

Free Component Library (FCL):
Reference guide.

Reference guide for FCL units.
Document version 2.1
August 2010

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About this guide

This document describes all constants, types, variables, functions and procedures as they are declared in the units that come standard with the FCL (Free Component Library).

Throughout this document, we will refer to functions, types and variables with `typewriter` font. Functions and procedures have their own subsections, and for each function or procedure we have the following topics:

Declaration The exact declaration of the function.

Description What does the procedure exactly do ?

Errors What errors can occur.

See Also Cross references to other related functions/commands.

0.1 Overview

The Free Component Library is a series of units that implement various classes and non-visual components for use with Free Pascal. They are building blocks for non-visual and visual programs, such as designed in Lazarus.

The `TDataSet` descendents have been implemented in a way that makes them compatible to the Delphi implementation of these units. There are other units that have counterparts in Delphi, but most of them are unique to Free Pascal.

Chapter 1

Reference for unit 'ascii85'

1.1 Used units

Table 1.1: Used units by unit 'ascii85'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

1.2 Overview

The `ascii85` provides an ASCII 85 or base 85 decoding algorithm. It is class and stream based: the `TASCII85DecoderStream` (55) stream can be used to decode any stream with ASCII85 encoded data.

Currently, no ASCII85 encoder stream is available.

It's usage and purpose is similar to the IDEA (418) or base64 (74) units.

1.3 Constants, types and variables

1.3.1 Types

```
TASCII85State = (ascInitial, ascOneEncodedChar, ascTwoEncodedChars,  
                ascThreeEncodedChars, ascFourEncodedChars,  
                ascNoEncodedChar, ascPrefix)
```

`TASCII85State` is for internal use, it contains the current state of the decoder.

1.4 TASCII85DecoderStream

1.4.1 Description

`TASCII85DecoderStream` is a read-only stream: it takes an input stream with ASCII 85 encoded data, and decodes the data as it is read. To this end, it overrides the `TStream.Read` (??) method.

Table 1.2: Enumeration values for type TASCII85State

| Value | Explanation |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ascFourEncodedChars | Four encoded characters in buffer. |
| ascInitial | Initial state |
| ascNoEncodedChar | No encoded characters in buffer. |
| ascOneEncodedChar | One encoded character in buffer. |
| ascPrefix | Prefix processing |
| ascThreeEncodedChars | Three encoded characters in buffer. |
| ascTwoEncodedChars | Two encoded characters in buffer. |

The stream cannot be written to, trying to write to the stream will result in an exception.

1.4.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 57 | Close | Close decoder |
| 57 | ClosedP | Check if the state is correct |
| 56 | Create | Create new ASCII 85 decoder stream |
| 56 | Decode | Decode source byte |
| 57 | Destroy | Clean up instance |
| 57 | Read | Read data from stream |
| 58 | Seek | Set stream position |

1.4.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| 58 | BExpectBoundary | rw | Expect character |

1.4.4 TASCII85DecoderStream.Create

Synopsis: Create new ASCII 85 decoder stream

Declaration: constructor `Create(aStream: TStream)`

Visibility: published

Description: `Create` instantiates a new `TASCII85DecoderStream` instance, and sets `aStream` as the source stream.

See also: `TASCII85DecoderStream.Destroy` ([57](#))

1.4.5 TASCII85DecoderStream.Decode

Synopsis: Decode source byte

Declaration: procedure `Decode(aInput: Byte)`

Visibility: published

Description: `Decode` decodes a source byte, and transfers it to the buffer. It is an internal routine and should not be used directly.

See also: `TASCII85DecoderStream.Close` ([57](#))

1.4.6 TASCII85DecoderStream.Close

Synopsis: Close decoder

Declaration: `procedure Close`

Visibility: `published`

Description: `Close` closes the decoder mechanism: it checks if all data was read and performs a check to see whether all input data was consumed.

Errors: If the input stream was invalid, an `EConvertError` exception is raised.

See also: `TASCII85DecoderStream.ClosedP` (57), `TASCII85DecoderStream.Read` (57), `TASCII85DecoderStream.Destroy` (57)

1.4.7 TASCII85DecoderStream.ClosedP

Synopsis: Check if the state is correct

Declaration: `function ClosedP : Boolean`

Visibility: `published`

Description: `ClosedP` checks if the decoder state is one of `ascInitial`, `ascNoEncodedChar`, `ascPrefix`, and returns `True` if it is.

See also: `TASCII85DecoderStream.Close` (57), `TASCII85DecoderStream.BExpectBoundary` (58)

1.4.8 TASCII85DecoderStream.Destroy

Synopsis: Clean up instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` closes the input stream using `Close` (57) and cleans up the `TASCII85DecoderStream` instance from memory.

Errors: In case the input stream was invalid, an exception may occur.

See also: `TASCII85DecoderStream.Close` (57)

1.4.9 TASCII85DecoderStream.Read

Synopsis: Read data from stream

Declaration: `function Read(var aBuffer;aCount: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Read` attempts to read `aCount` bytes from the stream and places them in `aBuffer`. It reads only as much data as is available. The actual number of read bytes is returned.

The `read` method reads as much data from the input stream as needed to get to `aCount` bytes, in general this will be `aCount*5/4` bytes.

1.4.10 TASCII85DecoderStream.Seek

Synopsis: Set stream position

Declaration: `function Seek(aOffset: LongInt;aOrigin: Word) : LongInt; Override`
`function Seek(const aOffset: Int64;aOrigin: TSeekOrigin) : Int64`
`; Override; Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Seek` sets the stream position. It only allows to set the position to the current position of this file, and returns then the current position. All other arguments will result in an `EReadError` exception.

Errors: In case the arguments are different from `soCurrent` and 0, an `EReadError` exception will be raised.

See also: [TASCII85DecoderStream.Read \(57\)](#)

1.4.11 TASCII85DecoderStream.BExpectBoundary

Synopsis: Expect character

Declaration: `Property BExpectBoundary : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BExpectBoundary` is `True` if a encoded data boundary is to be expected (">").

See also: [TASCII85DecoderStream.ClosedP \(57\)](#)

1.5 TASCII85EncoderStream

1.5.1 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| 58 | Create | |
| 59 | Destroy | |
| 59 | Write | |

1.5.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|--------------------|----------|--------|-------------|
| 59 | Boundary | r | |
| 59 | Width | r | |

1.5.3 TASCII85EncoderStream.Create

Declaration: `constructor Create(ADest: TStream;AWidth: Integer;ABoundary: Boolean)`

Visibility: public

1.5.4 TASCII85EncoderStream.Destroy

Declaration: destructor Destroy; Override

Visibility: public

1.5.5 TASCII85EncoderStream.Write

Declaration: function Write(const aBuffer;aCount: LongInt) : LongInt; Override

Visibility: public

1.5.6 TASCII85EncoderStream.Width

Declaration: Property Width : Integer

Visibility: public

Access: Read

1.5.7 TASCII85EncoderStream.Boundary

Declaration: Property Boundary : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

1.6 TASCII85RingBuffer

1.6.1 Description

TASCII85RingBuffer is an internal buffer class: it maintains a memory buffer of 1Kb, for faster reading of the stream. It should not be necessary to instantiate an instance of this class, the TASCII85DecoderStream (55) decoder stream will create an instance of this class automatically.

1.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 60 | Read | Read data from the internal buffer |
| 59 | Write | Write data to the internal buffer |

1.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------|
| 60 | FillCount | r | Number of bytes in buffer |
| 60 | Size | r | Size of buffer |

1.6.4 TASCII85RingBuffer.Write

Synopsis: Write data to the internal buffer

Declaration: procedure Write(const aBuffer;aSize: Cardinal)

Visibility: published

Description: `Write` writes `aSize` bytes from `aBuffer` to the internal memory buffer. Only as much bytes are written as will fit in the buffer.

See also: `TASCII85RingBuffer.FillCount` (60), `TASCII85RingBuffer.Read` (60), `TASCII85RingBuffer.Size` (60)

1.6.5 TASCII85RingBuffer.Read

Synopsis: Read data from the internal buffer

Declaration: `function Read(var aBuffer; aSize: Cardinal) : Cardinal`

Visibility: published

Description: `Read` will read `aSize` bytes from the internal buffer and writes them to `aBuffer`. If not enough bytes are available, only as much bytes as available will be written. The function returns the number of bytes transferred.

See also: `TASCII85RingBuffer.FillCount` (60), `TASCII85RingBuffer.Write` (59), `TASCII85RingBuffer.Size` (60)

1.6.6 TASCII85RingBuffer.FillCount

Synopsis: Number of bytes in buffer

Declaration: `Property FillCount : Cardinal`

Visibility: published

Access: Read

Description: `FillCount` is the available amount of bytes in the buffer.

See also: `TASCII85RingBuffer.Write` (59), `TASCII85RingBuffer.Read` (60), `TASCII85RingBuffer.Size` (60)

1.6.7 TASCII85RingBuffer.Size

Synopsis: Size of buffer

Declaration: `Property Size : Cardinal`

Visibility: published

Access: Read

Description: `Size` is the total size of the memory buffer. This is currently hardcoded to 1024Kb.

See also: `TASCII85RingBuffer.FillCount` (60)

Chapter 2

Reference for unit 'AVL_Tree'

2.1 Used units

Table 2.1: Used units by unit 'AVL_Tree'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

2.2 Overview

The `avl_tree` unit implements a general-purpose AVL (balanced) tree class: the `TAVLTree` (61) class and its associated data node class `TAVLTreeNode` (70).

2.3 TAVLTree

2.3.1 Description

`TAVLTree` maintains a balanced AVL tree. The tree consists of `TAVLTreeNode` (70) nodes, each of which has a `Data` pointer associated with it. The `TAVLTree` component offers methods to balance and search the tree.

By default, the list is searched with a simple pointer comparison algorithm, but a custom search mechanism can be specified in the `OnCompare` (69) property.

2.3.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------------------|---|
| 66 | Add | Add a new node to the tree |
| 67 | Clear | Clears the tree |
| 68 | ConsistencyCheck | Check the consistency of the tree |
| 69 | Create | Create a new instance of <code>TAVLTree</code> |
| 66 | Delete | Delete a node from the tree |
| 69 | Destroy | Destroy the <code>TAVLTree</code> instance |
| 62 | Find | Find a data item in the tree. |
| 64 | FindHighest | Find the highest (rightmost) node in the tree. |
| 63 | FindKey | Find a data item in the tree using alternate compare mechanism |
| 64 | FindLeftMost | Find the node most left to a specified data node |
| 65 | FindLeftMostKey | Find the node most left to a specified key node |
| 65 | FindLeftMostSameKey | Find the node most left to a specified node with the same data |
| 63 | FindLowest | Find the lowest (leftmost) node in the tree. |
| 64 | FindNearest | Find the node closest to the data in the tree |
| 64 | FindPointer | Search for a data pointer |
| 63 | FindPrecessor | |
| 65 | FindRightMost | Find the node most right to a specified node |
| 65 | FindRightMostKey | Find the node most right to a specified key node |
| 66 | FindRightMostSameKey | Find the node most right of a specified node with the same data |
| 63 | FindSuccessor | Find successor to node |
| 68 | FreeAndClear | Clears the tree and frees nodes |
| 68 | FreeAndDelete | Delete a node from the tree and destroy it |
| 67 | MoveDataLeftMost | Move data to the nearest left element |
| 67 | MoveDataRightMost | Move data to the nearest right element |
| 66 | Remove | Remove a data item from the list. |
| 67 | RemovePointer | Remove a pointer item from the list. |
| 69 | ReportAsString | Return the tree report as a string |
| 69 | SetNodeManager | |
| 68 | WriteReportToStream | Write the contents of the tree consistency check to the stream |

2.3.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|-----------|--------|--|
| 70 | Count | r | Number of nodes in the tree. |
| 69 | OnCompare | rw | Compare function used when comparing nodes |

2.3.4 TAVLTree.Find

Synopsis: Find a data item in the tree.

Declaration: `function Find(Data: Pointer) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Find` uses the default `OnCompare` (69) comparing function to find the `Data` pointer in the tree. It returns the `TAVLTreeNode` instance that results in a successful compare with the `Data` pointer, or `Nil` if none is found.

The default `OnCompare` function compares the actual pointers, which means that by default `Find` will give the same result as `FindPointer` (64).

See also: [TAVLTree.OnCompare \(69\)](#), [TAVLTree.FindKey \(63\)](#)

2.3.5 TAVLTree.FindKey

Synopsis: Find a data item in the tree using alternate compare mechanism

Declaration: `function FindKey(Key: Pointer; OnCompareKeyWithData: TListSortCompare)
: TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindKey` uses the specified `OnCompareKeyWithData` comparing function to find the `Key` pointer in the tree. It returns the `TAVLTreeNode` instance that matches the `Data` pointer, or `Nil` if none is found.

See also: [TAVLTree.OnCompare \(69\)](#), [TAVLTree.Find \(62\)](#)

2.3.6 TAVLTree.FindSuccessor

Synopsis: Find successor to node

Declaration: `function FindSuccessor(ANode: TAVLTreeNode) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindSuccessor` returns the successor to `ANode`: this is the leftmost node in the right subtree, or the leftmost node above the node `ANode`. This can of course be `Nil`.

This method is used when a node must be inserted at the rightmost position.

See also: [TAVLTree.FindPrecessor \(63\)](#), [TAVLTree.MoveDataRightMost \(67\)](#)

2.3.7 TAVLTree.FindPrecessor

Synopsis:

Declaration: `function FindPrecessor(ANode: TAVLTreeNode) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindPrecessor` returns the successor to `ANode`: this is the rightmost node in the left subtree, or the rightmost node above the node `ANode`. This can of course be `Nil`.

This method is used when a node must be inserted at the leftmost position.

See also: [TAVLTree.FindSuccessor \(63\)](#), [TAVLTree.MoveDataLeftMost \(67\)](#)

2.3.8 TAVLTree.FindLowest

Synopsis: Find the lowest (leftmost) node in the tree.

Declaration: `function FindLowest : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindLowest` returns the leftmost node in the tree, i.e. the node which is reached when descending from the rootnode via the left (??) subtrees.

See also: [TAVLTree.FindHighest \(64\)](#)

2.3.9 TAVLTree.FindHighest

Synopsis: Find the highest (rightmost) node in the tree.

Declaration: `function FindHighest : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindHighest` returns the rightmost node in the tree, i.e. the node which is reached when descending from the rootnode via the Right (??) subtrees.

See also: `TAVLTree.FindLowest` (63)

2.3.10 TAVLTree.FindNearest

Synopsis: Find the node closest to the data in the tree

Declaration: `function FindNearest(Data: Pointer) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindNearest` searches the node in the data tree that is closest to the specified `Data`. If `Data` appears in the tree, then its node is returned.

See also: `TAVLTree.FindHighest` (64), `TAVLTree.FindLowest` (63), `TAVLTree.Find` (62), `TAVLTree.FindKey` (63)

2.3.11 TAVLTree.FindPointer

Synopsis: Search for a data pointer

Declaration: `function FindPointer(Data: Pointer) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindPointer` searches for a node where the actual data pointer equals `Data`. This is a more fine search than `find` (62), where a custom compare function can be used.

The default `OnCompare` (69) compares the data pointers, so the default `Find` will return the same node as `FindPointer`

See also: `TAVLTree.Find` (62), `TAVLTree.FindKey` (63)

2.3.12 TAVLTree.FindLeftMost

Synopsis: Find the node most left to a specified data node

Declaration: `function FindLeftMost(Data: Pointer) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindLeftMost` finds the node most left from the `Data` node. It starts at the preceding node for `Data` and tries to move as far right in the tree as possible.

This operation corresponds to finding the previous item in a list.

See also: `TAVLTree.FindRightMost` (65), `TAVLTree.FindLeftMostKey` (65), `TAVLTree.FindRightMostKey` (65)

2.3.13 TAVLTree.FindRightMost

Synopsis: Find the node most right to a specified node

Declaration: `function FindRightMost(Data: Pointer) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindRightMost` finds the node most right from the `Data` node. It starts at the succeeding node for `Data` and tries to move as far left in the tree as possible.

This operation corresponds to finding the next item in a list.

See also: `TAVLTree.FindLeftMost` (64), `TAVLTree.FindLeftMostKey` (65), `TAVLTree.FindRightMostKey` (65)

2.3.14 TAVLTree.FindLeftMostKey

Synopsis: Find the node most left to a specified key node

Declaration: `function FindLeftMostKey(Key: Pointer;
OnCompareKeyWithData: TListSortCompare)
: TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindLeftMostKey` finds the node most left from the node associated with `Key`. It starts at the preceding node for `Key` and tries to move as far left in the tree as possible.

See also: `TAVLTree.FindLeftMost` (64), `TAVLTree.FindRightMost` (65), `TAVLTree.FindRightMostKey` (65)

2.3.15 TAVLTree.FindRightMostKey

Synopsis: Find the node most right to a specified key node

Declaration: `function FindRightMostKey(Key: Pointer;
OnCompareKeyWithData: TListSortCompare)
: TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindRightMostKey` finds the node most left from the node associated with `Key`. It starts at the succeeding node for `Key` and tries to move as far right in the tree as possible.

See also: `TAVLTree.FindLeftMost` (64), `TAVLTree.FindRightMost` (65), `TAVLTree.FindLeftMostKey` (65)

2.3.16 TAVLTree.FindLeftMostSameKey

Synopsis: Find the node most left to a specified node with the same data

Declaration: `function FindLeftMostSameKey(ANode: TAVLTreeNode) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindLeftMostSameKey` finds the node most left from and with the same data as the specified node `ANode`.

See also: `TAVLTree.FindLeftMost` (64), `TAVLTree.FindLeftMostKey` (65), `TAVLTree.FindRightMostSameKey` (66)

2.3.17 TAVLTree.FindRightMostSameKey

Synopsis: Find the node most right of a specified node with the same data

Declaration: `function FindRightMostSameKey (ANode: TAVLTreeNode) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindRightMostSameKey` finds the node most right from and with the same data as the specified node `ANode`.

See also: `TAVLTree.FindRightMost` (65), `TAVLTree.FindRightMostKey` (65), `TAVLTree.FindLeftMostSameKey` (65)

2.3.18 TAVLTree.Add

Synopsis: Add a new node to the tree

Declaration: `procedure Add (ANode: TAVLTreeNode)`
`function Add (Data: Pointer) : TAVLTreeNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `Add` adds a new `Data` or `Node` to the tree. It inserts the node so that the tree is maximally balanced by rebalancing the tree after the insert. In case a data pointer is added to the tree, then the node that was created is returned.

See also: `TAVLTree.Delete` (66), `TAVLTree.Remove` (66)

2.3.19 TAVLTree.Delete

Synopsis: Delete a node from the tree

Declaration: `procedure Delete (ANode: TAVLTreeNode)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Delete` removes the node from the tree. The node is not freed, but is passed to a `TAVLTreeNode-MemManager` (70) instance for future reuse. The data that the node represents is also not freed. The tree is rebalanced after the node was deleted.

See also: `TAVLTree.Remove` (66), `TAVLTree.RemovePointer` (67), `TAVLTree.Clear` (67)

2.3.20 TAVLTree.Remove

Synopsis: Remove a data item from the list.

Declaration: `procedure Remove (Data: Pointer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Remove` finds the node associated with `Data` using `find` (62) and, if found, deletes it from the tree. Only the first occurrence of `Data` will be removed.

See also: `TAVLTree.Delete` (66), `TAVLTree.RemovePointer` (67), `TAVLTree.Clear` (67), `TAVLTree.Find` (62)

2.3.21 TAVLTree.RemovePointer

Synopsis: Remove a pointer item from the list.

Declaration: `procedure RemovePointer(Data: Pointer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Remove` uses `FindPointer` (64) to find the node associated with the pointer `Data` and, if found, deletes it from the tree. Only the first occurrence of `Data` will be removed.

See also: `TAVLTree.Remove` (66), `TAVLTree.Delete` (66), `TAVLTree.Clear` (67)

2.3.22 TAVLTree.MoveDataLeftMost

Synopsis: Move data to the nearest left element

Declaration: `procedure MoveDataLeftMost(var ANode: TAVLTreeNode)`

Visibility: public

Description: `MoveDataLeftMost` moves the data from the node `ANode` to the nearest left location relative to `ANode`. It returns the new node where the data is positioned. The data from the former left node will be switched to `ANode`.

This operation corresponds to switching the current with the previous element in a list.

See also: `TAVLTree.MoveDataRightMost` (67)

2.3.23 TAVLTree.MoveDataRightMost

Synopsis: Move data to the nearest right element

Declaration: `procedure MoveDataRightMost(var ANode: TAVLTreeNode)`

Visibility: public

Description: `MoveDataRightMost` moves the data from the node `ANode` to the rightmost location relative to `ANode`. It returns the new node where the data is positioned. The data from the former rightmost node will be switched to `ANode`.

This operation corresponds to switching the current with the next element in a list.

See also: `TAVLTree.MoveDataLeftMost` (67)

2.3.24 TAVLTree.Clear

Synopsis: Clears the tree

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: public

Description: `Clear` deletes all nodes from the tree. The nodes themselves are not freed, and the data pointer in the nodes is also not freed.

If the node's data must be freed as well, use `TAVLTree.FreeAndClear` (68) instead.

See also: `TAVLTree.FreeAndClear` (68), `TAVLTree.Delete` (66)

2.3.25 TAVLTree.FreeAndClear

Synopsis: Clears the tree and frees nodes

Declaration: `procedure FreeAndClear`

Visibility: public

Description: `FreeAndClear` deletes all nodes from the tree. The data pointer in the nodes is assumed to be an object, and is freed prior to deleting the node from the tree.

See also: [TAVLTree.Clear \(67\)](#), [TAVLTree.Delete \(66\)](#), [TAVLTree.FreeAndDelete \(68\)](#)

2.3.26 TAVLTree.FreeAndDelete

Synopsis: Delete a node from the tree and destroy it

Declaration: `procedure FreeAndDelete (ANode: TAVLTreeNode)`

Visibility: public

Description: `FreeAndDelete` deletes a node from the tree, and destroys the data pointer: The data pointer in the nodes is assumed to be an object, and is freed by calling its destructor.

See also: [TAVLTree.Clear \(67\)](#), [TAVLTree.Delete \(66\)](#), [TAVLTree.FreeAndClear \(68\)](#)

2.3.27 TAVLTree.ConsistencyCheck

Synopsis: Check the consistency of the tree

Declaration: `function ConsistencyCheck : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `ConsistencyCheck` checks the correctness of the tree. It returns 0 if the tree is internally consistent, and a negative number if the tree contains an error somewhere.

- 1The Count property doesn't match the actual node count
- 2A left node does not point to the correct parent
- 3A left node is larger than parent node
- 4A right node does not point to the correct parent
- 5A right node is less than parent node
- 6The balance of a node is not calculated correctly

See also: [TAVLTree.WriteReportToStream \(68\)](#)

2.3.28 TAVLTree.WriteReportToStream

Synopsis: Write the contents of the tree consistency check to the stream

Declaration: `procedure WriteReportToStream (s: TStream; var StreamSize: Int64)`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteReportToStream` writes a visual representation of the tree to the stream S. The total number of written bytes is returned in `StreamSize`. This method is only useful for debugging purposes.

See also: [TAVLTree.ConsistencyCheck \(68\)](#)

2.3.29 TAVLTree.ReportAsString

Synopsis: Return the tree report as a string

Declaration: `function ReportAsString : String`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReportAsString` calls `WriteReportToStream` (68) and returns the stream data as a string.

See also: `TAVLTree.WriteReportToStream` (68)

2.3.30 TAVLTree.SetNodeManager

Declaration: `procedure SetNodeManager(newmgr: TBaseAVLTreeNodeManager)`

Visibility: public

2.3.31 TAVLTree.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TAVLTree`

Declaration: `constructor Create(OnCompareMethod: TListSortCompare)`
`constructor Create`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of `TAVLTree` (61). An alternate `OnCompare` (61) can be provided: the default `OnCompare` method compares the 2 data pointers of a node.

See also: `OnCompare` (61)

2.3.32 TAVLTree.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroy the `TAVLTree` instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` clears the nodes (the node data is not freed) and then destroys the `TAVLTree` instance.

See also: `TAVLTree.Create` (69), `TAVLTree.Clean` (61)

2.3.33 TAVLTree.OnCompare

Synopsis: Compare function used when comparing nodes

Declaration: `Property OnCompare : TListSortCompare`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnCompare` is the comparing function used when the data of 2 nodes must be compared. By default, the function simply compares the 2 data pointers. A different function can be specified on creation.

See also: `TAVLTree.Create` (69)

2.3.34 TAVLTree.Count

Synopsis: Number of nodes in the tree.

Declaration: `Property Count : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Count` is the number of nodes in the tree.

2.4 TAVLTreeNode

2.4.1 Description

`TAVLTreeNode` represents a single node in the AVL tree. It contains references to the other nodes in the tree, and provides a `Data` (??) pointer which can be used to store the data, associated with the node.

2.4.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 70 | <code>Clear</code> | Clears the node's data |
| 70 | <code>TreeDepth</code> | Level of the node in the tree below |

2.4.3 TAVLTreeNode.Clear

Synopsis: Clears the node's data

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Clear` clears all pointers and references in the node. It does not free the memory pointed to by these references.

2.4.4 TAVLTreeNode.TreeDepth

Synopsis: Level of the node in the tree below

Declaration: `function TreeDepth : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `TreeDepth` is the height of the node: this is the largest height of the left or right nodes, plus 1. If no nodes appear below this node (`left` and `Right` are `Nil`), the depth is 1.

See also: `TAVLTreeNode.Balance` (??)

2.5 TAVLTreeNodeMemManager

2.5.1 Description

`TAVLTreeNodeMemManager` is an internal object used by the `avl_tree` unit. Normally, no instance of this object should be created: An instance is created by the unit initialization code, and freed when the unit is finalized.

2.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|-------------|--|
| 71 | Clear | Frees all unused nodes |
| 72 | Create | Create a new instance of <code>TAVLTreeNodeMemManager</code> |
| 72 | Destroy | |
| 71 | DisposeNode | Return a node to the free list |
| 71 | NewNode | Create a new <code>TAVLTreeNode</code> instance |

2.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------|--|
| 73 | Count | r | Number of nodes in the list. |
| 72 | MaximumFreeNodeRatio | rw | Maximum amount of free nodes in the list |
| 72 | MinimumFreeNode | rw | Minimum amount of free nodes to be kept. |

2.5.4 `TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.DisposeNode`

Synopsis: Return a node to the free list

Declaration: `procedure DisposeNode (ANode: TAVLTreeNode); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `DisposeNode` is used to put the node `ANode` in the list of free nodes, or optionally destroy it if the free list is full. After a call to `DisposeNode`, `ANode` must be considered invalid.

See also: `TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.NewNode` ([71](#))

2.5.5 `TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.NewNode`

Synopsis: Create a new `TAVLTreeNode` instance

Declaration: `function NewNode : TAVLTreeNode; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `NewNode` returns a new `TAVLTreeNode` ([70](#)) instance. If there is a node in the free list, it are returned. If no more free nodes are present, a new node is created.

See also: `TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.DisposeNode` ([71](#))

2.5.6 `TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.Clear`

Synopsis: Frees all unused nodes

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: public

Description: `Clear` removes all unused nodes from the list and frees them.

See also: `TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.MinimumFreeNode` ([72](#)), `TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.MaximumFreeNodeRatio` ([72](#))

2.5.7 TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of TAVLTreeNodeMemManager

Declaration: constructor Create

Visibility: public

Description: Create initializes a new instance of TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.

See also: TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.Destroy (72)

2.5.8 TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.Destroy

Synopsis:

Declaration: destructor Destroy; Override

Visibility: public

Description: Destroy calls clear to clean up the free node list and then calls the inherited destroy.

See also: TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.Create (72)

2.5.9 TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.MinimumFreeNode

Synopsis: Minimum amount of free nodes to be kept.

Declaration: Property MinimumFreeNode : Integer

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: MinimumFreeNode is the minimum amount of nodes that must be kept in the free nodes list.

See also: TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.MaximumFreeNodeRatio (72)

2.5.10 TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.MaximumFreeNodeRatio

Synopsis: Maximum amount of free nodes in the list

Declaration: Property MaximumFreeNodeRatio : Integer

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: MaximumFreeNodeRatio is the maximum amount of free nodes that should be kept in the list: if a node is disposed of, then the ratio of the free nodes versus the total amount of nodes is checked, and if it is less than the MaximumFreeNodeRatio ratio but larger than the minimum amount of free nodes, then the node is disposed of instead of added to the free list.

See also: TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.Count (73), TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.MinimumFreeNode (72)

2.5.11 TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.Count

Synopsis: Number of nodes in the list.

Declaration: `Property Count : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Count` is the total number of nodes in the list, used or not.

See also: `TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.MinimumFreeNode` ([72](#)), `TAVLTreeNodeMemManager.MaximumFreeNodeRatio` ([72](#))

2.6 TBaseAVLTreeNodeManager

2.6.1 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 73 | <code>DisposeNode</code> | |
| 73 | <code>NewNode</code> | |

2.6.2 TBaseAVLTreeNodeManager.DisposeNode

Declaration: `procedure DisposeNode (ANode: TAVLTreeNode); Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

2.6.3 TBaseAVLTreeNodeManager.NewNode

Declaration: `function NewNode : TAVLTreeNode; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Chapter 3

Reference for unit 'base64'

3.1 Used units

Table 3.1: Used units by unit 'base64'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

3.2 Overview

`base64` implements base64 encoding (as used for instance in MIME encoding) based on streams. it implements 2 streams which encode or decode anything written or read from it. The source or the destination of the encoded data is another stream. 2 classes are implemented for this: `TBase64EncodingStream` (77) for encoding, and `TBase64DecodingStream` (75) for decoding.

The streams are designed as plug-in streams, which can be placed between other streams, to provide base64 encoding and decoding on-the-fly...

3.3 Constants, types and variables

3.3.1 Types

```
TBase64DecodingMode = (bdmStrict, bdmMIME)
```

Table 3.2: Enumeration values for type `TBase64DecodingMode`

| Value | Explanation |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| <code>bdmMIME</code> | MIME encoding |
| <code>bdmStrict</code> | Strict encoding |

`TBase64DecodingMode` determines the decoding algorithm used by `TBase64DecodingStream` (75). There are 2 modes:

bdmStrict Strict mode, which follows RFC3548 and rejects any characters outside of base64 alphabet. In this mode only up to two '=' characters are accepted at the end. It requires the input to have a Size being a multiple of 4, otherwise an `EBase64DecodingException` (75) exception is raised.

bdmMime MIME mode, which follows RFC2045 and ignores any characters outside of base64 alphabet. In this mode any '=' is seen as the end of string, it handles apparently truncated input streams gracefully.

