

To: The Borland Management Team
From: The Community of Developers Using C++Builder
CC: The Borland C++ Development Team
Date: 10/22/2004
Subject: C++Builder's Future – Mutually Mission-Critical

Abstract

Among software developers, there is overwhelming consensus that Borland Software Corporation should continue development, maintenance and updates of its Rapid-Application-Development (RAD) focused C++Builder product line. Some of the key considerations which we feel Borland Management should ponder include the following:

- The potential impact to customers, some of whom are major entities, who use and rely upon software built using C++Builder.
- Third-party Delphi component and library vendors who have a stronger financial interest in producing VCL controls, components, and tools if they can be leveraged by C++Builder users.
- Customers who demand high-performance and reliable applications in which only a standard-based language such as C++ can be considered.
- Customers, sponsors, and users who rely on C++Builder-based applications to be maintained (patched, supported, and improved upon).
- Microsoft's renewed intent for C++ as the principal language for exploiting CLR for .NET, which creates a greater incentive for C++ Builder to persist and evolve to support .NET (leveraging the Delphi for .NET effort).
- C++Builder as a key part of the Delphi IDE (Diamondback) as opposed to the JBuilder/Primetime environment.
- The statements by Dale Fuller (Borland CEO) at the 2004 BorCon in San Jose, in which he said "[Borland] will never abandon the developers." and "Borland's past is really our future."

This community letter outlines the key issues regarding C++Builder's role as a mission-critical application for developers, and, ultimately, for the customers whom they support. Here, we list some of these customers and present the rationale behind why we believe it is imperative that Borland re-channel its direction and resources into delivering updated versions of C++Builder.

Introduction

There is a vast and significant number of developers and their customers who rely on products that have been built using Borland C++Builder (BCB). As a result, it is crucial that the development, maintenance, and distribution of the C++Builder product-line — focused on Rapid-Application-Development (RAD) development for the Microsoft platform — be restored.

Customers* who rely upon software built using C++Builder include, but are not limited to, the following:

- U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)
 - Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC)
 - Naval Air Systems Command
 - U.S. Army Research and Development Engineering Command (RDECOM)
 - U.S. Marine Corp System Command (MARCORSYSCOM)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - U.S. Coast Guard

- Local government agencies
- Major Players in the Space Industry
 - the European Space Agency
 - Astrium
 - Alenia Spazio
 - Alcatel
 - SAAB Space
 - NASA/JPL
- Aviation Industry / Corporate Aviators
 - Caterpillar, Inc.
 - Chevron Texaco, Inc.
 - DuPont
 - Eastman Kodak Company
 - Ford Motor Company
 - General Electric
 - General Motors Air Trans
 - Kellogg Company
 - PepsiCo
 - *much more*
- Crime Control / Criminal Investigation / Forensic Sciences
 - Many UK police forces
 - Several UK and US government security agencies
 - A number of customs units in Europe.
 - Worldwide users of latent fingerprint workstation
- Delphi/C++Builder third-party component/library vendors
- Users of custom and commercial Windows applications, which include
 - Students
 - Teachers
 - Families
 - Hobbyists
 - Amateur Photographers
 - Financial Analysts
 - Engineers
 - Aviators
 - and many more

For most of these developers and their sponsors (including others not listed here), time is of the essence. Decisions are being made regarding future funding and the selection of future tools. For their tools, products, and services to be considered, Borland must provide and commit to a roadmap regarding the future of C++Builder.

Chief Problem

Borland's lack of communication and commitment to the C++ development community over the course of the past two years has, and continues to, adversely influence decisions being made by these and other organizations, individuals and associated stakeholders. The lack of communication and commitment is evidenced by the following missteps:

- The promise of open letters that failed to materialize;
- The lack of updates to C++Builder 6;
- The misdirection resulting from C++BuilderX (which included a lack of BCB project support, the abandonment of the VCL for C++ users, and the integration into a less-than-familiar JBuilder/Primetime-based IDE that lacked a form designer); and

- The limited number of C++ oriented presentations at the recent 2004 BorCon event.

These missteps are unfortunate and only exacerbate the problem. Ultimately, C++Builder has been considered a mission-critical application not only for developers of both small and large products, but also for the customers whom these developers support. However, as a result of Borland's lack of communication and commitment, developers and sponsors are growing impatient, becoming increasingly dissatisfied, and many are considering other tool- and language-choices from other vendors.

Impact of the Problem

The majority of those who have made alternative tool and language choices from other vendors would have preferred a continuation of the C++Builder product-line; this speaks to the affection many have had of the product. However, problems with the current version of C++Builder and the lack of a roadmap from Borland have greatly facilitated the consideration of alternative tools, languages, and vendors' products for future development.

Unfortunately, the investment made by customers – e.g., those who have purchased software built using C++Builder technology (such as the VCL) or who have hired contractors or consultants who use C++Builder to accomplish specific software-development tasks – is grimly being seen as a loss. We stress again that this is a direct result of Borland's lack of commitment to their product and lack of communication to the large following of developers who use C++Builder. For those organizations choosing alternative options, skilled developers using C++Builder will need to be retrained for other development environments and languages.

More importantly, future funding for legacy and long-lived software assets, which have historically been budgeted for maintenance, support, and extensions, are now in jeopardy. Many of these legacy or long-lived software assets are considered mission-critical applications.

For example, the United States Navy relies on software built using C++Builder for integrating critical system assets, for supporting real-time and after-action analyses of combat system capabilities, and for providing front-end man-machine interfaces for military personnel onboard modern surface and subsurface vessels. As another example, members of the United State Marine Corps rely on Forward Observer Forward Air Control (FO/FAC) devices with critical software elements that are hosted on mobile Windows-based platforms; many of these software elements were built using C++Builder. In both of these examples, the applications must be maintained and updated in order to effectively equip the military personnel.

