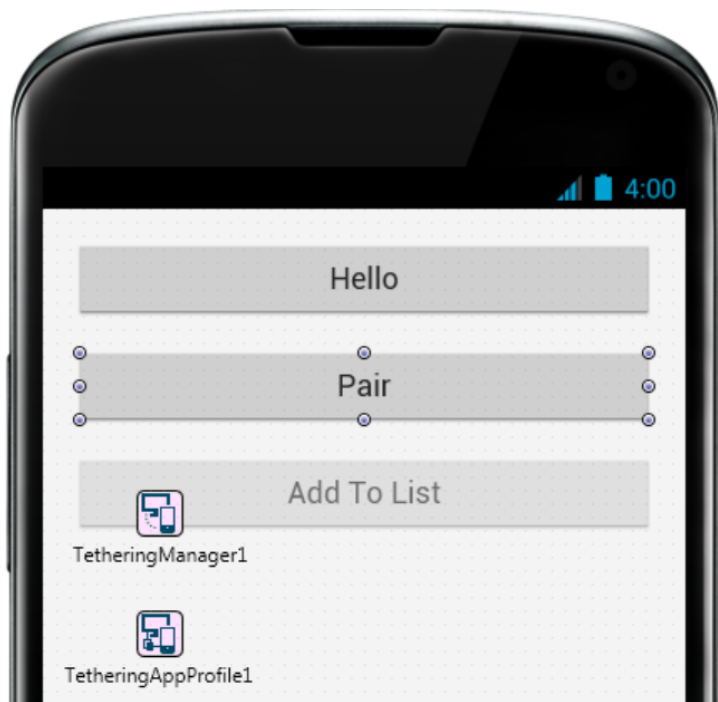
Now it is time to start building a companion mobile application, using C++. This will be a very simple application with two buttons, one for showing a simple "hello world" message on mobile, while the second will be used to interact with the desktop application, doing the same actions connected with the desktop application button. First, let's create a blank mobile application, by using the FireMonkey Mobile wizard and picking the blank application (no template):



You'll now have a mobile design surface, initially configured as a Google Nexus 4 phone. You can use the selector on top to change the Android device or pick an iOS device:



Now, to keep things simple, I'll just add three buttons to the form, aligning them to the top and adding a margin to leave some room on the border (this way the buttons will adapt to the different width of the screen of mobile devices). I've also changed the Text property of the buttons, to make them look like below:



Notice that the third button is initially disabled, as you cannot communicate to the server until you've "paired" the application with the other tethering app. The code of the first button is just a *ShowMessage* call, to get you started on Android in a very simple case:

```
void __fastcall TForm4::Button1Click(TObject *Sender)
{
    ShowMessage ("Hello, World");
}
```

The second button establishes a connection with the VCL application. Once the same two tethering components with a similar configuration for the app profile (same Group name, but no Actions), you can use the following for searching for the VCL application on the same Wifi network:

```
void __fastcall TForm4::Button2Click(TObject *Sender)
{
    TetheringManager1->AutoConnect();
}
```

Once the connection is established, the tethering manager component receives an *EndAutoConnect* event, in which we can check the profile group of the remote connection and enable the third button:

```
void __fastcall TForm4::TetheringManager1EndAutoConnect(TObject *Sender)
{
    Button3->Enabled = True;
```

```

Button2->Text = TetheringManager1->RemoteProfiles->First().ProfileGroup;
}

```

Finally, once the two applications are paired we can execute an action exposed by the remote application simply by executing the RunRemoteAction method, passing as parameter the remote profile information and the name of the action:

```

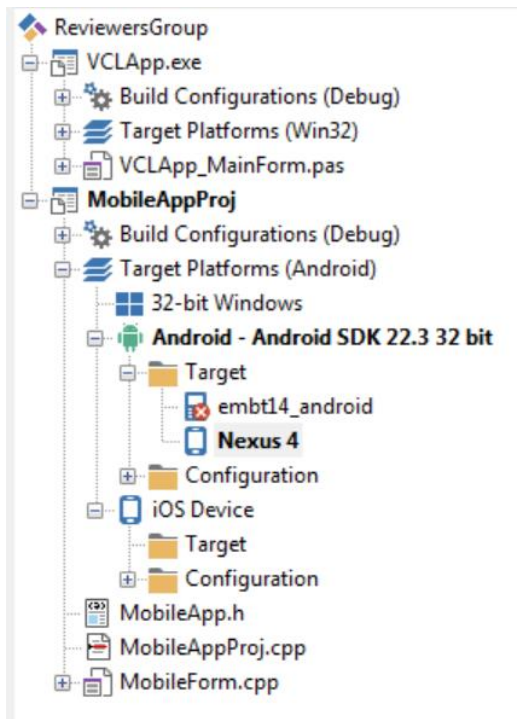
void __fastcall TForm4::Button3Click(TObject *Sender)
{
    TetheringAppProfile1->RunRemoteAction(
        TetheringManager1->RemoteProfiles->First(),
        "Action1");
}

```

There are techniques to configure local actions mapping the remote ones, that will be safer to use, but I've picked the simplest approach for this initial demo.

