



Get a Risk-Free Issue and 5 FREE Power Guides Instantly!

Order our new TOTAL PANTHER Special Issue with BONUS DVD

Stories by Subject

Apple Hardware
Digital Hub
Graphics and Publishing
Software and Utilities
Mac Hardware

Recent Hot Stories

iMovieFest turns WWU students into auteurs
REALbasic 5.5 adds Linux, enhances Mac support
Macs and viruses -- are we as safe as we think?
Apple offers prepaid iTunes Music Store cards at Target
Apple opens WWDC 2004 registration
iPod mini hits Apple Stores this Friday, 100K on order
IBM offers PowerPC 970FX chip manufacturing details
Macromedia ships Director MX 2004
MacMall sells pieces of Virginia Tech G5 supercomputer
iChat AV, AIM updates add Mac to PC video conferencing
More stories...

Macworld Reviews

iPod mini 
VectorWorks 10.5 
B4 
Lounge Lizard EP-2 
Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer 
Imaginext Battle Castle 
Ghost Master 
Active Lancer 
Burning Monkey Casino 
Age of Mythology 

REALbasic 5.5 adds Linux, enhances Mac support

By Peter Cohen pcohen@maccentral.com
February 25, 2004 8:30 am ET

REAL Software Inc. on Wednesday released REALbasic 5.5, the latest version of their cross-platform development environment. The addition of Linux to the list of supported platforms is a major addition in this release but is by no means the only change, according to company president and CEO Geoff Perlman, who recently spoke with MacCentral about the new version.

REALbasic 5.5's release comes almost a year to the day following REALbasic 5.0, the last major revision to the development environment. "We spent more development time and man-hours on REALbasic 5.5 than any previous release. We've added more than 100 new features and made tons of improvements to existing features," said Perlman.

With the addition of a Linux compiler, REALbasic developers working on Mac or Windows platforms can build applications that run on Red Hat Enterprise and SuSE Linux distributions, as well as other Linux distributions that have the GTK+ 2.0 and CUPS libraries. The release marks the fulfillment of a promise that REAL Software made last summer, when it first announced that it would support Linux in REALbasic 5.5.

What's more, REALbasic extends its support for applications developed to use Web services by adding support for Extensible Markup Language (XML) and Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP).

REALbasic is a popular solution for IT departments and small developers to create software that works hand-in-hand with Microsoft's Office application suite, and compatibility with Office has been improved in this release.

Up until now, REALbasic applications interacting with Office have depended on the use of plug-ins that have created a lot of operational overhead, according to Perlman. Now, the syntax used to create REALbasic applications is nearly identical -- about 98 percent -- to Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), without any plug-ins required.

Mac support improved

The list of Mac-specific changes to REALbasic 5.5 is quite long, as well. Perlman noted that the new version now allows users to build applications using Mach-O, the native format for Mac OS X. "The benefit to our customers is that as Apple does optimizations to make software run faster, they'll be doing that for Mach-O," said Perlman.

Related Items

Montreal 'Intro to Cocoa' class adds Xcode info
MacCentral - February 25, 2004
REAL calls for entries for REALbasic Design Awards 2004
MacCentral - February 19, 2004
BBEdit 7.1.2 now available
MacCentral - January 27, 2004
SoftIntegration releases Ch 4.5, C/C++ interpreter
MacCentral - January 21, 2004
[More Related Items](#)

14" iBook G3/900
384MB RAM
40GB HD/Combo
\$999



get
the **most**
out of
your mac



you control

customize
your menus
for Mac OS X

Macworld
**BEST
OF SHOW**
2004

LaCie Bigger Disk Hard Drive

An unsurpassed one terabyte of capacity coupled with FW400 and FW800 support at a fantastic price.



cow | mac | warehouse



Register today.
June 28-July 2 • Moscone Center West • San Francisco, CA

Recent Hot Updates

VueScan	7.6.79
Cocktail	3.4.4
File Buddy	7.6
Photo to Movie	2.7.4
REALbasic	5.5
Neverwinter Nights	1.62
GameRanger	3.6.2
Dantz Retrospect 6 Driver Update	5.1.103
Epson Storage Card Driver	1.1.3
FAXstf X Pro	10.5.1