Other mission-critical applications have been developed using C++Builder for major players in the space industry; these include the following:

- The infrastructure for the Rosetta spacecraft, which needs to stay operational until 2014-2015.
- A telemetry/image processor for the Japanese ALOS satellite, which is the first system in the processing chain for all ground stations in the African/European zone.
- The front-end to a power system, which, if subject to an anomaly, could cripple or destroy a \$1 billion satellite hardware construction project.

Borland C++Builder is also used to develop and maintain one of the world's leading computer forensics packages. This software is used by various government agencies in several countries and has been instrumental in the successful conclusion of a number of high-profile legal cases (including the Gary Glitter and Dame Shirley Porter prosecutions in the UK). This package has also been used by several large companies to protect intellectual property rights and to track down sources of internal computer abuse.

It is also important to mention the strong interest and support that third-party Delphi component and library vendors have in the future of C++Builder. Consider that these vendors have a stronger financial interest in producing controls, components, and tools if they know that these products can be leveraged not only by Delphi users, but also by the large number of C++Builder users. Indeed, developers who use C++Builder often depend upon these third-party vendors to provide essential VCL controls and components and IDE tools which help expedite the RAD process.

Moreover, for those customers who demand high-performance and reliable applications, in many cases only a standards-based language such as C++ can be considered. This eliminates other languages and environments such as Delphi, and, in some cases, Java, which has not yet been standardized, despite its popularity. Furthermore, Java is often withdrawn from consideration due to performance issues. High performance is a key requirement of most mission-critical applications; this is an attribute which C++ has been able to support.

We find that there is a not-so-subtle irony to this predicament in which developers and their customers now find themselves. The customers, sponsors, and users of an application created using C++Builder expect and rely on that application to be maintained and updated; this is especially true for mission-critical software. Likewise, the developers who are using C++Builder to build and maintain these products rely on C++Builder to be maintained and updated. The ability for software developers to continue to support customers, sponsors, and users – all of whom expect updates and continued software maintenance – is directly influenced by the availability of the language, framework, and tools which they use to build the software. If Borland doesn't deliver, neither can the developer.

We, the development community—including C++Builder users, the Delphi and C++Builder third-party vendors, and those whom we support through our software products and services—find that it is absolutely imperative that Borland continue to develop and update the C++Builder product-line. We respectfully ask Borland Management to consider the following points:

- A significant number of large organizations, and a greater number of small organizations, have invested considerable time and effort in C++ Builder projects.
- The time and effort investment is now more and more at risk as Borland delays on showing their commitment to developers.
- People who took a risk on Borland instead of “playing safe buying into Microsoft” are now losing their credibility, jobs, and livelihoods.
- Many projects and organizations have begun or are considering moving away from Borland tools.

Likely Result of BCB Abandonment

There is a growing concern that if Borland sidelines a popular and key product like C++Builder, a likely consequence is that developers and sponsors will end up sidelining Borland. Apparently, this growing sentiment among Borland users includes not only C++Builder and Kylix users, but also users of other popular Borland tools including Delphi and JBuilder. Their concern is in regards to Borland's overall commitment to its users and their products. If a popular program like C++Builder folds, developers using other Borland products will inevitably begin to question the investment that they have made, and begin to consider migrating to other, more viable options.

Potential Result of BCB Recommitment

While developers are angered and disappointed with Borland, please understand that they dearly wish otherwise. The necessary ingredients to turn things around have been, and continue to be, *commitment* and *communication*. And, based on the decisions that developers and their customers need to make, *time is of the essence*. Borland must not delay. This letter has clearly stated that C++Builder is a mission-critical tool for developers and the users of the products that developers create. Therefore, C++Builder's persistence in the marketplace is necessary for developers to continue to support their customers, sponsors, and users.

Additionally, Microsoft has recently renewed their focus on C++ as the principal language to exploit all the features of the CLR for .NET. With this in mind, it should be recognized that there is an untapped world of yet-to-be developed applications for both Win32 *and* .NET that could be facilitated using C++Builder.

Conclusion

We close with a reminder of statements made by Borland's CEO Dale Fuller, which he shared at the recent 2004 Borland Developer's Conference (BorCon) in San Jose, California. In his keynote and throughout the

week he emphasized that since its infancy, Borland has and will continue to **“never abandon the developers.”** He added, the **“past is really our future.”** We hope that this is true, for there is no greater time than this for Borland to live by and measure up to these words.

We look forward to hearing a favorable decision on or before December 15th, 2004. Thank you.

Sincerely, and Very Respectfully,

The C++Builder User Community

A list of signatures from developers, sponsors, users and other stakeholders who contributed and/or share the thoughts, concerns and desires that have been expressed in this letter is provided on the pages that follow. Many of their personal comments, which they wished to express independently, are included following the signatures.

Additionally, during the development of this letter, a community survey was conducted, which collected data specific to BCB use and impact. The results of that survey are being formulated in a separate report and will be distributed to Borland Management and made available to the general BCB community upon its completion.

* The identification of any company, organization and/or agency in this letter, here on referred to as an entity, that sponsors or uses software developed using C++Builder either in part and or in whole SHALL NOT be misconstrued as an endorsement by that entity of any single product nor used in a court of law for settling contractual disputes or any other legal issues with the said entity. The software products and/or entities referenced in this letter are mentioned only for purposes of identifying C++Builder as a critical tool used in the construction of said software or by said entities.