3.4 EBase64DecodingException

3.4.1 Description

`EBase64DecodingException` is raised when the stream contains errors against the encoding format. Whether or not this exception is raised depends on the mode in which the stream is decoded.

3.5 TBase64DecodingStream

3.5.1 Description

`TBase64DecodingStream` can be used to read data from a stream (the source stream) that contains Base64 encoded data. The data is read and decoded on-the-fly.

The decoding stream is read-only, and provides a limited forward-peek capability.

3.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|---|
| 75 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TBase64DecodingStream</code> class |
| 76 | Read | Read and decrypt data from the source stream |
| 76 | Reset | Reset the stream |
| 76 | Seek | Set stream position. |

3.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|--------------------|----------|--------|---------------|
| 77 | EOF | r | |
| 77 | Mode | rw | Decoding mode |

3.5.4 TBase64DecodingStream.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TBase64DecodingStream` class

Declaration: `constructor Create(ASource: TStream)`
`constructor Create(ASource: TStream; AMode: TBase64DecodingMode)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of the `TBase64DecodingStream` class. It stores the source stream `ASource` for reading the data from.

The optional `AMode` parameter determines the mode in which the decoding will be done. If omitted, `bdmMIME` is used.

See also: [TBase64EncodingStream.Create \(77\)](#), [TBase64DecodingMode \(74\)](#)

3.5.5 TBase64DecodingStream.Reset

Synopsis: Reset the stream

Declaration: `procedure Reset`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Reset` resets the data as if it was again on the start of the decoding stream.

Errors: None.

See also: [TBase64DecodingStream.EOF \(77\)](#), [TBase64DecodingStream.Read \(76\)](#)

3.5.6 TBase64DecodingStream.Read

Synopsis: Read and decrypt data from the source stream

Declaration: `function Read(var Buffer; Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Read` reads encrypted data from the source stream and stores this data in `Buffer`. At most `Count` bytes will be stored in the buffer, but more bytes will be read from the source stream: the encoding algorithm multiplies the number of bytes.

The function returns the number of bytes stored in the buffer.

Errors: If an error occurs during the read from the source stream, an exception may occur.

See also: [TBase64DecodingStream.Write \(75\)](#), [TBase64DecodingStream.Seek \(76\)](#), [#rtl.classes.TStream.Read \(??\)](#)

3.5.7 TBase64DecodingStream.Seek

Synopsis: Set stream position.

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt; Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Seek` sets the position of the stream. In the `TBase64DecodingStream` class, the seek operation is forward only, it does not support backward seeks. The forward seek is emulated by reading and discarding data till the desired position is reached.

For an explanation of the parameters, see [TStream.Seek \(??\)](#)

Errors: In case of an unsupported operation, an `EStreamError` exception is raised.

See also: [TBase64DecodingStream.Read \(76\)](#), [TBase64DecodingStream.Write \(75\)](#), [TBase64EncodingStream.Seek \(78\)](#), [#rtl.classes.TStream.Seek \(??\)](#)

3.5.8 TBase64DecodingStream.EOF

Synopsis:

Declaration: Property EOF : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description:

3.5.9 TBase64DecodingStream.Mode

Synopsis: Decoding mode

Declaration: Property Mode : TBase64DecodingMode

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: Mode is the mode in which the stream is read. It can be set when creating the stream or at any time afterwards.

See also: TBase64DecodingStream (75)

3.6 TBase64EncodingStream

3.6.1 Description

TBase64EncodingStream can be used to encode data using the base64 algorithm. At creation time, a destination stream is specified. Any data written to the TBase64EncodingStream instance will be base64 encoded, and subsequently written to the destination stream.

The TBase64EncodingStream stream is a write-only stream. Obviously it is also not seekable. It is meant to be included in a chain of streams.

3.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|---|
| 77 | Create | Create a new instance of the TBase64EncodingStream class. |
| 78 | Destroy | Remove a TBase64EncodingStream instance from memory |
| 78 | Seek | Position the stream |
| 78 | Write | Write data to the stream. |

3.6.3 TBase64EncodingStream.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the TBase64EncodingStream class.

Declaration: constructor Create (ASource: TStream)

Visibility: public

Description: Create instantiates a new TBase64EncodingStream class. The ASource stream is stored and used to write the encoded data to.

See also: TBase64EncodingStream.Destroy (78), TBase64DecodingStream.Create (75)

3.6.4 TBase64EncodingStream.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove a `TBase64EncodingStream` instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` flushes any remaining output and then removes the `TBase64EncodingStream` instance from memory by calling the inherited destructor.

Errors: An exception may be raised if the destination stream no longer exists or is closed.

See also: `TBase64EncodingStream.Create` (77)

3.6.5 TBase64EncodingStream.Write

Synopsis: Write data to the stream.

Declaration: `function Write(const Buffer;Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Write` encodes `Count` bytes from `Buffer` using the Base64 mechanism, and then writes the encoded data to the destination stream. It returns the number of bytes from `Buffer` that were actually written. Note that this is not the number of bytes written to the destination stream: the base64 mechanism writes more bytes to the destination stream.

Errors: If there is an error writing to the destination stream, an error may occur.

See also: `TBase64EncodingStream.Seek` (78), `TBase64EncodingStream.Read` (77), `TBase64DecodingStream.Write` (75), `#rtl.classes.TStream.Write` (??)

3.6.6 TBase64EncodingStream.Seek

Synopsis: Position the stream

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt;Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Seek` always raises an `EStreamError` exception unless the arguments it received it don't change the current file pointer position. The encryption stream is not seekable.

Errors: An `EStreamError` error is raised.

See also: `TBase64EncodingStream.Read` (77), `TBase64EncodingStream.Write` (78), `#rtl.classes.TStream.Seek` (??)

Chapter 4

Reference for unit 'BlowFish'

4.1 Used units

Table 4.1: Used units by unit 'BlowFish'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

4.2 Overview

The BlowFish implements a class TBlowFish (80) to handle blowfish encryption/description of memory buffers, and 2 TStream (??) descendents TBlowFishDeCryptStream (81) which descrypts any data that is read from it on the fly, as well as TBlowFishEnCryptStream (82) which encrypts the data that is written to it on the fly.

4.3 Constants, types and variables

4.3.1 Constants

`BFRounds = 16`

Number of rounds in blowfish encryption.

4.3.2 Types

`PBlowFishKey = ^TBlowFishKey`

PBlowFishKey is a simple pointer to a TBlowFishKey (80) array.

`TBFBlock = Array[0..1] of LongInt`

TBFBlock is the basic data structure used by the encrypting/decrypting routines in TBlowFish (80), TBlowFishDeCryptStream (81) and TBlowFishEnCryptStream (82). It is the basic encryption/decryption block for all encrypting/decrypting: all encrypting/decrypting happens on a TBFBlock structure.

TBlowFishKey = Array[0..55] of Byte

TBlowFishKey is a data structure which keeps the encryption or decryption key for the TBlowFish (80), TBlowFishDeCryptStream (81) and TBlowFishEnCryptStream (82) classes. It should be filled with the encryption key and passed to the constructor of one of these classes.

4.4 EBlowFishError

4.4.1 Description

EBlowFishError is used by the TBlowFishStream (83), TBlowFishEncryptStream (82) and TBlowFishDecryptStream (81) classes to report errors.

4.5 TBlowFish

4.5.1 Description

TBlowFish is a simple class that can be used to encrypt/decrypt a single TBFBlock (80) data block with the Encrypt (80) and Decrypt (81) calls. It is used internally by the TBlowFishEnCryptStream (82) and TBlowFishDeCryptStream (81) classes to encrypt or decrypt the actual data.

4.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|--|
| 80 | Create | Create a new instance of the TBlowFish class |
| 81 | Decrypt | Decrypt a block |
| 80 | Encrypt | Encrypt a block |

4.5.3 TBlowFish.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the TBlowFish class

Declaration: constructor Create(Key: TBlowFishKey; KeySize: Integer)

Visibility: public

Description: Create initializes a new instance of the TBlowFish class: it stores the key Key in the internal data structures so it can be used in later calls to Encrypt (80) and Decrypt (81).

See also: TBlowFish.Encrypt (80), TBlowFish.Decrypt (81)

4.5.4 TBlowFish.Encrypt

Synopsis: Encrypt a block

Declaration: procedure Encrypt(var Block: TBFBlock)

Visibility: public

Description: `Encrypt` encrypts the data in `Block` (always 8 bytes) using the key (80) specified when the `TBlowFish` instance was created.

See also: `TBlowFishKey` (80), `TBlowFish.Decrypt` (81), `TBlowFish.Create` (80)

4.5.5 TBlowFish.Decrypt

Synopsis: Decrypt a block

Declaration: `procedure Decrypt(var Block: TBFBlock)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Decrypt` decrypts the data in `Block` (always 8 bytes) using the key (80) specified when the `TBlowFish` instance was created. The data must have been encrypted with the same key and the `Encrypt` (80) call.

See also: `TBlowFishKey` (80), `TBlowFish.Encrypt` (80), `TBlowFish.Create` (80)

4.6 TBlowFishDeCryptStream

4.6.1 Description

The `TBlowFishDecryptStream` provides On-the-fly Blowfish decryption: all data that is read from the source stream is decrypted before it is placed in the output buffer. The source stream must be specified when the `TBlowFishDecryptStream` instance is created. The Decryption key must also be created when the stream instance is created, and must be the same key as the one used when encrypting the data.

This is a read-only stream: it is seekable only in a forward direction, and data can only be read from it, writing is not possible. For writing data so it is encrypted, the `TBlowFishEncryptStream` (82) stream must be used.

4.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| 81 | Read | Read data from the stream |
| 82 | Seek | Set the stream position. |

4.6.3 TBlowFishDeCryptStream.Read

Synopsis: Read data from the stream

Declaration: `function Read(var Buffer; Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Read` reads `Count` bytes from the source stream, decrypts them using the key provided when the `TBlowFishDeCryptStream` instance was created, and writes the decrypted data to `Buffer`

See also: `TBlowFishStream.Create` (84), `TBlowFishEncryptStream` (82)

4.6.4 TBlowFishDeCryptStream.Seek

Synopsis: Set the stream position.

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt; Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Seek` emulates a forward seek by reading and discarding data. The discarded data is lost. Since it is a forward seek, this means that only `soFromCurrent` can be specified for `Origin` with a positive (or zero) `Offset` value. All other values will result in an exception. The function returns the new position in the stream.

Errors: If any other combination of `Offset` and `Origin` than the allowed combination is specified, then an `EBlowFishError` (80) exception will be raised.

See also: `TBlowFishDeCryptStream.Read` (81), `EBlowFishError` (80)

4.7 TBlowFishEncryptStream

4.7.1 Description

The `TBlowFishEncryptStream` provides On-the-fly Blowfish encryption: all data that is written to it is encrypted and then written to a destination stream, which must be specified when the `TBlowFishEncryptStream` instance is created. The encryption key must also be created when the stream instance is created.

This is a write-only stream: it is not seekable, and data can only be written to it, reading is not possible. For reading encrypted data, the `TBlowFishDeCryptStream` (81) stream must be used.

4.7.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| 82 | <code>Destroy</code> | Free the <code>TBlowFishEncryptStream</code> |
| 83 | <code>Flush</code> | Flush the encryption buffer |
| 83 | <code>Seek</code> | Set the position in the stream |
| 82 | <code>Write</code> | Write data to the stream |

4.7.3 TBlowFishEncryptStream.Destroy

Synopsis: Free the `TBlowFishEncryptStream`

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` flushes the encryption buffer, and writes it to the destination stream. After that the inherited destructor is called to clean up the `TBlowFishEncryptStream` instance.

See also: `TBlowFishEncryptStream.Flush` (83), `TBlowFishStream.Create` (84)

4.7.4 TBlowFishEncryptStream.Write

Synopsis: Write data to the stream

Declaration: `function Write(const Buffer; Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Write` will encrypt and write `Count` bytes from `Buffer` to the destination stream. The function returns the actual number of bytes written. The data is not encrypted in-place, but placed in a special buffer for encryption.

Data is always written 4 bytes at a time, since this is the amount of bytes required by the Blowfish algorithm. If no multiple of 4 was written to the destination stream, the `Flush` (83) mechanism can be used to write the remaining bytes.

See also: `TBlowFishEncryptStream.Read` (82)

4.7.5 `TBlowFishEncryptStream.Seek`

Synopsis: Set the position in the stream

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt; Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Read` will raise an `EBlowFishError` exception: `TBlowFishEncryptStream` is a write-only stream, and cannot be positioned.

Errors: Calling this function always results in an `EBlowFishError` (80) exception.

See also: `TBlowFishEncryptStream.Write` (82)

4.7.6 `TBlowFishEncryptStream.Flush`

Synopsis: Flush the encryption buffer

Declaration: `procedure Flush`

Visibility: public

Description: `Flush` writes the remaining data in the encryption buffer to the destination stream.

For efficiency, data is always written 4 bytes at a time, since this is the amount of bytes required by the Blowfish algorithm. If no multiple of 4 was written to the destination stream, the `Flush` mechanism can be used to write the remaining bytes.

`Flush` is called automatically when the stream is destroyed, so there is no need to call it after all data was written and the stream is no longer needed.

See also: `TBlowFishEncryptStream.Write` (82), `TBFBlock` (80)

4.8 `TBlowFishStream`

4.8.1 Description

`TBlowFishStream` is an abstract class which is used as a parent class for `TBlowFishEncryptStream` (82) and `TBlowFishDecryptStream` (81). It simply provides a constructor and storage for a `TBlowFish` (80) instance and for the source or destination stream.

Do not create an instance of `TBlowFishStream` directly. Instead create one of the descendent classes `TBlowFishEncryptStream` or `TBlowFishDecryptStream`.

4.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|---|
| 84 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TBlowFishStream</code> class |
| 84 | Destroy | Destroy the <code>TBlowFishStream</code> instance. |

4.8.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|--------------------|----------|--------|---|
| 84 | BlowFish | r | Blowfish instance used when encrypting/decrypting |

4.8.4 TBlowFishStream.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TBlowFishStream` class

Declaration: `constructor Create(AKey: TBlowFishKey; AKeySize: Byte; Dest: TStream)`
`constructor Create(const KeyPhrase: String; Dest: TStream)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of `TBlowFishStream`, and creates an internal instance of `TBlowFish` ([80](#)) using `AKey` and `AKeySize`. The `Dest` stream is stored so the descendent classes can refer to it.

Do not create an instance of `TBlowFishStream` directly. Instead create one of the descendent classes `TBlowFishEncryptStream` or `TBlowFishDecryptStream`.

The overloaded version with the `KeyPhrase` string argument is used for easy access: it computes the blowfish key from the given string.

See also: `TBlowFishEncryptStream` ([82](#)), `TBlowFishDecryptStream` ([81](#)), `TBlowFish` ([80](#))

4.8.5 TBlowFishStream.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroy the `TBlowFishStream` instance.

Declaration: `destructor Destroy;` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the internal `TBlowFish` ([80](#)) instance.

Errors:

See also: `TBlowFishStream.Create` ([84](#)), `TBlowFish` ([80](#))

4.8.6 TBlowFishStream.BlowFish

Synopsis: Blowfish instance used when encrypting/decrypting

Declaration: `Property BlowFish : TBlowFish`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `BlowFish` is the `TBlowFish` ([80](#)) instance which is created when the `TBlowFishStream` class is initialized. Normally it should not be used directly, it's intended for access by the descendent classes `TBlowFishEncryptStream` ([82](#)) and `TBlowFishDecryptStream` ([81](#)).

See also: [TBlowFishEncryptStream \(82\)](#), [TBlowFishDecryptStream \(81\)](#), [TBlowFish \(80\)](#)

Chapter 5

Reference for unit 'bufstream'

5.1 Used units

Table 5.1: Used units by unit 'bufstream'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

5.2 Overview

`BufStream` implements two one-way buffered streams: the streams store all data from (or for) the source stream in a memory buffer, and only flush the buffer when it's full (or refill it when it's empty). The buffer size can be specified at creation time. 2 streams are implemented: `TReadBufStream` (89) which is for reading only, and `TWriteBufStream` (89) which is for writing only.

Buffered streams can help in speeding up read or write operations, especially when a lot of small read/write operations are done: it avoids doing a lot of operating system calls.

5.3 Constants, types and variables

5.3.1 Constants

```
DefaultBufferCapacity : Integer = 16
```

If no buffer size is specified when the stream is created, then this size is used.

5.4 TBufStream

5.4.1 Description

`TBufStream` is the common ancestor for the `TReadBufStream` (89) and `TWriteBufStream` (89) streams. It completely handles the buffer memory management and position management. An in-

stance of `TBufStream` should never be created directly. It also keeps the instance of the source stream.

5.4.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| 87 | Create | Create a new <code>TBufStream</code> instance. |
| 87 | Destroy | Destroys the <code>TBufStream</code> instance |

5.4.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|--------------------|------------|--------|------------------------------|
| 87 | Buffer | r | The current buffer |
| 88 | BufferPos | r | Current buffer position. |
| 88 | BufferSize | r | Amount of data in the buffer |
| 88 | Capacity | rw | Current buffer capacity |

5.4.4 TBufStream.Create

Synopsis: Create a new `TBufStream` instance.

Declaration: `constructor Create (ASource: TStream; ACapacity: Integer)`
`constructor Create (ASource: TStream)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new `TBufStream` instance. A buffer of size `ACapacity` is allocated, and the `ASource` source (or destination) stream is stored. If no capacity is specified, then `DefaultBufferCapacity` ([86](#)) is used as the capacity.

An instance of `TBufStream` should never be instantiated directly. Instead, an instance of `TReadBufStream` ([89](#)) or `TWriteBufStream` ([89](#)) should be created.

Errors: If not enough memory is available for the buffer, then an exception may be raised.

See also: `TBufStream.Destroy` ([87](#)), `TReadBufStream` ([89](#)), `TWriteBufStream` ([89](#))

5.4.5 TBufStream.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroys the `TBufStream` instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy;` `Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` destroys the instance of `TBufStream`. It flushes the buffer, deallocates it, and then destroys the `TBufStream` instance.

See also: `TBufStream.Create` ([87](#)), `TReadBufStream` ([89](#)), `TWriteBufStream` ([89](#))

5.4.6 TBufStream.Buffer

Synopsis: The current buffer

Declaration: `Property Buffer : Pointer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Buffer` is a pointer to the actual buffer in use.

See also: `TBufStream.Create` (87), `TBufStream.Capacity` (88), `TBufStream.BufferSize` (88)

5.4.7 TBufStream.Capacity

Synopsis: Current buffer capacity

Declaration: `Property Capacity : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Capacity` is the amount of memory the buffer occupies. To change the buffer size, the capacity can be set. Note that the capacity cannot be set to a value that is less than the current buffer size, i.e. the current amount of data in the buffer.

See also: `TBufStream.Create` (87), `TBufStream.Buffer` (87), `TBufStream.BufferSize` (88), `TBufStream.BufferPos` (88)

5.4.8 TBufStream.BufferPos

Synopsis: Current buffer position.

Declaration: `Property BufferPos : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `BufferPos` is the current stream position in the buffer. Depending on whether the stream is used for reading or writing, data will be read from this position, or will be written at this position in the buffer.

See also: `TBufStream.Create` (87), `TBufStream.Buffer` (87), `TBufStream.BufferSize` (88), `TBufStream.Capacity` (88)

5.4.9 TBufStream.BufferSize

Synopsis: Amount of data in the buffer

Declaration: `Property BufferSize : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `BufferSize` is the actual amount of data in the buffer. This is always less than or equal to the `Capacity` (88).

See also: `TBufStream.Create` (87), `TBufStream.Buffer` (87), `TBufStream.BufferPos` (88), `TBufStream.Capacity` (88)

5.5 TReadBufStream

5.5.1 Description

`TReadBufStream` is a read-only buffered stream. It implements the needed methods to read data from the buffer and fill the buffer with additional data when needed.

The stream provides limited forward-seek possibilities.

5.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 89 | Read | Reads data from the stream |
| 89 | Seek | Set location in the buffer |

5.5.3 TReadBufStream.Seek

Synopsis: Set location in the buffer

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt; Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Seek` sets the location in the buffer. Currently, only a forward seek is allowed. It is emulated by reading and discarding data. For an explanation of the parameters, see `TStream.Seek`" (??)

The seek method needs enhancement to enable it to do a full-featured seek. This may be implemented in a future release of Free Pascal.

Errors: In case an illegal seek operation is attempted, an exception is raised.

See also: `TWriteBufStream.Seek` ([90](#)), `TReadBufStream.Read` ([89](#)), `TReadBufStream.Write` ([89](#))

5.5.4 TReadBufStream.Read

Synopsis: Reads data from the stream

Declaration: `function Read(var ABuffer; ACount: LongInt) : Integer; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Read` reads at most `ACount` bytes from the stream and places them in `Buffer`. The number of actually read bytes is returned.

`TReadBufStream` first reads whatever data is still available in the buffer, and then refills the buffer, after which it continues to read data from the buffer. This is repeated until `ACount` bytes are read, or no more data is available.

See also: `TReadBufStream.Seek` ([89](#)), `TReadBufStream.Read` ([89](#))

5.6 TWriteBufStream

5.6.1 Description

`TWriteBufStream` is a write-only buffered stream. It implements the needed methods to write data to the buffer and flush the buffer (i.e., write its contents to the source stream) when needed.

5.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| 90 | Destroy | Remove the <code>TWriteBufStream</code> instance from memory |
| 90 | Seek | Set stream position. |
| 90 | Write | Write data to the stream |

5.6.3 `TWriteBufStream.Destroy`

Synopsis: Remove the `TWriteBufStream` instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` flushes the buffer and then calls the inherited `Destroy` ([87](#)).

Errors: If an error occurs during flushing of the buffer, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TBufStream.Create` ([87](#)), `TBufStream.Destroy` ([87](#))

5.6.4 `TWriteBufStream.Seek`

Synopsis: Set stream position.

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt; Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Seek` always raises an `EStreamError` exception, except when the seek operation would not alter the current position.

A later implementation may perform a proper seek operation by flushing the buffer and doing a seek on the source stream.

Errors:

See also: `TWriteBufStream.Write` ([90](#)), `TWriteBufStream.Read` ([89](#)), `TReadBufStream.Seek` ([89](#))

5.6.5 `TWriteBufStream.Write`

Synopsis: Write data to the stream

Declaration: `function Write(const ABuffer; ACount: LongInt) : Integer; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Write` writes at most `ACount` bytes from `ABuffer` to the stream. The data is written to the internal buffer first. As soon as the internal buffer is full, it is flushed to the destination stream, and the internal buffer is filled again. This process continues till all data is written (or an error occurs).

Errors: An exception may occur if the destination stream has problems writing.

See also: `TWriteBufStream.Seek` ([90](#)), `TWriteBufStream.Read` ([89](#)), `TReadBufStream.Write` ([89](#))

Chapter 6

Reference for unit 'CacheCls'

6.1 Used units

Table 6.1: Used units by unit 'CacheCls'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| sysutils | ?? |

6.2 Overview

The CacheCls unit implements a caching class: similar to a hash class, it can be used to cache data, associated with string values (keys). The class is called TCache

6.3 Constants, types and variables

6.3.1 Resource strings

```
SInvalidIndex = 'Invalid index %i'
```

Message shown when an invalid index is passed.

6.3.2 Types

```
PCacheSlot = ^TCacheSlot
```

Pointer to TCacheSlot (92) record.

```
PCacheSlotArray = ^TCacheSlotArray
```

Pointer to TCacheSlotArray (92) array

```
TCacheSlot = record
```

```

Prev : PCacheSlot;
Next : PCacheSlot;
Data : Pointer;
Index : Integer;
end

```

TCacheSlot is internally used by the TCache (92) class. It represents 1 element in the linked list.

```
TCacheSlotArray = Array[0..MaxIntdivSizeOf(TCacheSlot)-1] of TCacheSlot
```

TCacheSlotArray is an array of TCacheSlot items. Do not use TCacheSlotArray directly, instead, use PCacheSlotArray (91) and allocate memory dynamically.

```
TOnFreeSlot = procedure(ACache: TCache; SlotIndex: Integer) of object
```

TOnFreeSlot is a callback prototype used when not enough slots are free, and a slot must be freed.

```

TOnIsDataEqual = function(ACache: TCache; AData1: Pointer;
                          AData2: Pointer) : Boolean of object

```

TOnIsDataEqual is a callback prototype; It is used by the TCache.Add (93) call to determine whether the item to be added is a new item or not. The function returns True if the 2 data pointers AData1 and AData2 should be considered equal, or False when they are not.

For most purposes, comparing the pointers will be enough, but if the pointers are ansistrings, then the contents should be compared.

6.4 ECacheError

6.4.1 Description

Exception class used in the cachecls unit.

6.5 TCache

6.5.1 Description

TCache implements a cache class: it is a list-like class, but which uses a counting mechanism, and keeps a Most-Recent-Used list; this list represents the 'cache'. The list is internally kept as a doubly-linked list.

The Data (95) property offers indexed access to the array of items. When accessing the array through this property, the MRUSlot (95) property is updated.

6.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|--------------------|----------|---|
| 93 | Add | Add a data element to the list. |
| 94 | AddNew | Add a new item to the list. |
| 93 | Create | Create a new cache class. |
| 93 | Destroy | Free the TCache class from memory |
| 94 | FindSlot | Find data pointer in the list |
| 94 | IndexOf | Return index of a data pointer in the list. |
| 95 | Remove | Remove a data item from the list. |

6.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 95 | Data | rw | Indexed access to data items |
| 96 | LRUSlot | r | Last used item |
| 95 | MRUSlot | rw | Most recent item slot. |
| 97 | OnFreeSlot | rw | Event called when a slot is freed |
| 96 | OnIsDataEqual | rw | Event to compare 2 items. |
| 96 | SlotCount | rw | Number of slots in the list |
| 96 | Slots | r | Indexed array to the slots |

6.5.4 TCache.Create

Synopsis: Create a new cache class.

Declaration: constructor Create(ASlotCount: Integer)

Visibility: public

Description: Create instantiates a new instance of TCache. It allocates room for ASlotCount entries in the list. The number of slots can be increased later.

See also: TCache.SlotCount ([96](#))

6.5.5 TCache.Destroy

Synopsis: Free the TCache class from memory

Declaration: destructor Destroy; Override

Visibility: public

Description: Destroy cleans up the array for the elements, and calls the inherited Destroy. The elements in the array are not freed by this action.

See also: TCache.Create ([93](#))

6.5.6 TCache.Add

Synopsis: Add a data element to the list.

Declaration: function Add(AData: Pointer) : Integer

Visibility: public

Description: Add checks whether `AData` is already in the list. If so, the item is added to the top of the MRU list. If the item is not yet in the list, then the item is added to the list and placed at the top of the MRU list using the `AddNew` (94) call.

The function returns the index at which the item was added.

If the maximum number of slots is reached, and a new item is being added, the least used item is dropped from the list.

See also: `TCache.AddNew` (94), `TCache.FindSlot` (94), `TCache.IndexOf` (94), `TCache.Data` (95), `TCache.MRUSlot` (95)

6.5.7 `TCache.AddNew`

Synopsis: Add a new item to the list.

Declaration: `function AddNew(AData: Pointer) : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `AddNew` adds a new item to the list: in difference with the `Add` (93) call, no checking is performed to see whether the item is already in the list.

The function returns the index at which the item was added.

If the maximum number of slots is reached, and a new item is being added, the least used item is dropped from the list.

See also: `TCache.Add` (93), `TCache.FindSlot` (94), `TCache.IndexOf` (94), `TCache.Data` (95), `TCache.MRUSlot` (95)

6.5.8 `TCache.FindSlot`

Synopsis: Find data pointer in the list

Declaration: `function FindSlot(AData: Pointer) : PCacheSlot`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `FindSlot` checks all items in the list, and returns the slot which contains a data pointer that matches the pointer `AData`.

If no item with data pointer that matches `AData` is found, `Nil` is returned.

For this function to work correctly, the `OnIsDataEqual` (96) event must be set.

Errors: If `OnIsDataEqual` is not set, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TCache.IndexOf` (94), `TCache.Add` (93), `TCache.OnIsDataEqual` (96)

6.5.9 `TCache.IndexOf`

Synopsis: Return index of a data pointer in the list.

Declaration: `function IndexOf(AData: Pointer) : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IndexOF` searches in the list for a slot with data pointer that matches `AData` and returns the index of the slot.

If no item with data pointer that matches `AData` is found, `-1` is returned.

For this function to work correctly, the `OnIsDataEqual` (96) event must be set.

Errors: If `OnIsDataEqual` is not set, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TCache.FindSlot` (94), `TCache.Add` (93), `TCache.OnIsDataEqual` (96)

6.5.10 `TCache.Remove`

Synopsis: Remove a data item from the list.

Declaration: `procedure Remove(AData: Pointer)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Remove` searches the slot which matches `AData` and if it is found, sets the data pointer to `Nil`, thus effectively removing the pointer from the list.

Errors: None.

See also: `TCache.FindSlot` (94)

6.5.11 `TCache.Data`

Synopsis: Indexed access to data items

Declaration: `Property Data[SlotIndex: Integer]: Pointer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Data` offers index-based access to the data pointers in the cache. By accessing an item in the list in this manner, the item is moved to the front of the MRU list, i.e. `MRUSlot` (95) will point to the accessed item. The access is both read and write.

The index is zero-based and can maximally be `SlotCount-1` (96). Providing an invalid index will result in an exception.

See also: `TCache.MRUSlot` (95)

6.5.12 `TCache.MRUSlot`

Synopsis: Most recent item slot.

Declaration: `Property MRUSlot : PCacheSlot`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `MRUSlot` points to the most recent used slot. The most recent used slot is updated when the list is accessed through the `Data` (95) property, or when an item is added to the list with `Add` (93) or `AddNew` (94)

See also: `TCache.Add` (93), `TCache.AddNew` (94), `TCache.Data` (95), `TCache.LRUSlot` (96)

6.5.13 TCache.LRUSlot

Synopsis: Last used item

Declaration: Property LRUSlot : PCacheSlot

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: LRUSlot points to the least recent used slot. It is the last item in the chain of slots.

See also: TCache.Add (93), TCache.AddNew (94), TCache.Data (95), TCache.MRUSlot (95)

6.5.14 TCache.SlotCount

Synopsis: Number of slots in the list

Declaration: Property SlotCount : Integer

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: SlotCount is the number of slots in the list. Its initial value is set when the TCache instance is created, but this can be changed at any time. If items are added to the list and the list is full, then the number of slots is not increased, but the least used item is dropped from the list. In that case OnFreeSlot (97) is called.

See also: TCache.Create (93), TCache.Data (95), TCache.Slots (96)

6.5.15 TCache.Slots

Synopsis: Indexed array to the slots

Declaration: Property Slots[SlotIndex: Integer]: PCacheSlot

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: Slots provides index-based access to the TCacheSlot records in the list. Accessing the records directly does not change their position in the MRU list.

