

## Re: Web like interface for standalone Win32 app?

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*Source:*

<http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.thirdpartytools.general/2006-06/msg00550.html>

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embedded browser rather than on a form. But I would like to see this take a step further by allowing users to actually edit the interface during runtime and change its layout using some kind of live UI designer or HTML editor.

I think this is easily achieved by adding a simple line of code, that loads your form from external file if that file exist OnCreate. Now the only thing you would need is a simple form editor, to edit that file – I've seen them around free of charge. I think editing delphi form stored in dfm (or text dfm, or xml if you like) file, would be much easier for any user then to edit HTML file, especially when it comes to table – their behavior is not something every user can put up with. Fancy html layouting is not necessary for the majority of cases. If you need to hide or rearrange buttons and edit captions, you can use delphi like form editor, which seem much easier and intuitive, then editing html. The only thing you really need in order to create web-like looking interfaces, are a set of web-like looking controls and I think that you can manage that with DevEx perfectly, whereas using real html would require you to only implement ActiveX solutions which is not very convenient for delphi developers. So maybe the only thing one really need is a layout control, which would work similar to html table – everything else is found in delphi. And one more thing – a scripting suite so you can attach event handlers. This all seem to be perfectly doable and I even remember a great implementation, that use to be called InstantReport. Here it is:  
<http://www.dream-com.com/instant.html>

Michael