It should be noted that several companies, organizations and agencies preferred to not be publicly identified in this open letter out of concern for being criticized by investors, media, competitors, or customers if it was made publicly known that core products and services they developed, sponsored or used were created by a product that may not persist in the marketplace. While it is unfortunate that there's concern for this type of reaction, where appropriate, a general description of the type of entity that sponsored or used software that has been built using C++Builder was identified as an alternative thereby emphasizing the value that C++Builder has historically provided.

The C++Builder User Community Letter Signatures

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Sydney Delieu	Liberty (2346) Bishop Limited	
Tatsu Watanabe	Private	
Teofilo Fernandez	M3d, s.l.	
Thomas Krause	Agilent Technologies	
Thomas Taut	Bruker AXS	
Thomas Vieten	i/VISION Industrial Inspection Systems GmbH	
Thomas Yu	jettech., ltd.	
Tobias Giesen	Super Flexible Software	
Todd Brasseur	COMPASS Municipal Services Inc	President
Tom Reiertsen	Reiertsen Software Systems	Senior Consultant
Tram Chase	SimVentions	
Vaclav Korecek	RCD Radiokomunikace spol. s r.o.	SW Engineer & Designer
Van Ryswyck Jan	Fabricom/GTI	
Vangelis Nonas	BSI SA	Software Development Manager
Velko Ilchev	Technical University Plovdiv	Lecturer
Veselin Valchev	hobby programmer	
Vinzenz Feenstra	None	
Warren Dobbie	Department of Main Roads	
Wiebe Vos	Foxware Investmentssoftware	CEO
Wieland Scholz	Roentgenanalytik GmbH	Dr.
William Mahaffey	Suzie's Software	Owner
William P. Smith	Computing Technologies for Aviation	Software Developer
Won-Ho Lee	Ez2k	
Woo Hangyoo	Engineer	
Yakov Markovitch	Intersoft Lab	lead programmer
Yang Guk Jin	SFA	
Yang Jeong Seok	Jinyang Industrial Co., Ltd.	
Yeoh Ray Mond	Exact Software	Senior Quality Assurance Engineer
Yeongkeun Choi	Samji soft	Software Development
Yeontack Jeong	Oullim Information Technology co.	
Yoshinori Tagawa	Keihin Artwork Co.,Ltd.	
Younghoon Lee	Korean	
Youngil Kim	RIST	
Youngmin,Cho	Hansung Univ., Republic of Korea	Student
Young-Mok, Park	borlandforum, south korea	
Yue-Cong Wang	Sydney Water	Dr.
Yusuke Manaka	KAW/Japan	

Individual Comments by BCB Community Letter Signers

- "Abandoning of C++ Builder will not only move C++ developers to other platforms, it will also turn many very large organizations away from Borland products due to an apparent lack of support and consistency. Nobody wants to invest large amounts of money into a software system developed with tools from a company that can't be relied upon. So don't just focus on C++ Builder sales, there are many other facets of your business that will be affected in the future. "
- "As a long time Borland user, I'm deeply disappointed with Borland. Their obvious lack of care for their loyal customers is just so frustrating. When I switch from C++ Builder to another development tool, I will NEVER consider using a Borland tool again."
- "At least the worst bugs in BCB should be fixed. "
- "BCB (and Delphi) are both important tools for me. I am one developer in one school on a large campus with many lines of code written in the BCB. So continued development of BCB that keeps up with both the C++ standard and other technology developments is fundamental to my success. It isn't even relevant whether VC is or isn't a great tool. I have old code to maintain, so I need BCB. "
- "BCB and the VCL introduced a swathe of C/C++ programmers to the RAD world of Win32 development, way ahead of all other competitors including MS. The product has been poorly supported of late, and is now starting to appear long in the tooth. However, it is of such importance for all of my development work, that I do not intend migrating to another product until my copy of BCB5 Pro SP1 is unable to target Windows PCs any more. This is a very long way off, so as far as I am concerned, I do not care what happens to BCB - we have got the best and we are sticking with it. If Borland decides to improve it, they may get more money from me. But until a product is out there, tried and tested, there can be no revenue from your current C++ programmers, who will continue to use BCB5/6 and target Win32 frameworks. The VCL market continues to expand, and will certainly provide some of the .NET features certain BCB programmers may miss. At least, I think so..."
- "BCB is a great tool and the tool I chose when a job has to be done right and quickly. I had convinced my manager to purchase the product until he found the lack of product support by Borland. We have since abandoned the project. We need BCB to continue! "
- "BCB is a unique product that is far superior than any offerings from Microsoft. Keep VCL and BCB alive. I don't want to have to learn Visual C++"
- "BCB is still the best C++ IDE (most productive). Building a vcl with wx is a great idea for real cross platform solutions. Borland should continue a wx based BCB with BCB 5/6 import. Otherwise many developers will move to wx or qt. Java and net are too slow for real applications."
- "BCB is the best tool I have used for development. Please keep investing in it. "
- "BCB is the most efficient and attractive tool for my small s/w, I wish it goes on "
- "BCB is the most powerful developer's tool. It has a lot of potentials to win for developer market. PLZ DON'T KILL IT. IF YOU THROW BUILDER AWAY, I NEVER USE BORLAND'S SOLUTION. cuz you can throw another language and tools (Delphi, J Builder and any more) to trash whenever you like. and I do not want to go waste disposal sites with any tools. "
- "BCB must live!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
- "BCB with VCL is the platform for all of our software development, and BCB's future is essential to our company's future, including a path to .net through VCL for .net. "
- "BCB6 is being used for developing commercial real-time applications used in wave laboratories around the world. This includes 2D/3D wave generation and non-contact profile measurements with laser. "
- "Been using BCB since v1. I have retail copies of every version. I've written numerous components that support BCB and applications with BCB. At one company, we spent 8 man years designing, prototyping, and developing an educational courseware authoring/presentation system using BC++ 2.0 and later 3.1. Then, we spent 18 man months porting that same product (DOS, GUI but not a Borland framework) to Windows using BCB3. It was beautiful. BCB is an awesome product and should not be abandoned!"
- "Borland C++ Builder has been integral in writing several mission-critical applications for small businesses. In some cases, these applications serve as the cornerstone of a company's strategy for current and future operations. I have been deeply troubled by Borland's lack of commitment to its customers and its promises. I, like many other developers, have looked for an alternative to the BCB/VCL environment, but the offerings just do not fit as well as BCB did. If the time comes that the existing v6 platform becomes too obsolete and Borland has still not committed to its customer base, I will have no choice but to migrate years of work to another platform. I fear that the smaller businesses I provided IT services for will not be able to afford this huge migration, and the end result will be less than favorable for everyone involved -- including Borland, as at that point I will no longer depend on Borland for my development platform needs."
- "Borland C++ Builder is the best C++ RAD tool on the face of the planet, please keep it going. I use it as a sole developer, I have convinced management teams for medium sized PLC's here in the UK to use it for their projects. Please don't tell me that I now have to look the same faces in the eye and tell them that I was wrong, should have gone with MS development tools..."
- "Borland can sideline their products if they choose, but the consequence is that the developers who used them, and many more who see what happened, will sideline Borland. "
- "Borland customer for all thirteen years of my professional career. "
- "Borland is far superior to Microsoft in my opinion, and BCB is a must to keep the world in a position of choice. "
- "Borland needs to concentrate on stable incremental developments that provides a path for existing developers to move forward. DO NOT DUMP US AGAIN. "
- "Borland(R) C++Builder(TM) is my Life and Blood. I promote BCB. I promote Borland. I BUILD with Borland exclusively. If BCB dies then my entire business falls into a big heap. Most of my customers have left me already because they have moved away from Borland Products. I have not given up yet. I still write articles for the C++Builder Developer's Journal and attempt to drag in new readers/users everyday. Do yourself, the community, small and large businesses a favour - keep BCB alive."
- "Build Builder Build Builder Build Builder..."
- "C++ Builder has been a mainstay of development here for four years. Key members of our staff have been working with Builder (and Delphi) since the release of the product. If Borland does not soon commit itself to sustaining the product line, we will be forced to consider other options from other vendors."
- "C++ Builder is an important tool we utilize in developing our software for use with the measurement equipment we produce for the Oil & Gas industry. "
- "C++ Builder is at the core of my business and software development needs. Our organization (Qualitynet.net is the biggest ISP in Kuwait) heavily uses C++ builder. "