The index is zero-based and can maximally be SlotCount-1 (96). Providing an invalid index will result in an exception.

See also: TCache.Data (95), TCache.SlotCount (96)

6.5.16 TCache.OnIsDataEqual

Synopsis: Event to compare 2 items.

Declaration: Property OnIsDataEqual : TOnIsDataEqual

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnIsDataEqual` is used by `FindSlot` (94) and `IndexOf` (94) to compare items when looking for a particular item. These functions are called by the `Add` (93) method. Failing to set this event will result in an exception. The function should return `True` if the 2 data pointers should be considered equal.

See also: `TCache.FindSlot` (94), `TCache.IndexOf` (94), `TCache.Add` (93)

6.5.17 `TCache.OnFreeSlot`

Synopsis: Event called when a slot is freed

Declaration: `Property OnFreeSlot : TOnFreeSlot`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `OnFreeSlot` is called when an item needs to be freed, i.e. when a new item is added to a full list, and the least recent used item needs to be dropped from the list.

The cache class instance and the index of the item to be removed are passed to the callback.

See also: `TCache.Add` (93), `TCache.AddNew` (94), `TCache.SlotCount` (96)

Chapter 7

Reference for unit 'contnrs'

7.1 Used units

Table 7.1: Used units by unit 'contnrs'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

7.2 Overview

The contnrs unit implements various general-purpose classes:

Object lists lists that manage objects instead of pointers, and which automatically dispose of the objects.

Component lists lists that manage components instead of pointers, and which automatically dispose the components.

Class lists lists that manage class pointers instead of pointers.

Stacks Stack classes to push/pop pointers or objects

Queues Classes to manage a FIFO list of pointers or objects

Hash lists General-purpose Hash lists.

7.3 Constants, types and variables

7.3.1 Constants

```
MaxHashListSize = Maxint div 16
```

MaxHashListSize is the maximum number of elements a hash list can contain.

```
MaxHashStrSize = Maxint
```

MaxHashStrSize is the maximum amount of data for the key string values. The key strings are kept in a continuous memory area. This constant determines the maximum size of this memory area.

```
MaxHashTableSize = Maxint div 4
```

MaxHashTableSize is the maximum number of elements in the hash.

```
MaxItemsPerHash = 3
```

MaxItemsPerHash is the threshold above which the hash is expanded. If the number of elements in a hash bucket becomes larger than this value, the hash size is increased.

7.3.2 Types

```
PBucket = ^TBucket
```

Pointer to TBucket (99)" type.

```
PHashItem = ^THashItem
```

PHashItem is a pointer type, pointing to the THashItem (101) record.

```
PHashItemList = ^THashItemList
```

PHashItemList is a pointer to the THashItemList (101). It's used in the TFPHashList (118) as a pointer to the memory area containing the hash item records.

```
PHashTable = ^THashTable
```

PHashTable is a pointer to the THashTable (101). It's used in the TFPHashList (118) as a pointer to the memory area containing the hash values.

```
TBucket = record
  Count : Integer;
  Items : TBucketItemArray;
end
```

TBucket describes 1 bucket in the TCustomBucketList (109) class. It is a container for TBucketItem (100) records. It should never be used directly.

```
TBucketArray = Array of TBucket
```

Array of TBucket (99) records.

```
TBucketItem = record
  Item : Pointer;
  Data : Pointer;
end
```

TBucketItem is a record used for internal use in TCustomBucketList (109). It should not be necessary to use it directly.

```
TBucketItemArray = Array of TBucketItem
```

Array of TBucketItem records

```
TBucketListSizes = (b12,b14,b18,b116,b132,b164,b1128,b1256)
```

Table 7.2: Enumeration values for type TBucketListSizes

| Value | Explanation |
|-------|-----------------------|
| b1128 | List with 128 buckets |
| b116 | List with 16 buckets |
| b12 | List with 2 buckets |
| b1256 | List with 256 buckets |
| b132 | List with 32 buckets |
| b14 | List with 4 buckets |
| b164 | List with 64 buckets |
| b18 | List with 8 buckets |

TBucketListSizes is used to set the bucket list size: It specified the number of buckets created by TBucketList (102).

```
TBucketProc = procedure(AInfo: Pointer;AItem: Pointer;AData: Pointer;
    out AContinue: Boolean)
```

TBucketProc is the prototype for the #TCustomBucketList.Foreach (??) call. It is the plain procedural form. The Continue parameter can be set to False to indicate that the Foreach call should stop the iteration.

For a procedure of object (a method) callback, see the TBucketProcObject (100) prototype.

```
TBucketProcObject = procedure(AItem: Pointer;AData: Pointer;
    out AContinue: Boolean) of object
```

TBucketProcObject is the prototype for the #TCustomBucketList.Foreach (??) call. It is the method (procedure of object) form. The Continue parameter can be set to False to indicate that the Foreach call should stop the iteration.

For a plain procedural callback, see the TBucketProc (100) prototype.

```
TDataIteratorMethod = procedure(Item: Pointer;const Key: String;
    var Continue: Boolean) of object
```

TDataIteratorMethod is a callback prototype for the TDataHashTable.Iterate (98) method. It is called for each data pointer in the hash list, passing the key (key) and data pointer (item) for each item in the list. If Continue is set to false, the iteration stops.

```
THashFunction = function(const S: String;const TableSize: LongWord)
    : LongWord
```

`THashFunction` is the prototype for a hash calculation function. It should calculate a hash of string `S`, where the hash table size is `TableSize`. The return value should be the hash value.

```
THashItem = record
  HashValue : LongWord;
  StrIndex  : Integer;
  NextIndex : Integer;
  Data     : Pointer;
end
```

`THashItem` is used internally in the hash list. It should never be used directly.

```
THashItemList = Array[0..MaxHashListSize-1] of THashItem
```

`THashItemList` is an array type, primarily used to be able to define the `PHashItemList` (99) type. It's used in the `TFPHashList` (118) class.

```
THashTable = Array[0..MaxHashTableSize-1] of Integer
```

`THashTable` defines an array of integers, used to hold hash values. It's mainly used to define the `PHashTable` (99) class.

```
THTCustomNodeClass = Class of THTCustomNode
```

`THTCustomNodeClass` is used by `THTCustomHashTable` (98) to decide which class should be created for elements in the list.

```
THTNode = THTDataNode
```

`THTNode` is provided for backwards compatibility.

```
TIteratorMethod = TDataIteratorMethod
```

`TIteratorMethod` is used in an internal `TFPHashTable` (98) method.

```
TObjectIteratorMethod = procedure(Item: TObject; const Key: String;
                                   var Continue: Boolean) of object
```

`TObjectIteratorMethod` is the iterator callback prototype. It is used to iterate over all items in the hash table, and is called with each key value (`Key`) and associated object (`Item`). If `Continue` is set to false, the iteration stops.

```
TObjectListCallback = procedure(data: TObject; arg: pointer) of object
```

`TObjectListCallback` is used as the prototype for the `TFPObjectList.ForEachCall` (142) link call when a method should be called. The `Data` argument will contain each of the objects in the list in turn, and the `Data` argument will contain the data passed to the `ForEachCall` call.

```
TObjectListStaticCallback = procedure(data: TObject; arg: pointer)
```

`TObjectListCallback` is used as the prototype for the `TFPObjectList.ForEachCall` (142) link call when a plain procedure should be called. The `Data` argument will contain each of the objects in the list in turn, and the `Data` argument will contain the data passed to the `ForEachCall` call.

```
TStringIteratorMethod = procedure(Item: String;const Key: String;
                                var Continue: Boolean) of object
```

`TStringIteratorMethod` is the callback prototype for the `Iterate` (111) method. It is called for each element in the hash table, with the string. If `Continue` is set to `false`, the iteration stops.

7.4 Procedures and functions

7.4.1 RSHash

Synopsis: Standard hash value calculating function.

Declaration: `function RSHash(const S: String;const TableSize: LongWord) : LongWord`

Visibility: default

Description: `RSHash` is the standard hash calculating function used in the `TFPCustomHashTable` (111) hash class. It's Robert Sedgwick's "Algorithms in C" hash function.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable` (111)

7.5 EDuplicate

7.5.1 Description

Exception raised when a key is stored twice in a hash table.

7.6 EKeyNotFound

7.6.1 Description

Exception raised when a key is not found.

7.7 TBucketList

7.7.1 Description

`TBucketList` is a descendent of `TCustomBucketList` which allows to specify a bucket count which is a multiple of 2, up to 256 buckets. The size is passed to the constructor and cannot be changed in the lifetime of the bucket list instance.

The buckets for an item is determined by looking at the last bits of the item pointer: For 2 buckets, the last bit is examined, for 4 buckets, the last 2 bits are taken and so on. The algorithm takes into account the average granularity (4) of heap pointers.

7.7.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 103 | Create | Create a new <code>TBucketList</code> instance. |

7.7.3 TBucketList.Create

Synopsis: Create a new `TBucketList` instance.

Declaration: constructor `Create(ABuckets: TBucketListSizes)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` instantiates a new bucketlist instance with a number of buckets determined by `ABuckets`. After creation, the number of buckets can no longer be changed.

Errors: If not enough memory is available to create the instance, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TBucketListSizes` ([100](#))

7.8 TClassList

7.8.1 Description

`TClassList` is a `Tlist` (??) descendent which stores class references instead of pointers. It introduces no new behaviour other than ensuring all stored pointers are class pointers.

The `OwnsObjects` property as found in `TComponentList` and `TObjectList` is not implemented as there are no actual instances.

7.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 103 | Add | Add a new class pointer to the list. |
| 104 | Extract | Extract a class pointer from the list. |
| 105 | First | Return first non-nil class pointer |
| 104 | IndexOf | Search for a class pointer in the list. |
| 105 | Insert | Insert a new class pointer in the list. |
| 105 | Last | Return last non- <code>Nil</code> class pointer |
| 104 | Remove | Remove a class pointer from the list. |

7.8.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 105 | Items | rw | Index based access to class pointers. |

7.8.4 TClassList.Add

Synopsis: Add a new class pointer to the list.

Declaration: function `Add(AClass: TClass) : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Add` adds `AClass` to the list, and returns the position at which it was added. It simply overrides the `TList` (??) behaviour, and introduces no new functionality.

Errors: If not enough memory is available to expand the list, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TClassList.Extract` (104), `#rtl.classes.tlist.add` (??)

7.8.5 TClassList.Extract

Synopsis: Extract a class pointer from the list.

Declaration: `function Extract (Item: TClass) : TClass`

Visibility: public

Description: `Extract` extracts a class pointer `Item` from the list, if it is present in the list. It returns the extracted class pointer, or `Nil` if the class pointer was not present in the list. It simply overrides the implementation in `TList` so it accepts a class pointer instead of a simple pointer. No new behaviour is introduced.

Errors: None.

See also: `TClassList.Remove` (104), `#rtl.classes.Tlist.Extract` (??)

7.8.6 TClassList.Remove

Synopsis: Remove a class pointer from the list.

Declaration: `function Remove (AClass: TClass) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Remove` removes a class pointer `Item` from the list, if it is present in the list. It returns the index of the removed class pointer, or `-1` if the class pointer was not present in the list. It simply overrides the implementation in `TList` so it accepts a class pointer instead of a simple pointer. No new behaviour is introduced.

Errors: None.

See also: `TClassList.Extract` (104), `#rtl.classes.Tlist.Remove` (??)

7.8.7 TClassList.IndexOf

Synopsis: Search for a class pointer in the list.

Declaration: `function IndexOf (AClass: TClass) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `IndexOf` searches for `AClass` in the list, and returns its position if it was found, or `-1` if it was not found in the list.

Errors: None.

See also: `#rtl.classes.tlist.indexof` (??)

7.8.8 TClassList.First

Synopsis: Return first non-nil class pointer

Declaration: `function First : TClass`

Visibility: public

Description: `First` returns a reference to the first non-`Nil` class pointer in the list. If no non-`Nil` element is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TClassList.Last` (105), `TClassList.Pack` (103)

7.8.9 TClassList.Last

Synopsis: Return last non-`Nil` class pointer

Declaration: `function Last : TClass`

Visibility: public

Description: `Last` returns a reference to the last non-`Nil` class pointer in the list. If no non-`Nil` element is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TClassList.First` (105), `TClassList.Pack` (103)

7.8.10 TClassList.Insert

Synopsis: Insert a new class pointer in the list.

Declaration: `procedure Insert (Index: Integer; AClass: TClass)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Insert` inserts a class pointer in the list at position `Index`. It simply overrides the parent implementation so it only accepts class pointers. It introduces no new behaviour.

Errors: None.

See also: `#rtl.classes.TList.Insert` (??), `TClassList.Add` (103), `TClassList.Remove` (104)

7.8.11 TClassList.Items

Synopsis: Index based access to class pointers.

Declaration: `Property Items [Index: Integer]: TClass; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Items` provides index-based access to the class pointers in the list. `TClassList` overrides the default `Items` implementation of `TList` so it returns class pointers instead of pointers.

See also: `#rtl.classes.TList.Items` (??), `#rtl.classes.TList.Count` (??)

7.9 TComponentList

7.9.1 Description

`TComponentList` is a `TObjectList` (149) descendent which has as the default array property `TComponents` (??) instead of objects. It overrides some methods so only components can be added.

In difference with `TObjectList` (149), `TComponentList` removes any `TComponent` from the list if the `TComponent` instance was freed externally. It uses the `FreeNotification` mechanism for this.

7.9.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|---|
| 106 | Add | Add a component to the list. |
| 106 | Destroy | Destroys the instance |
| 107 | Extract | Remove a component from the list without destroying it. |
| 108 | First | First non-nil instance in the list. |
| 107 | IndexOf | Search for an instance in the list |
| 108 | Insert | Insert a new component in the list |
| 108 | Last | Last non-nil instance in the list. |
| 107 | Remove | Remove a component from the list, possibly destroying it. |

7.9.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|---|
| 108 | Items | rw | Index-based access to the elements in the list. |

7.9.4 TComponentList.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroys the instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` unhooks the free notification handler and then calls the inherited `destroy` to clean up the `TComponentList` instance.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList` (149), `#rtl.classes.TComponent` (??)

7.9.5 TComponentList.Add

Synopsis: Add a component to the list.

Declaration: `function Add(AComponent: TComponent) : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Add` overrides the `Add` operation of it's ancestors, so it only accepts `TComponent` instances. It introduces no new behaviour.

The function returns the index at which the component was added.

Errors: If not enough memory is available to expand the list, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TObjectList.Add` (98)

7.9.6 `TComponentList.Extract`

Synopsis: Remove a component from the list without destroying it.

Declaration: `function Extract (Item: TComponent) : TComponent`

Visibility: public

Description: `Extract` removes a component (`Item`) from the list, without destroying it. It overrides the implementation of `TObjectList` (149) so only `TComponent` descendents can be extracted. It introduces no new behaviour.

`Extract` returns the instance that was extracted, or `Nil` if no instance was found.

See also: `TComponentList.Remove` (107), `TObjectList.Extract` (150)

7.9.7 `TComponentList.Remove`

Synopsis: Remove a component from the list, possibly destroying it.

Declaration: `function Remove (AComponent: TComponent) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Remove` removes `item` from the list, and if the list owns it's items, it also destroys it. It returns the index of the item that was removed, or -1 if no item was removed.

`Remove` simply overrides the implementation in `TObjectList` (149) so it only accepts `TComponent` descendents. It introduces no new behaviour.

Errors: None.

See also: `TComponentList.Extract` (107), `TObjectList.Remove` (151)

7.9.8 `TComponentList.IndexOf`

Synopsis: Search for an instance in the list

Declaration: `function IndexOf (AComponent: TComponent) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `IndexOf` searches for an instance in the list and returns it's position in the list. The position is zero-based. If no instance is found, -1 is returned.

`IndexOf` just overrides the implementation of the parent class so it accepts only `TComponent` instances. It introduces no new behaviour.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList.IndexOf` (151)

7.9.9 TComponentList.First

Synopsis: First non-nil instance in the list.

Declaration: `function First : TComponent`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `First` overrides the implementation of it's ancestors to return the first non-nil instance of `TComponent` in the list. If no non-nil instance is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TComponentList.Last` (108), `TObjectList.First` (152)

7.9.10 TComponentList.Last

Synopsis: Last non-nil instance in the list.

Declaration: `function Last : TComponent`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Last` overrides the implementation of it's ancestors to return the last non-nil instance of `TComponent` in the list. If no non-nil instance is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TComponentList.First` (108), `TObjectList.Last` (152)

7.9.11 TComponentList.Insert

Synopsis: Insert a new component in the list

Declaration: `procedure Insert (Index: Integer; AComponent: TComponent)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Insert` inserts a `TComponent` instance (`AComponent`) in the list at position `Index`. It simply overrides the parent implementation so it only accepts `TComponent` instances. It introduces no new behaviour.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList.Insert` (152), `TComponentList.Add` (106), `TComponentList.Remove` (107)

7.9.12 TComponentList.Items

Synopsis: Index-based access to the elements in the list.

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: Integer]: TComponent; default`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Items` provides access to the components in the list using an index. It simply overrides the default property of the parent classes so it returns/accepts `TComponent` instances only. Note that the index is zero based.

See also: `TObjectList.Items` (153)

7.10 TCustomBucketList

7.10.1 Description

TCustomBucketList is an associative list using buckets for storage. It scales better than a regular TList (??) list class, especially when an item must be searched in the list.

Since the list associates a data pointer with each item pointer, it follows that each item pointer must be unique, and can be added to the list only once.

The TCustomBucketList class does not determine the number of buckets or the bucket hash mechanism, this must be done by descendent classes such as TBucketList (102). TCustomBucketList only takes care of storage and retrieval of items in the various buckets.

Because TCustomBucketList is an abstract class - it does not determine the number of buckets - one should never instantiate an instance of TCustomBucketList, but always use a descendent class such as TCustomBucketList (109).

7.10.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 110 | Add | Add an item to the list |
| 110 | Assign | Assign one bucket list to another |
| 109 | Clear | Clear the list |
| 109 | Destroy | Frees the bucketlist from memory |
| 110 | Exists | Check if an item exists in the list. |
| 110 | Find | Find an item in the list |
| 111 | ForEach | Loop over all items. |
| 111 | Remove | Remove an item from the list. |

7.10.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 111 | Data | rw | Associative array for data pointers |

7.10.4 TCustomBucketList.Destroy

Synopsis: Frees the bucketlist from memory

Declaration: destructor Destroy; Override

Visibility: public

Description: Destroy frees all storage for the buckets from memory. The items themselves are not freed from memory.

7.10.5 TCustomBucketList.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the list

Declaration: procedure Clear

Visibility: public

Description: Clear clears the list. The items and their data themselves are not disposed of, this must be done separately. Clear only removes all references to the items from the list.

Errors: None.

See also: [TCustomBucketList.Add \(110\)](#)

7.10.6 TCustomBucketList.Add

Synopsis: Add an item to the list

Declaration: `function Add(AItem: Pointer; AData: Pointer) : Pointer`

Visibility: public

Description: Add adds AItem with it's associated AData to the list and returns AData.

Errors: If AItem is already in the list, an EListError exception will be raised.

See also: [TCustomBucketList.Exists \(110\)](#), [TCustomBucketList.Clear \(109\)](#)

7.10.7 TCustomBucketList.Assign

Synopsis: Assign one bucket list to another

Declaration: `procedure Assign(AList: TCustomBucketList)`

Visibility: public

Description: Assign is implemented by TCustomBucketList to copy the contents of another bucket list to the bucket list. It clears the contents prior to the copy operation.

See also: [TCustomBucketList.Add \(110\)](#), [TCustomBucketList.Clear \(109\)](#)

7.10.8 TCustomBucketList.Exists

Synopsis: Check if an item exists in the list.

Declaration: `function Exists(AItem: Pointer) : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: Exists searches the list and returns True if the AItem is already present in the list. If the item is not yet in the list, False is returned.

If the data pointer associated with AItem is also needed, then it is better to use [Find \(110\)](#).

See also: [TCustomBucketList.Find \(110\)](#)

7.10.9 TCustomBucketList.Find

Synopsis: Find an item in the list

Declaration: `function Find(AItem: Pointer; out AData: Pointer) : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: Find searches for AItem in the list and returns the data pointer associated with it in AData if the item was found. In that case the return value is True. If AItem is not found in the list, False is returned.

See also: [TCustomBucketList.Exists \(110\)](#)

7.10.10 TCustomBucketList.ForEach

Synopsis: Loop over all items.

Declaration: `function ForEach(AProc: TBucketProc; AInfo: Pointer) : Boolean`
`function ForEach(AProc: TBucketProcObject) : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: Foreach loops over all items in the list and calls AProc, passing it in turn each item in the list.

AProc exists in 2 variants: one which is a simple procedure, and one which is a method. In the case of the simple procedure, the AInfo argument is passed as well in each call to AProc.

The loop stops when all items have been processed, or when the AContinue argument of AProc contains False on return.

The result of the function is True if all items were processed, or False if the loop was interrupted with a AContinue return of False.

Errors: None.

See also: TCustomBucketList.Data (111)

7.10.11 TCustomBucketList.Remove

Synopsis: Remove an item from the list.

Declaration: `function Remove(AItem: Pointer) : Pointer`

Visibility: public

Description: Remove removes AItem from the list, and returns the associated data pointer of the removed item. If the item was not in the list, then Nil is returned.

See also: TCustomBucketList.Find (110)

7.10.12 TCustomBucketList.Data

Synopsis: Associative array for data pointers

Declaration: `Property Data[AItem: Pointer]: Pointer; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: Data provides direct access to the Data pointers associated with the AItem pointers. If AItem is not in the list of pointers, an EListError exception will be raised.

See also: TCustomBucketList.Find (110), TCustomBucketList.Exists (110)

7.11 TFPCustomHashTable

7.11.1 Description

TFPCustomHashTable is a general-purpose hashing class. It can store string keys and pointers associated with these strings. The hash mechanism is configurable and can be optionally be specified

when a new instance of the class is created; A default hash mechanism is implemented in `RSHash` (102).

A `TFPHasList` should be used when fast lookup of data based on some key is required. The other container objects only offer linear search methods, while the hash list offers faster search mechanisms.

7.11.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 113 | <code>ChangeTableSize</code> | Change the table size of the hash table. |
| 113 | <code>Clear</code> | Clear the hash table. |
| 112 | <code>Create</code> | Instantiate a new <code>TFPCustomHashTable</code> instance using the default hash mechanism |
| 112 | <code>CreateWith</code> | Instantiate a new <code>TFPCustomHashTable</code> instance with given algorithm and size |
| 114 | <code>Delete</code> | Delete a key from the hash list. |
| 113 | <code>Destroy</code> | Free the hash table. |
| 114 | <code>Find</code> | Search for an item with a certain key value. |
| 114 | <code>IsEmpty</code> | Check if the hash table is empty. |

7.11.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------|--|
| 116 | <code>AVGChainLen</code> | r | Average chain length |
| 115 | <code>Count</code> | r | Number of items in the hash table. |
| 117 | <code>Density</code> | r | Number of filled slots |
| 114 | <code>HashFunction</code> | rw | Hash function currently in use |
| 115 | <code>HashTable</code> | r | Hash table instance |
| 115 | <code>HashTableSize</code> | rw | Size of the hash table |
| 116 | <code>LoadFactor</code> | r | Fraction of count versus size |
| 116 | <code>MaxChainLength</code> | r | Maximum chain length |
| 117 | <code>NumberOfCollisions</code> | r | Number of extra items |
| 116 | <code>VoidSlots</code> | r | Number of empty slots in the hash table. |

7.11.4 `TFPCustomHashTable.Create`

Synopsis: Instantiate a new `TFPCustomHashTable` instance using the default hash mechanism

Declaration: `constructor Create`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of `TFPCustomHashTable` with hash size 196613 and hash algorithm `RSHash` (102)

Errors: If no memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.CreateWith` (112)

7.11.5 `TFPCustomHashTable.CreateWith`

Synopsis: Instantiate a new `TFPCustomHashTable` instance with given algorithm and size

Declaration: constructor `CreateWith(AHashTableSize: LongWord;
aHashFunc: THashFunction)`

Visibility: public

Description: `CreateWith` creates a new instance of `TFPCustomHashTable` with hash size `AHashTableSize` and hash calculating algorithm `aHashFunc`.

Errors: If no memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.Create` (112)

7.11.6 `TFPCustomHashTable.Destroy`

Synopsis: Free the hash table.

Declaration: destructor `Destroy`; `Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` removes the hash table from memory. If any data was associated with the keys in the hash table, then this data is not freed. This must be done by the programmer.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.Destroy` (113), `TFPCustomHashTable.Create` (112), `TFPCustomHashTable.CreateWith` (112), `THTCustomNode.Data` (145)

7.11.7 `TFPCustomHashTable.ChangeTableSize`

Synopsis: Change the table size of the hash table.

Declaration: procedure `ChangeTableSize(const ANewSize: LongWord)`; `Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `ChangeTableSize` changes the size of the hash table: it recomputes the hash value for all of the keys in the table, so this is an expensive operation.

Errors: If no memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.HashTableSize` (115)

7.11.8 `TFPCustomHashTable.Clear`

Synopsis: Clear the hash table.

Declaration: procedure `Clear`; `Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Clear` removes all keys and their associated data from the hash table. The data itself is not freed from memory, this should be done by the programmer.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.Destroy` (113)

7.11.9 TFPCustomHashTable.Delete

Synopsis: Delete a key from the hash list.

Declaration: `procedure Delete(const aKey: String); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Delete` deletes all keys with value `AKey` from the hash table. It does not free the data associated with key. If `AKey` is not in the list, nothing is removed.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.Find` (114), `TFPCustomHashTable.Add` (111)

7.11.10 TFPCustomHashTable.Find

Synopsis: Search for an item with a certain key value.

Declaration: `function Find(const aKey: String) : THTCustomNode`

Visibility: public

Description: `Find` searches for the `THTCustomNode` (145) instance with key value equal to `Akey` and if it finds it, it returns the instance. If no matching value is found, `Nil` is returned.

Note that the instance returned by this function cannot be freed; If it should be removed from the hash table, the `Delete` (114) method should be used instead.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.Add` (111), `TFPCustomHashTable.Delete` (114)

7.11.11 TFPCustomHashTable.IsEmpty

Synopsis: Check if the hash table is empty.

Declaration: `function IsEmpty : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `IsEmpty` returns `True` if the hash table contains no elements, or `False` if there are still elements in the hash table.

Errors:

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.Count` (115), `TFPCustomHashTable.HashTableSize` (115), `TFPCustomHashTable.AVGChainLen` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.MaxChainLength` (116)

7.11.12 TFPCustomHashTable.HashFunction

Synopsis: Hash function currently in use

Declaration: `Property HashFunction : THashFunction`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `HashFunction` is the hash function currently in use to calculate hash values from keys. The property can be set, this simply calls `SetHashFunction` (111). Note that setting the hash function does NOT the hash value of all keys to be recomputed, so changing the value while there are still keys in the table is not a good idea.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.SetHashFunction` (111), `TFPCustomHashTable.HashTableSize` (115)

7.11.13 `TFPCustomHashTable.Count`

Synopsis: Number of items in the hash table.

Declaration: `Property Count : LongWord`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Count` is the number of items in the hash table.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.IsEmpty` (114), `TFPCustomHashTable.HashTableSize` (115), `TFPCustomHashTable.AVGChainLen` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.MaxChainLength` (116)

7.11.14 `TFPCustomHashTable.HashTableSize`

Synopsis: Size of the hash table

Declaration: `Property HashTableSize : LongWord`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `HashTableSize` is the size of the hash table. It can be set, in which case it will be rounded to the nearest prime number suitable for RSHash.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.IsEmpty` (114), `TFPCustomHashTable.Count` (115), `TFPCustomHashTable.AVGChainLen` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.MaxChainLength` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.VoidSlots` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.Density` (117)

7.11.15 `TFPCustomHashTable.HashTable`

Synopsis: Hash table instance

Declaration: `Property HashTable : TFPObjectList`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `TFPCustomHashTable` is the internal list object (`TFPObjectList` (137)) used for the hash table. Each element in this table is again a `TFPObjectList` (137) instance or `Nil`.

7.11.16 TFPCustomHashTable.VoidSlots

Synopsis: Number of empty slots in the hash table.

Declaration: Property VoidSlots : LongWord

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: VoidSlots is the number of empty slots in the hash table. Calculating this is an expensive operation.

See also: TFPCustomHashTable.IsEmpty (114), TFPCustomHashTable.Count (115), TFPCustomHashTable.AVGChainLen (116), TFPCustomHashTable.MaxChainLength (116), TFPCustomHashTable.LoadFactor (116), TFPCustomHashTable.Density (117), TFPCustomHashTable.NumberOfCollisions (117)

7.11.17 TFPCustomHashTable.LoadFactor

Synopsis: Fraction of count versus size

Declaration: Property LoadFactor : double

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: LoadFactor is the ratio of elements in the table versus table size. Ideally, this should be as small as possible.

See also: TFPCustomHashTable.IsEmpty (114), TFPCustomHashTable.Count (115), TFPCustomHashTable.AVGChainLen (116), TFPCustomHashTable.MaxChainLength (116), TFPCustomHashTable.VoidSlots (116), TFPCustomHashTable.Density (117), TFPCustomHashTable.NumberOfCollisions (117)

7.11.18 TFPCustomHashTable.AVGChainLen

Synopsis: Average chain length

Declaration: Property AVGChainLen : double

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: AVGChainLen is the average chain length, i.e. the ratio of elements in the table versus the number of filled slots. Calculating this is an expensive operation.

See also: TFPCustomHashTable.IsEmpty (114), TFPCustomHashTable.Count (115), TFPCustomHashTable.LoadFactor (116), TFPCustomHashTable.MaxChainLength (116), TFPCustomHashTable.VoidSlots (116), TFPCustomHashTable.Density (117), TFPCustomHashTable.NumberOfCollisions (117)

7.11.19 TFPCustomHashTable.MaxChainLength

Synopsis: Maximum chain length

Declaration: Property MaxChainLength : LongWord

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `MaxChainLength` is the length of the longest chain in the hash table. Calculating this is an expensive operation.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.IsEmpty` (114), `TFPCustomHashTable.Count` (115), `TFPCustomHashTable.LoadFactor` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.AvgChainLength` (111), `TFPCustomHashTable.VoidSlots` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.Density` (117), `TFPCustomHashTable.NumberOfCollisions` (117)

7.11.20 `TFPCustomHashTable.NumberOfCollisions`

Synopsis: Number of extra items

Declaration: Property `NumberOfCollisions` : LongWord

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `NumberOfCollisions` is the number of items which are not the first item in a chain. If this number is too big, the hash size may be too small.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.IsEmpty` (114), `TFPCustomHashTable.Count` (115), `TFPCustomHashTable.LoadFactor` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.AvgChainLength` (111), `TFPCustomHashTable.VoidSlots` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.Density` (117)

7.11.21 `TFPCustomHashTable.Density`

Synopsis: Number of filled slots

Declaration: Property `Density` : LongWord

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Density` is the number of filled slots in the hash table.