MacCentral

[News Archive](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Newsletter](#)
[Forums](#)
[XML/RSS](#)

Macworld

[Macworld.com](#)
[ProductFinder](#)
[Macworld Expo](#)
[Customer Service](#)

Sourceforge OS X Foundries

[BZFlag - Multiplayer 3D Tank Game](#)
[Privoxy](#)
[AMSN](#)
[phpWebSite Content Management System](#)
[MPlayer OS X](#)
[MegaMek](#)
[WINE for Darwin and Mac OS X](#)
[Gimp-Print - Top Quality Printer Drivers](#)
[wxWidgets \(formerly wxWindows\)](#)
[wxWidgets \(formerly wxWindows\)](#)
[Overnet/eDonkey2000 GUI](#)
[MacOS X HTTP Mail Plugin](#)
[Poisoned](#)
[Fire](#)
[MUTE](#)
[WorkspaceManager](#)
[SIM](#)
[Fink](#)
[StepMania](#)
[PHP/SQL/HTML Plugin for Eclipse IDE](#)

Mach-O support has another benefit as well -- REALbasic developers can now create "faceless" applications that run from a console, as well as "daemons." This is important for developers who want to create REALbasic-based server applications without having a user logged in, which can be a potential security risk.

Also new in REALbasic 5.5 is support for Mac OS X's Address Book database. This enables REALbasic developers to create software that leverages system-based contact management information.

Efforts have also been made to reduce the size of applications created with REALbasic, thanks to some fancy footwork involving compression. "What we've done is for the short term is compressed our framework," explained Perlman.

The framework is now stored compressed inside the REALbasic-made application and uncompressed on the fly when the application launches. What's more, existing developers can recompile their applications without needing to do any redevelopment to shrink them using this method as well.

Perlman also outlined REAL Software's roadmap for future development: He said that REALbasic will eventually "slice and dice" by leaving out the parts of the framework that the application does not use, Perlman said.

Development and usage improvements galore

Other new features in REALbasic 5.5 include support for the "Combo Box," or editable list box control; the ability to create round buttons; full keyboard access and support for Apple's speech recognition technology; speedier scrolling and redrawing; line continuation and a better online help engine.

Compiling speeds have also been greatly improved for large applications. Perlman said that REALbasic 5.5 is up to 10 times faster than its predecessor. Additionally, true control copying has been added in this release -- when a developer duplicates a control, the underlying logic is copied along with the control. Auto-complete capability has been improved, too -- it now works with arrays and does a better job of guessing what developers are typing.

An improved debugger makes it easier to see when and where problems happen, including the ability to watch as graphics render as the code executes.

Also new in REALbasic 5.5 is support for remote debugging. With the installation of a small software program, REALbasic developers can debug their applications on Windows and Linux PCs, or other Macs, without having to cart their code to the other machine. The software uses auto-discovery to locate other machines capable of remote debugging, transfers the file and runs it. This functionality can also be used by custom application developers who want to remotely debug their software over the Internet.

Database support improved

REALbasic 5.5 also overhauls its database support. REALdb, the single-user database included with REALbasic, has been rewritten from the ground up. And while previous releases have restricted REALdb to only the more expensive Professional version of REALbasic, Perlman said that REALbasic 5.5 now adds REALdb to the Standard release as well.

You can now drop tables, columns, change column types at will, and indexing is supported with the new engine. "We've also added field filters and formatting for better front end support," said Perlman.

Support for SQL has also been improved with this release. And while previous releases of REALbasic supported Oracle databases, this new version now supports Oracle 8i and Oracle 9i connectivity in Mac OS X, thanks to the recent release of code from Oracle to allow that to happen.



Mac Products Guide

New This Week

New and updated products added to the Guide this week.

Hot Deals

Great prices on hot selling Mac products from your favorite Macintosh resellers.

Special Offers

Promotions and offers direct from Macintosh developers and magazines.