- "C++ Builder is easy, fast, useful and powerful. Forever! C++ Builder!"
- "C++ Builder is the most valuable tool for us. Keep and improve it. "
- "C++ Builder must survive. Integrate .Net VCL"
- "C++Builder and continued support of the VCL is vital to my small business. I also consult for American Magnetics, Inc. in Oak Ridge, TN and have two major retail software projects upcoming for which I must select Windows dev tools. BCB is my first preference, but I cannot commit to it knowing that the product line is dead and/or unsupported. "
- "C++Builder is a wonder tool. I very like C++Builder! I very love C++Builder! Please, don't you kill C++Builder!
- "C++Builder is not only an important tool for industrial software production, but also still the best environment for students to learn C++."
- "C++Builder is the best ever IDE for C++. It should be ever improving and should continuously support C++ developers around the world."
- "Continue C++ Builder!! and... Merge.. C++ Builder into Delphi!!"
- "Dear Sirs, I'm using Borland products for many years now, in fact, we ONLY use Borland for our development. Especially the VCL is our key framework. It would be a real problem for our company if the VCL together with the BCB product line would be terminated. As stated within the letter, we need a new VCL together with a new BCB to make sure our products will keep working on future OS's to come.
- "Do you really want fire solitary RAD C++ tool? C++ builder has a new chance (like .NET), and we don't want lost RAD C++ tool."
- "Doing contract work for large corporations, including Volvo Car (in Sweden). "
- "During my 14 years as a software developer, I have been always Borland dev tools mania. Any of them was so good for me, but C++builder is my best tool ever. PLEASE do not stop C++Builder. Give it one more chance!"
- "During the last 5 years we moved our development step by step from VC++ to BCB. We believed in Borland. We thought Borland would be a Company which won't leave his customers never ever alone. But now it seems to be that they are. If the BCB will not be continued I think our leadership will give us the order to move away from Borland for ever. In that case we must move back to MS if we want or not and our investments will be lost for ever to. "
- "Either we need a state of the art C++-Builder or a C++Builder X which is capable to transform to a high degree the GUI-components of our VCL based simulation software."
- "Give me a C++Builder 7 and new VCL for us. "
- "Have used Borland products since Turbo Pascal days - Like BCBuilder and think it is scandalous to let it die. "
- "Hello Borland, you must be crazy to leave the market for serious programming tools simply to Trolltech. A lot of people think that Microsoft's way to force the developers into slow and unstable .net environments creates enormous potential for ""real"" C++ development tools. To give up C++ Builder at this time is a act of unbelievable ignorance and stupidity. If you stop C++ Builder be sure that we, our customers and our partner companies will move to trolltech and will never buy Borland products again. "
- "How Borland chooses to handle its C++ line, which was at one time the premier system on the market, will be a good indicator of how the company will treat its other product lines down the road. Borland, don't let us down. "
- "I will always be with Borland. "
- "I am the creator of GrabIt which is a freeware Usenet binary downloader being developed in Borland C++ Builder. Many people around the world are using this application. I'm already missing some functionality in Builder 6.0 which makes it difficult to create a Windows XP look in my applications without third party solutions. Therefore I was expecting (hoping) for a new release soon, until I read this news about a possible support stop from Borland. I hope Borland will decide to continue their support of their C++ Builder development environment, or I will be forced to look somewhere else for a good development environment. Unfortunately I can't think of a good replacement at this time..."
- "I am very angry about the lack of information and missing updates regarding C++Builder. As a user from the very first version up to version 6 I already had to abandon the product for future development. Even Delphi is going to be abandoned because of the lack of commitment to your essential development tools (no C++Builder 7/8, partially incomplete Delphi 8). Borland, you are going to loose a lot of your developer customers not only for C++ if you do not change your direction."
- "I can blow the socks off other developers in our organization who choose not to use Borland C++ Builder. We often run up against a problem and someone will say, ""Boy, if we only had a program that could do..." and, with Builder, I can usually write that program in short order. In the past, I've been getting more and more people to convert to Builder but now all that may be lost. They are converting back to Microsoft tools or Java and I have nothing to show them but Builder 6 which was not even out when Windows XP was released.