See also: `TFPCustomHashTable.IsEmpty` (114), `TFPCustomHashTable.Count` (115), `TFPCustomHashTable.LoadFactor` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.AvgChainLength` (111), `TFPCustomHashTable.VoidSlots` (116), `TFPCustomHashTable.Density` (117)

7.12 `TFPDataHashTable`

7.12.1 Description

`TFPDataHashTable` is a `TFPCustomHashTable` (111) descendent which stores simple data pointers together with the keys. In case the data associated with the keys are objects, it's better to use `TFPObjectHashTable` (135), or for string data, `TFPStringHashTable` (144) is more suitable. The data pointers are exposed with their keys through the `Items` (118) property.

7.12.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 118 | Add | Add a data pointer to the list. |

7.12.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|--|
| 118 | Items | rw | Key-based access to the items in the table |

7.12.4 TFPDataHashTable.Add

Synopsis: Add a data pointer to the list.

Declaration: `procedure Add(const aKey: String; AItem: pointer); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: Add adds a data pointer (AItem) to the list with key AKey.

Errors: If AKey already exists in the table, an exception is raised.

See also: TFPDataHashTable.Items ([118](#))

7.12.5 TFPDataHashTable.Items

Synopsis: Key-based access to the items in the table

Declaration: `Property Items[index: String]: Pointer; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: Items provides access to the items in the hash table using their key: the array index Index is the key. A key which is not present will result in an Nil pointer.

See also: TFPStringHashTable.Add ([144](#))

7.13 TFPHashList

7.13.1 Description

TFPHashList implements a fast hash class. The class is built for speed, therefore the key values can be shortstrings only, and the data can only be pointers.

if a base class for an own hash class is wanted, the TFPCustomHashTable ([111](#)) class can be used. If a hash class for objects is needed instead of pointers, the TFPHashObjectList ([128](#)) class can be used.

7.13.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 120 | Add | Add a new key/data pair to the list |
| 120 | Clear | Clear the list |
| 119 | Create | Create a new instance of the hashlist |
| 121 | Delete | Delete an item from the list. |
| 119 | Destroy | Removes an instance of the hashlist from the heap |
| 121 | Error | Raise an error |
| 121 | Expand | Expand the list |
| 122 | Extract | Extract a pointer from the list |
| 122 | Find | Find data associated with key |
| 122 | FindIndexOf | Return index of named item. |
| 123 | FindWithHash | Find first element with given name and hash value |
| 124 | ForEachCall | Call a procedure for each element in the list |
| 121 | GetNextCollision | Get next collision number |
| 120 | HashOfIndex | Return the hash value of an item by index |
| 122 | IndexOf | Return the index of the data pointer |
| 120 | NameOfIndex | Returns the key name of an item by index |
| 123 | Pack | Remove nil pointers from the list |
| 123 | Remove | Remove first instance of a pointer |
| 123 | Rename | Rename a key |
| 124 | ShowStatistics | Return some statistics for the list. |

7.13.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---|
| 124 | Capacity | rw | Capacity of the list. |
| 124 | Count | rw | Current number of elements in the list. |
| 125 | Items | rw | Indexed array with pointers |
| 125 | List | r | Low-level hash list |
| 125 | Strs | r | Low-level memory area with strings. |

7.13.4 TFPHashList.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the hashlist

Declaration: constructor `Create`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of `TFPHashList` on the heap and sets the hash capacity to 1.

See also: `TFPHashList.Destroy` ([119](#))

7.13.5 TFPHashList.Destroy

Synopsis: Removes an instance of the hashlist from the heap

Declaration: destructor `Destroy`; `Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the memory structures maintained by the hashlist and removes the `TFPHashList` instance from the heap.

`Destroy` should not be called directly, it's better to use `Free` or `FreeAndNil` instead.

See also: [TFPHashList.Create \(119\)](#), [TFPHashList.Clear \(120\)](#)

7.13.6 TFPHashList.Add

Synopsis: Add a new key/data pair to the list

Declaration: `function Add(const AName: shortstring;Item: Pointer) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Add` adds a new data pointer (`Item`) with key `AName` to the list. It returns the position of the item in the list.

Errors: If not enough memory is available to hold the key and data, an exception may be raised.

See also: [TFPHashList.Extract \(122\)](#), [TFPHashList.Remove \(123\)](#), [TFPHashList.Delete \(121\)](#)

7.13.7 TFPHashList.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the list

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: public

Description: `Clear` removes all items from the list. It does not free the data items themselves. It frees all memory needed to contain the items.

Errors: None.

See also: [TFPHashList.Extract \(122\)](#), [TFPHashList.Remove \(123\)](#), [TFPHashList.Delete \(121\)](#), [TFPHashList.Add \(120\)](#)

7.13.8 TFPHashList.NameOfIndex

Synopsis: Returns the key name of an item by index

Declaration: `function NameOfIndex(Index: Integer) : ShortString`

Visibility: public

Description: `NameOfIndex` returns the key name of the item at position `Index`.

Errors: If `Index` is out of the valid range, an exception is raised.

See also: [TFPHashList.HashOfIndex \(120\)](#), [TFPHashList.Find \(122\)](#), [TFPHashList.FindIndexOf \(122\)](#), [TFPHashList.FindWithHash \(123\)](#)

7.13.9 TFPHashList.HashOfIndex

Synopsis: Return the hash value of an item by index

Declaration: `function HashOfIndex(Index: Integer) : LongWord`

Visibility: public

Description: `HashOfIndex` returns the hash value of the item at position `Index`.

Errors: If `Index` is out of the valid range, an exception is raised.

See also: `TFPHashList.HashOfName` (118), `TFPHashList.Find` (122), `TFPHashList.FindIndexOf` (122), `TFPHashList.FindWithHash` (123)

7.13.10 TFPHashList.GetNextCollision

Synopsis: Get next collision number

Declaration: `function GetNextCollision(Index: Integer) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetNextCollision` returns the next collision in hash item `Index`. This is the count of items with the same hash.means that the next it

Errors:

7.13.11 TFPHashList.Delete

Synopsis: Delete an item from the list.

Declaration: `procedure Delete(Index: Integer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Delete` deletes the item at position `Index`. The data to which it points is not freed from memory.

Errors: `TFPHashList.Extract` (122)`TFPHashList.Remove` (123)`TFPHashList.Add` (120)

7.13.12 TFPHashList.Error

Synopsis: Raise an error

Declaration: `procedure Error(const Msg: String;Data: PtrInt)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Error` raises an `EListError` exception, with message `Msg`. The `Data` pointer is used to format the message.

7.13.13 TFPHashList.Expand

Synopsis: Expand the list

Declaration: `function Expand : TFPHashList`

Visibility: public

Description: `Expand` enlarges the capacity of the list if the maximum capacity was reached. It returns itself.

Errors: If not enough memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TFPHashList.Clear` (120)

7.13.14 TFPHashList.Extract

Synopsis: Extract a pointer from the list

Declaration: `function Extract(item: Pointer) : Pointer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Extract` removes the data item from the list, if it is in the list. It returns the pointer if it was removed from the list, `Nil` otherwise.

`Extract` does a linear search, and is not very efficient.

See also: `TFPHashList.Delete` (121), `TFPHashList.Remove` (123), `TFPHashList.Clear` (120)

7.13.15 TFPHashList.IndexOf

Synopsis: Return the index of the data pointer

Declaration: `function IndexOf(Item: Pointer) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `IndexOf` returns the index of the first occurrence of pointer `Item`. If the item is not in the list, -1 is returned.

The performed search is linear, and not very efficient.

See also: `TFPHashList.HashOfIndex` (120), `TFPHashList.NameOfIndex` (120), `TFPHashList.Find` (122), `TFPHashList.FindIndexOf` (122), `TFPHashList.FindWithHash` (123)

7.13.16 TFPHashList.Find

Synopsis: Find data associated with key

Declaration: `function Find(const AName: shortstring) : Pointer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Find` searches (using the hash) for the data item associated with item `AName` and returns the data pointer associated with it. If the item is not found, `Nil` is returned. It uses the hash value of the key to perform the search.

See also: `TFPHashList.HashOfIndex` (120), `TFPHashList.NameOfIndex` (120), `TFPHashList.IndexOf` (122), `TFPHashList.FindIndexOf` (122), `TFPHashList.FindWithHash` (123)

7.13.17 TFPHashList.FindIndexOf

Synopsis: Return index of named item.

Declaration: `function FindIndexOf(const AName: shortstring) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindIndexOf` returns the index of the key `AName`, or -1 if the key does not exist in the list. It uses the hash value to search for the key.

See also: `TFPHashList.HashOfIndex` (120), `TFPHashList.NameOfIndex` (120), `TFPHashList.IndexOf` (122), `TFPHashList.Find` (122), `TFPHashList.FindWithHash` (123)

7.13.18 TFPHashList.FindWithHash

Synopsis: Find first element with given name and hash value

Declaration: `function FindWithHash(const AName: shortstring; AHash: LongWord)
: Pointer`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindWithHash` searches for the item with key `AName`. It uses the provided hash value `AHash` to perform the search. If the item exists, the data pointer is returned, if not, the result is `Nil`.

See also: `TFPHashList.HashOfIndex` (120), `TFPHashList.NameOfIndex` (120), `TFPHashList.IndexOf` (122), `TFPHashList.Find` (122), `TFPHashList.FindIndexOf` (122)

7.13.19 TFPHashList.Rename

Synopsis: Rename a key

Declaration: `function Rename(const AOldName: shortstring; const ANewName: shortstring)
: Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Rename` renames key `AOldname` to `ANewName`. The hash value is recomputed and the item is moved in the list to its new position.

Errors: If an item with `ANewName` already exists, an exception will be raised.

7.13.20 TFPHashList.Remove

Synopsis: Remove first instance of a pointer

Declaration: `function Remove(Item: Pointer) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Remove` removes the first occurrence of the data pointer `Item` in the list, if it is present. The return value is the removed data pointer, or `Nil` if no data pointer was removed.

See also: `TFPHashList.Delete` (121), `TFPHashList.Clear` (120), `TFPHashList.Extract` (122)

7.13.21 TFPHashList.Pack

Synopsis: Remove nil pointers from the list

Declaration: `procedure Pack`

Visibility: public

Description: `Pack` removes all `Nil` items from the list, and frees all unused memory.

See also: `TFPHashList.Clear` (120)

7.13.22 TFPHashList.ShowStatistics

Synopsis: Return some statistics for the list.

Declaration: `procedure ShowStatistics`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ShowStatistics` prints some information about the hash list to standard output. It prints the following values:

HashSize Size of the hash table

HashMean Mean hash value

HashStdDev Standard deviation of hash values

ListSize Size and capacity of the list

StringSize Size and capacity of key strings

7.13.23 TFPHashList.ForEachCall

Synopsis: Call a procedure for each element in the list

Declaration: `procedure ForEachCall(proc2call: TListCallback; arg: pointer)`
`procedure ForEachCall(proc2call: TListStaticCallback; arg: pointer)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ForEachCall` loops over the items in the list and calls `proc2call`, passing it the item and `arg`.

7.13.24 TFPHashList.Capacity

Synopsis: Capacity of the list.

Declaration: `Property Capacity : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read, Write`

Description: `Capacity` returns the current capacity of the list. The capacity is expanded as more elements are added to the list. If a good estimate of the number of elements that will be added to the list, the property can be set to a sufficiently large value to avoid reallocation of memory each time the list needs to grow.

See also: `TFPHashList.Count` ([124](#)), `TFPHashList.Items` ([125](#))

7.13.25 TFPHashList.Count

Synopsis: Current number of elements in the list.

Declaration: `Property Count : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read, Write`

Description: `Count` is the current number of elements in the list.

See also: `TFPHashList.Capacity` ([124](#)), `TFPHashList.Items` ([125](#))

7.13.26 TFPHashList.Items

Synopsis: Indexed array with pointers

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: Integer]: Pointer; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Items` provides indexed access to the pointers, the index runs from 0 to Count-1 (124).

Errors: Specifying an invalid index will result in an exception.

See also: `TFPHashList.Capacity` (124), `TFPHashList.Count` (124)

7.13.27 TFPHashList.List

Synopsis: Low-level hash list

Declaration: `Property List : PHashItemList`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `List` exposes the low-level item list (101). It should not be used directly.

See also: `TFPHashList.Strs` (125), `THashItemList` (101)

7.13.28 TFPHashList.Strs

Synopsis: Low-level memory area with strings.

Declaration: `Property Strs : PChar`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Strs` exposes the raw memory area with the strings.

See also: `TFPHashList.List` (125)

7.14 TFPHashObject

7.14.1 Description

`TFPHashObject` is a `TObject` descendent which is aware of the `TFPHashObjectList` (128) class. It has a `name` property and an owning list: if the name is changed, it will reposition itself in the list which owns it. It offers methods to change the owning list: the object will correctly remove itself from the list which currently owns it, and insert itself in the new list.

7.14.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| 126 | ChangeOwner | Change the list owning the object. |
| 127 | ChangeOwnerAndName | Simultaneously change the list owning the object and the name of the object. |
| 126 | Create | Create a named instance, and insert in a hash list. |
| 126 | CreateNotOwned | Create an instance not owned by any list. |
| 127 | Rename | Rename the object |

7.14.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|----------------------------|
| 127 | Hash | r | Hash value |
| 127 | Name | r | Current name of the object |

7.14.4 TFPHashObject.CreateNotOwned

Synopsis: Create an instance not owned by any list.

Declaration: `constructor CreateNotOwned`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CreateNotOwned` creates an instance of `TFPHashObject` which is not owned by any `TFPHashObjectList` ([128](#)) hash list. It also has no name when created in this way.

See also: `TFPHashObject.Name` ([127](#)), `TFPHashObject.ChangeOwner` ([126](#)), `TFPHashObject.ChangeOwnerAndName` ([127](#))

7.14.5 TFPHashObject.Create

Synopsis: Create a named instance, and insert in a hash list.

Declaration: `constructor Create (HashObjectList: TFPHashObjectList;
const s: shortstring)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates an instance of `TFPHashObject`, gives it the name `S` and inserts it in the hash list `HashObjectList` ([128](#)).

See also: `TFPHashObject.CreateNotOwned` ([126](#)), `TFPHashObject.ChangeOwner` ([126](#)), `TFPHashObject.Name` ([127](#))

7.14.6 TFPHashObject.ChangeOwner

Synopsis: Change the list owning the object.

Declaration: `procedure ChangeOwner (HashObjectList: TFPHashObjectList)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ChangeOwner` can be used to move the object between hash lists: The object will be removed correctly from the hash list that currently owns it, and will be inserted in the list `HashObjectList`.

Errors: If an object with the same name already is present in the new hash list, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TFPHashObject.ChangeOwnerAndName` ([127](#)), `TFPHashObject.Name` ([127](#))

7.14.7 TFPHashObject.ChangeOwnerAndName

Synopsis: Simultaneously change the list owning the object and the name of the object.

Declaration: `procedure ChangeOwnerAndName (HashObjectList: TFPHashObjectList;
const s: shortstring)`

Visibility: public

Description: `ChangeOwnerAndName` can be used to move the object between hash lists: The object will be removed correctly from the hash list that currently owns it (using the current name), and will be inserted in the list `HashObjectList` with the new name `S`.

Errors: If the new name already is present in the new hash list, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TFPHashObject.ChangeOwner` (126), `TFPHashObject.Name` (127)

7.14.8 TFPHashObject.Rename

Synopsis: Rename the object

Declaration: `procedure Rename (const ANewName: shortstring)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Rename` changes the name of the object, and notifies the hash list of this change.

Errors: If the new name already is present in the hash list, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TFPHashObject.ChangeOwner` (126), `TFPHashObject.ChangeOwnerAndName` (127), `TFPHashObject.Name` (127)

7.14.9 TFPHashObject.Name

Synopsis: Current name of the object

Declaration: `Property Name : shortstring`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Name` is the name of the object, it is stored in the hash list using this name as the key.

See also: `TFPHashObject.Rename` (127), `TFPHashObject.ChangeOwnerAndName` (127)

7.14.10 TFPHashObject.Hash

Synopsis: Hash value

Declaration: `Property Hash : LongWord`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Hash` is the hash value of the object in the hash list that owns it.

See also: `TFPHashObject.Name` (127)

7.15 TFPHashObjectList

7.15.1 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 129 | Add | Add a new key/data pair to the list |
| 129 | Clear | Clear the list |
| 128 | Create | Create a new instance of the hashlist |
| 130 | Delete | Delete an object from the list. |
| 128 | Destroy | Removes an instance of the hashlist from the heap |
| 130 | Expand | Expand the list |
| 131 | Extract | Extract a object instance from the list |
| 131 | Find | Find data associated with key |
| 132 | FindIndexOf | Return index of named object. |
| 132 | FindInstanceOf | Search an instance of a certain class |
| 132 | FindWithHash | Find first element with given name and hash value |
| 133 | ForEachCall | Call a procedure for each object in the list |
| 130 | GetNextCollision | Get next collision number |
| 130 | HashOfIndex | Return the hash valye of an object by index |
| 131 | IndexOf | Return the index of the object instance |
| 129 | NameOfIndex | Returns the key name of an object by index |
| 133 | Pack | Remove nil object instances from the list |
| 131 | Remove | Remove first occurrence of a object instance |
| 132 | Rename | Rename a key |
| 133 | ShowStatistics | Return some statistics for the list. |

7.15.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|---|
| 133 | Capacity | rw | Capacity of the list. |
| 134 | Count | rw | Current number of elements in the list. |
| 134 | Items | rw | Indexed array with object instances |
| 134 | List | r | Low-level hash list |
| 134 | OwnsObjects | rw | Does the list own the objects it contains |

7.15.3 TFPHashObjectList.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the hashlist

Declaration: `constructor Create(FreeObjects: Boolean)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of `TFPHashObjectList` on the heap and sets the hash capacity to 1.

If `FreeObjects` is `True` (the default), then the list owns the objects: when an object is removed from the list, it is destroyed (freed from memory). Clearing the list will free all objects in the list.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Destroy` ([128](#)), `TFPHashObjectList.OwnsObjects` ([134](#))

7.15.4 TFPHashObjectList.Destroy

Synopsis: Removes an instance of the hashlist from the heap

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the memory structures maintained by the hashlist and removes the `TFPHashObjectList` instance from the heap. If the list owns its objects, they are freed from memory as well.

`Destroy` should not be called directly, it's better to use `Free` or `FreeAndNil` instead.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Create` (128), `TFPHashObjectList.Clear` (129)

7.15.5 TFPHashObjectList.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the list

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Clear` removes all objects from the list. It does not free the objects themselves, unless `OwnsObjects` (134) is `True`. It always frees all memory needed to contain the objects.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Extract` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.Remove` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.Delete` (130), `TFPHashObjectList.Add` (129)

7.15.6 TFPHashObjectList.Add

Synopsis: Add a new key/data pair to the list

Declaration: `function Add(const AName: shortstring; AObject: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Add` adds a new object instance (`AObject`) with key `AName` to the list. It returns the position of the object in the list.

Errors: If not enough memory is available to hold the key and data, an exception may be raised. If an object with this name already exists in the list, an exception is raised.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Extract` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.Remove` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.Delete` (130)

7.15.7 TFPHashObjectList.NameOfIndex

Synopsis: Returns the key name of an object by index

Declaration: `function NameOfIndex(Index: Integer) : ShortString`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `NameOfIndex` returns the key name of the object at position `Index`.

Errors: If `Index` is out of the valid range, an exception is raised.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.HashOfIndex` (130), `TFPHashObjectList.Find` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.FindIndexOf` (132), `TFPHashObjectList.FindWithHash` (132)

7.15.8 TFPHashObjectList.HashOfIndex

Synopsis: Return the hash value of an object by index

Declaration: `function HashOfIndex(Index: Integer) : LongWord`

Visibility: public

Description: `HashOfIndex` returns the hash value of the object at position `Index`.

Errors: If `Index` is out of the valid range, an exception is raised.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.HashOfName` (128), `TFPHashObjectList.Find` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.FindIndexOf` (132), `TFPHashObjectList.FindWithHash` (132)

7.15.9 TFPHashObjectList.GetNextCollision

Synopsis: Get next collision number

Declaration: `function GetNextCollision(Index: Integer) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: Get next collision number

Errors:

7.15.10 TFPHashObjectList.Delete

Synopsis: Delete an object from the list.

Declaration: `procedure Delete(Index: Integer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Delete` deletes the object at position `Index`. If `OwnsObjects` (134) is `True`, then the object itself is also freed from memory.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Extract` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.Remove` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.Add` (129), `TFPHashObjectList.OwnsObjects` (134)

7.15.11 TFPHashObjectList.Expand

Synopsis: Expand the list

Declaration: `function Expand : TFPHashObjectList`

Visibility: public

Description: `Expand` enlarges the capacity of the list if the maximum capacity was reached. It returns itself.

Errors: If not enough memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Clear` (129)

7.15.12 TFPHashObjectList.Extract

Synopsis: Extract a object instance from the list

Declaration: `function Extract (Item: TObject) : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Extract` removes the data object from the list, if it is in the list. It returns the object instance if it was removed from the list, `Nil` otherwise. The object is *not* freed from memory, regardless of the value of `OwnsObjects` (134).

`Extract` does a linear search, and is not very efficient.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Delete` (130), `TFPHashObjectList.Remove` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.Clear` (129)

7.15.13 TFPHashObjectList.Remove

Synopsis: Remove first occurrence of a object instance

Declaration: `function Remove (AObject: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Remove` removes the first occurrence of the object instance `Item` in the list, if it is present. The return value is the location of the removed object instance, or `-1` if no object instance was removed.

If `OwnsObjects` (134) is `True`, then the object itself is also freed from memory.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Delete` (130), `TFPHashObjectList.Clear` (129), `TFPHashObjectList.Extract` (131)

7.15.14 TFPHashObjectList.IndexOf

Synopsis: Return the index of the object instance

Declaration: `function IndexOf (AObject: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `IndexOf` returns the index of the first occurrence of object instance `AObject`. If the object is not in the list, `-1` is returned.

The performed search is linear, and not very efficient.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.HashOfIndex` (130), `TFPHashObjectList.NameOfIndex` (129), `TFPHashObjectList.Find` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.FindIndexOf` (132), `TFPHashObjectList.FindWithHash` (132)

7.15.15 TFPHashObjectList.Find

Synopsis: Find data associated with key

Declaration: `function Find (const s: shortstring) : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Find` searches (using the hash) for the data object associated with key `AName` and returns the data object instance associated with it. If the object is not found, `Nil` is returned. It uses the hash value of the key to perform the search.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.HashOfIndex` (130), `TFPHashObjectList.NameOfIndex` (129), `TFPHashObjectList.IndexOf` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.FindIndexOf` (132), `TFPHashObjectList.FindWithHash` (132)

7.15.16 TFPHashObjectList.FindIndexOf

Synopsis: Return index of named object.

Declaration: `function FindIndexOf(const s: shortstring) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindIndexOf` returns the index of the key `AName`, or -1 if the key does not exist in the list. It uses the hash value to search for the key.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.HashOfIndex` (130), `TFPHashObjectList.NameOfIndex` (129), `TFPHashObjectList.IndexOf` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.Find` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.FindWithHash` (132)

7.15.17 TFPHashObjectList.FindWithHash

Synopsis: Find first element with given name and hash value

Declaration: `function FindWithHash(const AName: shortstring; AHash: LongWord)
: Pointer`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindWithHash` searches for the object with key `AName`. It uses the provided hash value `AHash` to perform the search. If the object exists, the data object instance is returned, if not, the result is `Nil`.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.HashOfIndex` (130), `TFPHashObjectList.NameOfIndex` (129), `TFPHashObjectList.IndexOf` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.Find` (131), `TFPHashObjectList.FindIndexOf` (132)

7.15.18 TFPHashObjectList.Rename

Synopsis: Rename a key

Declaration: `function Rename(const AOldName: shortstring; const ANewName: shortstring)
: Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Rename` renames key `AOldname` to `ANewName`. The hash value is recomputed and the object is moved in the list to it's new position.

Errors: If an object with `ANewName` already exists, an exception will be raised.

7.15.19 TFPHashObjectList.FindInstanceOf

Synopsis: Search an instance of a certain class

Declaration: `function FindInstanceOf(AClass: TClass; AExact: Boolean;
AStartAt: Integer) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindInstanceOf` searches the list for an instance of class `AClass`. It starts searching at position `AStartAt`. If `AExact` is `True`, only instances of class `AClass` are considered. If `AExact` is `False`, then descendent classes of `AClass` are also taken into account when searching. If no instance is found, `Nil` is returned.

7.15.20 TFPHashObjectList.Pack

Synopsis: Remove nil object instances from the list

Declaration: `procedure Pack`

Visibility: public

Description: `Pack` removes all `Nil` objects from the list, and frees all unused memory.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Clear` ([129](#))

7.15.21 TFPHashObjectList.ShowStatistics

Synopsis: Return some statistics for the list.

Declaration: `procedure ShowStatistics`

Visibility: public

Description: `ShowStatistics` prints some information about the hash list to standard output. It prints the following values:

HashSizeSize of the hash table

HashMeanMean hash value

HashStdDevStandard deviation of hash values

ListSizeSize and capacity of the list

StringSizeSize and capacity of key strings

7.15.22 TFPHashObjectList.ForEachCall

Synopsis: Call a procedure for each object in the list

Declaration: `procedure ForEachCall(proc2call: TObjectListCallback;arg: pointer)`
`procedure ForEachCall(proc2call: TObjectListStaticCallback;arg: pointer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `ForEachCall` loops over the objects in the list and calls `proc2call`, passing it the object and `arg`.

7.15.23 TFPHashObjectList.Capacity

Synopsis: Capacity of the list.

Declaration: `Property Capacity : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Capacity` returns the current capacity of the list. The capacity is expanded as more elements are added to the list. If a good estimate of the number of elements that will be added to the list, the property can be set to a sufficiently large value to avoid reallocation of memory each time the list needs to grow.

See also: `TFPHashObjectList.Count` ([134](#)), `TFPHashObjectList.Items` ([134](#))

7.15.24 TFPHashObjectList.Count

Synopsis: Current number of elements in the list.

Declaration: `Property Count : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Count` is the current number of elements in the list.

See also: [TFPHashObjectList.Capacity \(133\)](#), [TFPHashObjectList.Items \(134\)](#)

7.15.25 TFPHashObjectList.OwnsObjects

Synopsis: Does the list own the objects it contains

Declaration: `Property OwnsObjects : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `OwnsObjects` determines what to do when an object is removed from the list: if it is `True` (the default), then the list owns the objects: when an object is removed from the list, it is destroyed (freed from memory). Clearing the list will free all objects in the list.

The value of `OwnsObjects` is set when the hash list is created, and cannot be changed during the lifetime of the hash list.

See also: [TFPHashObjectList.Create \(128\)](#)

7.15.26 TFPHashObjectList.Items

Synopsis: Indexed array with object instances

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: Integer]: TObject; default`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Items` provides indexed access to the object instances, the index runs from 0 to `Count-1` ([134](#)).

Errors: Specifying an invalid index will result in an exception.

See also: [TFPHashObjectList.Capacity \(133\)](#), [TFPHashObjectList.Count \(134\)](#)

7.15.27 TFPHashObjectList.List

Synopsis: Low-level hash list

Declaration: `Property List : TFPHashList`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `List` exposes the low-level hash list ([118](#)). It should not be used directly.

See also: [TFPHashList \(118\)](#)

7.16 TFPOjectHashTable

7.16.1 Description

TFPStringHashTable is a TFPCustomHashTable (111) descendent which stores object instances together with the keys. In case the data associated with the keys are strings themselves, it's better to use TFPStringHashTable (144), or for arbitrary pointer data, TFPDataHashTable (117) is more suitable. The objects are exposed with their keys through the Items (136) property.

7.16.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|------------|---|
| 136 | Add | Add a new object to the hash table |
| 135 | Create | Create a new instance of TFPOjectHashTable |
| 135 | CreateWith | Create a new hash table with given size and hash function |

7.16.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|-------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 136 | Items | rw | Key-based access to the objects |
| 136 | OwnsObjects | rw | Does the hash table own the objects ? |

7.16.4 TFPOjectHashTable.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of TFPOjectHashTable

Declaration: constructor Create(AOwnsObjects: Boolean)

Visibility: public

Description: Create creates a new instance of TFPOjectHashTable on the heap. It sets the OwnsObjects (136) property to AOwnsObjects, and then calls the inherited Create. If AOwnsObjects is set to True, then the hash table owns the objects: whenever an object is removed from the list, it is automatically freed.

Errors: If not enough memory is available on the heap, an exception may be raised.

See also: TFPOjectHashTable.OwnsObjects (136), TFPOjectHashTable.CreateWith (135), TFPOjectHashTable.Items (136)

7.16.5 TFPOjectHashTable.CreateWith

Synopsis: Create a new hash table with given size and hash function

Declaration: constructor CreateWith(AHashTableSize: LongWord;
aHashFunc: THashFunction; AOwnsObjects: Boolean)

Visibility: public

Description: CreateWith sets the OwnsObjects (136) property to AOwnsObjects, and then calls the inherited CreateWith. If AOwnsObjects is set to True, then the hash table owns the objects: whenever an object is removed from the list, it is automatically freed.

This constructor should be used when a table size and hash algorithm should be specified that differ from the default table size and hash algorithm.

Errors: If not enough memory is available on the heap, an exception may be raised.

See also: [TFPObjectHashTable.OwnsObjects \(136\)](#), [TFPObjectHashTable.Create \(135\)](#), [TFPObjectHashTable.Items \(136\)](#)

7.16.6 TFPObjectHashTable.Add

Synopsis: Add a new object to the hash table

Declaration: `procedure Add(const aKey: String; AItem: TObject); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: Add adds the object `AItem` to the hash table, and associates it with key `aKey`.

Errors: If the key `aKey` is already in the hash table, an exception will be raised.

See also: [TFPObjectHashTable.Items \(136\)](#)

7.16.7 TFPObjectHashTable.Items

Synopsis: Key-based access to the objects

Declaration: `Property Items[index: String]: TObject; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Items` provides access to the objects in the hash table using their key: the array index `Index` is the key. A key which is not present will result in an `Nil` instance.

See also: [TFPObjectHashTable.Add \(136\)](#)

7.16.8 TFPObjectHashTable.OwnsObjects

Synopsis: Does the hash table own the objects ?

Declaration: `Property OwnsObjects : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `OwnsObjects` determines what happens with objects which are removed from the hash table: if `True`, then removing an object from the hash list will free the object. If `False`, the object is not freed. Note that way in which the object is removed is not relevant: be it `Delete`, `Remove` or `Clear`.

