

The dBASE Book – Errata Sheets

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April 20, 2006

In the time between my getting this book to the publisher, and it finally being available to be ordered, the good folk at dataBased Intelligence, Inc., have come out with a new release of dBASE (version 2.6). The following pages will attempt to document, chapter by chapter, anything you should be aware of that may be different from what is discussed in the book, and how to work around it.

In addition, any errors that may have crept into the text that weren't caught by myself or my editors that I know about will be documented here.

This is available from my website, as that seemed the most logical place to put it. If you find something that you think needs to be added, please drop me a note at: ken@goldenstag.net and I will incorporate appropriate updates/changes in a newer version of these pages.

Screen Shots

I would like to beg your forgiveness for the quality of the screen shots. There are a couple of issues at work here. First, I was never told what the resolution needed to be for the screen shots, so they were probably lower resolution than they should have been to start with; and second, the Publisher's QA team never said anything, so I assumed all was well on that end. This is something where I will take some of the blame, but I do think the Publisher should have told me specifications ... I hope for both future books and any revisions to have higher resolution images in the book, so that the screen shots are more readable.

Throughout the Book – Override instead of Overwrite

This term has always confused me, and for some reason when I wrote the book, I had it backward (*again*). I think this may be from some misinformation I was given at one point, but it could just be that I simply got confused again. Everywhere in the book where I discuss "Overwrite" or "Overwriting" code, the term *should* be "Override" or "Overriding" code. My sincere apologies to all. I hope to fix this in a future revision to the book, if I get one.

Chapter 2

Page 23 – Briefly it should be noted that if you wish to work with Visual FoxPro tables, you will need an ODBC driver (most likely available from Microsoft). There are some difficulties working with memo fields in Visual FoxPro tables, which may be the BDE or the ODBC driver(s) currently available. I cannot say more at this time, because that's all I know. ODBC drivers are discussed in Chapter 4.

Pages 27 and 38 – Ivar B. Jessen notes that using the examples on these pages to add a field to a table that has spaces causes an error. For example using:

```
alter table fish add fish.:Field With Spaces: char(10)
```

Will return the obscure error: "Invalid use of keyword: ?"

The proper syntax to add a field with spaces in the fieldname using the ALTER TABLE command is:

```
alter table fish add fish.'Field With Spaces' char(10)
```

(Note that you prefix the fieldname with the tablename followed by a dot ...)

Page 30 – An error in the sample code at the bottom of the page will cause the newly created table to be deleted. (*Found by Tim MacAlpine*) The statement:

```
drop table NewTable
```

should read:

```
drop table MyTable
```

Chapter 5

Page 87 – Ivar B. Jessen points out a place where the text is perhaps confusing, dealing with the way that the *parent* property of an object is assigned a reference to the *form* (or other parent control). Briefly, the form does not have a *parent* property native to the form object. What is meant when in this text is that when a visual object is instantiated, the parent property of the object is given the object reference *this*, which points to the parent of the object. If, as in the example on this page of the book, an entryfield is instantiated on a form, the form's *this* object reference is assigned to the *parent* property of the entryfield. Thus dBASE knows what object is the parent of the entryfield, and you can query that property. (*I hope this clears up this subject a bit ...*)

Chapter 7

Page 149 – About 2/3 of the way down the page, the statement:

```
create program TestMorph
```

should read:

```
create file TestMorph.prg
```

or

```
create command TestMorph
```

First, the word “program” is one dBASE doesn't understand in this context, and second, the file extension is necessary, because if it is left off, dBASE will assume you wish to create a file with the extension of .txt. (*Found by Tim MacAlpine*)

Chapter 12

It should be noted that with dBASE Plus 2.6 (*and any later versions of dBASE*), dBASE forms will attempt to use whatever is defined as the System Theme or System Style, as defined by the operating system, if you are using Windows XP (Home or Professional). While this is, in general, a good thing, it means that some of the controls will not necessarily look like they do in the screen shots in the book.