PLEASE DONT ABANDON US."
- "I can not imagine myself working with other C/C++ tool than that from Borland. It really combines best C/C++ compiler with a true RAD tool. Did we simple waste our last 14 years working with and supporting Borland development? I cannot believe. Thank you Paul for expression all of our thoughts, fears and hopes"
- "I cannot imagine the end of BCB. I've used this great compiler from its first version Turbo C so please, continue to support it. "
- "i dont want MS dominate and monopolize world of c++"
- "I have been a Borland BCB user since version 1.0 came out. I pushed for the adoption of BCB4 and 6 as the main development tool of a mission-critical trading application now used globally within the major US bank I worked for. I knew that BCB would allow us to deliver better quality product quicker.

I am now developing trading systems for my own use and want to continue using BCB. I also want to have a migration path to .NET for the future. I hear people talking about the benefits of C# and .NET but I have had them for years with the VCL ! I do not want to move to MS Visual Studio, but if BCB dies then I will have no choice. C++ Builder X is a joke product and the marketing people who pushed its advancement over BCB should be fired. Cross platform IDEs are common already, what use are they without a form designer ? I would use Eclipse rather than Builder X."
- "I have been a loyal Borland user since Turbo C days and am now using C++ Builder 6 and C++ Kylix 3 for the design of magnetic resonance imaging systems with great productivity. These products are just too good to die. They must move forward!"

- "I have been impressed to C++ Builder. Please DON'T STOP develop the C++ Builder. There are many C++ Builder Developers in the world. Please don't looking other way the Developer."
- "I have been using Borland personally and professionally since TurboPascal 3.0. I hope not to have to switch to Microsloth VC++. You have an excellent product that we use in developing scientific and control applications. Please keep supporting it."
- "I have been using Borland products for 18 years. From Turbo Pascal, Turbo C to BCB 6, I love them all. I really wish Borland continue to support BCB. It's a great product. With BCB6, a regular programmer like me can do a great job."
- "I have been using Borland products for many years and for the last 5 years have supported myself and my family by providing bespoke software written using C++ Builder. It really knocks me back that you appear unwilling to support this product any longer."
- "I have been using your C++ Builder products for many years and I believe strongly in the C.A.S.E. approach you have developed using the VCL. This has allowed me to forgo U.I. issues and get with solving real problems more quickly than any other product. It is very important when defining software engineering, that problem solving happens sooner rather than later when you begin to code. And C++ Builder has allowed this to happen in a beautiful way. Also C++ is a language that is not going away soon. With attempts for an industry like this to remain fresh and ever-young, new languages are always on the horizon, but C++ is also keeping the industry fresh, even if the language have been around for many (technology) years.

Do a good job please of stabilizing your development environment, and a seamless conversion process from v3 to 6 or 9?? will be nice. Bugs in Complex products (like yours) are a natural phenomenon, and I am waiting patiently for your graceful solution, in your latest version.

Thanks again Borland, it is an honor and a privilege to be working with you and your fine products, as well as the caring, and giving people that you have attracted attention to over the years (i.e. : Your Sales and Technical Team, TeamB and other brilliant users).