See also: [TFPObjectHashTable.Create \(135\)](#), [TFPObjectHashTable.Items \(136\)](#)

7.17 TFObjectList

7.17.1 Description

`TFObjectList` is a `TFPList` (??) based list which has as the default array property `TObjects` (??) instead of pointers. By default it also manages the objects: when an object is deleted or removed from the list, it is automatically freed. This behaviour can be disabled when the list is created.

In difference with `TObjectList` (149), `TFObjectList` offers no notification mechanism of list operations, allowing it to be faster than `TObjectList`. For the same reason, it is also not a descendent of `TFPList` (although it uses one internally).

7.17.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------------|---|
| 138 | Add | Add an object to the list. |
| 142 | Assign | Copy the contents of a list. |
| 138 | Clear | Clear all elements in the list. |
| 137 | Create | Create a new object list |
| 138 | Delete | Delete an element from the list. |
| 138 | Destroy | Clears the list and destroys the list instance |
| 139 | Exchange | Exchange the location of two objects |
| 139 | Expand | Expand the capacity of the list. |
| 139 | Extract | Extract an object from the list |
| 140 | FindInstanceOf | Search for an instance of a certain class |
| 141 | First | Return the first non-nil object in the list |
| 142 | ForEachCall | For each object in the list, call a method or procedure, passing it the object. |
| 140 | IndexOf | Search for an object in the list |
| 140 | Insert | Insert a new object in the list |
| 141 | Last | Return the last non-nil object in the list. |
| 141 | Move | Move an object to another location in the list. |
| 142 | Pack | Remove all <code>Nil</code> references from the list |
| 140 | Remove | Remove an item from the list. |
| 142 | Sort | Sort the list of objects |

7.17.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|-------------|--------|--|
| 143 | Capacity | rw | Capacity of the list |
| 143 | Count | rw | Number of elements in the list. |
| 144 | Items | rw | Indexed access to the elements of the list. |
| 144 | List | r | Internal list used to keep the objects. |
| 143 | OwnsObjects | rw | Should the list free elements when they are removed. |

7.17.4 TFObjectList.Create

Synopsis: Create a new object list

Declaration: `constructor Create`
`constructor Create(FreeObjects: Boolean)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` instantiates a new object list. The `FreeObjects` parameter determines whether objects that are removed from the list should also be freed from memory. By default this is `True`. This behaviour can be changed after the list was instantiated.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPObjectList.Destroy` (138), `TFPObjectList.OwnsObjects` (143), `TObjectList` (149)

7.17.5 TFPObjectList.Destroy

Synopsis: Clears the list and destroys the list instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` clears the list, freeing all objects in the list if `OwnsObjects` (143) is `True`.

See also: `TFPObjectList.OwnsObjects` (143), `TObjectList.Create` (150)

7.17.6 TFPObjectList.Clear

Synopsis: Clear all elements in the list.

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: `public`

Description: Removes all objects from the list, freeing all objects in the list if `OwnsObjects` (143) is `True`.

See also: `TObjectList.Destroy` (149)

7.17.7 TFPObjectList.Add

Synopsis: Add an object to the list.

Declaration: `function Add(AObject: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Add` adds `AObject` to the list and returns the index of the object in the list.

Note that when `OwnsObjects` (143) is `True`, an object should not be added twice to the list: this will result in memory corruption when the object is freed (as it will be freed twice). The `Add` method does not check this, however.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPObjectList.OwnsObjects` (143), `TFPObjectList.Delete` (138)

7.17.8 TFPObjectList.Delete

Synopsis: Delete an element from the list.

Declaration: `procedure Delete(Index: Integer)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Delete` removes the object at index `Index` from the list. When `OwnsObjects` (143) is `True`, the object is also freed.

Errors: An access violation may occur when `OwnsObjects` (143) is `True` and either the object was freed externally, or when the same object is in the same list twice.

See also: `TFPObjectList.Remove` (98), `TFPObjectList.Extract` (139), `TFPObjectList.OwnsObjects` (143), `TFPObjectList.Add` (98), `TFPObjectList.Clear` (98)

7.17.9 TFPObjectList.Exchange

Synopsis: Exchange the location of two objects

Declaration: `procedure Exchange(Index1: Integer; Index2: Integer)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Exchange` exchanges the objects at indexes `Index1` and `Index2` in a direct operation (i.e. no delete/add is performed).

Errors: If either `Index1` or `Index2` is invalid, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TFPObjectList.Add` (98), `TFPObjectList.Delete` (98)

7.17.10 TFPObjectList.Expand

Synopsis: Expand the capacity of the list.

Declaration: `function Expand : TFPObjectList`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Expand` increases the capacity of the list. It calls `#rtl.classes.tfplist.expand` (??) and then returns a reference to itself.

Errors: If there is not enough memory to expand the list, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TFPObjectList.Pack` (142), `TFPObjectList.Clear` (138), `#rtl.classes.tfplist.expand` (??)

7.17.11 TFPObjectList.Extract

Synopsis: Extract an object from the list

Declaration: `function Extract(Item: TObject) : TObject`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Extract` removes `Item` from the list, if it is present in the list. It returns `Item` if it was found, `Nil` if item was not present in the list.

Note that the object is not freed, and that only the first found object is removed from the list.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPObjectList.Pack` (142), `TFPObjectList.Clear` (138), `TFPObjectList.Remove` (140), `TFPObjectList.Delete` (138)

7.17.12 TFObjectList.Remove

Synopsis: Remove an item from the list.

Declaration: `function Remove(AObject: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Remove` removes `Item` from the list, if it is present in the list. It frees `Item` if `OwnsObjects` (143) is `True`, and returns the index of the object that was found in the list, or -1 if the object was not found.

Note that only the first found object is removed from the list.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFObjectList.Pack` (142), `TFObjectList.Clear` (138), `TFObjectList.Delete` (138), `TFObjectList.Extract` (139)

7.17.13 TFObjectList.IndexOf

Synopsis: Search for an object in the list

Declaration: `function IndexOf(AObject: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `IndexOf` searches for the presence of `AObject` in the list, and returns the location (index) in the list. The index is 0-based, and -1 is returned if `AObject` was not found in the list.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFObjectList.Items` (144), `TFObjectList.Remove` (140), `TFObjectList.Extract` (139)

7.17.14 TFObjectList.FindInstanceOf

Synopsis: Search for an instance of a certain class

Declaration: `function FindInstanceOf(AClass: TClass; AExact: Boolean;
AStartAt: Integer) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindInstanceOf` will look through the instances in the list and will return the first instance which is a descendent of class `AClass` if `AExact` is `False`. If `AExact` is `true`, then the instance should be of class `AClass`.

If no instance of the requested class is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFObjectList.IndexOf` (140)

7.17.15 TFObjectList.Insert

Synopsis: Insert a new object in the list

Declaration: `procedure Insert (Index: Integer; AObject: TObject)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Insert` inserts `AObject` at position `Index` in the list. All elements in the list after this position are shifted. The index is zero based, i.e. an insert at position 0 will insert an object at the first position of the list.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFObjectList.Add` (138), `TFObjectList.Delete` (138)

7.17.16 TFObjectList.First

Synopsis: Return the first non-nil object in the list

Declaration: `function First : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `First` returns a reference to the first non-`Nil` element in the list. If no non-`Nil` element is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFObjectList.Last` (141), `TFObjectList.Pack` (142)

7.17.17 TFObjectList.Last

Synopsis: Return the last non-nil object in the list.

Declaration: `function Last : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Last` returns a reference to the last non-`Nil` element in the list. If no non-`Nil` element is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFObjectList.First` (141), `TFObjectList.Pack` (142)

7.17.18 TFObjectList.Move

Synopsis: Move an object to another location in the list.

Declaration: `procedure Move (CurIndex: Integer; NewIndex: Integer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Move` moves the object at current location `CurIndex` to location `NewIndex`. Note that the `NewIndex` is determined *after* the object was removed from location `CurIndex`, and can hence be shifted with 1 position if `CurIndex` is less than `NewIndex`.

Contrary to exchange (139), the move operation is done by extracting the object from it's current location and inserting it at the new location.

Errors: If either `CurIndex` or `NewIndex` is out of range, an exception may occur.

See also: `TFPObjectList.Exchange` (139), `TFPObjectList.Delete` (138), `TFPObjectList.Insert` (140)

7.17.19 TFPObjectList.Assign

Synopsis: Copy the contents of a list.

Declaration: `procedure Assign(Obj: TFPObjectList)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Assign` copies the contents of `Obj` if `Obj` is of type `TFPObjectList`

Errors: None.

7.17.20 TFPObjectList.Pack

Synopsis: Remove all `Nil` references from the list

Declaration: `procedure Pack`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Pack` removes all `Nil` elements from the list.

Errors: None.

See also: `TFPObjectList.First` (141), `TFPObjectList.Last` (141)

7.17.21 TFPObjectList.Sort

Synopsis: Sort the list of objects

Declaration: `procedure Sort(Compare: TListSortCompare)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Sort` will perform a quick-sort on the list, using `Compare` as the compare algorithm. This function should accept 2 pointers and should return the following result:

less than 0 If the first pointer comes before the second.

equal to 0 If the pointers have the same value.

larger than 0 If the first pointer comes after the second.

The function should be able to deal with `Nil` values.

Errors: None.

See also: `#rtl.classes.TList.Sort` (??)

7.17.22 TFObjectList.ForEachCall

Synopsis: For each object in the list, call a method or procedure, passing it the object.

Declaration: `procedure ForEachCall(proc2call: TObjectListCallback;arg: pointer)`
`procedure ForEachCall(proc2call: TObjectListStaticCallback;arg: pointer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `ForEachCall` loops through all objects in the list, and calls `proc2call`, passing it the object in the list. Additionally, `arg` is also passed to the procedure. `Proc2call` can be a plain procedure or can be a method of a class.

Errors: None.

See also: [TObjectListStaticCallback \(102\)](#), [TObjectListCallback \(101\)](#)

7.17.23 TFObjectList.Capacity

Synopsis: Capacity of the list

Declaration: `Property Capacity : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Capacity` is the number of elements that the list can contain before it needs to expand itself, i.e., reserve more memory for pointers. It is always equal or larger than `Count` ([143](#)).

See also: [TFObjectList.Count \(143\)](#)

7.17.24 TFObjectList.Count

Synopsis: Number of elements in the list.

Declaration: `Property Count : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Count` is the number of elements in the list. Note that this includes `Nil` elements.

See also: [TFObjectList.Capacity \(143\)](#)

7.17.25 TFObjectList.OwnsObjects

Synopsis: Should the list free elements when they are removed.

Declaration: `Property OwnsObjects : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OwnsObjects` determines whether the objects in the list should be freed when they are removed (not extracted) from the list, or when the list is cleared. If the property is `True` then they are freed. If the property is `False` the elements are not freed.

The value is usually set in the constructor, and is seldom changed during the lifetime of the list. It defaults to `True`.

See also: `TFPObjectList.Create` (137), `TFPObjectList.Delete` (138), `TFPObjectList.Remove` (140), `TFPObjectList.Clear` (138)

7.17.26 TFPObjectList.Items

Synopsis: Indexed access to the elements of the list.

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: Integer]: TObject; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Items` is the default property of the list. It provides indexed access to the elements in the list. The index `Index` is zero based, i.e., runs from 0 (zero) to `Count-1`.

See also: `TFPObjectList.Count` (143)

7.17.27 TFPObjectList.List

Synopsis: Internal list used to keep the objects.

Declaration: `Property List : TFPList`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `List` is a reference to the `TFPList` (??) instance used to manage the elements in the list.

See also: `#rtl.classes.tfplist` (??)

7.18 TFPStringHashTable

7.18.1 Description

`TFPStringHashTable` is a `TFPCustomHashTable` (111) descendent which stores simple strings together with the keys. In case the data associated with the keys are objects, it's better to use `TFPObjectHashTable` (135), or for arbitrary pointer data, `TFPDataHashTable` (117) is more suitable. The strings are exposed with their keys through the `Items` (145) property.

7.18.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 144 | Add | Add a new string to the hash list |

7.18.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|---|
| 145 | Items | rw | Key based access to the strings in the hash table |

7.18.4 TFPStringHashTable.Add

Synopsis: Add a new string to the hash list

Declaration: `procedure Add(const aKey: String;const aItem: String); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: Add adds a new string `AItem` to the hash list with key `AKey`.

Errors: If a string with key `Akey` already exists in the hash table, an exception will be raised.

See also: [TFPStringHashTable.Items \(145\)](#)

7.18.5 TFPStringHashTable.Items

Synopsis: Key based access to the strings in the hash table

Declaration: `Property Items[index: String]: String; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Items` provides access to the strings in the hash table using their key: the array index `Index` is the key. A key which is not present will result in an empty string.

See also: [TFPStringHashTable.Add \(144\)](#)

7.19 THTCustomNode

7.19.1 Description

`THTCustomNode` is used by the `TFPCustomHashTable (111)` class to store the keys and associated values.

7.19.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 145 | <code>CreateWith</code> | Create a new instance of <code>THTCustomNode</code> |
| 146 | <code>HasKey</code> | Check whether this node matches the given key. |

7.19.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|------------------|--------|---|
| 146 | <code>Key</code> | r | Key value associated with this hash item. |

7.19.4 THTCustomNode.CreateWith

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `THTCustomNode`

Declaration: `constructor CreateWith(const AString: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: `CreateWith` creates a new instance of `THTCustomNode` and stores the string `AString` in it. It should never be necessary to call this method directly, it will be called by the `TFPHashTable` (98) class when needed.

Errors: If no more memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TFPHashTable` (98)

7.19.5 THTCustomNode.HasKey

Synopsis: Check whether this node matches the given key.

Declaration: `function HasKey(const AKey: String) : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `HasKey` checks whether this node matches the given key `AKey`, by comparing it with the stored key. It returns `True` if it does, `False` if not.

Errors: None.

See also: `THTCustomNode.Key` (146)

7.19.6 THTCustomNode.Key

Synopsis: Key value associated with this hash item.

Declaration: `Property Key : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Key` is the key value associated with this hash item. It is stored when the item is created, and is read-only.

See also: `THTCustomNode.CreateWith` (145)

7.20 THTDataNode

7.20.1 Description

`THTDataNode` is used by `TDataHashTable` (98) to store the hash items in. It simply holds the data pointer.

It should not be necessary to use `THTDataNode` directly, it's only for inner use by `TFPDataHashTable`

7.20.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|--------------|
| 146 | Data | rw | Data pointer |

7.20.3 THTDataNode.Data

Synopsis: Data pointer

Declaration: `Property Data : pointer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: Pointer containing the user data associated with the hash value.

7.21 THTObjectNode

7.21.1 Description

`THTObjectNode` is a `THTCustomNode` (145) descendent which holds the data in the `TFPObjectHashTable` (135) hash table. It exposes a data string.

It should not be necessary to use `THTObjectNode` directly, it's only for inner use by `TFPObjectHashTable`

7.21.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| 147 | Data | rw | Object instance |

7.21.3 THTObjectNode.Data

Synopsis: Object instance

Declaration: `Property Data : TObject`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Data` is the object instance associated with the key value. It is exposed in `TFPObjectHashTable.Items` (136)

See also: `TFPObjectHashTable` (135), `TFPObjectHashTable.Items` (136), `THTOwnedObjectNode` (147)

7.22 THTOwnedObjectNode

7.22.1 Description

`THTOwnedObjectNode` is used instead of `THTObjectNode` (147) in case `TFPObjectHashTable` (135) owns it's objects. When this object is destroyed, the associated data object is also destroyed.

7.22.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 147 | Destroy | Destroys the node and the object. |

7.22.3 THTOwnedObjectNode.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroys the node and the object.

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` first frees the data object, and then only frees itself.

See also: [THTOwnedObjectNode \(147\)](#), [TFPObjectHashTable.OwnsObjects \(136\)](#)

7.23 THTStringNode

7.23.1 Description

`THTStringNode` is a `THTCustomNode` ([145](#)) descendent which holds the data in the `TFPStringHashTable` ([144](#)) hash table. It exposes a data string.

It should not be necessary to use `THTStringNode` directly, it's only for inner use by `TFPStringHashTable`

7.23.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 148 | <code>Data</code> | <code>rw</code> | String data |

7.23.3 THTStringNode.Data

Synopsis: String data

Declaration: `Property Data : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Data` is the data of this has node. The data is a string, associated with the key. It is also exposed in `TFPStringHashTable.Items` ([145](#))

See also: [TFPStringHashTable \(144\)](#)

7.24 TObjectBucketList

7.24.1 Description

`TObjectBucketList` is a class that redefines the associative `Data` array using `TObject` instead of `Pointer`. It also adds some overloaded versions of the `Add` and `Remove` calls using `TObject` instead of `Pointer` for the argument and result types.

7.24.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 148 | <code>Add</code> | Add an object to the list |
| 149 | <code>Remove</code> | Remove an object from the list |

7.24.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 149 | Data | rw | Associative array of data items |

7.24.4 TObjectBucketList.Add

Synopsis: Add an object to the list

Declaration: `function Add(AItem: TObject; AData: TObject) : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: Add adds AItem to the list and associated AData with it.

See also: [TObjectBucketList.Data \(149\)](#), [TObjectBucketList.Remove \(149\)](#)

7.24.5 TObjectBucketList.Remove

Synopsis: Remove an object from the list

Declaration: `function Remove(AItem: TObject) : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: Remove removes the object AItem from the list. It returns the Data object which was associated with the item. If AItem was not in the list, then Nil is returned.

See also: [TObjectBucketList.Add \(148\)](#), [TObjectBucketList.Data \(149\)](#)

7.24.6 TObjectBucketList.Data

Synopsis: Associative array of data items

Declaration: `Property Data[AItem: TObject]: TObject; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: Data provides associative access to the data in the list: it returns the data object associated with the AItem object. If the AItem object is not in the list, an EListError exception is raised.

See also: [TObjectBucketList.Add \(148\)](#)

7.25 TObjectList

7.25.1 Description

TObjectList is a TList (??) descendent which has as the default array property TObjects (??) instead of pointers. By default it also manages the objects: when an object is deleted or removed from the list, it is automatically freed. This behaviour can be disabled when the list is created.

In difference with TFPObjectList (137), TObjectList offers a notification mechanism of list change operations: insert, delete. This slows down bulk operations, so if the notifications are not needed, TObjectList may be more appropriate.

7.25.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| 150 | Add | Add an object to the list. |
| 150 | create | Create a new object list. |
| 150 | Extract | Extract an object from the list. |
| 151 | FindInstanceOf | Search for an instance of a certain class |
| 152 | First | Return the first non-nil object in the list |
| 151 | IndexOf | Search for an object in the list |
| 152 | Insert | Insert an object in the list. |
| 152 | Last | Return the last non-nil object in the list. |
| 151 | Remove | Remove (and possibly free) an element from the list. |

7.25.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|--|
| 153 | Items | rw | Indexed access to the elements of the list. |
| 152 | OwnsObjects | rw | Should the list free elements when they are removed. |

7.25.4 TObjectList.create

Synopsis: Create a new object list.

Declaration: `constructor create`
`constructor create(freeobjects: Boolean)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` instantiates a new object list. The `FreeObjects` parameter determines whether objects that are removed from the list should also be freed from memory. By default this is `True`. This behaviour can be changed after the list was instantiated.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList.Destroy` ([149](#)), `TObjectList.OwnsObjects` ([152](#)), `TFPObjectList` ([137](#))

7.25.5 TObjectList.Add

Synopsis: Add an object to the list.

Declaration: `function Add(AObject: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Add` overrides the `TList` (??) implementation to accept objects (`AObject`) instead of pointers. The function returns the index of the position where the object was added.

Errors: If the list must be expanded, and not enough memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TObjectList.Insert` ([152](#)), `#rtl.classes.TList.Delete` (??), `TObjectList.Extract` ([150](#)), `TObjectList.Remove` ([151](#))

7.25.6 TObjectList.Extract

Synopsis: Extract an object from the list.

Declaration: `function Extract (Item: TObject) : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Extract` removes the object `Item` from the list if it is present in the list. Contrary to `Remove` (151), `Extract` does not free the extracted element if `OwnsObjects` (152) is `True`

The function returns a reference to the item which was removed from the list, or `Nil` if no element was removed.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList.Remove` (151)

7.25.7 TObjectList.Remove

Synopsis: Remove (and possibly free) an element from the list.

Declaration: `function Remove (AObject: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Remove` removes `Item` from the list, if it is present in the list. It frees `Item` if `OwnsObjects` (152) is `True`, and returns the index of the object that was found in the list, or -1 if the object was not found.

Note that only the first found object is removed from the list.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList.Extract` (150)

7.25.8 TObjectList.IndexOf

Synopsis: Search for an object in the list

Declaration: `function IndexOf (AObject: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `IndexOf` overrides the `TList` (??) implementation to accept an object instance instead of a pointer.

The function returns the index of the first match for `AObject` in the list, or -1 if no match was found.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList.FindInstanceOf` (151)

7.25.9 TObjectList.FindInstanceOf

Synopsis: Search for an instance of a certain class

Declaration: `function FindInstanceOf (AClass: TClass; AExact: Boolean;
AStartAt: Integer) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindInstanceOf` will look through the instances in the list and will return the first instance which is a descendent of class `AClass` if `AExact` is `False`. If `AExact` is true, then the instance should be of class `AClass`.

If no instance of the requested class is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList.IndexOf` (151)

7.25.10 TObjectList.Insert

Synopsis: Insert an object in the list.

Declaration: `procedure Insert (Index: Integer; AObject: TObject)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Insert` inserts `AObject` in the list at position `Index`. The index is zero-based. This method overrides the implementation in `TList` (??) to accept objects instead of pointers.

Errors: If an invalid `Index` is specified, an exception is raised.

See also: `TObjectList.Add` (150), `TObjectList.Remove` (151)

7.25.11 TObjectList.First

Synopsis: Return the first non-nil object in the list

Declaration: `function First : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `First` returns a reference to the first non-`Nil` element in the list. If no non-`Nil` element is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList.Last` (152), `TObjectList.Pack` (149)

7.25.12 TObjectList.Last

Synopsis: Return the last non-nil object in the list.

Declaration: `function Last : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Last` returns a reference to the last non-`Nil` element in the list. If no non-`Nil` element is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectList.First` (152), `TObjectList.Pack` (149)

7.25.13 TObjectList.OwnsObjects

Synopsis: Should the list free elements when they are removed.

Declaration: `Property OwnsObjects : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `OwnsObjects` determines whether the objects in the list should be freed when they are removed (not extracted) from the list, or when the list is cleared. If the property is `True` then they are freed. If the property is `False` the elements are not freed.

The value is usually set in the constructor, and is seldom changed during the lifetime of the list. It defaults to `True`.

See also: `TObjectList.Create` (150), `TObjectList.Delete` (149), `TObjectList.Remove` (151), `TObjectList.Clear` (149)

7.25.14 TObjectList.Items

Synopsis: Indexed access to the elements of the list.

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: Integer]: TObject; default`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Items` is the default property of the list. It provides indexed access to the elements in the list. The index `Index` is zero based, i.e., runs from 0 (zero) to `Count-1`.

See also: `#rtl.classes.TList.Count` (??)

7.26 TObjectQueue

7.26.1 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| 154 | <code>Peek</code> | Look at the first object in the queue. |
| 153 | <code>Pop</code> | Pop the first element off the queue |
| 153 | <code>Push</code> | Push an object on the queue |

7.26.2 TObjectQueue.Push

Synopsis: Push an object on the queue

Declaration: `function Push(AObject: TObject) : TObject`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Push` pushes another object on the queue. It overrides the `Push` method as implemented in `TQueue` so it accepts only objects as arguments.

Errors: If not enough memory is available to expand the queue, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TObjectQueue.Pop` (153), `TObjectQueue.Peek` (154)

7.26.3 TObjectQueue.Pop

Synopsis: Pop the first element off the queue

Declaration: `function Pop : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Pop` removes the first element in the queue, and returns a reference to the instance. If the queue is empty, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TObjectQueue.Push` (153), `TObjectQueue.Peek` (154)

7.26.4 TObjectQueue.Peek

Synopsis: Look at the first object in the queue.

Declaration: `function Peek : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Peek` returns the first object in the queue, without removing it from the queue. If there are no more objects in the queue, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None

See also: `TObjectQueue.Push` (153), `TObjectQueue.Pop` (153)

7.27 TObjectStack

7.27.1 Description

`TObjectStack` is a stack implementation which manages pointers only.

`TObjectStack` introduces no new behaviour, it simply overrides some methods to accept and/or return `TObject` instances instead of pointers.

7.27.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 155 | Peek | Look at the top object in the stack. |
| 154 | Pop | Pop the top object of the stack. |
| 154 | Push | Push an object on the stack. |

7.27.3 TObjectStack.Push

Synopsis: Push an object on the stack.

Declaration: `function Push(AObject: TObject) : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Push` pushes another object on the stack. It overrides the `Push` method as implemented in `TStack` so it accepts only objects as arguments.

Errors: If not enough memory is available to expand the stack, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TObjectStack.Pop` (154), `TObjectStack.Peek` (155)

7.27.4 TObjectStack.Pop

Synopsis: Pop the top object of the stack.

Declaration: `function Pop : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Pop` pops the top object of the stack, and returns the object instance. If there are no more objects on the stack, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None

See also: [TObjectStack.Push \(154\)](#), [TObjectStack.Peek \(155\)](#)

7.27.5 TObjectStack.Peek

Synopsis: Look at the top object in the stack.

Declaration: `function Peek : TObject`

Visibility: public

Description: `Peek` returns the top object of the stack, without removing it from the stack. If there are no more objects on the stack, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: None

See also: [TObjectStack.Push \(154\)](#), [TObjectStack.Pop \(154\)](#)

7.28 TOrderedList

7.28.1 Description

`TOrderedList` provides the base class for [TQueue \(157\)](#) and [TStack \(157\)](#). It provides an interface for pushing and popping elements on or off the list, and manages the internal list of pointers.

Note that `TOrderedList` does not manage objects on the stack, i.e. objects are not freed when the ordered list is destroyed.

7.28.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| 156 | <code>AtLeast</code> | Check whether the list contains a certain number of elements. |
| 156 | <code>Count</code> | Number of elements on the list. |
| 155 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new ordered list |
| 155 | <code>Destroy</code> | Free an ordered list |
| 157 | <code>Peek</code> | Return the next element to be popped from the list. |
| 157 | <code>Pop</code> | Remove an element from the list. |
| 156 | <code>Push</code> | Push another element on the list. |

7.28.3 TOrderedList.Create

Synopsis: Create a new ordered list

Declaration: `constructor Create`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` instantiates a new ordered list. It initializes the internal pointer list.

Errors: None.

See also: `TOrderedList.Destroy` ([155](#))

7.28.4 `TOrderedList.Destroy`

Synopsis: Free an ordered list

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the internal pointer list, and removes the `TOrderedList` instance from memory.

Errors: None.

See also: `TOrderedList.Create` ([155](#))

7.28.5 `TOrderedList.Count`

Synopsis: Number of elements on the list.

Declaration: `function Count : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `Count` is the number of pointers in the list.

Errors: None.

See also: `TOrderedList.AtLeast` ([156](#))

7.28.6 `TOrderedList.AtLeast`

Synopsis: Check whether the list contains a certain number of elements.

Declaration: `function AtLeast (ACount: Integer) : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `AtLeast` returns `True` if the number of elements in the list is equal to or bigger than `ACount`. It returns `False` otherwise.

Errors: None.

See also: `TOrderedList.Count` ([156](#))

7.28.7 TOrderedList.Push

Synopsis: Push another element on the list.

Declaration: `function Push(AItem: Pointer) : Pointer`

Visibility: public

Description: Push adds AItem to the list, and returns AItem.

Errors: If not enough memory is available to expand the list, an exception may be raised.

See also: TOrderedList.Pop (157), TOrderedList.Peek (157)

7.28.8 TOrderedList.Pop

Synopsis: Remove an element from the list.

Declaration: `function Pop : Pointer`

Visibility: public

Description: Pop removes an element from the list, and returns the element that was removed from the list. If no element is on the list, Nil is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: TOrderedList.Peek (157), TOrderedList.Push (156)

7.28.9 TOrderedList.Peek

Synopsis: Return the next element to be popped from the list.

Declaration: `function Peek : Pointer`

Visibility: public

Description: Peek returns the element that will be popped from the list at the next call to Pop (157), without actually popping it from the list.

Errors: None.

See also: TOrderedList.Pop (157), TOrderedList.Push (156)

7.29 TQueue

7.29.1 Description

TQueue is a descendent of TOrderedList (155) which implements Push (156) and Pop (157) behaviour as a queue: what is first pushed on the queue, is popped of first (FIFO: First in, first out).

TQueue offers no new methods, it merely implements some abstract methods introduced by TOrderedList (155)

7.30 TStack

7.30.1 Description

TStack is a descendent of TOrderedList (155) which implements Push (156) and Pop (157) behaviour as a stack: what is last pushed on the stack, is popped of first (LIFO: Last in, first out).

TStack offers no new methods, it merely implements some abstract methods introduced by TOrderedList (155)

Chapter 8

Reference for unit 'CustApp'

8.1 Used units

Table 8.1: Used units by unit 'CustApp'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

8.2 Overview

The `CustApp` unit implements the `TCustomApplication` (159) class, which serves as the common ancestor to many kinds of `TApplication` classes: a GUI application in the LCL, a CGI application in FPCGI, a daemon application in `daemonapp`. It introduces some properties to describe the environment in which the application is running (environment variables, program command-line parameters) and introduces some methods to initialize and run a program, as well as functionality to handle exceptions.

Typical use of a descendent class is to introduce a global variable `Application` and use the following code:

```
Application.Initialize;  
Application.Run;
```

Since normally only a single instance of this class is created, and it is a `TComponent` descendent, it can be used as an owner for many components, doing so will ensure these components will be freed when the application terminates.

8.3 Constants, types and variables

8.3.1 Types

`TExceptionEvent` = procedure (Sender: TObject; E: Exception) of object

`TExceptionEvent` is the prototype for the exception handling events in `TCustomApplication`.

8.3.2 Variables

```
CustomApplication : TCustomApplication = nil
```

`CustomApplication` contains the global application instance. All descendents of `TCustomApplication` (159) should, in addition to storing an instance pointer in some variable (most likely called "Application") store the instance pointer in this variable. This ensures that, whatever kind of application is being created, user code can access the application object.

8.4 TCustomApplication

8.4.1 Description

`TCustomApplication` is the ancestor class for classes that wish to implement a global application class instance. It introduces several application-wide functionalities.

- Exception handling in `HandleException` (160), `ShowException` (161), `OnException` (166) and `StopOnException` (168).
- Command-line parameter parsing in `FindOptionIndex` (162), `GetOptionValue` (162), `CheckOptions` (163) and `HasOption` (163)
- Environment variable handling in `GetEnvironmentList` (164) and `EnvironmentVariable` (167).