Hardware

Over 4,000 peripherals and accessories such as cameras, printers, scanners, keyboards, mice and more.

Software

Browse the software section for over 17,000 Macintosh applications and software titles.



Now Playing

Don't miss these trailers of the hottest Mac games:

- [SW Jedi Knight: Jedi Academy](#)
- [ToySight](#)
- [The Sims: Makin' Magic](#)
- [America's Army: Special Forces](#)

Language improvements

REALbasic's programming language gets tweaks, changes and improvements too: You can pass and return single and multidimension arrays to and from a method, and new methods have been added for array creation and manipulation. Try and Catch code blocks improve exception handling. REALbasic 5.5 also adds variable argument lists not unlike C and PERL.

Safe for beginners and pros

Perlman said that REALbasic 5.5 is better than ever not just for programming professionals, MIS personnel and others who make their living in code, but also for hobbyists and beginners who want to get started making their own software. To that end, new and improved features like autocomplete, the online help engine and a tips window that automatically adjusts its content depending on how you're working all add to the experience. And while REAL Software -- a privately held company -- doesn't share its specific revenue or customer numbers, the company noted that they have in the neighborhood of 50,000 developers using their product.

Upgrades from previous releases start at US\$29.95. Licenses for the Standard version cost \$99.95. The Professional version, which provides cross-platform compiling support, database server connectivity and team development support, costs \$399.95.

Related Items

[Montreal 'Intro to Cocoa' class adds Xcode info](#)

MacCentral - February 25, 2004

[BBEdit 7.1.2 now available](#)

MacCentral - January 27, 2004

[IBM announces two new G5-optimized compilers](#)

MacCentral - January 15, 2004

[Really Basic REALbasic offers new content for beginners](#)

MacCentral - December 29, 2003

[REAL World 2004 to gather REALbasic users](#)

MacCentral - December 19, 2003

[REAL calls for entries for REALbasic Design Awards 2004](#)

MacCentral - February 19, 2004

[SoftIntegration releases Ch 4.5, C/C++ interpreter](#)

MacCentral - January 21, 2004

[Macworld: Macworld: New technology from Runtime Revolution](#)

MacCentral - January 06, 2004

[Valentina update supports Xcode, Panther](#)

MacCentral - December 22, 2003

[Printer Friendly Page](#) | [Email a Friend](#)

Mac Support Los Angeles

Praxis Computing - Los Angeles
Macintosh Computer Consulting
www.praxis.com

Call 1-866-692-TECH

Computer Repair & Networking
We Come To You! (Los Angeles)
techsinasec.com

[Click here for a list of today's stories](#)

[Reader forum - Join the discussion about this article](#)

[Post New Message](#)

Read our [Macworld Privacy Policy](#) and [Macworld Terms of Service](#).

 [REALBasic sees the Future, it's NOT OS X](#)
MacDoomed - 02/26/04 02:32 AM

 [Dutch distributor charges \\$95 vs. \\$29,95 upgrade](#)