- "I have customers who have refused to accept programs written using ANY Borland product because they are not convinced that Borland will continue to support its products. When you stop supporting a major development tool, like C++ Builder, you damage your reputation and hurt ALL of your products (and any developer using your products)."
- "I have software in C++ Builder that manages all legal requirements of fauna and flora in South Africa, plus eco-tourism software used by the Government for the whole of Western Cape Nature Conservation. I support your letter. Keep the pressure up!"
- "I have supported you since Turbo Pascal 1.0. Please don't let me down."
- "I have used Borland compilers for over 12 years, and have persuaded several employers to buy them. I have used these products because they were the best available and very developer-friendly. My main development language is C++, and I have relied heavily on C++ Builder. Since Builder 6 was released, things have moved on at a fast pace, and now Builder 6 is just not suitable for many applications and I am forced to take the Microsoft route. Since the first version of Delphi was released Borland have continually sidelined C++ developers, and seem intent on driving them away. I would like to continue using a quality C++ product from Borland, preferably with VCL and .net support, and with a clear migration path from my current BCB6 applications. There is still nothing better than C++ Builder available, but the IDE and the applications it produces are looking tired and dated. Your competitors are catching up fast, and in some areas (such as code completion) have done a much better job."
- "I have used Borland products for over 12 years and want to continue using them, but I need C++ Builder and VCL."
- "I have used C++ Builder for 5 years. It is the best product for developer. It is useful to study for student and program beginner. And in many project, it is useful tool. Please, consider! Thank you."
- "I hear you intend to give up developing ""C++Builder""...It's worst news to all developers and everyone who love Borland and C++Builder... If you abandon C++Builder, I never use Borland Products because you will give up next time... and i can't believe you."
- "I hope Borland can offer a solution for using C++ in .NET. Borland promised not to leave anybody on side. How can we consider the attitude of Borland about the users of C++Builder ? C++BuilderX isn't the solution for applications that use the VCL. Can Borland hold its promise ? Which credibility can Borland have for the other products if he stops C++Builder ?"
- "I hope Borland does not abandon its user base. I excused it when it abandoned OWL, but if it does so again, I will become an MS convert. Simply put, I need to know that my projects will have long-term viability."
- "I hope that Borland will continue with C++ Builder and VCL support in C++ Builder, there is no other way."
- "I love C++ Builder."
- "I started with C++ Builder 1, Bought a few months later v. 5 and now I'm using C++ Builder X I want to use it in future, too."
- "I still believe in the Borland responsibility and reliableness."
- "I stood up and mentioned this need at BorCon 2003's "C++ meet the team" for Borland to not drop support for "C++ Builder 6+" customers. C++ Builder X is a very different market than your current installed base. Because of Borland's lack of response our company did not attend BorCon in 2004 like several other companies that voiced their opinion about the confusing vision we had from them then. We have many projects that are still in C++ Builder and we'd like to see Borland deliver C++ Builder VCL and beyond as they stated they were going to do when Borland announced that BOTH Delphi and C++ Builder would support dot net back several years ago. It's been a year and we are still looking for the response that we hoped to get back in 2003. We look forward to your response in December about the future of C++ Builder VCL going forward."
- "I sure hope Borland gets its act together before its too late"
- "I teach at a college that has about 500 computer science students. We have standardized on Microsoft's C++ compiler essentially because it is free of charge for students. Not only can we install the software on all computers on campus, but we can distribute the software to the students so that they can install it on their computers at home as well. I tried to get a site license for C++ Builder (which was considerably more expensive at about \$4000). After several failed attempts at getting information about it from Borland and their reseller, I was finally informed that Borland no longer sells site licenses for academic purposes. What is the reason for this? I did manage to convince the powers that be to at least purchase 50 seats (for about \$32 each). IMO, it will be nearly impossible to convert existing Visual Studio developers to Borland's C++ offering. However, targeting the up and coming generation of developers would pay off. I know that students would be less wary about ""non-MS"" tools (as many, many developers and managers are). When I demo C++ Builder and the RAD environment to the student body, jaws drop in awe of how powerful the RAD concept is, something that MS has never been able to implement. Thank you for your consideration."
- "I use Borland C++ Builder for some work and personal projects and I can't imagine using any other product to accomplish these tasks. Please keep Borland C++ Builder alive."
- "I use CBuilder both at work and at home. C++ is my preferred language and there is nothing to match VCL for GUI building."