Descendent classes need to override the `DoRun` protected method to implement the functionality of the program.

8.4.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|---------------------------------|--|
| 163 | <code>CheckOptions</code> | Check whether all given options on the command-line are valid. |
| 160 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of the <code>TCustomApplication</code> class |
| 160 | <code>Destroy</code> | Destroys the <code>TCustomApplication</code> instance. |
| 162 | <code>FindOptionIndex</code> | Return the index of an option. |
| 164 | <code>GetEnvironmentList</code> | Return a list of environment variables. |
| 162 | <code>GetOptionValue</code> | Return the value of a command-line option. |
| 160 | <code>HandleException</code> | Handle an exception. |
| 163 | <code>HasOption</code> | Check whether an option was specified. |
| 161 | <code>Initialize</code> | Initialize the application |
| 164 | <code>Log</code> | Write a message to the event log |
| 161 | <code>Run</code> | Runs the application. |
| 161 | <code>ShowException</code> | Show an exception to the user |
| 162 | <code>Terminate</code> | Terminate the application. |

8.4.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------|---|
| 168 | CaseSensitiveOptions | rw | Are options interpreted case sensitive or not |
| 166 | ConsoleApplication | r | Is the application a console application or not |
| 167 | EnvironmentVariable | r | Environment variable access |
| 164 | ExeName | r | Name of the executable. |
| 165 | HelpFile | rw | Location of the application help file. |
| 166 | Location | r | Application location |
| 166 | OnException | rw | Exception handling event |
| 167 | OptionChar | rw | Command-line switch character |
| 167 | ParamCount | r | Number of command-line parameters |
| 166 | Params | r | Command-line parameters |
| 168 | StopOnException | rw | Should the program loop stop on an exception |
| 165 | Terminated | r | Was <code>Terminate</code> called or not |
| 165 | Title | rw | Application title |

8.4.4 TCustomApplication.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TCustomApplication` class

Declaration: constructor `Create(AOwner: TComponent);` `Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of the `TCustomApplication` class. It sets some defaults for the various properties, and then calls the inherited `Create`.

See also: `TCustomApplication.Destroy` ([160](#))

8.4.5 TCustomApplication.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroys the `TCustomApplication` instance.

Declaration: destructor `Destroy;` `Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` simply calls the inherited `Destroy`.

See also: `TCustomApplication.Create` ([160](#))

8.4.6 TCustomApplication.HandleException

Synopsis: Handle an exception.

Declaration: procedure `HandleException(Sender: TObject);` `Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `HandleException` is called (or can be called) to handle the exception `Sender`. If the exception is not of class `Exception` then the default handling of exceptions in the `SysUtils` unit is called.

If the exception is of class `Exception` and the `OnException` ([166](#)) handler is set, the handler is called with the exception object and `Sender` argument.

If the `OnException` handler is not set, then the exception is passed to the `ShowException` ([161](#)) routine, which can be overridden by descendent application classes to show the exception in a way

that is fit for the particular class of application. (a GUI application might show the exception in a message dialog.

When the exception is handled in the above manner, and the `StopOnException` (168) property is set to `True`, the `Terminated` (165) property is set to `True`, which will cause the `Run` (161) loop to stop, and the application will exit.

See also: `TCustomApplication.ShowException` (161), `TCustomApplication.StopOnException` (168), `TCustomApplication.Terminated` (165), `TCustomApplication.Run` (161)

8.4.7 TCustomApplication.Initialize

Synopsis: Initialize the application

Declaration: `procedure Initialize; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Initialize` can be overridden by descendent applications to perform any initialization after the class was created. It can be used to react to properties being set at program startup. End-user code should call `Initialize` prior to calling `Run`

In `TCustomApplication`, `Initialize` sets `Terminated` to `False`.

See also: `TCustomApplication.Run` (161), `TCustomApplication.Terminated` (165)

8.4.8 TCustomApplication.Run

Synopsis: Runs the application.

Declaration: `procedure Run`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Run` is the start of the user code: when called, it starts a loop and repeatedly calls `DoRun` until `Terminated` is set to `True`. If an exception is raised during the execution of `DoRun`, it is caught and handled to `TCustomApplication.HandleException` (160). If `TCustomApplication.StopOnException` (168) is set to `True` (which is *not* the default), `Run` will exit, and the application will then terminate. The default is to call `DoRun` again, which is useful for applications running a message loop such as services and GUI applications.

See also: `TCustomApplication.HandleException` (160), `TCustomApplication.StopException` (159)

8.4.9 TCustomApplication.ShowException

Synopsis: Show an exception to the user

Declaration: `procedure ShowException(E: Exception); Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ShowException` should be overridden by descendent classes to show an exception message to the user. The default behaviour is to call the `ShowException` (??) procedure in the `SysUtils` unit.

Descendent classes should do something appropriate for their context: GUI applications can show a message box, daemon applications can write the exception message to the system log, web applications can send a 500 error response code.

Errors: None.

See also: `#rtl.sysutils.ShowException` (??), `TCustomApplication.HandleException` (160), `TCustomApplication.StopException` (159)

8.4.10 `TCustomApplication.Terminate`

Synopsis: Terminate the application.

Declaration: `procedure Terminate; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Terminate` sets the `Terminated` property to `True`. By itself, this does not terminate the application. Instead, descendent classes should in their `DoRun` method, check the value of the `Terminated` (165) property and properly shut down the application if it is set to `True`.

See also: `TCustomApplication.Terminated` (165), `TCustomApplication.Run` (161)

8.4.11 `TCustomApplication.FindOptionIndex`

Synopsis: Return the index of an option.

Declaration: `function FindOptionIndex(const S: String; var Longopt: Boolean) : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `FindOptionIndex` will return the index of the option `S` or the long option `LongOpt`. Neither of them should include the switch character. If no such option was specified, -1 is returned. If either the long or short option was specified, then the position on the command-line is returned.

Depending on the value of the `CaseSensitiveOptions` (168) property, the search is performed case sensitive or case insensitive.

Options are identified as command-line parameters which start with `OptionChar` (167) (by default the dash ('-') character).

See also: `TCustomApplication.HasOption` (163), `TCustomApplication.GetOptionValue` (162), `TCustomApplication.CheckOptions` (163), `TCustomApplication.CaseSensitiveOptions` (168), `TCustomApplication.OptionChar` (167)

8.4.12 `TCustomApplication.GetOptionValue`

Synopsis: Return the value of a command-line option.

Declaration: `function GetOptionValue(const S: String) : String`
`function GetOptionValue(const C: Char; const S: String) : String`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `GetOptionValue` returns the value of an option. Values are specified in the usual GNU option format, either of

`--longopt=Value`

or

`-c Value`

is supported.

The function returns the specified value, or the empty string if none was specified.

Depending on the value of the `CaseSensitiveOptions` (168) property, the search is performed case sensitive or case insensitive.

Options are identified as command-line parameters which start with `OptionChar` (167) (by default the dash ('-') character).

See also: `TCustomApplication.FindOptionIndex` (162), `TCustomApplication.HasOption` (163), `TCustomApplication.CheckOptions` (163), `TCustomApplication.CaseSensitiveOptions` (168), `TCustomApplication.OptionChar` (167)

8.4.13 TCustomApplication.HasOption

Synopsis: Check whether an option was specified.

Declaration: `function HasOption(const S: String) : Boolean`
`function HasOption(const C: Char;const S: String) : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `HasOption` returns `True` if the specified option was given on the command line. Either the short option character `C` or the long option `S` may be used. Note that both options (requiring a value) and switches can be specified.

Depending on the value of the `CaseSensitiveOptions` (168) property, the search is performed case sensitive or case insensitive.

Options are identified as command-line parameters which start with `OptionChar` (167) (by default the dash ('-') character).

See also: `TCustomApplication.FindOptionIndex` (162), `TCustomApplication.GetOptionValue` (162), `TCustomApplication.CheckOptions` (163), `TCustomApplication.CaseSensitiveOptions` (168), `TCustomApplication.OptionChar` (167)

8.4.14 TCustomApplication.CheckOptions

Synopsis: Check whether all given options on the command-line are valid.

Declaration: `function CheckOptions(const ShortOptions: String;`
`const Longopts: TStrings;Opts: TStrings;`
`NonOpts: TStrings) : String`
`function CheckOptions(const ShortOptions: String;`
`const Longopts: TStrings) : String`
`function CheckOptions(const ShortOptions: String;`
`const LongOpts: Array of String) : String`
`function CheckOptions(const ShortOptions: String;const LongOpts: String)`
`: String`

Visibility: public

Description: `CheckOptions` scans the command-line and checks whether the options given are valid options. It also checks whether options that require a valued are indeed specified with a value.

The `ShortOptions` contains a string with valid short option characters. Each character in the string is a valid option character. If a character is followed by a colon (:), then a value must be specified. If it is followed by 2 colon characters (::) then the value is optional.

`LongOpts` is a list of strings (which can be specified as an array, a `TStrings` instance or a string with whitespace-separated values) of valid long options.

When the function returns, if `Opts` is non-`Nil`, the `Opts` stringlist is filled with the passed valid options. If `NonOpts` is non-`nil`, it is filled with any non-option strings that were passed on the command-line.

The function returns an empty string if all specified options were valid options, and whether options requiring a value have a value. If an error was found during the check, the return value is a string describing the error.

Options are identified as command-line parameters which start with `OptionChar` (167) (by default the dash ('-') character).

Errors: if an error was found during the check, the return value is a string describing the error.

See also: `TCustomApplication.FindOptionIndex` (162), `TCustomApplication.GetOptionValue` (162), `TCustomApplication.HasOption` (163), `TCustomApplication.CaseSensitiveOptions` (168), `TCustomApplication.OptionChar` (167)

8.4.15 TCustomApplication.GetEnvironmentList

Synopsis: Return a list of environment variables.

Declaration: `procedure GetEnvironmentList(List: TStrings; NamesOnly: Boolean)`
`procedure GetEnvironmentList(List: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetEnvironmentList` returns a list of environment variables in `List`. They are in the form `Name=Value`, one per item in `list`. If `NamesOnly` is `True`, then only the names are returned.

See also: `TCustomApplication.EnvironmentVariable` (167)

8.4.16 TCustomApplication.Log

Synopsis: Write a message to the event log

Declaration: `procedure Log(EventType: TEventType; Msg: String); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Log` is meant for all applications to have a default logging mechanism. By default it does not do anything, descendent classes should override this method to provide appropriate logging: they should write the message `Msg` with type `EventType` to some log mechanism such as `#fcl.eventlog.TEventLog` (395)

Errors: None.

See also: `#rtl.classes.TEventType` (??)

8.4.17 TCustomApplication.ExeName

Synopsis: Name of the executable.

Declaration: `Property ExeName : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `ExeName` returns the full name of the executable binary (path+filename). This is equivalent to `Paramstr(0)`

Note that some operating systems do not return the full pathname of the binary.

See also: `#rtl.system.paramstr(??)`

8.4.18 TCustomApplication.HelpFile

Synopsis: Location of the application help file.

Declaration: `Property HelpFile : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `HelpFile` is the location of the application help file. It is a simple string property which can be set by an IDE such as Lazarus, and is mainly provided for compatibility with Delphi's `TApplication` implementation.

See also: `TCustomApplication.Title` (165)

8.4.19 TCustomApplication.Terminated

Synopsis: Was `Terminate` called or not

Declaration: `Property Terminated : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Terminated` indicates whether `Terminate` (162) was called or not. Descendent classes should check `Terminated` at regular intervals in their implementation of `DoRun`, and if it is set to `True`, should exit gracefully the `DoRun` method.

See also: `TCustomApplication.Terminate` (162)

8.4.20 TCustomApplication.Title

Synopsis: Application title

Declaration: `Property Title : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Title` is a simple string property which can be set to any string describing the application. It does nothing by itself, and is mainly introduced for compatibility with Delphi's `TApplication` implementation.

See also: `TCustomApplication.HelpFile` (165)

8.4.21 TCustomApplication.OnException

Synopsis: Exception handling event

Declaration: Property OnException : TExceptionEvent

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: OnException can be set to provide custom handling of events, instead of the default action, which is simply to show the event using ShowEvent (159).

If set, OnException is called by the HandleEvent (159) routine. Do not use the OnException event directly, instead call HandleEvent

See also: TCustomApplication.ShowEvent (159)

8.4.22 TCustomApplication.ConsoleApplication

Synopsis: Is the application a console application or not

Declaration: Property ConsoleApplication : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: ConsoleApplication returns True if the application is compiled as a console application (the default) or False if not. The result of this property is determined at compile-time by the settings of the compiler: it returns the value of the IsConsole (??) constant.

See also: #rtl.system.IsConsole (??)

8.4.23 TCustomApplication.Location

Synopsis: Application location

Declaration: Property Location : String

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: Location returns the directory part of the application binary. This property works on most platforms, although some platforms do not allow to retrieve this information (Mac OS under certain circumstances). See the discussion of Paramstr (??) in the RTL documentation.

See also: #rtl.system.paramstr (??), TCustomApplication.Params (166)

8.4.24 TCustomApplication.Params

Synopsis: Command-line parameters

Declaration: Property Params[Index: Integer]: String

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Params` gives access to the command-line parameters. They contain the value of the `Index`-th parameter, where `Index` runs from 0 to `ParamCount` (167). It is equivalent to calling `ParamStr` (??).

See also: `TCustomApplication.ParamCount` (167), `#rtl.system.paramstr` (??)

8.4.25 `TCustomApplication.ParamCount`

Synopsis: Number of command-line parameters

Declaration: `Property ParamCount : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `ParamCount` returns the number of command-line parameters that were passed to the program. The actual parameters can be retrieved with the `Params` (166) property.

See also: `TCustomApplication.Params` (166), `#rtl.system.paramstr` (??), `#rtl.system.paramcount` (??)

8.4.26 `TCustomApplication.EnvironmentVariable`

Synopsis: Environment variable access

Declaration: `Property EnvironmentVariable[envName: String]: String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `EnvironmentVariable` gives access to the environment variables of the application: It returns the value of the environment variable `EnvName`, or an empty string if no such value is available.

To use this property, the name of the environment variable must be known. To get a list of available names (and values), `GetEnvironmentList` (164) can be used.

See also: `TCustomApplication.GetEnvironmentList` (164), `TCustomApplication.Params` (166)

8.4.27 `TCustomApplication.OptionChar`

Synopsis: Command-line switch character

Declaration: `Property OptionChar : Char`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OptionChar` is the character used for command line switches. By default, this is the dash ('-') character, but it can be set to any other non-alphanumerical character (although no check is performed on this).

See also: `TCustomApplication.FindOptionIndex` (162), `TCustomApplication.GetOptionValue` (162), `TCustomApplication.HasOption` (163), `TCustomApplication.CaseSensitiveOptions` (168), `TCustomApplication.CheckOptions` (163)

8.4.28 TCustomApplication.CaseSensitiveOptions

Synopsis: Are options interpreted case sensitive or not

Declaration: Property `CaseSensitiveOptions` : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `CaseSensitiveOptions` determines whether `FindOptionIndex` (162) and `CheckOptions` (163) perform searches in a case sensitive manner or not. By default, the search is case-sensitive. Setting this property to `False` makes the search case-insensitive.

See also: `TCustomApplication.FindOptionIndex` (162), `TCustomApplication.GetOptionValue` (162), `TCustomApplication.HasOption` (163), `TCustomApplication.OptionChar` (167), `TCustomApplication.CheckOptions` (163)

8.4.29 TCustomApplication.StopOnException

Synopsis: Should the program loop stop on an exception

Declaration: Property `StopOnException` : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `StopOnException` controls the behaviour of the `Run` (161) and `HandleException` (160) procedures in case of an unhandled exception in the `DoRun` code. If `StopOnException` is `True` then `Terminate` (162) will be called after the exception was handled.

See also: `TCustomApplication.Run` (161), `TCustomApplication.HandleException` (160), `TCustomApplication.Terminate` (162)

Chapter 9

Reference for unit 'daemonapp'

9.1 Daemon application architecture

[Still needs to be completed]

9.2 Used units

Table 9.1: Used units by unit 'daemonapp'

| Name | Page |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Classes | ?? |
| CustApp | 158 |
| eventlog | 394 |
| rtlconsts | 169 |
| sysutils | ?? |

9.3 Overview

The `daemonapp` unit implements a `TApplication` class which encapsulates a daemon or service application. It handles installation where this is necessary, and does instantiation of the various daemons where necessary.

The unit consists of 3 separate classes which cooperate tightly:

TDaemon This is a class that implements the daemon's functionality. One or more descendents of this class can be implemented and instantiated in a single daemon application. For more information, see [TDaemon \(184\)](#).

TDaemonApplication This is the actual daemon application class. A global instance of this class is instantiated. It handles the command-line arguments, and instantiates the various daemons. For more information, see [TDaemonApplication \(189\)](#).

TDaemonDef This class defines the daemon in the operation system. The `TDaemonApplication` class has a collection of `TDaemonDef` instances, which it uses to start the various daemons. For more information, see [TDaemonDef \(192\)](#).

As can be seen, a single application can implement one or more daemons (services). Each daemon will be run in a separate thread which is controlled by the application class.

The classes take care of logging through the TEventLog (395) class.

Many options are needed only to make the application behave as a windows service application on windows. These options are ignored in unix-like environment. The documentation will mention this.

9.4 Constants, types and variables

9.4.1 Resource strings

SControlFailed = 'Control code %s handling failed: %s'

The control code was not handled correctly

SCustomCode = '[Custom code %d]'

A custom code was received

SDaemonStatus = 'Daemon %s current status: %s'

Daemon status report log message

SErrApplicationAlreadyCreated = 'An application instance of class %s was already created'

A second application instance is created

SErrDaemonStartFailed = 'Failed to start daemon %s : %s'

The application failed to start the daemon

SErrDuplicateName = 'Duplicate daemon name: %s'

Duplicate service name

SErrNoDaemonDefForStatus = '%s: No daemon definition for status report'

Internal error: no daemon definition to report status for

SErrNoDaemonForStatus = '%s: No daemon for status report'

Internal error: no daemon to report status for

SErrNoServiceMapper = 'No daemon mapper class registered.'

No service mapper was found.

SErrNothingToDo = 'Options do not allow determining what needs to be done.'

No operation can be performed

SErrOnlyOneMapperAllowed = 'Not changing daemon mapper class %s with %s: Only 1 mapper allowed'

An attempt was made to install a second service mapper

SErrServiceManagerStartFailed = 'Failed to start service manager: %s'

Unable to start or contact the service manager

SErrUnknownDaemonClass = 'Unknown daemon class name: %s'

Unknown daemon class requested

SErrWindowClass = 'Could not register window class'

Could not register window class

9.4.2 Types

TCurrentStatus = (csStopped, csStartPending, csStopPending, csRunning, csContinuePending, csPausePending, csPaused)

Table 9.2: Enumeration values for type TCurrentStatus

| Value | Explanation |
|-------------------|--|
| csContinuePending | The daemon is continuing, but not yet running |
| csPaused | The daemon is paused: running but not active. |
| csPausePending | The daemon is about to be paused. |
| csRunning | The daemon is running (it is operational). |
| csStartPending | The daemon is starting, but not yet fully running. |
| csStopped | The daemon is stopped, i.e. inactive. |
| csStopPending | The daemon is stopping, but not yet fully stopped. |

TCurrentStatus indicates the current state of the daemon. It changes from one state to the next during the time the instance is active. The daemon application changes the state of the daemon, depending on signals it gets from the operating system, by calling the appropriate methods.

TCustomControlCodeEvent = procedure(Sender: TCustomDaemon; ACode: DWord; var Handled: Boolean) of object

In case the system sends a non-standard control code to the daemon, an event handler is executed with this prototype.

TCustomDaemonApplicationClass = Class of TCustomDaemonApplication

Class pointer for TCustomDaemonApplication

TCustomDaemonClass = Class of TCustomDaemon

The class type is needed in the TDaemonDef (192) definition.

TCustomDaemonMapperClass = Class of TCustomDaemonMapper

TCustomDaemonMapperClass is the class of TCustomDaemonMapper. It is used in the RegisterDaemonMapper (175) call.

`TDaemonClass` = Class of `TDaemon`

Class type of `TDaemon`

`TDaemonEvent` = procedure(Sender: `TCustomDaemon`) of object

`TDaemonEvent` is used in event handling. The `Sender` is the `TCustomDaemon` (175) instance that has initiated the event.

`TDaemonOKEvent` = procedure(Sender: `TCustomDaemon`; var `OK`: `Boolean`) of object

`TDaemonOKEvent` is used in event handling, when a boolean result must be obtained, for instance, to see if an operation was performed successfully.

`TDaemonOption` = (`doAllowStop`, `doAllowPause`, `doInteractive`)

Table 9.3: Enumeration values for type `TDaemonOption`

| Value | Explanation |
|----------------------------|--|
| <code>doAllowPause</code> | The daemon can be paused. |
| <code>doAllowStop</code> | The daemon can be stopped. |
| <code>doInteractive</code> | The daemon interacts with the desktop. |

Enumerated that enumerates the various daemon operation options.

`TDaemonOptions`= Set of (`doAllowPause`, `doAllowStop`, `doInteractive`)

`TDaemonOption` enumerates the various options a daemon can have.

`TDaemonRunMode` = (`drmUnknown`, `drmInstall`, `drmUninstall`, `drmRun`)

Table 9.4: Enumeration values for type `TDaemonRunMode`

| Value | Explanation |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <code>drmInstall</code> | Daemon install mode (windows only) |
| <code>drmRun</code> | Daemon is running normally |
| <code>drmUninstall</code> | Daemon uninstall mode (windows only) |
| <code>drmUnknown</code> | Unknown mode |

`TDaemonRunMode` indicates in what mode the daemon application (as a whole) is currently running.

`TErrorSeverity` = (`esIgnore`, `esNormal`, `esSevere`, `esCritical`)

`TErrorSeverity` determines what action windows takes when the daemon fails to start. It is used on windows only, and is ignored on other platforms.

Table 9.5: Enumeration values for type TErrorSeverity

| Value | Explanation |
|------------|--|
| esCritical | Error is logged, and startup is stopped if last known good configuration is active, or system is restarted using last known good configuration |
| esIgnore | Ignore startup errors |
| esNormal | Error is logged, but startup continues |
| esSevere | Error is logged, and startup is continued if last known good configuration is active, or system is restarted using last known good configuration |

TGuiLoopEvent = procedure of object

TGuiLoopEvent is the main GUI loop event procedure prototype. It is called by the application instance in case the daemon has a visual part, which needs to handle visual events. It is run in the main application thread.

TServiceType = (stWin32, stDevice, stFileSystem)

Table 9.6: Enumeration values for type TServiceType

| Value | Explanation |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| stDevice | Device driver |
| stFileSystem | File system driver |
| stWin32 | Regular win32 service |

The type of service. This type is used on windows only, to signal the operating system what kind of service is being installed or run.

TStartType = (stBoot, stSystem, stAuto, stManual, stDisabled)

Table 9.7: Enumeration values for type TStartType

| Value | Explanation |
|------------|--|
| stAuto | Started automatically by service manager during system startup |
| stBoot | During system boot |
| stDisabled | Service is not started, it is disabled |
| stManual | Started manually by the user or other processes. |
| stSystem | During load of device drivers |

TStartType can be used to define when the service must be started on windows. This type is not used on other platforms.

9.4.3 Variables

AppClass : TCustomDaemonApplicationClass

CurrentStatusNames : Array[TCurrentStatus] of String = ('Stopped', 'Start Pending', 'S

Names for various service statuses

```
DefaultDaemonOptions : TDaemonOptions = [doAllowStop,doAllowPause]
```

DefaultDaemonOptions are the default options with which a daemon definition (TDaemonDef (192)) is created.

```
SStatus : Array[1..5] of String = ('Stop','Pause','Continue','Interrogate','Shutdown')
```

Status message

9.5 Procedures and functions

9.5.1 Application

Synopsis: Application instance

Declaration: `function Application : TCustomDaemonApplication`

Visibility: default

Description: `Application` is the `TCustomDaemonApplication` (178) instance used by this application. The instance is created at the first invocation of this function, so it is possible to use `RegisterDaemonApplicationClass` (174) to register an alternative `TCustomDaemonApplication` class to run the application.

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication` (178), `RegisterDaemonApplicationClass` (174)

9.5.2 DaemonError

Synopsis: Raise an `EDaemon` exception

Declaration: `procedure DaemonError(Msg: String)`
`procedure DaemonError(Fmt: String;Args: Array of const)`

Visibility: default

Description: `DaemonError` raises an `EDaemon` (175) exception with message `Msg` or it formats the message using `Fmt` and `Args`.

See also: `EDaemon` (175)

9.5.3 RegisterDaemonApplicationClass

Synopsis: Register alternative `TCustomDaemonApplication` class.

Declaration: `procedure RegisterDaemonApplicationClass`
`(AClass: TCustomDaemonApplicationClass)`

Visibility: default

Description: `RegisterDaemonApplicationClass` can be used to register an alternative `TCustomDaemonApplication` (178) descendent which will be used when creating the global `Application` (174) instance. Only the last registered class pointer will be used.

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication` (178), `Application` (174)

9.5.4 RegisterDaemonClass

Synopsis: Register daemon

Declaration: `procedure RegisterDaemonClass (AClass: TCustomDaemonClass)`

Visibility: default

Description: `RegisterDaemonClass` must be called for each `TCustomDaemon` (175) descendent that is used in the class: the class pointer and class name are used by the `TCustomDaemonMapperClass` (171) class to create a `TCustomDaemon` instance when a daemon is required.

See also: `TCustomDaemonMapperClass` (171), `TCustomDaemon` (175)

9.5.5 RegisterDaemonMapper

Synopsis: Register a daemon mapper class

Declaration: `procedure RegisterDaemonMapper (AMapperClass: TCustomDaemonMapperClass)`

Visibility: default

Description: `RegisterDaemonMapper` can be used to register an alternative class for the global daemon-mapper. The daemonmapper will be used only when the application is being run, by the `TCustomDaemonApplication` (178) code, so registering an alternative mapping class should happen in the initialization section of the application units.

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication` (178), `TCustomDaemonMapperClass` (171)

9.6 EDaemon

9.6.1 Description

`EDaemon` is the exception class used by all code in the `DaemonApp` unit.

9.7 TCustomDaemon

9.7.1 Description

`TCustomDaemon` implements all the basic calls that are needed for a daemon to function. Descendants of `TCustomDaemon` can override these calls to implement the daemon-specific behaviour.

`TCustomDaemon` is an abstract class, it should never be instantiated. Either a descendent of it must be created and instantiated, or a descendent of `TDaemon` (184) can be designed to implement the behaviour of the daemon.

9.7.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|---------------------------|---|
| 176 | <code>LogMessage</code> | Log a message to the system log |
| 176 | <code>ReportStatus</code> | Report the current status to the operating system |

9.7.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|--------------|--------|---|
| 177 | Controller | r | TDaemonController instance controlling this daemon instance |
| 177 | DaemonThread | r | Thread in which daemon is running |
| 176 | Definition | r | The definition used to instantiate this daemon instance |
| 178 | Logger | r | TEventLog instance used to send messages to the system log |
| 177 | Status | rw | Current status of the daemon |

9.7.4 TCustomDaemon.LogMessage

Synopsis: Log a message to the system log

Declaration: procedure LogMessage(Msg: String)

Visibility: public

Description: LogMessage can be used to send a message Msg to the system log. A TEventLog ([395](#)) instance is used to actually send messages to the system log.

The message is sent with an 'error' flag (using TEventLog.Error ([398](#))).

Errors: None.

See also: TCustomDaemon.ReportStatus ([176](#))

9.7.5 TCustomDaemon.ReportStatus

Synopsis: Report the current status to the operating system

Declaration: procedure ReportStatus

Visibility: public

Description: ReportStatus can be used to report the current status to the operating system. The start and stop or pause and continue operations can be slow to start up. This call can (and should) be used to report the current status to the operating system during such lengthy operations, or else it may conclude that the daemon has died.

This call is mostly important on windows operating systems, to notify the service manager that the operation is still in progress.

The implementation of ReportStatus simply calls ReportStatus in the controller.

Errors: None.

See also: TCustomDaemon.LogMessage ([176](#))

9.7.6 TCustomDaemon.Definition

Synopsis: The definition used to instantiate this daemon instance

Declaration: Property Definition : TDaemonDef

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Definition` is the `TDaemonDef` (192) definition that was used to start the daemon instance. It can be used to retrieve additional information about the intended behaviour of the daemon.

See also: `TDaemonDef` (192)

9.7.7 `TCustomDaemon.DaemonThread`

Synopsis: Thread in which daemon is running

Declaration: `Property DaemonThread : TThread`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `DaemonThread` is the thread in which the daemon instance is running. Each daemon instance in the application runs in it's own thread, none of which are the main thread of the application. The application main thread is used to handle control messages coming from the operating system.

See also: `TCustomDaemon.Controller` (177)

9.7.8 `TCustomDaemon.Controller`

Synopsis: `TDaemonController` instance controlling this daemon instance

Declaration: `Property Controller : TDaemonController`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Controller` points to the `TDaemonController` instance that was created by the application instance to control this daemon.

See also: `TCustomDaemon.DaemonThread` (177)

9.7.9 `TCustomDaemon.Status`

Synopsis: Current status of the daemon

Declaration: `Property Status : TCurrentStatus`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Status` indicates the current status of the daemon. It is set by the various operations that the controller operates on the daemon, and should not be set manually.

`Status` is the value which `ReportStatus` will send to the operating system.

See also: `TCustomDaemon.ReportStatus` (176)

9.7.10 TCustomDaemon.Logger

Synopsis: TEventLog instance used to send messages to the system log

Declaration: Property Logger : TEventLog

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: Logger is the TEventLog (395) instance used to send messages to the system log. It is used by the LogMessage (176) call, but is accessible through the Logger property in case more configurable logging is needed than offered by LogMessage.

See also: TCustomDaemon.LogMessage (176), #fcl.eventlog.TEventLog (395)

9.8 TCustomDaemonApplication

9.8.1 Description

TCustomDaemonApplication is a TCustomApplication (159) descendent which is the main application instance for a daemon. It handles the command-line and decides what to do when the application is started, depending on the command-line options given to the application, by calling the various methods.

It creates the necessary TDaemon (184) instances by checking the TCustomDaemonMapperClass (171) instance that contains the daemon maps.

