

Re: TMultiView, open-source flexible display component (alpha release)

Source:

<http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.thirdpartytools.general/2004-06/0606.html>

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> *TMultiView (suggestions for a better name kindly accepted ;)*

What about TFlexiRepeater? It seems to me to look a bit like a repeater control in an ASP.NET webpage, except you are definine the window for it as well.

Like Herbert, I am having some trouble understanding exactly what the component does. I am thinking (and I hope!) that each item is perhaps an object, say with properties WebsiteName, WebsiteLink, NumberVisits, and you define a template into which you put his information. You then feed your component a list of objects and it spits out a vertically repeated set of formatted text? Or does it include controls as well?

Thanks!

Lauchlan M

> *is a*

> *component written in Delphi 6, descended from TCustomControl. I haven't*

> *seen a Delphi component that does what TMultiView does, although some*

> *expensive grids can probably display data in a similar fashion. It's a bit*

> *hard to describe, so here's an example screenshot:*

>

> <http://www.tranglos.com/delphi/demomv.png>

>

> *Basic idea: one item consists of one or more rows; each row consists of one*

> *or more cells, and the number of cells in each row can be different. (This*

> *is where it departs from a grid – there's no concept of columns). The*

> *purpose is to display data that typically would be shown in a listview.*

The

> *problem with a listview is that not a lot of text fits horizontally, so*

> *horizontal scrolling is usually required or text is shortened to fit within*

- > *column width. Using a TMultiView you can allocate as much space as you need*
- > *for each piece of data (cell), but the number of items visible in the client area will be smaller than in a listview, since items tend to be tall.*
- >
- > *TMultiView does not manage a list of items. It only knows the count of items and the layout (same for all items). The component uses events to query for data to display in each cell – this is a "virtual" mode familiar to those who use Mike Lischke's VirtualTree.*
- >
- > *Cells can display text or images, have their own font and color, alignment (horizontal and vertical), cursor, hint. Cells can contain multi-line text and can display borders.*
- >
- > *The component is at a very early alpha stage. It compiles and works to the extent that you can get a good idea of what it's supposed to be (check the demo), but several important features aren't built in yet. I have decided to release the component very early, because I hope to receive comments or suggestions on how to proceed further; there are several design decisions that need to be made. I don't recommend installing it in IDE, because the code is not yet aware of design-time issues and it will be changing often (including published properties). This is the first visual component I've written from scratch and I'm learning all the steps as I go.*
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- > *Description, screenshot, full source code, executable demo:*
- > *<http://www.tranglos.com/delphi/multiview.html>*
- >
- > *Please see the demo source code for how to create the component dynamically, how to design the layout and how to feed data for display using events.*
- >
- > *TMultiView is open-source (Mozilla Public License).*
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- > *--*
- > *No ads, no nags freeware: <http://www.tranglos.com>*
- > *(KeyNote, PhoneDeck, KookieJar, Oubliette, URLInject)*
- >
- > *Venture capitalists sleep like babies. They sleep for two hours, then they wake up and cry, then sleep for two hours...*
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