gijsraggers - 02/25/04 03:58 PM

 **Re: Dutch distributor charges \$95 vs. \$29,95 upgrade**

geoffperlman - 02/25/04 05:56 PM

 **No Geoff, you're wrong.**

gijsraggers - 02/26/04 02:34 AM

 **Re: No Geoff, you're wrong.**

gijsraggers - 02/26/04 12:37 PM

 **Add Amiga support and I'll show you my wallet! *NM***

DudeMac - 02/25/04 01:53 PM

 **database connectivity**

BayouBengal - 02/25/04 10:23 AM

 **Compressed Binaries**

DLWormwood - 02/25/04 10:22 AM

 **Re: Compressed Binaries**

UncleJam - 02/25/04 11:30 AM

 **Re: Compressed Binaries**

DLWormwood - 02/25/04 11:37 AM

 **Re: Compressed Binaries**

BayouBengal - 02/25/04 10:27 AM

 **Watch out M\$!**

bondtrails - 02/25/04 09:17 AM

 **Re: Watch out M\$!**

IzonDeBartas - 02/25/04 11:34 AM

 **Daemon in RealBasic!**

iJed - 02/25/04 09:07 AM

 **Apps are smaller in RB 5.5**

mquagliana - 02/25/04 10:54 AM

 **RealBasic experiences?**

drdremic - 02/25/04 09:03 AM

 **Re: RealBasic experiences?**

__david__ - 02/25/04 04:34 PM

 **Re: RealBasic experiences?**

geoffperlman - 02/25/04 06:20 PM

 **Why isn't Basic better?**

Ania - 02/25/04 06:58 PM

 **Re: RealBasic experiences?**

serkevin - 02/25/04 12:02 PM

 **Re: RealBasic experiences?**

IzonDeBartas - 02/25/04 11:27 AM

 **Re: RealBasic experiences?**

NeoX - 02/25/04 09:15 PM

 **Re: RealBasic experiences?**

y83106 - 02/25/04 11:48 PM

 **Re: RealBasic experiences?**

NeoX - 02/26/04 01:41 AM

 **Good, Bad, AND Ugly**

DLWormwood - 02/25/04 09:48 AM

 **Re: Speaking of Ugly**

Ampar - 02/25/04 10:57 AM

 **Re: Speaking of Ugly**

DLWormwood - 02/25/04 11:56 AM

 **Re: Flack that's not Roberta**

Ampar - 02/25/04 12:26 PM

 **Re: Good, Bad, AND Ugly**

jonjohnson - 02/25/04 10:28 AM


 **Re: Good, Bad, AND Ugly**


macling - 02/25/04 11:10 AM


Wednesday, February 25, 2004

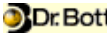
- 05:50 pm [Macworld review: Aria Extreme](#)
 - 04:35 pm [New co. Audiofile Engineering debuts Sample Manager](#)
 - 03:15 pm [WiebeTech debuts new FW800/400/USB2 Forensic Field Kits](#)
 - 03:00 pm [QuickerTek's 5 Dbi antenna extends Cube's wireless range](#)
 - 02:15 pm [Barcode Automator 2.0 works with Panther feature, more](#)
 - 02:00 pm [T-Mobile pushes int'l, 'seamless' Wi-Fi services](#)
 - 12:50 pm [Latest Mydoom variant deletes files](#)
 - 12:25 pm [Web Crossing Express adds low-volume plug-in license](#)
 - 11:35 am [Casio debuts 4MP EX-Z40 digital camera](#)
 - 11:20 am [Apple kicks off 'More memory for less' promo](#)
 - 10:25 am [Montreal 'Intro to Cocoa' class adds Xcode info](#)
 - 10:05 am [MacFonts collection adds 1000 fonts for OS X users](#)
 - 09:55 am [iChat AV, iPod mini and more featured on Your Mac Life](#)
 - 08:55 am [Apple due in London court to contest Beatles lawsuit](#)
 - 08:40 am [CIA to issue cyberterror intelligence estimate](#)
 - 08:30 am [REALbasic 5.5 adds Linux, enhances Mac support](#)
 - 07:20 am [Smugmug Mac Uploader now integrates with iPhoto](#)
 - 0 [Click here to view all news items on one page.](#)
-


MACCENTRAL READER SPECIALS AND HOT DEALS


 **Ramjet Memory:** 512mb G4 DDR DIMM for \$99! 2Gig G5 Kits on Sale for \$429! 512mb PowerBook G4 modules for \$129! 1Gig iMac Kits for \$219! 1Gig PowerBook G3 Kits for \$299!

 **Coming This Spring!** Purchase Office v.X today for as low as \$139.99 - Get a FREE UPGRADE to Office 2004 from Microsoft!

 **See the entire line** of NEW PowerBook, Power Mac, and iMac G4 models at MacMall! Plus receive MacMall Exclusive Offers w/ Apple computer purchase!

