

Little Helpers

CASUALWRITER, FROM HUNG CHONG KI

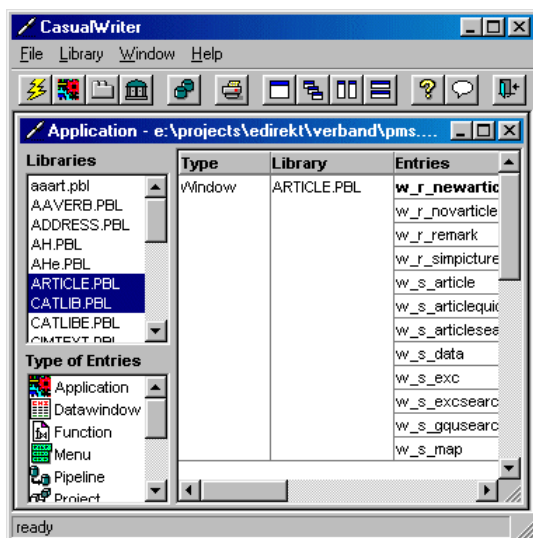
reviewed by Arthur Hefti

Description

CasualWriter is a shareware program that allows you to create technical documentation for your PowerBuilder applications. As you might expect, it's written in PowerBuilder and is available in either a P-Code or compiled version. Besides the application, the archive also contains CasualFrame, a simple framework for small applications.

After starting the application you first have to choose what you would like to document, this can be either the current application, choose from a list of applications, select a directory, open a single library or document a SQL Anywhere datasource.

After choosing at least one Library the application looks like this:



The PBLs and types of entries you would like to document are selected from the left side and a list of all entries is displayed on the right.

Now you have the possibility to create the report. For the object documentation there are two types of report available. The first one is an object report showing either an overview or all details, including script of the selected object(s). The second type is a hierarchy report for all or only the selected objects.

The report templates can be customized so that, for

example, only rows that start with certain characters are displayed. This is a very handy feature if you don't need the whole script in the documentation but only the function description.

If you only select one object for the report, it is shown in preview if you choose more they are printed directly. In the Report preview you can even set an additional filter on the data you see.

CasualWriter can also document a SQL Anywhere datasource. On the left you have a list available owners and their corresponding tables and views in the database. Mark one or more tables and the column information is shown on the right. Now you can print this information in different forms or save it to a file.

CasualWriter comes with a very detailed help file, giving you the assistance you need at every occasion. Already announced is support for PowerBuilder 6.0, some automation for documentation and support for other databases.

In My Opinion

CasualWriter is a very useful tool for documenting a project source. It's easy to use, customizable to your needs and doesn't need any third party products for creating the reports. The author is very helpful on questions and has always an open ear for enhancement suggestions. At first sight some of the icons are innovative but you get used to them very soon.

Availability and Pricing

CasualWriter can be downloaded from
<http://www.intercon.net/~ckhung/>.

The price for the registered version is \$45 (before 1.1.1998, \$65 after).

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