9.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 179 | CreateDaemon | Create daemon instance |
| 180 | CreateForm | Create a component |
| 179 | InstallDaemons | Install all daemons. |
| 179 | RunDaemons | Run all daemons. |
| 178 | ShowException | Show an exception |
| 179 | StopDaemons | Stop all daemons |
| 180 | UnInstallDaemons | Uninstall all daemons |

9.8.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|---|
| 181 | GuiHandle | rw | Handle of GUI loop main application window handle |
| 181 | GUIMainLoop | rw | GUI main loop callback |
| 180 | Logger | r | Event logging instance used for logging messages |
| 180 | OnRun | rw | |
| 181 | RunMode | r | Application mode |

9.8.4 TCustomDaemonApplication.ShowException

Synopsis: Show an exception

Declaration: procedure ShowException(E: Exception); Override

Visibility: public

Description: `ShowException` is overridden by `TCustomDaemonApplication`, it sends the exception message to the system log.

9.8.5 `TCustomDaemonApplication.CreateDaemon`

Synopsis: Create daemon instance

Declaration: `function CreateDaemon(DaemonDef: TDaemonDef) : TCustomDaemon`

Visibility: public

Description: `CreateDaemon` is called whenever a `TCustomDaemon` (175) instance must be created from a `TDaemonDef` (192) daemon definition, passed in `DaemonDef`. It initializes the `TCustomDaemon` instance, and creates a controller instance of type `TDaemonController` (189) to control the daemon. Finally, it assigns the created daemon to the `TDaemonDef.Instance` (193) property.

Errors: In case of an error, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TDaemonController` (189), `TCustomDaemon` (175), `TDaemonDef` (192), `TDaemonDef.Instance` (193)

9.8.6 `TCustomDaemonApplication.StopDaemons`

Synopsis: Stop all daemons

Declaration: `procedure StopDaemons(Force: Boolean)`

Visibility: public

Description: `StopDaemons` sends the `STOP` control code to all daemons, or the `SHUTDOWN` control code in case `Force` is `True`.

See also: `TDaemonController.Controller` (190), `TCustomDaemonApplication.UnInstallDaemons` (180), `TCustomDaemonApplication.RunDaemons` (179)

9.8.7 `TCustomDaemonApplication.InstallDaemons`

Synopsis: Install all daemons.

Declaration: `procedure InstallDaemons`

Visibility: public

Description: `InstallDaemons` installs all known daemons, i.e. registers them with the service manager on Windows. This method is called if the application is run with the `-i` or `-install` or `/install` command-line option.

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication.UnInstallDaemons` (180), `TCustomDaemonApplication.RunDaemons` (179), `TCustomDaemonApplication.StopDaemons` (179)

9.8.8 `TCustomDaemonApplication.RunDaemons`

Synopsis: Run all daemons.

Declaration: `procedure RunDaemons`

Visibility: public

Description: `RunDaemons` runs (starts) all known daemons. This method is called if the application is run with the `-r` or `-run` methods.

Errors:

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication.UnInstallDaemons` (180), `TCustomDaemonApplication.InstallDaemons` (179), `TCustomDaemonApplication.StopDaemons` (179)

9.8.9 TCustomDaemonApplication.UnInstallDaemons

Synopsis: Uninstall all daemons

Declaration: `procedure UnInstallDaemons`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `UnInstallDaemons` uninstalls all known daemons, i.e. deregisters them with the service manager on Windows. This method is called if the application is run with the `-u` or `-uninstall` or `/uninstall` command-line option.

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication.RunDaemons` (179), `TCustomDaemonApplication.InstallDaemons` (179), `TCustomDaemonApplication.StopDaemons` (179)

9.8.10 TCustomDaemonApplication.CreateForm

Synopsis: Create a component

Declaration: `procedure CreateForm(InstanceClass: TComponentClass; var Reference) ; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CreateForm` creates an instance of `InstanceClass` and fills `Reference` with the class instance pointer. It's main purpose is to give an IDE a means of assuring that forms or datamodules are created on application startup: the IDE will generate calls for all modules that are auto-created.

Errors: An exception may arise if the instance wants to stream itself from resources, but no resources are found.

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication.CreateDaemon` (179)

9.8.11 TCustomDaemonApplication.OnRun

Declaration: `Property OnRun : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

9.8.12 TCustomDaemonApplication.Logger

Synopsis: Event logging instance used for logging messages

Declaration: `Property Logger : TEventLog`

Visibility: `public`

Access: Read

Description: `Logger` contains a reference to the `TEventLog` (395) instance that can be used to send messages to the system log.

See also: `TCustomDaemon.LogMessage` (176)

9.8.13 `TCustomDaemonApplication.GUIMainLoop`

Synopsis: GUI main loop callback

Declaration: `Property GUIMainLoop : TGuiLoopEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `GUIMainLoop` contains a reference to a method that can be called to process a main GUI loop. The procedure should return only when the main GUI has finished and the application should exit. It is called when the daemons are running.

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication.GuiHandle` (181)

9.8.14 `TCustomDaemonApplication.GuiHandle`

Synopsis: Handle of GUI loop main application window handle

Declaration: `Property GuiHandle : THandle`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `GuiHandle` is the handle of a GUI window which can be used to run a message handling loop on. It is created when no `GUIMainLoop` (181) procedure exists, and the application creates and runs a message loop by itself.

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication.GUIMainLoop` (181)

9.8.15 `TCustomDaemonApplication.RunMode`

Synopsis: Application mode

Declaration: `Property RunMode : TDaemonRunMode`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `RunMode` indicates in which mode the application is running currently. It is set automatically by examining the command-line, and when set, one of `InstallDaemons` (179), `RunDaemons` (179) or `UnInstallDaemons` (180) is called.

See also: `TCustomDaemonApplication.InstallDaemons` (179), `TCustomDaemonApplication.RunDaemons` (179), `TCustomDaemonApplication.UnInstallDaemons` (180)

9.9 TCustomDaemonMapper

9.9.1 Description

The `TCustomDaemonMapper` class is responsible for mapping a daemon definition to an actual `TDaemon` instance. It maintains a `TDaemonDefs` (196) collection with daemon definitions, which can be used to map the definition of a daemon to a `TDaemon` descendent class.

An IDE such as Lazarus can design a `TCustomDaemonMapper` instance visually, to help establish the relationship between various `TDaemonDef` (192) definitions and the actual `TDaemon` (184) instances that will be used to run the daemons.

The `TCustomDaemonMapper` class has no support for streaming. The `TDaemonMapper` (198) class has support for streaming (and hence visual designing).

9.9.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 182 | Create | Create a new instance of <code>TCustomDaemonMapper</code> |
| 182 | Destroy | Clean up and destroy a <code>TCustomDaemonMapper</code> instance. |

9.9.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|--|
| 183 | DaemonDefs | rw | Collection of daemons |
| 183 | OnCreate | rw | Event called when the daemon mapper is created |
| 183 | OnDestroy | rw | Event called when the daemon mapper is freed. |
| 184 | OnInstall | rw | Event called when the daemons are installed |
| 183 | OnRun | rw | Event called when the daemons are executed. |
| 184 | OnUnInstall | rw | Event called when the daemons are uninstalled |

9.9.4 TCustomDaemonMapper.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TCustomDaemonMapper`

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of a `TCustomDaemonMapper`. It creates the `TDaemonDefs` (196) collection and then calls the inherited constructor. It should never be necessary to create a daemon mapper manually, the application will create a global `TCustomDaemonMapper` instance.

See also: `TDaemonDefs` (196), `TCustomDaemonApplication` (178), `TCustomDaemonMapper.Destroy` (182)

9.9.5 TCustomDaemonMapper.Destroy

Synopsis: Clean up and destroy a `TCustomDaemonMapper` instance.

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` frees the `DaemonDefs` (183) collection and calls the inherited destructor.

See also: `TDaemonDefs` (196), `TCustomDaemonMapper.Create` (182)

9.9.6 TCustomDaemonMapper.DaemonDefs

Synopsis: Collection of daemons

Declaration: `Property DaemonDefs : TDaemonDefs`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DaemonDefs` is the application's global collection of daemon definitions. This collection will be used to decide at runtime which `TDaemon` class must be created to run or install a daemon.

See also: [TCustomDaemonApplication \(178\)](#)

9.9.7 TCustomDaemonMapper.OnCreate

Synopsis: Event called when the daemon mapper is created

Declaration: `Property OnCreate : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnCreate` is an event that is called when the `TCustomDaemonMapper` instance is created. It can for instance be used to dynamically create daemon definitions at runtime.

See also: [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnDestroy \(183\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnUnInstall \(184\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnCreate \(183\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnDestroy \(183\)](#)

9.9.8 TCustomDaemonMapper.OnDestroy

Synopsis: Event called when the daemon mapper is freed.

Declaration: `Property OnDestroy : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnDestroy` is called when the global daemon mapper instance is destroyed. it can be used to release up any resources that were allocated when the instance was created, in the [OnCreate \(183\)](#) event.

See also: [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnCreate \(183\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnInstall \(184\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnUnInstall \(184\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnCreate \(183\)](#)

9.9.9 TCustomDaemonMapper.OnRun

Synopsis: Event called when the daemons are executed.

Declaration: `Property OnRun : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnRun` is the event called when the daemon application is executed to run the daemons (with command-line parameter '-r'). it is called exactly once.

See also: [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnInstall \(184\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnUnInstall \(184\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnCreate \(183\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnDestroy \(183\)](#)

9.9.10 TCustomDaemonMapper.OnInstall

Synopsis: Event called when the daemons are installed

Declaration: `Property OnInstall : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnInstall` is the event called when the daemon application is executed to install the daemons (with command-line parameter '-i' or '/install'). it is called exactly once.

See also: [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnRun \(183\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnUnInstall \(184\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnCreate \(183\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnDestroy \(183\)](#)

9.9.11 TCustomDaemonMapper.OnUnInstall

Synopsis: Event called when the daemons are uninstalled

Declaration: `Property OnUnInstall : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnUnInstall` is the event called when the daemon application is executed to uninstall the daemons (with command-line parameter '-u' or '/uninstall'). it is called exactly once.

See also: [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnRun \(183\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnInstall \(184\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnCreate \(183\)](#), [TCustomDaemonMapper.OnDestroy \(183\)](#)

9.10 TDaemon

9.10.1 Description

`TDaemon` is a [TCustomDaemon \(175\)](#) descendent which is meant for development in a visual environment: it contains event handlers for all major operations. Whenever a `TCustomDaemon` method is executed, it's execution is shunted to the event handler, which can be filled with code in the IDE.

All the events of the daemon are executed in the thread in which the daemon's controller is running (as given by [DaemonThread \(177\)](#)), which is not the main program thread.

9.10.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------|---|
| 188 | AfterInstall | rw | Called after the daemon was installed |
| 188 | AfterUnInstall | rw | Called after the daemon is uninstalled |
| 187 | BeforeInstall | rw | Called before the daemon will be installed |
| 188 | BeforeUnInstall | rw | Called before the daemon is uninstalled |
| 185 | Definition | | |
| 186 | OnContinue | rw | Daemon continue |
| 188 | OnControlCode | rw | Called when a control code is received for the daemon |
| 187 | OnExecute | rw | Daemon execute event |
| 186 | OnPause | rw | Daemon pause event |
| 187 | OnShutDown | rw | Daemon shutdown |
| 185 | OnStart | rw | Daemon start event |
| 186 | OnStop | rw | Daemon stop event |
| 185 | Status | | |

9.10.3 TDaemon.Definition

Declaration: `Property Definition` :

Visibility: `public`

Access:

9.10.4 TDaemon.Status

Declaration: `Property Status` :

Visibility: `public`

Access:

9.10.5 TDaemon.OnStart

Synopsis: Daemon start event

Declaration: `Property OnStart` : `TDaemonOKEvent`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `OnStart` is the event called when the daemon must be started. This event handler should return as quickly as possible. If it must perform lengthy operations, it is best to report the status to the operating system at regular intervals using the `ReportStatus` ([176](#)) method.

If the start of the daemon should do some continuous action, then this action should be performed in a new thread: this thread should then be created and started in the `OnExecute` ([187](#)) event handler, so the event handler can return at once.

See also: `TDaemon.OnStop` ([186](#)), `TDaemon.OnExecute` ([187](#)), `TDaemon.OnContinue` ([186](#)), `TCustomDaemon.ReportStatus` ([176](#))

9.10.6 TDaemon.OnStop

Synopsis: Daemon stop event

Declaration: `Property OnStop : TDaemonOKEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnStart` is the event called when the daemon must be stopped. This event handler should return as quickly as possible. If it must perform lengthy operations, it is best to report the status to the operating system at regular intervals using the `ReportStatus` (176) method.

If a thread was started in the `OnExecute` (187) event, this is the place where the thread should be stopped.

See also: `TDaemon.OnStart` (185), `TDaemon.OnPause` (186), `TCustomDaemon.ReportStatus` (176)

9.10.7 TDaemon.OnPause

Synopsis: Daemon pause event

Declaration: `Property OnPause : TDaemonOKEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnPause` is the event called when the daemon must be stopped. This event handler should return as quickly as possible. If it must perform lengthy operations, it is best to report the status to the operating system at regular intervals using the `ReportStatus` (176) method.

If a thread was started in the `OnExecute` (187) event, this is the place where the thread's execution should be suspended.

See also: `TDaemon.OnStop` (186), `TDaemon.OnContinue` (186), `TCustomDaemon.ReportStatus` (176)

9.10.8 TDaemon.OnContinue

Synopsis: Daemon continue

Declaration: `Property OnContinue : TDaemonOKEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnPause` is the event called when the daemon must be stopped. This event handler should return as quickly as possible. If it must perform lengthy operations, it is best to report the status to the operating system at regular intervals using the `ReportStatus` (176) method.

If a thread was started in the `OnExecute` (187) event and it was suspended in a `OnPause` (185) event, this is the place where the thread's executed should be resumed.

See also: `TDaemon.OnStart` (185), `TDaemon.OnPause` (186), `TCustomDaemon.ReportStatus` (176)

9.10.9 TDaemon.OnShutDown

Synopsis: Daemon shutdown

Declaration: `Property OnShutDown : TDaemonEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnShutDown` is the event called when the daemon must be shut down. When the system is being shut down and the daemon does not respond to stop signals, then a shutdown message is sent to the daemon. This event can be used to respond to such a message. The daemon process will simply be stopped after this event.

If a thread was started in the `OnExecute` (187), this is the place where the thread's executed should be stopped or the thread freed from memory.

See also: `TDaemon.OnStart` (185), `TDaemon.OnPause` (186), `TCustomDaemon.ReportStatus` (176)

9.10.10 TDaemon.OnExecute

Synopsis: Daemon execute event

Declaration: `Property OnExecute : TDaemonEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnExecute` is executed once after the daemon was started. If assigned, it should perform whatever operation the daemon is designed.

If the daemon's action is event based, then no `OnExecute` handler is needed, and the events will control the daemon's execution: the daemon thread will then go in a loop, passing control messages to the daemon.

If an `OnExecute` event handler is present, the checking for control messages must be done by the implementation of the `OnExecute` handler.

See also: `TDaemon.OnStart` (185), `TDaemon.OnStop` (186)

9.10.11 TDaemon.BeforeInstall

Synopsis: Called before the daemon will be installed

Declaration: `Property BeforeInstall : TDaemonEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforeInstall` is called before the daemon is installed. It can be done to specify extra dependencies, or change the daemon description etc.

See also: `TDaemon.AfterInstall` (188), `TDaemon.BeforeUnInstall` (188), `TDaemon.AfterUnInstall` (188)

9.10.12 TDaemon.AfterInstall

Synopsis: Called after the daemon was installed

Declaration: `Property AfterInstall : TDaemonEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterInstall` is called after the daemon was successfully installed.

See also: [TDaemon.BeforeInstall \(187\)](#), [TDaemon.BeforeUnInstall \(188\)](#), [TDaemon.AfterUnInstall \(188\)](#)

9.10.13 TDaemon.BeforeUnInstall

Synopsis: Called before the daemon is uninstalled

Declaration: `Property BeforeUnInstall : TDaemonEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforeUnInstall` is called before the daemon is uninstalled.

See also: [TDaemon.BeforeInstall \(187\)](#), [TDaemon.AfterInstall \(188\)](#), [TDaemon.AfterUnInstall \(188\)](#)

9.10.14 TDaemon.AfterUnInstall

Synopsis: Called after the daemon is uninstalled

Declaration: `Property AfterUnInstall : TDaemonEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterUnInstall` is called after the daemon is successfully uninstalled.

See also: [TDaemon.BeforeInstall \(187\)](#), [TDaemon.AfterInstall \(188\)](#), [TDaemon.BeforeUnInstall \(188\)](#)

9.10.15 TDaemon.OnControlCode

Synopsis: Called when a control code is received for the daemon

Declaration: `Property OnControlCode : TCustomControlCodeEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnControlCode` is called when the daemon receives a control code. If the daemon has not handled the control code, it should set the `Handled` parameter to `False`. By default it is set to `True`.

See also: [daemonapp.architecture \(169\)](#)

9.11 TDaemonApplication

9.11.1 Description

`TDaemonApplication` is the default `TCustomDaemonApplication` (178) descendent that is used to run the daemon application. It is possible to register an alternative `TCustomDaemonApplication` class (using `RegisterDaemonApplicationClass` (174)) to run the application in a different manner.

9.12 TDaemonController

9.12.1 Description

`TDaemonController` is a class that is used by the `TDaemonApplication` (189) class to control the daemon during runtime. The `TDaemonApplication` class instantiates an instance of `TDaemonController` for each daemon in the application and communicates with the daemon through the `TDaemonController` instance. It should rarely be necessary to access or use this class.

9.12.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|--------------|---|
| 190 | Controller | Controller |
| 189 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TDaemonController</code> class |
| 190 | Destroy | Free a <code>TDaemonController</code> instance. |
| 190 | Main | Daemon main entry point |
| 191 | ReportStatus | Report the status to the operating system. |
| 190 | StartService | Start the service |

9.12.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|------------|--------|--|
| 192 | CheckPoint | | Send checkpoint signal to the operating system |
| 191 | Daemon | r | Daemon instance this controller controls. |
| 191 | LastStatus | r | Last reported status |
| 191 | Params | r | Parameters passed to the daemon |

9.12.4 TDaemonController.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TDaemonController` class

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of the `TDaemonController` class. It should never be necessary to create a new instance manually, because the controllers are created by the global `TDaemonApplication` (189) instance, and `AOwner` will be set to the global `TDaemonApplication` (189) instance.

See also: `TDaemonApplication` (189), `TDaemonController.Destroy` (190)

9.12.5 TDaemonController.Destroy

Synopsis: Free a `TDaemonController` instance.

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` deallocates some resources allocated when the instance was created.

See also: [TDaemonController.Create \(189\)](#)

9.12.6 TDaemonController.StartService

Synopsis: Start the service

Declaration: `procedure StartService; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `StartService` starts the service controlled by this instance.

Errors: None.

See also: [TDaemonController.Main \(190\)](#)

9.12.7 TDaemonController.Main

Synopsis: Daemon main entry point

Declaration: `procedure Main(Argc: DWord; Args: PPChar); Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Main` is the service's main entry point, called when the system wants to start the service. The global application will call this function whenever required, with the appropriate arguments.

The standard implementation starts the daemon thread, and waits for it to stop. All other daemon action - such as responding to control code events - is handled by the thread.

Errors: If the daemon thread cannot be created, an exception is raised.

See also: [TDaemonThread \(198\)](#)

9.12.8 TDaemonController.Controller

Synopsis: Controller

Declaration: `procedure Controller(ControlCode: DWord; EventType: DWord;
EventData: Pointer); Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Controller` is responsible for sending the control code to the daemon thread so it can be processed.

This routine is currently only used on windows, as there is no service manager on linux. Later on this may be changed to respond to signals on linux as well.

See also: [TDaemon.OnControlCode \(188\)](#)

9.12.9 TDaemonController.ReportStatus

Synopsis: Report the status to the operating system.

Declaration: `function ReportStatus : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ReportStatus` reports the status of the daemon to the operating system. On windows, this sends the current service status to the service manager. On other operating systems, this sends a message to the system log.

Errors: If an error occurs, an error message is sent to the system log.

See also: [TDaemon.ReportStatus \(184\)](#), [TDaemonController.LastStatus \(191\)](#)

9.12.10 TDaemonController.Daemon

Synopsis: Daemon instance this controller controls.

Declaration: `Property Daemon : TCustomDaemon`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Daemon` is the daemon instance that is controller by this instance of the `TDaemonController` class.

9.12.11 TDaemonController.Params

Synopsis: Parameters passed to the daemon

Declaration: `Property Params : TStrings`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Params` contains the parameters passed to the daemon application by the operating system, comparable to the application's command-line parameters. The property is set by the `Main (190)` method.

9.12.12 TDaemonController.LastStatus

Synopsis: Last reported status

Declaration: `Property LastStatus : TCurrentStatus`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `LastStatus` is the last status reported to the operating system.

See also: [TDaemonController.ReportStatus \(191\)](#)

9.12.13 TDaemonController.CheckPoint

Synopsis: Send checkpoint signal to the operating system

Declaration: `Property CheckPoint : DWord`

Visibility: public

Access:

Description: `CheckPoint` can be used to send a checkpoint signal during lengthy operations, to signal that a lengthy operation is in progress. This should be used mainly on windows, to signal the service manager that the service is alive.

See also: `TDaemonController.ReportStatus` ([191](#))

9.13 TDaemonDef

9.13.1 Description

`TDaemonDef` contains the definition of a daemon in the application: The name of the daemon, which `TCustomDaemon` ([175](#)) descendent should be started to run the daemon, a description, and various other options should be set in this class. The global `TDaemonApplication` instance maintains a collection of `TDaemonDef` instances and will use these definitions to install or start the various daemons.

9.13.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 192 | Create | Create a new <code>TDaemonDef</code> instance |
| 193 | Destroy | Free a <code>TDaemonDef</code> from memory |

9.13.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------|---|
| 193 | <code>DaemonClass</code> | r | <code>TDaemon</code> class to use for this daemon |
| 193 | <code>DaemonClassName</code> | rw | Name of the <code>TDaemon</code> class to use for this daemon |
| 194 | <code>Description</code> | rw | Description of the daemon |
| 194 | <code>DisplayName</code> | rw | Displayed name of the daemon (service) |
| 195 | <code>Enabled</code> | rw | Is the daemon enabled or not |
| 193 | <code>Instance</code> | rw | Instance of the daemon class |
| 196 | <code>LogStatusReport</code> | rw | Log the status report to the system log |
| 194 | <code>Name</code> | rw | Name of the daemon (service) |
| 195 | <code>OnCreateInstance</code> | rw | Event called when a daemon is instantiated |
| 195 | <code>Options</code> | rw | Service options |
| 194 | <code>RunArguments</code> | rw | Additional command-line arguments when running daemon. |
| 195 | <code>WinBindings</code> | rw | Windows-specific bindings (windows only) |

9.13.4 TDaemonDef.Create

Synopsis: Create a new `TDaemonDef` instance

Declaration: `constructor Create(ACollection: TCollection); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new `TDaemonDef` instance. It should not be necessary to instantiate a definition manually, it is handled by the collection.

See also: [TDaemonDefs \(196\)](#)

9.13.5 TDaemonDef.Destroy

Synopsis: Free a `TDaemonDef` from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` removes the `TDaemonDef` from memory.

9.13.6 TDaemonDef.DaemonClass

Synopsis: `TDaemon` class to use for this daemon

Declaration: `Property DaemonClass : TCustomDaemonClass`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `DaemonClass` is the `TDaemon` class that is used when this service is requested. It is looked up in the application's global daemon mapper by its name in `DaemonClassName` ([193](#)).

See also: [TDaemonDef.DaemonClassName \(193\)](#), [TDaemonMapper \(198\)](#)

9.13.7 TDaemonDef.Instance

Synopsis: Instance of the daemon class

Declaration: `Property Instance : TCustomDaemon`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Instance` points to the `TDaemon` ([184](#)) instance that is used when the service is in operation at runtime.

See also: [TDaemonDef.DaemonClass \(193\)](#)

9.13.8 TDaemonDef.DaemonClassName

Synopsis: Name of the `TDaemon` class to use for this daemon

Declaration: `Property DaemonClassName : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DaemonClassName` is the name of the `TDaemon` class that will be used whenever the service is needed. The name is used to look up the class pointer registered in the daemon mapper, when `TCustomDaemonApplication.CreateDaemonInstance` (178) creates an instance of the daemon.

See also: `TDaemonDef.Instance` (193), `TDaemonDef.DaemonClass` (193), `RegisterDaemonClass` (175)

9.13.9 `TDaemonDef.Name`

Synopsis: Name of the daemon (service)

Declaration: `Property Name : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Name` is the internal name of the daemon as it is known to the operating system.

See also: `TDaemonDef.DisplayName` (194)

9.13.10 `TDaemonDef.Description`

Synopsis: Description of the daemon

Declaration: `Property Description : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Description` is the description shown in the Windows service manager when managing this service. It is supplied to the windows service manager when the daemon is installed.

9.13.11 `TDaemonDef.DisplayName`

Synopsis: Displayed name of the daemon (service)

Declaration: `Property DisplayName : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DisplayName` is the displayed name of the daemon as it is known to the operating system.

See also: `TDaemonDef.Name` (194)

9.13.12 `TDaemonDef.RunArguments`

Synopsis: Additional command-line arguments when running daemon.

Declaration: `Property RunArguments : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `RunArguments` specifies any additional command-line arguments that should be specified when running the daemon: these arguments will be passed to the service manager when registering the service on windows.

9.13.13 TDaemonDef.Options

Synopsis: Service options

Declaration: `Property Options : TDaemonOptions`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Options` tells the operating system which operations can be performed on the daemon while it is running.

This option is only used during the installation of the daemon.

9.13.14 TDaemonDef.Enabled

Synopsis: Is the daemon enabled or not

Declaration: `Property Enabled : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Enabled` specifies whether a daemon should be installed, run or uninstalled. Disabled daemons are not installed, run or uninstalled.

9.13.15 TDaemonDef.WinBindings

Synopsis: Windows-specific bindings (windows only)

Declaration: `Property WinBindings : TWinBindings`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `WinBindings` is used to group together the windows-specific properties of the daemon. This property is totally ignored on other platforms.

See also: [TWinBindings \(203\)](#)

9.13.16 TDaemonDef.OnCreateInstance

Synopsis: Event called when a daemon is instantiated

Declaration: `Property OnCreateInstance : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnCreateInstance` is called whenever an instance of the daemon is created. This can be used for instance when a single `TDaemon` class is used to run several services, to correctly initialize the `TDaemon`.

9.13.17 TDaemonDef.LogStatusReport

Synopsis: Log the status report to the system log

Declaration: `Property LogStatusReport : Boolean`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `LogStatusReport` can be set to `True` to send the status reports also to the system log. This can be used to track the progress of the daemon.

See also: `TDaemon.ReportStatus` (184)

9.14 TDaemonDefs

9.14.1 Description

`TDaemonDefs` is the class of the global list of daemon definitions. It contains an item for each daemon in the application.

Normally it is not necessary to create an instance of `TDaemonDefs` manually. The global `TCustomDaemonMapper` (182) instance will create a collection and maintain it.

9.14.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 196 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of a <code>TDaemonDefs</code> collection. |
| 197 | <code>DaemonDefByName</code> | Find and return instance of daemon definition with given name. |
| 197 | <code>FindDaemonDef</code> | Find and return instance of daemon definition with given name. |
| 197 | <code>IndexOfDaemonDef</code> | Return index of daemon definition |

9.14.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| 197 | <code>Daemons</code> | <code>rw</code> | Indexed access to <code>TDaemonDef</code> instances |

9.14.4 TDaemonDefs.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TDaemonDefs` collection.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TPersistent; AClass: TCollectionItemClass)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of the `TDaemonDefs` collection. It keeps the `AOwner` parameter for future reference and calls the inherited constructor.

Normally it is not necessary to create an instance of `TDaemonDefs` manually. The global `TCustomDaemonMapper` (182) instance will create a collection and maintain it.

See also: `TDaemonDef` (192)

9.14.5 TDaemonDefs.IndexOfDaemonDef

Synopsis: Return index of daemon definition

Declaration: `function IndexOfDaemonDef(const DaemonName: String) : Integer`

Visibility: public

Description: `IndexOfDaemonDef` searches the collection for a `TDaemonDef` (192) instance with a name equal to `DaemonName`, and returns it's index. It returns -1 if no definition was found with this name. The search is case insensitive.

See also: `TDaemonDefs.FindDaemonDef` (197), `TDaemonDefs.DaemonDefByName` (197)

9.14.6 TDaemonDefs.FindDaemonDef

Synopsis: Find and return instance of daemon definition with given name.

Declaration: `function FindDaemonDef(const DaemonName: String) : TDaemonDef`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindDaemonDef` searches the list of daemon definitions and returns the `TDaemonDef` (192) instance whose name matches `DaemonName`. If no definition is found, `Nil` is returned.

See also: `TDaemonDefs.IndexOfDaemonDef` (197), `TDaemonDefs.DaemonDefByName` (197)

9.14.7 TDaemonDefs.DaemonDefByName

Synopsis: Find and return instance of daemon definition with given name.

Declaration: `function DaemonDefByName(const DaemonName: String) : TDaemonDef`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindDaemonDef` searches the list of daemon definitions and returns the `TDaemonDef` (192) instance whose name matches `DaemonName`. If no definition is found, an `EDaemon` (175) exception is raised.

The `FindDaemonDef` (197) call does not raise an error, but returns `Nil` instead.

Errors: If no definition is found, an `EDaemon` (175) exception is raised.

See also: `TDaemonDefs.IndexOfDaemonDef` (197), `TDaemonDefs.FindDaemonDef` (197)

9.14.8 TDaemonDefs.Daemons

Synopsis: Indexed access to `TDaemonDef` instances

Declaration: `Property Daemons[Index: Integer]: TDaemonDef; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Daemons` is the default property of `TDaemonDefs`, it gives access to the `TDaemonDef` instances in the collection.

See also: `TDaemonDef` (192)

9.15 TDaemonMapper

9.15.1 Description

`TDaemonMapper` is a direct descendent of `TCustomDaemonMapper` (182), but introduces no new functionality. It's sole purpose is to make it possible for an IDE to stream the `TDaemonMapper` instance.

For this purpose, it overrides the `Create` constructor and tries to find a resource with the same name as the class name, and tries to stream the instance from this resource.

If the instance should not be streamed, the `CreateNew` (198) constructor can be used instead.

9.15.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| 198 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new <code>TDaemonMapper</code> instance and initializes it from streamed resources. |
| 198 | <code>CreateNew</code> | Create a new <code>TDaemonMapper</code> instance without initialization |

9.15.3 TDaemonMapper.Create

Synopsis: Create a new `TDaemonMapper` instance and initializes it from streamed resources.

Declaration: constructor `Create(AOwner: TComponent);` Override

Visibility: default

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of `TDaemonMapper` and attempts to read the component from resources compiled in the application.

If the instance should not be streamed, the `CreateNew` (198) constructor can be used instead.

Errors: If no streaming system is found, or no resource exists for the class, an exception is raised.