- "I want C++Builder 9. "
- "I want to see the continue maintenance and development of C++Builder. I am willing to purchase an update of version 6 and upgrade to the BDS which would include C++ support. "
- "I work with C++ builder in all version since the first. C++ Builder help me to succeed my missions. I think it's a very good tools despite of few upgrade. Without C++ Builder Borland don't give me the tool I need. I've purchase all versions and plan to purchase next if it exist."
- "I would like to stay with Borland C++ Builder. Please don't drop it. "
- "I'm a Borland C++ builder developer since 5 years ago. from version c++ builder 1... I heard news that bcb will close from Korea Borland forum site. I want to keep develop bcb in BORLAND Inc. and I hope that become best programming tool. i cant speak English well. But i must write this. "
- "I'd be happy with a BCB7 with no new features but working with an updated VCL with bug fixes. "
- "If Borland do not continue to develop C++, or give it to someone who will, then we will feel betrayed, and all our customers will feel the same. "
- "If C++ Builder disappears, it will be many hours of work to port my applications to another vendor's environment. Time I use to earn money. "
- "If positive action is not seen in the immediate future we will begin migrating to a more stable environment. "
- "I'm not good at English, but I've believed Borland C++ Builder is the world best tool to develop window-based software. My co-workers and I heartily hope for next version of C++ Builder. "
- "In addition to what was said in the Borland Community Letter. My Company bought Borland C++ Builder 6 Enterprise because we were seduced by the ""product concept"" advertised by Borland. Borland sold to us a promise that C++ Builder 6 was the first release of an increasing and exciting new MULTI-PLATFORM solution. The slogan advertised said: ""Code Once. Compile and Run in many"" with Windows AND LINUX being addressed as a first step. I want that Borland stands to the promise in risk to be classified as an irresponsible advertiser and market player!"
- "In the company on whose behalf I am speaking and in another company I am working for, the question of migrating to another development platform is being discussed while the Great Silence of Borland is still unbreakable."
- "Investment performed in C++ Builder applications is huge. Borland, think again if you want to disappoint to all this community that have used your products in last 20 years"
- "It seems senseless to us to drop support for C++ while maintaining support for C# and Delphi. It seems to us that a version BCB which allows the same potential migration path as Delphi, from vcl.Win32 to vcl.Net, would aid developers to port their applications to the .Net world in a more seamless manner than rewriting the applications. BCB5 and BCB6 are truly the ""visual"" RAD development environments that Microsoft and others promised but never delivered. This excellence carries over to C# Builder which I prefer to the current release Visual Studio. While I am not aware of the difference in sales figures between BCB and Delphi, I think that Borland are enmeshed in the current management technique of looking at individual ""bottom lines"" while ignoring the full picture. I think this is a grave mistake on Borland's part and while it may make the total ""bottom line"" look better, it will be a poorer company as a result. I am not a C++ evangelist. I like Delphi and C# just about as much but we and our clients do have a big investment in a codebase produced with several incarnations of BCB. The excellence of BCB over other non-Borland Win32 development environments has allowed us to produce applications of a size and complexity beyond those which a firm our size could normally produce in the Visual Studio / MFC world. We hope to be able to continue to do so."
- "It's not only the future of C++ Builder itself what i missing of Borland , it's also the future of C++ in generally. Some years ago i moved from Visual studio to CBuilder because it's much more faster to develop a graphical interface with CBuilder. Having access to thousands of useful and stable components of the Delphi community makes the developer work very efficient and reduce the cost of development. But not only for the development of graphical interfaces is the CBuilder a good decision. It's what the name says a C++ Compiler which all the power what can C++ offer. I know that MS works very hard on a new C++ Compiler which will be available on the next year. Of course i assume that this new compiler is focused to work with .NET but C++ is one of the languages which is standardized and so this new compiler will be too. So i wish me from Borland that behind the continuation of the C++ Builder product until it's necessary (what means until the mostly PC's on the world are running Windows without .NET) Borland also continue the development of C++ development tools for .NET and also for Linux. CBuilder X is at best a very small light to this way.
- "Keep improving C++ Builder - I've been using it since Version 1.0 and have a great deal of my programming since in builder. "
- "Letting C++ BuilderX inherit the reputation of C++ Builder is not a good idea. Instead of it, you should extend C++ Builder' flatform to .NET framework."
- "Losing BCB would be disastrous to our company. While we would be able to maintain our existing apps, it would become increasingly difficult to create new apps for new versions of Windows as time progresses. "
- "My entire business is based on programs written using CPPB. Discontinued support for CPPB would put me out of business. "
- "My primary development tool has been VC6 since 1998. This year I completed a project with BCB6. I was amazed at how productive I was with BCB and the VCL. Even having never used BCB before, the project was completed in one-third the time required using VC6. And the final product was more feature-rich with a better UI than I would have created using VC6. I am ready to switch all my development to BCB, but am looking for a commitment from Borland to their very fine product and to the developers who use it. "
- "My signing this open letter is strictly of my own accord, and does not imply involvement by my employer. I am signing it as a long time customer of Borland's, since the mid-80's. I am thoroughly disappointed at how something so good, could be left to languish. That not withstanding, I stand at the cusp of sending out a major deployment of a 99.9% VCL based C++ application built with C++ Builder...which will have an initial install base between 75-80K (yes, that's THOUSANDS) users."
- "Neither Delphi nor Borland C# would be an alternative. Bad experience with one Borland-Product that I'd used to implement many lines of codes and now in risk not to reuse it will bring me to never use Borland products again and only use Microsoft products in future. So I think that I'm not the only C++-Builder-User that you'll loose for ever as a customer if you don't go on with this perfect product!"
- "Never abandon the developers! "
- "Our company ...produce safety CCTV systems software for banks. 90% code our applications is created in C++Builder. "
- "Please Borland, give BCB a future. "
- "Please consider reinvigorating your C++ efforts. We will most certainly be a consumer of any new products in this area. If this does not happen, we will be forced to invest our future efforts in Microsoft's C++ development platform. "
- "Please continue to support C++Builder and VCL by BCB integrating into BDS, so I can continue to write about and support C++Builder projects"

- "Please do not stop C++ Builder. The best of best tools are C++ Builder and Delphi."
- "Please don't abandon C++ Builder. It is the best product available for C++ on Windows by far! "
- "Please don't abandon us. We need a positive decision soon!"
- "Please galvanize the Glory and Power of Borland...those like the Turbo C... Borland haven't died yet, And shall not die because of Micro\$oft."
- "please keep alive the better Windows Development Tool. If you are going to trash it, please, make it free software."
- "Please, Don't Kill C++ Builder. We love Borland C++ Builder and All Development Tools."
- "Please.. I love borland tools since your turboc , I remember your bgi graphic driver in dos system yet. I has been make E-CAD first with your bgi engine. and now I am program with your VCL that is E-CAD system also..."
- "Really love BCB. Didn't upgrade to V6 since there wasn't enough fixed nor enough new features that I was interested in.
- "Risk management couldn't be done safely with other tools. You're the foundation of good quality products, good quality C++, real Object Oriented Programming. We need you!"
- "Sure enough, most people here have big investments in C++ Builder and have quite big clients paying a lot of money to keep their system running. However, there are lots of not-for-profit organisations like the JEDI group. I know JEDI originates from Delphi, but the C++ Builder side of things is quite big, especially for the JCL and JVCL projects.

We, the JVCL members, do not derive any revenue from the work we do with C++ Builder in that area but we know that our users do. Since it has been posted on the 17th of September, the second beta of the JVCL 3 has been downloaded 2593 times, an average of about 140 downloads per day. The figure is even higher for earlier releases.

Of course, not all those downloads are from C++ Builder users, but we get more and more feedback from C++ Builder users because we now actively support that environment. It is clear to us that this is not only from hobbyist, but from many business, some related to non american government agencies. I'm convinced it would be very "stupid" of Borland not to react to such things, considering that historically all the support they get is from the strong community of developers."

