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Advisor Answers

Visual FoxPro 3.0

Q: I would like to create a report of all the snippets of code in a given form. How do I create such a report listing the name of the control, the class, the caption and data source, and the methods?

–Scott Lynn (via Internet)

A: The good news is someone's already done this for you. The Professional Edition of Visual FoxPro includes a powerful tool called the Class Browser. One of its native capabilities is to take a visual class and generate a code version of it.

Press the "View Class Code" button. (It shows two little windows and an upward pointing arrow.) An editing window opens up containing a class definition in code. You can print or copy the code from this window.

You can use the Browser on both classes and forms. So, you can generate this code for either.

One warning is in order. In some situations, the generated code is not runnable. This is particularly true when you're dealing with forms. The problem is that the Browser can't properly generate code for nested objects. It uses ADD OBJECT to add the objects to the form definition, but ADD OBJECT can't really add, for example, a grid column directly to a form.

Despite this weakness, the code the Browser generates is very helpful in understanding what's going on in a form or class.

The Browser has lots of other capabilities as well. It's worth spending some time with the help file to read about it. In addition, be aware that the Browser was written in Visual FoxPro. Whenever I work with it, I get new ideas about what's possible.

–Tamar