The one place that is really different is with **pushbuttons**. The pushbutton class now has a new property called **systemTheme**. This property defaults to a value of *true*. This will radically change the appearance of a pushbutton. It can also change the behavior, if you use (as some of the exercises in the book do) the **speedBar** property, as there is a bug in 2.6 (*which may be addressed in a patch – probably numbered 2.61 – which the R&D team at dataBI is working on now*) allowing a pushbutton with the *systemTheme* property set to *true* to ignore the *speedBar* property. What this means is that if you need the *speedBar* functionality, you will need to (for now) set the *systemTheme* property to *false*.

Of course, you can bypass all of the system theme issues, by either setting Windows itself to use the “Windows Classic Style” (right click on the Windows Desktop, select “Properties”, click on the “Appearance” tab, and in the “Windows and buttons” drop-down/combobox, select “Windows Classic Style”), or you can rename the manifest file used by dBASE Plus. This can be done by using the Windows Explorer, and going to the folder that dBASE was installed to (by default: C:\Program Files\dBASE\Plus\BIN) and renaming the file “plus.exe.manifest” (*I don't recommend deleting it, you may want it later*) to something like “plus.exe.manifest.bak” (adding the “.bak” extension).

Page 255 – at the top of the page is code used to decrement the *pageNo* property of a form. Unfortunately the code has an error (*found by Tim MacAlpine*) – it's not immediately apparent. The problem was caused by my Word Processing program – it took two dashes (or minus signs) and converted them to what is called an em-dash – a single (slightly longer) dash. The statement:

```
form.pageno- // decrement the page number
```

should read:

```
form.pageno-- // decrement the page number
```

Chapter 13

On Page 269 the command:

```
create program Chapter13Tables
```

Will return an error from the BDE (dBASE doesn't understand the word “program” in this context, assumes a table, and then the space in the table name confuses the BDE). Change this to:

```
create command Chapter13Tables
```

And it should work properly.

See notes on Chapter 12 about the Pushbutton object and system theme/style and the *systemTheme* property. (*Found by Fred in New Zealand, and Diane Zavadsky in Wisconsin ...*)

The **spinbox** control has a bug with spinboxes in dBASE Plus 2.6, clicking the down button the first time actually increments the value. If you datalink the spinbox to a date field, the value change is even more odd. The R&D team is looking at this one now, and it will probably be fixed in a patch in the near future.

The **Grid**, as of dBASE Plus 2.6, has a new property of note: *firstColumn* – this is useful if you need to find out in your code which column was the first column on the left being displayed, and/or if you need to set the first column to display on the grid for some reason.

TreeView – a bug was introduced in 2.6 which will most likely be fixed in an upcoming patch, where if the *borderStyle* property is not the default, the treeView flashes constantly when the form is running. The workaround is to simply set the *borderStyle* property to 0 (default).

Chapter 15

See notes on Chapter 12 about the Pushbutton object and system theme/style and the *systemTheme* property. It is probably a good idea when you create the custom pushbuttons for the exercises here to set the *systemTheme* property to *false*.

Using the “MyPushbutton” example on pages 366 and 367, add to the instructions on page 366:

name	MyPushbutton
text	MyPushbutton
systemTheme	false

The rest of the pushbuttons you define in this chapter that are based on “MyPushbutton” will then inherit this property setting. The main reason for this is when you get to the part of the code that changes the colors in the *onMouseOver()* and *onMouseOut()* events – if the *systemTheme* property is set to *true*, the color changes will be ignored.