- "Thank you for your supporting letter. I am an independent developer of Borland C++ Builder component libraries and my business will fail if Borland disregard their existing business. "
- "Thanks to all who put their efforts into making this open letter available to those of us whose livelihood depends critically on C++ Builder. "
- "The company uses BCB; I also use it for several amateur radio projects for the UK national club, the RSGB. "
- "The highest image of Borland that has been formed since the first Pascal Compiler for PC is damaged these days by the Company's unscrupulous position towards one of Borland's best products and its numerous users. Instead of finding solution to a crucial problem of a right positioning the Product in changing circumstances, the Company seems to choose a simple but destructive attitude.
- "There is confusion in the market place as to exactly what Borland's position on C++ development tools is. Creating a tool called C++ Builder X that is incompatible with the previous C++ Builder line has only made this worse. This is similar to what happened with the original release of Builder which was incompatible with projects from Borland C++ 4.5 and 5.02, but at least these products were developed in parallel for a time.
- "Want to see a new BCB or integration with Delphi (diamondback) that is priced appropriately enough for hobbyists/amateurs like myself. Thanks for listening"
- "We are a Borland Technology Partner. Our company uses Borland C++ Builder for 6 years to develop enterprise-level data warehouses and OLAP systems."
- "We are a Defense contractor supporting a number of programs for U.S. Navy that require the use of C++Builder to maintain and extend these mission-critical applications. "
- "We are a software company and we develop only in C++ Builder for our Windows programs since several years ago but now we must reconsider our decision
- "We believe that the BCB end-of-life will have knock-on effect on other products of Borland as no-one will want to be the person that specified or recommended a Borland product that gets eoled dramatically. We already have a lot of "what happened" to answer from our clients - the same ones who we sold on our development tool, BCB, being superior ! Won't repeat other comments as the letter covers it well."
- "We currently use C++ Builder for all our Windows products. If there is no new release we will switch to Microsoft solutions. We cannot afford to continue to work with a product that will no longer be supported."
- "... we developed with CBUILDER 6 an editorial system for the biggest German news agency (called dpa) which is used all over the world on desk pc's and many laptops. With this system you can read and edit news in all European languages (including Russian) and also Arabic."
- "We have a large code investment in C++Builder and need Borland to provide an upgrade path from C++Builder 6. We urge you to continue support for C++, the VCL, and the RAD features of C++Builder. Thank you. "
- "We have a large number of the Fortune 500 as our customers. I am sure they will be very unhappy if we are no longer able to support our product as it currently exists. "
- "We have a major investment in security products as well as GSM related products for the GSM industry. Our products is used in many countries in Africa by the GSM Operators (Vodacom and MTN), Who is going to bear the cost of Redeveloping these products using Microsoft Development tools. We chose C++ Builder a s our platform for development for the following main reasons
 - Borland is a stable company
 - We get a RAD environment with C++
 - We can use Delphi Components.
 - Our invest would be safe for many years to come as C++Builder releases follow Delphi releases.

"We will not use an Alternative product like Delphi as we simply will not be able to trust Borland again. Who says that in a couple of years you will still support and develop Delphi anymore. Sad to say , we will have to change suppliers and we will have to look at legal action against Borland for the cost of that change. "

- "We have been developing business directories for Local Authorities using Borland C++ Builder for about 8 years now. We have an end user base well in excess of 100,000. Porting of the software to Microsoft .Net will be considered if a clear future path for Builder is not presented and if we don't find it satisfactory"

- "We have invested years of development work using BCB, please do not discontinue BCB support as this would lead to MAJOR problems for our company and for those companies that we have developed systems in BCB. We have used BCB since V1 and would like to continue using it as our development tool of choice.
- "We have used Borland's C++ products since 1990 to build a suite of design programs for the civil engineering industry. These programs are used worldwide by large and small companies alike, including many blue-chip organizations and government bodies. Our future prosperity and that of many of our clients very much depends on Borland's continued commitment to C++."
- "We produce one of the leading civil engineering software products for design and analysis of bridges. The software is very well established in the design offices of most top bridge engineering consultants and government agencies in the UK and also many overseas.
- "We solely use C++Builder for development and have done since version BCB1.0"
- "We stand to lose a lot of money if BCB is pulled. And as a result, so do you, when we and others move to a different compiler vendor"
- "We strongly encourage the continuation of C++ Builder product line. We have made a strong commitment to C++ Builder for many years and the majority of our code is based on VCL."
- "We use and value Borlands C compilers, starting with V1.0 in 1987 up to BCB6 with its VCL right now. Discontinuing its support and development just like that and without a decent alternative, will earmark you (Borland) as an unreliable company forever. \"
- "We use BCB a lot. A very nice tool. Would be really a shame if it would not be continued! We feel that C++ will stay a very important language."
- "We use BCB for broadcast video applications and it really makes our life easy as .NET will not be feasible in our application. Please continue with the excellent BCB(Win32). "
- "We use BCB for calculation of structure of civil building: the solver must be in C++, not in a C#. "
- "We will watch Borland. We've endured so many problems which bcb has. In spite of so many LME bugs, we've used BCB. if Borland quit BCB, Borland betray all the royalty developer, We will never forgive this Company. "
- "We've been using BCB since version 1, and all of our wind energy-related PC software products have been developed with BCB. We strongly urge you to continue your development and support of this excellent product."
- "What's the purpose of a good development tool if one cannot count on its evolution? If Borland stops support for a successful product such as C++Builder, I would have to question the future of all their products; and would regretfully be forced to stay away from the company."
- "While I appreciate the efforts Borland is making toward platform agnosticism, the VCL and RAD is how I make my living. "
- "Why Kill Yourself? "
- ```
bool NewProject (tool x)
{ if (x != CBUILDER)
return false; }
```