Finally, notice that the App Tethering technology lets you execute remote actions and also send data from one paired application to the other, exchanging text strings, binary data like images, and more.

Now that the application is completed, you have multiple ways to test it. The simplest is likely to use the Win32 target and try to run it locally on Windows. While the UI won't be terribly nice, this is the easiest way to debug the application logic. By picking an Android or iOS target, you can compile this into a native mobile application:



To summarize, here is the mobile application running on Android and driving the Windows application, mimicking from remote the action of pressing the button (the screen has an Android viewer showing the physical device and the local Windows application running alongside):



RAD STUDIO XE6 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RAD Studio XE6 is a product suite that includes Delphi XE6, C++Builder XE6, HTML5 Builder, and InterBase.

- [RAD Studio XE6 Data Sheet](#)
- [Delphi XE6 Data Sheet](#)
- [C++Builder XE6 Data Sheet](#)

A RAD Studio XE6 screen shots collection is available at <http://www.embarcadero.com/products/rad-studio/screen-shots>

XE6 PRODUCT EDITIONS

RAD Studio XE6 is available in four editions – Professional, Enterprise, Ultimate and Architect.

Feature	Architect	Ultimate	Enterprise	Professional
Multi-Device Development	Develop Android, iOS, Windows and Mac device native apps with Delphi and C++Builder. Develop Web and mobile web apps with HTML5 Builder.			
Database Application Architectures	Client/Server, n-Tier, Local/Embedded			Local/Embedded
Database and Cloud Support	InterBase, SQL Server, Oracle, DB2, Sybase, MySQL, ODBC and more. Amazon and Azure			InterBase, MySQL and SQLite.

	cloud. DataSnap multi-tier. FireDAC data access components.		Amazon and Azure Cloud.
IDE Tools	Advanced with refactoring, unit testing and full UML modeling		Advanced with refactoring, unit testing, UML visualization
Advanced database modeling and SQL tools	ER/Studio Developer Edition	DB PowerStudio Dev Edition	Not included
Earlier version access	Get licenses and downloads for earlier versions Delphi and C++Builder 2007-XE5, Delphi 7, C++Builder 6, RadPHP XE2 and RadPHP XE		
Included IDE personalities	Delphi, C++Builder and HTML5 Builder		

RAD STUDIO XE6 PROFESSIONAL

Embarcadero® RAD Studio XE6 Professional is the complete software development solution for building true native applications for Windows, Mac, iOS and Android from a single codebase. Develop high performance, multi-device, compiled native applications with local database connectivity that deliver the best user experience.

FIREDAC CLIENT/SERVER ADD-ON PACK FOR RAD STUDIO XE6 PROFESSIONAL

The FireDAC Client/Server Add-On Pack enables client/server database connectivity and support for additional enterprise databases in RAD Studio XE6 Professional. With its powerful universal architecture FireDAC enables direct access from your applications to Oracle, SQL Server, InterBase, DB2, Firebird, SQLite, MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQL Anywhere, Advantage DB, Access, Informix and more.

RAD STUDIO XE6 ENTERPRISE

Embarcadero RAD Studio XE6 Enterprise is the complete app development solution for ISVs and enterprises to create multi-device applications for Windows, Mac, iOS and Android with client/server and n-tier capabilities. RAD Studio Enterprise includes everything in the Professional edition, plus enterprise data connectivity, mobile app development and multi-tier application development.

RAD STUDIO XE6 ULTIMATE

Embarcadero RAD Studio XE6 Ultimate is the complete app development solution for enterprises that need to create database-intensive apps that interface with enterprise database systems. RAD Studio Ultimate includes everything in RAD Studio Enterprise edition plus DB PowerStudio® Developer edition SQL profiling and tuning tools.

RAD STUDIO XE6 ARCHITECT

Embarcadero XE6 Architect is complete app development solution for enterprises building multi-device, true native applications that integrate with enterprise database systems. RAD Studio Architect includes everything in the Enterprise edition plus powerful ER/Studio Developer Edition database modeling and design capabilities.



Embarcadero Technologies, Inc. is the leading provider of software tools that empower application developers and data management professionals to design, build, and run applications and databases more efficiently in heterogeneous IT environments. Over 90 of the Fortune 100 and an active community of more than three million users worldwide rely on Embarcadero's award-winning products to optimize costs, streamline compliance, and accelerate development and innovation. Founded in 1993, Embarcadero is headquartered in San Francisco with offices located around the world. Embarcadero is online at www.embarcadero.com.