

Text-to-Speech

Black Ice Software, Inc. has announced their entry into the Text-to-Speech development toolkit market. The TTS development toolkit is designed for developers who want to add advanced speech synthesis into their telephony and multimedia applications. It is ideal for Interactive Voice Response (IVR), voice mail, e-mail readers, and fax readers. It speaks any ASCII text with a voice incredibly close to human, eliminating the hassle and headaches of pre-recorded speech.

Features Include:

- Generate industry standard WAVE file.
- Speaks numbers, dates, dollar amount, and telephone numbers.
- Speaks any alphanumeric text.
- Simultaneous multi-channel support.

32-bit Active X Control included.
Compatible with Dialogic, Brooktrout, BICOM and Rockwell chipset based voice modems such as Hayes and Boca for CTI Applications.

Dictionary editor and multi-language support.

Pitch and speed control.

Sample C and Visual Basic code.
Simple licensing.
No hardware key.

System Requirements:

Intel 486 or Pentium Processor
16 MB of RAM
25 MB of Disk Space
Microsoft Windows 95, 98 or NT.
Visual C++, Delphi, or Visual Basic 5.0

What Voice C++ Can Do For You!

The Voice C++/OCX gives you the power to build an open scalable Voice Server or Voice Mail system in just a few days, without paying royalties on every port you sell. The CTI solution providers are totally neglecting the small voice mail systems with a 1-4 line range. With the new Voice and Fax C++/OCX, developers can build a network voice mail system in just a few days. What makes this possible are several technologies converging in the Voice C++/OCX product, which drastically reduce the development time. The main obstacles until recently were the competing hardware technologies in the voice modem market, the voice file format these modems generate, and royalty based development tools. The Voice C++/OCX resolves all of these issues.

There are several hardware vendors with different voice technologies. At the low end of the spectrum, in the \$50 to \$250 range, there are Rockwell, US Robotics, and Lucent chipset based modems with different voice command sets. On the high end there is Dialogic, NMS, BICOM, and Brooktrout with different levels of C API. The Voice C++/OCX provides a single API for this diverse range of hardware. (NMS not yet available).

All of these boards or modems generate different and in some cases incompatible voice files. The Dialogic, Brooktrout and NMS are capable of generating MS Windows compatible voice files. The main obstacles are the Rockwell and US Robotics modems, because they generate incompatible ADPCM voice files. The Voice C++/OCX provides a simple conversion library to and from MS Windows wave file format to ADPCM format. Other than the native C API for these boards, third party development tools are royalty based except for Black Ice Software's Voice C++/OCX.

NT 4.0 Printer Driver

We have added a new feature to launch an application from the driver directly. Until now an application could be launched only through an NT Service. In some instances, this approach is unacceptable.

Fax C++

The Fax C++ Error Correction Mode (ECM) for send has been updated.

New TAPI sample code is being shipped with Fax C++. This new sample code will work only on

Windows 95 and Windows 98, since TAPI is not working on NT. The difference with this new sample code is that it demonstrates how to connect in Voice mode and switch from TAPI to Fax C++ to receive or send a fax.

BFT for G5 - Black Ice Software has updated BFT implementation and added G5 messaging.

Brooktrout ISDN - The Fax C++ has been tested with Brooktrout ISDN API and is already shipping.

Brooktrout T1 - The Fax C++ has been tested with the Brooktrout T1 board at the Brooktrout test facility and is ready to ship.

Voice C++

Conversion routine for Microsoft WAVE format to Rockwell native ADPCM and ADPCM to

Microsoft WAVE format. This new powerful feature allows the developer to build one port to four port Fax/Voice Applications using inexpensive internal or external Fax/Voice modems.

Brooktrout - Our Voice C++ API is now compatible with Brooktrout boards.

BICOM - The Voice C++ is now compatible with the BICOM voice board and is ready.

Dialogic - The Voice C++ now has integrated the "Flash Hook" capability of Dialogic boards. This new feature allows you to build voice server or voice mail applications that can route calls dynamically through PBX or PSTN.

Build a custom Fax Server with Client in a WEEK!

The booming fax server market currently contains at least forty companies who actively sell fax server solutions. We can help you be one of them with the simple solution outlined below.

A fax server's main components are: Client software, the transport layer to deliver faxes between server and client; and the fax server which actually sends and receives the faxes. The Complete Fax Development Toolkit contains all of the components, and much of the code that you will need is written for you. All you have to do is glue the different components together and customize the supplied code for your needs.

Client software consists of several modules: a viewer with annotation, the printer driver which is integrated with the viewer, transport layer interface, and the cover page editor as a separate application. The complete Fax C++ includes all of the components for the Client software in the form of C++ source code. You may remove the local faxing capability from the client software.

Transport layer can be implemented as a MAPI compliant transport or a separate TCP/IP transport. However, the simplest way is not to have a transport layer but use a shared directory on the network and use group files. The client can write the generated TIFF files and the group file with the client specific information in the shared directory, which is monitored by the server. Once the server has processed the group file it will create a response file which is internally picked up by the client software.

We recommend implementing the Fax Server on NT, but you may consider using Win95 or Win98 as a gateway. There are 2 basic approaches to fax server implementation. Make the fax server a Windows application (this is the simplest) or make it a service. If the fax server is a service then you must use NT. Quickest and simplest implementation is when the Fax Server is an application. Once again the demo32.exe source of the Fax C++ can be modified to create a fax server. The demo32.exe comes with

G5 Messaging from 5th Generation

5th Generation Messaging Ltd. has played the central role in the creation and development of G5 Messaging, a new inter-company messaging service designed to follow post, telex, fax, and E-mail in providing the functionality required in both transmitting and managing multimedia messages.

Black Ice Software has added G5 Messaging for Binary File Transfer (BFT). This new addition is based on the already existing BFT technology developed by Black Ice several years ago for Class 1 fax transmission with ECM (error correction mode).

G5 Messaging provides the following key features:

- Integrated Multimedia Messaging based on MIME allowing the transmission of text, image, voice and E-commerce with universal inbox .

- Transmission independent design: common carrier, Internet or Intranet, with built-in drop down facility to Group 3 Fax (carrier) and/or Internet E-mail (Internet).

- File and security negotiation to match sender and recipient capabilities.

- Built-in indexing to enable documents to be stored and searched

- Legally compliant document transfer.

Win 95 & Win98 Printer Driver

Arabic, Hebrew, Hungarian and Russian language support is added with "glyph" indexed fonts.

The printer driver name can be changed dynamically.

Color Win95 printer driver is scheduled for release in October. This new driver will have both monochrome and 24-bit color capacities.

built in queue management and multi-port support.
The server can be easily modified to read in faxes
from the group file and place them in the queue.
Once the fax is processed the fax response file can
be written out.

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