 **New PowerBook accessories are here!** Hip laptop bags, hubs, video adapters, cool stands, and more! Dr. Bott - Distribution Macintosh Style

 **Memory To Go:** G5 512MB-\$89 1GB-\$172 2GB-\$618-- PB G4 12" & 17" [512MB-\$110 256MB-\$33] TITANIUM [512MB-\$84 256MB-\$46] MAC G4 [(DDR) 512MB-\$90 256MB-\$48]

 **MemorySolutions:** G5 DDR 400/3200 Memory: 512mb kit \$90, 1gb kit \$179, 2gb kit \$458, 512mb \$90, 1gb \$249 | G4 PC133 Memory: 256mb \$49, 512mb \$95 | PBook G4/iBook G4 Memory: 512mb \$149, 1gb \$399 | RedLine FW400 120gb Ext Drive \$142 | LaCie drives on sale | Free ground shipping*

TransIntl.com: 512MB PC-133 DIMM Powerbooks G4/iBooks \$99; 120GB FireWire Ext: \$229; New Powerbook 40GB 5400-16MB Cache Drive: \$159 Click to Maximize your Macs...


4 All Memory: Computer running slow? Speed it up with more RAM memory! We have great Mac memory, guaranteed compatibility, and FREE SHIPPING! Buy RAM at 4AllMemory.com today!

Computer Memory upgrades at www.MemoryX.net. Memory solutions for Apple, PC and Digital Camera Memory too! Call us @ 1-866-MemoryX (636-6799)

Apple iPod Accessories, Mac Software, memory and more at the www.WeLoveMac.com Apple store


T-mobile Cell Phones & Cell Phone Plans, with free phones and same-day shipping.


Worldlabel.com offers free label template downloads for printing your own labels. Guaranteed lowest prices for CD, DVD, mailing, shipping and more direct from the manufacturer.


 **PrintingForLess.com:** The world's largest online commercial printer. 20,000 customers can't be wrong! 500 business cards for \$49.95. 500 postcards for \$119. Much more, visit today!

Apple Specials - All Brand New iBooks/900 MHz G3's w/ComboDrive starting from \$799, 15" LCD iMacs from \$899, G5's 1.8 GHz \$1749. Call (714)630-8200 or visit www.lacocostore.com

exo, exo2 and exo3 by Lajo at www.Xskn.com

 **Copy Craft:** The experience and commitment to outstanding service to give your printing the competitive edge-we guarantee it! Copy Craft, your 300 line screen waterless printer.

 **View** Memory for just about EVERY Mac! 256MB from \$31; 512MB from \$55. Lifetime Advance Replacement Warranty!

 **MegaMacs.com:** AppleWorks 6.2 \$9, iLife \$32, iMovie \$4, Quicken Deluxe \$29, G3s \$99, Office X Std/Pro \$279/\$399, Jaguar \$49, Systemworks 3 \$49, USB Zips 100/250/750 \$28/\$59/\$89, 8x8x24 CDRW \$44, & much more!

VersionTracker Pro Join the thousands of other members that have already found out about the best software updating utility on the planet!

18004MEMORY.COM 1-800-4MEMORY... WE CAN BEAT ANY DEAL ON ALL MEMORY FOR YOUR LAPTOP, PRINTER, DESKTOP, SERVER, APPLE/MAC, CAMERA AND MORE!!!!

Apple Computer Mac Memory G5 Powerbook iBook Memory NEW 1GB Powerbook G4 DIMM Samsung Orig \$419, 512MB DDR400 Apple G5 \$86, 1GB G5 Kit \$178

Apple Mac Memory Upgrades at www.satech.com Largest selection of factory approved memory for all Macs, PCs, printers and cameras.

Free Dish Network & Directv: Get a free Dish Network or Direct TV satellite system for up to 4 rooms with installation included.

Personal Finance: A directory of the best credit cards available for the U.S. and UK, with secured and unsecured credit card applications to choose from.

Professional Printing from your Mac files PrintingYouCanTrust.com offers online ordering and custom printing of newsletters, brochures, envelopes, posters, stationery and cards in full color. Instant online quotes, easy uploads, online proofing and samples.

Bad Credit Loans, Personal Loans, Credit Cards, Home Loans and Debt Consolidation Personal loans, debt consolidation, credit cards and loans for people with bad credit.