

Party Time – LaunchDock Goes Pure Java

If you have recently attended a BASIS TechCon or run a BASIS demo, then you are likely familiar with the slick BBJ® LaunchDock application building-block utility shown in **Figure 1**. Amongst other functionality, the LaunchDock utility provides a cool animated visual feedback response when clicking a menu icon.



Figure 1. The BASIS Demos LaunchDock

The LaunchDock utility houses and runs the demos and in BBJ 8.0, became a shipping BASIS utility able to launch any BBJ application, operating system executable, document, or Web page. A simple right-click gives the user control over whether it is docked to one of the four edges of the screen and whether to make it “always-on-top”. What you probably didn’t know was that it depended on a combination of client-side Java objects and third party native C-code to show the translucent window (partially transparent, or see-through window).

In BBJ 10.0 and higher, this is no longer the case. Read on to learn about the new integrated solution and what it means to you.

Third Party is NO Party

Depending on this third party code presented a couple of issues. First, the code on which LaunchDock depended was a shareware project that was never officially released. Second, the native code was only available on a few platforms that BASIS supports: 32-bit Windows, 32-bit Linux, and the Mac. Anyone running on other platforms could not use LaunchDock. Even though we did not want to depend on a third party product, Java did not support transparent windows, so we had no other choice.

Pure Java IS a Party

Beginning with release 1.6 update 10, Java supports transparency. Since BBJ 10.0 requires version 1.6, we changed the code that generates the transparent windows in the LaunchDock utility to use the new `com.sun.awt.AWTUtilities` package instead of the third party C-code. This package also includes the ability to create irregular or non-rectangular shaped windows. The LaunchDock code serves as a working example for these features and gives developers a head start on creating their own transparent and shaped windows.

So what does that mean? Now anyone can run the LaunchDock demos on any platform that has an Oracle JVM (formerly from Sun). More importantly, you can use the utility to run your own BBJ application code, just as BASIS does with its own production system (see **Figure 2**). It is slick and easy and fun. >>

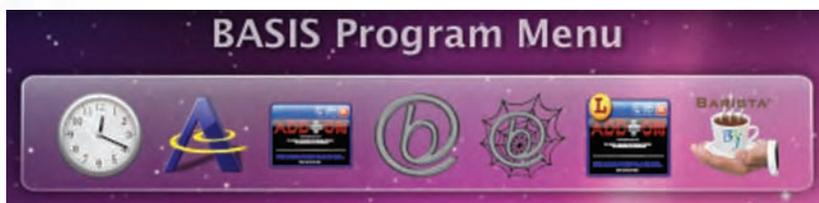


Figure 2. The BASIS Program Menu LaunchDock



By Brian Hipple
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The Party Scoop

Using third party code in your application can be a smart way to bring new technology to the market while not having to wait for a release of your base product to implement new and important functionality. However, if you have included this technology into your base product, now is an ideal time to consider switching your program menu launcher to this integrated solution.

Just as we have found with our new LaunchDock, reducing dependencies on third party components greatly facilitates improved functionality and compatibility and opens up doors for a higher level of support. And for some who might not have been able to consider the third party providers due to platform limitations, this Java-based solution is platform independent and runs on 64-bit operating systems.

Likewise, you no longer have to rely on third party suppliers for such capabilities

as forms, PDF, fax, e-mail. They too, once upon a time, depended on third party libraries but are now available directly in BASIS technology. If you are not using the power and versatility of the BASIS language for these capabilities, now is a good time to include them and begin enjoying the benefits. We would like to hear about your success with these components, including the LaunchDock, or how you are using transparency or shaped windows within your application. Let the real party begin! ■



- For more information about transparency, read *How to Create Translucent and Shaped Windows* links.basis.com/ebjgh
- Learn about these integrated BASIS solutions
 - Forms –
 - *BBj Form Printing* links.basis.com/bbjforms
 - *Dishing up Forms* links.basis.com/forms
 - Forms/PDF – *PDF Now Also Means Perfectly Displayed Forms* links.basis.com/pdf
 - PDF – *BBj PDFs - Perfectly Displayed Formats* links.basis.com/bbjpdf
 - Fax and e-mail – run the demos under “Demo LaunchDock” included in the BBj download

NEWS

Mining the Future with Diamond 725

BASIS International Ltd. and EMS Healthcare Informatics co-hosted the Diamond Work Group Conference in Albuquerque immediately following the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. The timing of this conference in early October afforded some of the attendees the opportunity to arrive a day or two early to enjoy this world famous event. This year's Fiesta was one of the best, with great weather and over 500 balloons for spectators to enjoy and photograph, some with amazing shapes.



By Gale Robledo
Account Manager

The theme for this conference was “Planning for the Future with Diamond® 725” with the goal to work, learn, collaborate, and network as a group. And work, learn, collaborate we did, with a productive two-day exchange that resulted in much collaborative work for BASIS and EMS to complete in the coming months. Together, we addressed application changes necessary for today's healthcare requirements, enhancements that BASIS technology provides, and a top-to-bottom support model that provides Diamond users with a secure future.

Keeping up with the healthcare industry regulatory changes, security and data exchange requirements, and technology choices is a very tall order for customers running on BASIS technology. Attendees discovered that BBj provides the

necessary tools and features to get the job done, today and far into the future. User groups like the Diamond Work Group Conference provide the opportunity for peers and technology providers to come together and help each other stay abreast of the ever-changing industry.

BASIS welcomes the opportunity to partner with resellers and users, and to participate in strategy sessions and technology reviews. Such a partnership helps to grow and nurture successful businesses running on BASIS technology. BASIS also provides professional services to jump start your BBj and Barista projects. The BASIS business development team stands ready to strategize with and assist any of our partners with their Business opportunities. Call BASIS Sales for assistance in any of these areas. ■



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