On page 374, if you do the above, the source code for this pushbutton will look like (the property *systemTheme* may be on a different line of the source code):

```
class MYPUSHBUTTON(parentObj) of PUSHBUTTON(parentObj) custom
  with (this)
    height = 24.0
    left = 30.0
    top = 62.0
    width = 107.0
    text = "MyPushbutton"
    metric = 6 // Pixels
    systemTheme = false
  endwhile

  function onMouseOver
    this.colorNormal := "BtnText/0x80ffff"
  return

  function onMouseOut
    this.colorNormal := "BtnText/BtnFace"
  return
endclass
```

Page 356 – Toward the bottom of the page a property for the custom TextLabel class was misspelled. For some reason I typed *boldFace*, it should be *fontBold*. (Error found by Tim MacAlpine)

Page 362 – There are a couple of references to “FishData.wfm” in the section on “Putting These Custom Classes to Work” – the name of the form is “SomeFish.wfm”. (Found by Tim MacAlpine)

Chapter 17

Page 398 – There are some references in the code toward the top to “AppMenuExample.mnu”, which should be “AppMenu.mnu”. (Found by Tim MacAlpine)

Chapter 18

Page 432 discusses the *autoSort* property of reports. In dBASE Plus release 2.5, dataBased Intelligence changed the behavior of this property, so that it defaults to *false*. However, in release 2.6, they changed it back to a default of *true*, so that reports that were depending on this behavior would work without needing to be changed. The difficulty is if you created a report using dBASE Plus 2.5, and did not set the *autoSort* property to *false*, in dBASE Plus 2.6 your report may show odd behavior. You may need to go back and set this property to *false* for your reports to work properly.

Page 433 has a note at the top of the page about the reportGroup headerBand and footerBand. This has not changed in dBASE Plus 2.6 – these bands (as well as group headerBand and group footerBand) still

default to a height of 250 pixels. If you wish them to not appear on your report(s), then you need to set the height to zero (0) in the inspector.

Page 449 shows the reportGroup headerBand and footerBand appearing on labels. In dBASE Plus 2.6 (and later), these do not appear for labels, so you do not have to do anything about them.

Chapter 19

Custom reports – your custom report(s) should set the *autoSort* property to *false*, see note above for Chapter 18.

Chapter 20

Page 537 – Note that there is a new (*in dBASE Plus 2.6*) `_app` object property called *errorTrapFilter*, which can be used to limit what is trapped by the error handler. The default is: “0 - Trap all errors”; and the second option is: “1 - Ignore interpreter memory access violations”. In your own application, if you have a situation where you are seeing “memory access violation” errors, if your setup program issues a command like:

```
_app.errorTrapFilter := 1
```

Then you shouldn't see these error messages.

Chapter 27

Pages 707-708 – When deploying an application, if you choose to deploy the runtime without using the runtime installer, make sure that you deploy the file: *PlusRun.exe.manifest*, if you wish the application to use/work with the Windows XP styles/themes. If you leave this out, these themes will be ignored.

Chapter 28

Pages 723-724 – A missing item from the Apache configuration file:

```
AddHandler cgi-script .cgi .pl .exe .dbw
```

This should be in the <Directory> block of instructions, after “AllowOverride”.

Appendix 2

Page 739 – as noted earlier, while I mentioned that dataBI was working on release 2.51 for bug fixes, because there were lots of extras added to the software (namely the use of the manifest file to recognize the Windows XP styles/themes), they jumped the number to 2.6.

Appendix 4

Page 751 – minor error, the MAXFILEHANDLES entry shows “Maximum” of 48 and “Multiples of” of 4096, these two values are backwards.

Also it appears that with dBASE Plus 2.6, the default values for the following have changed:

LOCALSHARE	true
MAXFILEHANDLES	255
SHAREDMEMSIZE	2048

(Thanks to Roger Sauer for pointing these out)

Appendices 5 and 6

For whatever reason, these are in the wrong sequence. This was a mistake at the publisher's end – I sent them individual files for each chapter and appendix, and they combined them – somehow they got these two reversed. I didn't notice this until it was pointed out by someone who purchased the book. It's not enough of an issue to stop the presses, as it were, but I am aware of it and for any revision(s) I will check to make sure this is corrected ...