See also: `TDaemonMapper.CreateNew` (198)

9.15.4 TDaemonMapper.CreateNew

Synopsis: Create a new `TDaemonMapper` instance without initialization

Declaration: constructor `CreateNew(AOwner: TComponent; Dummy: Integer)`

Visibility: default

Description: `CreateNew` initializes a new instance of `TDaemonMapper`. In difference with the `Create` constructor, it does not attempt to read the component from a stream.

See also: `TDaemonMapper.Create` (198)

9.16 TDaemonThread

9.16.1 Description

`TDaemonThread` is the thread in which the daemons in the application are run. Each daemon is run in it's own thread.

It should not be necessary to create these threads manually, the `TDaemonController` (189) class will take care of this.

9.16.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 199 | CheckControlMessage | Check if a control message has arrived |
| 200 | ContinueDaemon | Continue the daemon |
| 199 | Create | Create a new thread |
| 199 | Execute | Run the daemon |
| 201 | InterrogateDaemon | Report the daemon status |
| 200 | PauseDaemon | Pause the daemon |
| 200 | ShutDownDaemon | Shut down daemon |
| 200 | StopDaemon | Stops the daemon |

9.16.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| 201 | Daemon | r | Daemon instance |

9.16.4 TDaemonThread.Create

Synopsis: Create a new thread

Declaration: `constructor Create (ADaemon: TCustomDaemon)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new thread instance. It initializes the `Daemon` property with the passed `ADaemon`. The thread is created suspended.

See also: `TDaemonThread.Daemon` ([201](#))

9.16.5 TDaemonThread.Execute

Synopsis: Run the daemon

Declaration: `procedure Execute; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Execute` starts executing the daemon and waits till the daemon stops. It also listens for control codes for the daemon.

See also: `TDaemon.Execute` ([184](#))

9.16.6 TDaemonThread.CheckControlMessage

Synopsis: Check if a control message has arrived

Declaration: `procedure CheckControlMessage (WaitForMessage: Boolean)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CheckControlMessage` checks if a control message has arrived for the daemon and executes the appropriate daemon message. If the parameter `WaitForMessage` is `True`, then the routine waits for the message to arrive. If it is `False` and no message is present, it returns at once.

9.16.7 TDaemonThread.StopDaemon

Synopsis: Stops the daemon

Declaration: `function StopDaemon : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `StopDaemon` attempts to stop the daemon using its `TDaemon.Stop` (184) method, and terminates the thread.

See also: `TDaemon.Stop` (184), `TDaemonThread.PauseDaemon` (200), `TDaemonThread.ShutDownDaemon` (200)

9.16.8 TDaemonThread.PauseDaemon

Synopsis: Pause the daemon

Declaration: `function PauseDaemon : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `PauseDaemon` attempts to stop the daemon using its `TDaemon.Pause` (184) method, and suspends the thread. It returns `True` if the attempt was successful.

See also: `TDaemon.Pause` (184), `TDaemonThread.StopDaemon` (200), `TDaemonThread.ContinueDaemon` (200), `TDaemonThread.ShutDownDaemon` (200)

9.16.9 TDaemonThread.ContinueDaemon

Synopsis: Continue the daemon

Declaration: `function ContinueDaemon : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ContinueDaemon` attempts to stop the daemon using its `TDaemon.Continue` (184) method. It returns `True` if the attempt was successful.

See also: `TDaemon.Continue` (184), `TDaemonThread.StopDaemon` (200), `TDaemonThread.PauseDaemon` (200), `TDaemonThread.ShutDownDaemon` (200)

9.16.10 TDaemonThread.ShutDownDaemon

Synopsis: Shut down daemon

Declaration: `function ShutDownDaemon : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ShutDownDaemon` shuts down the daemon. This happens normally only when the system is shut down and the daemon didn't respond to the stop request. The return result is the result of the `TDaemon.Shutdown` (184) function. The thread is terminated by this method.

See also: `TDaemon.Shutdown` (184), `TDaemonThread.StopDaemon` (200), `TDaemonThread.PauseDaemon` (200), `TDaemonThread.ContinueDaemon` (200)

9.16.11 TDaemonThread.InterrogateDaemon

Synopsis: Report the daemon status

Declaration: `function InterrogateDaemon : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `InterrogateDaemon` simply calls `TDaemon.ReportStatus` (184) for the daemon that is running in this thread. It always returns `True`.

See also: `TDaemon.ReportStatus` (184)

9.16.12 TDaemonThread.Daemon

Synopsis: Daemon instance

Declaration: `Property Daemon : TCustomDaemon`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Daemon` is the daemon instance which is running in this thread.

See also: `TDaemon` (184)

9.17 TDependencies

9.17.1 Description

`TDependencies` is just a descendent of `TCollection` which contains a series of dependencies on other services. It overrides the default property of `TCollection` to return `TDependency` (202) instances.

9.17.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| 201 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of a <code>TDependencies</code> collection. |

9.17.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 202 | <code>Items</code> | <code>rw</code> | Default property override |

9.17.4 TDependencies.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TDependencies` collection.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TPersistent)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` Create a new instance of a `TDependencies` collection.

9.17.5 TDependencies.Items

Synopsis: Default property override

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: Integer]: TDependency; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Items` overrides the default property of `TCollection` so the items are of type `TDependency` (202).

See also: `TDependency` (202)

9.18 TDependency

9.18.1 Description

`TDependency` is a collection item used to specify dependencies on other daemons (services) in windows. It is used only on windows and when installing the daemon: changing the dependencies of a running daemon has no effect.

9.18.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| 202 | <code>Assign</code> | Assign <code>TDependency</code> instance to another |

9.18.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 203 | <code>IsGroup</code> | rw | Name refers to a service group |
| 202 | <code>Name</code> | rw | Name of the service |

9.18.4 TDependency.Assign

Synopsis: Assign `TDependency` instance to another

Declaration: `procedure Assign(Source: TPersistent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Assign` is overridden by `TDependency` to copy all properties from one instance to another.

9.18.5 TDependency.Name

Synopsis: Name of the service

Declaration: `Property Name : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Name` is the name of a service or service group that the current daemon depends on.

See also: `TDependency.IsGroup` (203)

9.18.6 TDependency.IsGroup

Synopsis: Name refers to a service group

Declaration: `Property IsGroup : Boolean`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `IsGroup` can be set to `True` to indicate that `Name` refers to the name of a service group.

See also: `TDependency.Name` (202)

9.19 TWinBindings

9.19.1 Description

`TWinBindings` contains windows-specific properties for the daemon definition (in `TDaemonDef.WinBindings` (195)). If the daemon should not run on Windows, then the properties can be ignored.

9.19.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| 204 | <code>Assign</code> | Copies all properties |
| 203 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new <code>TWinBindings</code> instance |
| 204 | <code>Destroy</code> | Remove a <code>TWinBindings</code> instance from memory |

9.19.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 205 | <code>Dependencies</code> | <code>rw</code> | Service dependencies |
| 204 | <code>ErrCode</code> | <code>rw</code> | Service specific error code |
| 207 | <code>ErrorSeverity</code> | <code>rw</code> | Error severity in case of startup failure |
| 205 | <code>GroupName</code> | <code>rw</code> | Service group name |
| 206 | <code>IDTag</code> | <code>rw</code> | Location in the service group |
| 205 | <code>Password</code> | <code>rw</code> | Password for service startup |
| 207 | <code>ServiceType</code> | <code>rw</code> | Type of service |
| 206 | <code>StartType</code> | <code>rw</code> | Service startup type. |
| 205 | <code>UserName</code> | <code>rw</code> | Username to run service as |
| 206 | <code>WaitHint</code> | <code>rw</code> | Timeout wait hint |
| 204 | <code>Win32ErrCode</code> | <code>rw</code> | General windows error code |

9.19.4 TWinBindings.Create

Synopsis: Create a new `TWinBindings` instance

Declaration: `constructor Create`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes various properties such as the dependencies.

See also: `TDaemonDef` (192), `TDaemonDef.WinBindings` (195), `TWinBindings.Dependencies` (205)

9.19.5 **TWinBindings.Destroy**

Synopsis: Remove a `TWinBindings` instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the `TWinBindings` instance.

See also: `TWinBindings.Dependencies` (205), `TWinBindings.Create` (203)

9.19.6 **TWinBindings.Assign**

Synopsis: Copies all properties

Declaration: `procedure Assign(Source: TPersistent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Assign` is overridden by `TWinBindings` so all properties are copied from `Source` to the `TWinBindings` instance.

9.19.7 **TWinBindings.ErrCode**

Synopsis: Service specific error code

Declaration: `Property ErrCode : DWord`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `ErrCode` contains a service specific error code that is reported with `TDaemon.ReportStatus` (184) to the windows service manager. If it is zero, then the contents of `Win32ErrCode` (204) are reported. If it is nonzero, then the windows-errorcode is set to `ERROR_SERVICE_SPECIFIC_ERROR`.

See also: `TWinBindings.Win32ErrCode` (204)

9.19.8 **TWinBindings.Win32ErrCode**

Synopsis: General windows error code

Declaration: `Property Win32ErrCode : DWord`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Win32ErrCode` is a general windows service error code that can be reported with `TDaemon.ReportStatus` (184) to the windows service manager. It is sent if `ErrCode` (204) is zero.

See also: `TWinBindings.ErrCode` (204)

9.19.9 **TWinBindings.Dependencies**

Synopsis: Service dependencies

Declaration: `Property Dependencies : TDependencies`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Dependencies` contains the list of other services (or service groups) that this service depends on. Windows will first attempt to start these services prior to starting this service. If they cannot be started, then the service will not be started either.

This property is only used during installation of the service.

9.19.10 **TWinBindings.GroupName**

Synopsis: Service group name

Declaration: `Property GroupName : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `GroupName` specifies the name of a service group that the service belongs to. If it is empty, then the service does not belong to any group.

This property is only used during installation of the service.

See also: `TDependency.IsGroup` ([203](#))

9.19.11 **TWinBindings.Password**

Synopsis: Password for service startup

Declaration: `Property Password : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Password` contains the service password: if the service is started with credentials other than one of the system users, then the password for the user must be entered here.

This property is only used during installation of the service.

See also: `TWinBindings.UserName` ([205](#))

9.19.12 **TWinBindings.UserName**

Synopsis: Username to run service as

Declaration: `Property UserName : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: Username specifies the name of a user whose credentials should be used to run the service. If it is left empty, the service is run as the system user. The password can be set in the Password (205) property.

This property is only used during installation of the service.

See also: TWinBindings.Password (205)

9.19.13 TWinBindings.StartType

Synopsis: Service startup type.

Declaration: Property StartType : TStartType

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: StartType specifies when the service should be started during system startup.

This property is only used during installation of the service.

9.19.14 TWinBindings.WaitHint

Synopsis: Timeout wait hint

Declaration: Property WaitHint : Integer

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: WaitHint specifies the estimated time for a start/stop/pause or continue operation (in milliseconds). ReportStatus should be called prior to this time to report the next status.

See also: TDaemon.ReportStatus (184)

9.19.15 TWinBindings.IDTag

Synopsis: Location in the service group

Declaration: Property IDTag : DWord

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: IDTag contains the location of the service in the service group after installation of the service. It should not be set, it is reported by the service manager.

This property is only used during installation of the service.

9.19.16 TWinBindings.ServiceType

Synopsis: Type of service

Declaration: Property `ServiceType` : `TServiceType`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ServiceType` specifies what kind of service is being installed.

This property is only used during installation of the service.

9.19.17 TWinBindings.ErrorSeverity

Synopsis: Error severity in case of startup failure

Declaration: Property `ErrorSeverity` : `TErrorSeverity`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ErrorSeverity` can be used at installation time to tell the windows service manager how to behave when the service fails to start during system startup.

This property is only used during installation of the service.

Chapter 10

Reference for unit 'db'

10.1 Used units

Table 10.1: Used units by unit 'db'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| FmtBCD | 208 |
| sysutils | ?? |
| Variants | 208 |

10.2 Overview

The `db` unit provides the basis for all database access mechanisms. It introduces abstract classes, on which all database access mechanisms are based: `TDataset` (250) representing a set of records from a database, `TField` (298) which represents the contents of a field in a record, `TDataSource` (287) which acts as an event distributor on behalf of a dataset and `TParams` (368) which can be used to parametrize queries. The databases connections themselves are abstracted in the `TDatabase` (241) class.

10.3 Constants, types and variables

10.3.1 Constants

```
DefaultFieldClasses : Array[TFieldType] of TFieldClass = (Tfield, TStringField, TSmall
```

`DefaultFieldClasses` contains the `TField` (298) descendent class to use when a `TDataset` instance needs to create fields based on the `TFieldDefs` (326) field definitions when opening the dataset. The entries can be set to create customized `TField` descendents for certain field datatypes in all datasets.

```
dsEditModes = [dsEdit, dsInsert, dsSetKey]
```


Pointer to TDateTimeRec record

PLargeInt = ^LargeInt

Pointer to Large (64-bit) integer

PLookupListRec = ^TLookupListRec

Pointer to TLookupListRec record

TBlobData = String

TBlobData should never be used directly in application code.

TBlobStreamMode = (bmRead, bmWrite, bmReadWrite)

Table 10.2: Enumeration values for type TBlobStreamMode

| Value | Explanation |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| bmRead | Read blob data |
| bmReadWrite | Read and write blob data |
| bmWrite | Write blob data |

TBlobStramMode is used when creating a stream for redaing BLOB data. It indicates what the data will be used for: reading, writing or both.

TBlobType = ..ftWideMemo

TBlobType is a subrange type, indicating the various datatypes of BLOB fields.

TBookmark = Pointer

TBookMark is the type used by the TDataset.SetBookMark (250) method. It is an opaque type, and should not be used any more, it is superseded by the TBookmarkStr (211) type.

TBookmarkFlag = (bfCurrent, bfBOF, bfEOF, bfInserted)

Table 10.3: Enumeration values for type TBookmarkFlag

| Value | Explanation |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| bfBOF | First record in the dataset. |
| bfCurrent | Buffer used for the current record |
| bfEOF | Last record in the dataset |
| bfInserted | Buffer used for insert |

TBookmarkFlag is used internally by TDataset (250) and it's descendent types to mark the internal memory buffers. It should not be used in end-user applications.

`TBookmarkStr = String`

`TBookmarkStr` is the type used by the `TDataset.Bookmark` (271) property. It can be used as a string, but should in fact be considered an opaque type.

`TBufferArray = ^pchar`

`TBufferArray` is an internally used type. It can change in future implementations, and should not be used in application code.

`TBufferList = Array[0..dsMaxBufferCount-1] of PChar`

`TBufferList` is used internally by the `TDataset` (250) class to manage the memory buffers for the data. It should not be necessary to use this type in end-user applications.

`TDataAction = (daFail, daAbort, daRetry)`

Table 10.4: Enumeration values for type `TDataAction`

| Value | Explanation |
|----------------------|--|
| <code>daAbort</code> | The operation should be aborted (edits are undone, and an <code>EAbort</code> exception is raised) |
| <code>daFail</code> | The operation should fail (an exception will be raised) |
| <code>daRetry</code> | Retry the operation. |

`TDataAction` is used by the `TDataSetErrorEvent` (212) event handler prototype. The parameter `Action` of this event handler is of `TDataAction` type, and should indicate what action must be taken by the dataset.

`TDatabaseClass = Class of TDataBase`

`TDatabaseClass` is the class pointer for the `TDatabase` (241) class.

`TDataChangeEvent = procedure(Sender: TObject;Field: TField) of object`

`TDataChangeEvent` is the event handler prototype for the `TDatasource.OnDataChange` (290) event. The sender parameter is the `TDatasource` instance that triggered the event, and the `Field` parameter is the field whose data has changed. If the dataset has scrolled, then the `Field` parameter is `Nil`.

`TDataEvent = (deFieldChange, deRecordChange, deDataSetChange, deDataSetScroll, deLayoutChange, deUpdateRecord, deUpdateState, deCheckBrowseMode, dePropertyChange, deFieldListChange, deFocusControl, deParentScroll, deConnectChange, deReconcileError, deDisabledStateChange)`

`TDataEvent` describes the various events that can be sent to `TDatasource` (287) instances connected to a `TDataset` (250) instance.

`TDataOperation = procedure of object`

Table 10.5: Enumeration values for type TDataEvent

| Value | Explanation |
|-----------------------|--|
| deCheckBrowseMode | The browse mode is being checked |
| deConnectChange | Unused |
| deDataSetChange | The dataset property changed |
| deDataSetScroll | The dataset scrolled to another record |
| deDisabledStateChange | Unused |
| deFieldChange | A field value changed |
| deFieldListChange | Event sent when the list of fields of a dataset changes |
| deFocusControl | Event sent whenever a control connected to a field should be focused |
| deLayoutChange | The layout properties of one of the fields changed |
| deParentScroll | Unused |
| dePropertyChange | Unused |
| deReconcileError | Unused |
| deRecordChange | The current record changed |
| deUpdateRecord | The record is being updated |
| deUpdateState | The dataset state is updated |

TDataOperation is a prototype handler used internally in TDataset. It can be changed at any time, so it should not be used in end-user code.

```
TDatasetClass = Class of TDataSet
```

TDatasetClass is the class type for the TDataset (250) class. It is currently unused in the DB unit and is defined for the benefit of other units.

```
TDataSetErrorEvent = procedure (DataSet: TDataSet; E: EDatabaseError;
                                var DataAction: TDataAction) of object
```

TDataSetErrorEvent is used by the TDataset.OnEditError (286), TDataset.OnPostError (287) and TDataset.OnDeleteError (285) event handlers to allow the programmer to specify what should be done if an update operation fails with an exception: The DataSet parameter indicates what dataset triggered the event, the E parameter contains the exception object. The DataAction must be set by the event handler, and based on its return value, the dataset instance will take appropriate action. The default value is daFail, i.e. the exception will be raised again. For a list of available return values, see TDataAction (211).

```
TDataSetNotifyEvent = procedure (DataSet: TDataSet) of object
```

TDatasetNotifyEvent is used in most of the TDataset (250) event handlers. It differs from the more general TNotifyEvent (defined in the Classes unit) in that the Sender parameter of the latter is replaced with the DataSet parameter. This avoids typecasts, the available TDataset methods can be used directly.

```
TDataSetState = (dsInactive, dsBrowse, dsEdit, dsInsert, dsSetKey,
                 dsCalcFields, dsFilter, dsNewValue, dsOldValue, dsCurValue,
                 dsBlockRead, dsInternalCalc, dsOpening)
```

TDataSetState describes the current state of the dataset. During its lifetime, the dataset's state is described by these enumerated values.

Table 10.6: Enumeration values for type TDataSetState

| Value | Explanation |
|----------------|--|
| dsBlockRead | The dataset is open, but no events are transferred to datasources. |
| dsBrowse | The dataset is active, and the cursor can be used to navigate the data. |
| dsCalcFields | The dataset is calculating it's calculated fields. |
| dsCurValue | The dataset is showing the current values of a record. |
| dsEdit | The dataset is in editing mode: the current record can be modified. |
| dsFilter | The dataset is filtering records. |
| dsInactive | The dataset is not active. No data is available. |
| dsInsert | The dataset is in insert mode: the current record is a new record which can be edited. |
| dsInternalCalc | The dataset is calculating it's internally calculated fields. |
| dsNewValue | The dataset is showing the new values of a record. |
| dsOldValue | The dataset is showing the old values of a record. |
| dsOpening | The dataset is currently opening, but is not yet completely open. |
| dsSetKey | The dataset is calculating the primary key. |

Some state are not used in the default TDataset implementation, and are only used by certain descendants.

```
TDateTimeAlias = TDateTime
```

TDateTimeAlias is no longer used.

```
TDateTimeRec = record
end
```

TDateTimeRec was used by older TDataset (250) implementations to store date/time values. Newer implementations use the TDateTime. This type should no longer be used.

```
TDBDatasetClass = Class of TDBDataset
```

TDBDatasetClass is the class pointer for TDBDataset (293)

```
TDBTransactionClass = Class of TDBTransaction
```

TDBTransactionClass is the class pointer for the TDBTransaction (294) class.

```
TFieldAttribute = (faHiddenCol, faReadOnly, faRequired, faLink, faUnNamed,
faFixed)
```

TFieldAttribute is used to denote some attributes of a field in a database. It is used in the Attributes (325) property of TFieldDef (322).

```
TFieldAttributes= Set of (faFixed, faHiddenCol, faLink, faReadOnly,
faRequired, faUnNamed)
```

TFieldAttributes is used in the TFieldDef.Attributes (325) property to denote additional attributes of the underlying field.

Table 10.7: Enumeration values for type TFieldAttribute

| Value | Explanation |
|-------------|---|
| faFixed | Fixed length field |
| faHiddenCol | Field is a hidden column (used to construct a unique key) |
| faLink | Field is a link field for other datasets |
| faReadOnly | Field is read-only |
| faRequired | Field is required |
| faUnNamed | Field has no original name |

TFieldChars = Set of Char

TFieldChars is a type used in the TField.ValidChars (313) property. It's a simple set of characters.

TFieldClass = Class of TField

TFieldGetTextEvent = procedure(Sender: TField; var aText: String;
DisplayText: Boolean) of object

TFieldGetTextEvent is the prototype for the TField.OnGetText (321) event handler. It should be used when the text of a field requires special formatting. The event handler should return the contents of the field in formatted form in the AText parameter. The DisplayText is True if the text is used for displaying purposes or is False if it will be used for editing purposes.

TFieldKind = (fkData, fkCalculated, fkLookup, fkInternalCalc)

Table 10.8: Enumeration values for type TFieldKind

| Value | Explanation |
|----------------|--|
| fkCalculated | The field is calculated on the fly. |
| fkData | Field represents actual data in the underlying data structure. |
| fkInternalCalc | Field is calculated but stored in an underlying buffer. |
| fkLookup | The field is a lookup field. |

TFieldKind indicates the type of a TField instance. Besides TField instances that represent fields present in the underlying data records, there can also be calculated or lookup fields. To distinguish between these kind of fields, TFieldKind is introduced.

TFieldKinds= Set of (fkCalculated, fkData, fkInternalCalc, fkLookup)

TFieldKinds is a set of TFieldKind (214) values. It is used internally by the classes of the DB unit.

TFieldMap = Array[TFieldType] of Byte

TFieldMap is no longer used.

TFieldNotifyEvent = procedure(Sender: TField) of object

`TFieldNotifyEvent` is a prototype for the event handlers in the `TField` (298) class. Its `Sender` parameter is the field instance that triggered the event.

```
TFieldRef = ^TField
```

Pointer to a `TField` instance

```
TFieldSetTextEvent = procedure(Sender: TField;const aText: String)
                    of object
```

`TFieldSetTextEvent` is the prototype for an event handler used to set the contents of a field based on a user-edited text. It should be used when the text of a field is entered with special formatting. The event handler should set the contents of the field based on the formatted text in the `AText` parameter.

```
TFieldType = (ftUnknown, ftString, ftSmallint, ftInteger, ftWord, ftBoolean,
             ftFloat, ftCurrency, ftBCD, ftDate, ftTime, ftDateTime, ftBytes,
             ftVarBytes, ftAutoInc, ftBlob, ftMemo, ftGraphic, ftFmtMemo,
             ftParadoxOle, ftDBaseOle, ftTypedBinary, ftCursor,
             ftFixedChar, ftWideString, ftLargeint, ftADT, ftArray,
             ftReference, ftDataSet, ftOraBlob, ftOraClob, ftVariant,
             ftInterface, ftIDispatch, ftGuid, ftTimeStamp, ftFMTBcd,
             ftFixedWideChar, ftWideMemo)
```

`TFieldType` indicates the type of a `TField` (298) underlying data, in the `DataType` (310) property.

```
TFilterOption = (foCaseInsensitive, foNoPartialCompare)
```

`TFilterOption` enumerates the various options available when filtering a dataset. The `TFilterOptions` (215) set is used in the `TDataset.FilterOptions` (278) property to indicate which of the options should be used when filtering the data.

```
TFilterOptions= Set of (foCaseInsensitive, foNoPartialCompare)
```

`TFilterOption` is the set of filter options to use when filtering a dataset. This set type is used in the `TDataset.FilterOptions` (278) property. The available values are described in the `TFilterOption` (215) type.

```
TFilterRecordEvent = procedure(DataSet: TDataSet;var Accept: Boolean)
                    of object
```

`TFilterRecordEvent` is the prototype for the `TDataset.OnFilterRecord` (286) event handler. The `DataSet` parameter indicates which dataset triggered the event, and the `Accept` parameter must be set to `true` if the current record should be shown, `False` should be used when the record should be hidden.

```
TGetMode = (gmCurrent, gmNext, gmPrior)
```

`TGetMode` is used internally by `TDataset` (250) when it needs to fetch more data for its buffers (using `GetRecord`). It tells the descendent dataset what operation must be performed.

```
TGetResult = (grOK, grBOF, grEOF, grError)
```

TGetResult is used by descendents of TDataset (250) when they have to communicate the result of the GetRecord operation back to the TDataset record.

```
TIndexOption = (ixPrimary, ixUnique, ixDescending, ixCaseInsensitive,
               ixExpression, ixNonMaintained)
```

TIndexOption describes the various properties that an index can have. It is used in the TIndexOptions (216) set type to describe all properties of an index definition as in TIndexDef (338).

```
TIndexOptions= Set of (ixCaseInsensitive, ixDescending, ixExpression,
                      ixNonMaintained, ixPrimary, ixUnique)
```

TIndexOptions contains the set of properties that an index can have. It is used in the TIndexDef.Options (340) property to describe all properties of an index definition as in TIndexDef (338).

```
TIntegerField = TLongintField
```

TIntegerField is an alias for TLongintField (346).

```
TLocateOption = (loCaseInsensitive, loPartialKey)
```

TLocateOption is used in the TDataset.Locate (266) call to enumerate the possible options available when locating a record in the dataset.

```
TLocateOptions= Set of (loCaseInsensitive, loPartialKey)
```

TLocateOptions is used in the TDataset.Locate (266) call: It should contain the actual options to use when locating a record in the dataset.

```
TLoginEvent = procedure(Sender: TObject; Username: String;
                       Password: String) of object
```

TLoginEvent is the prototype for a the the TCustomConnection.OnLogin (240) event handler. It gets passed the TCustomConnection instance that is trying to login, and the initial username and password.

```
TLookupListRec = record
  Key : Variant;
  Value : Variant;
end
```

TLookupListRec is used by lookup fields to store lookup results, if the results should be cached. Its two fields keep the key value and associated lookup value.

```
TParamBinding = Array of Integer
```

TParamBinding is an auxiliary type used when parsing and binding parameters in SQL statements. It should never be used directly in application code.

```
TParamStyle = (psInterbase, psPostgreSQL, psSimulated)
```

`TParamStyle` denotes the style in which parameters are specified in a query. It is used in the `TParams.ParseSQL` (370) method, and can have the following values:

psInterbase Parameters are specified by a ? character

psPostgreSQL Parameters are specified by a \$N character.

psSimulated Parameters are specified by a \$N character.

`TParamType` = (ptUnknown, ptInput, ptOutput, ptInputOutput, ptResult)

`TParamType` indicates the kind of parameter represented by a `TParam` (356) instance. it has one of the following values:

ptUnknown Unknown type

ptInput Input parameter

ptOutput Output paramete, filled on result

ptInputOutput Input/output parameter

ptResult Result parameter

`TParamTypes` = Set of (ptInput, ptInputOutput, ptOutput, ptResult, ptUnknown)

`TParamTypes` is defined for completeness: a set of `TParamType` (217) values.

`TProviderFlag` = (pfInUpdate, pfInWhere, pfInKey, pfHidden)

`TProviderFlag` describes how the field should be used when applying updates from a dataset to the database. Each field of a `TDataset` (250) has one or more of these flags.

`TProviderFlags` = Set of (pfHidden, pfInKey, pfInUpdate, pfInWhere)

`TProviderFlags` is used for the `TField.ProviderFlags` (319) property to describe the role of the field when applying updates to a database.

`TResolverResponse` = (rrSkip, rrAbort, rrMerge, rrApply, rrIgnore)

`TResolverResponse` is used to indicate what should happen to a pending change that could not be resolved. It is used in callbacks.

`TResyncMode` = Set of (rmExact, rmCenter)

`TResyncMode` is used internally by various `TDataset` (250) navigation and data manipulation methods such as the `TDataset.Refresh` (269) method when they need to reset the cursor position in the dataset's buffer.

`TStringFieldBuffer` = Array[0..dsMaxStringSize] of Char

Type to access string field content buffers as an array of characters

`TUpdateAction` = (uaFail, uaAbort, uaSkip, uaRetry, uaApplied)

`TUpdateAction` indicates what action must be taken in case the applying of updates on the underlying database fails. This type is not used in the `TDataset` (250) class, but is defined on behalf of `TDataset` descendents that implement caching of updates: It indicates what should be done when the (delayed) applying of the updates fails. This event occurs long after the actual post or delete operation.

`TUpdateKind` = (ukModify, ukInsert, ukDelete)

`TUpdateKind` indicates what kind of update operation is in progress when applying updates.

`TUpdateMode` = (upWhereAll, upWhereChanged, upWhereKeyOnly)

`TUpdateMode` determines how the `WHERE` clause of update queries for SQL databases should be constructed.

`TUpdateStatus` = (usUnmodified, usModified, usInserted, usDeleted)

`TUpdateStatus` determines the current state of the record buffer, if updates have not yet been applied to the database.

`TUpdateStatusSet` = Set of (usDeleted, usInserted, usModified, usUnmodified)

`TUpdateStatusSet` is a set of `TUpdateStatus` (218) values.

10.4 Procedures and functions

10.4.1 BuffersEqual

Synopsis: Check whether 2 memory buffers are equal

Declaration: `function BuffersEqual(Buf1: Pointer; Buf2: Pointer; Size: Integer)
: Boolean`

Visibility: default

Description: `BuffersEqual` compares the memory areas pointed to by the `Buf1` and `Buf2` pointers and returns `True` if the contents are equal. The memory areas are compared for the first `Size` bytes. If all bytes in the indicated areas are equal, then `True` is returned, otherwise `False` is returned.

Errors: If `Buf1` or `Buf2` do not point to a valid memory area or `Size` is too large, then an exception may occur

See also: `#rtl.system.Comparemem` (??)

10.4.2 DatabaseError

Synopsis: Raise an `EDatabaseError` exception.

Declaration: `procedure DatabaseError(const Msg: String); Overload
procedure DatabaseError(const Msg: String; Comp: TComponent); Overload`

Visibility: default

Description: `DatabaseError` raises an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception, passing it `Msg`. If `Comp` is specified, the name of the component is prepended to the message.

See also: `DatabaseErrorFmt` (219), `EDatabaseError` (220)

10.4.3 DatabaseErrorFmt

Synopsis: Raise an `EDatabaseError` exception with a formatted message

Declaration: `procedure DatabaseErrorFmt(const Fmt: String;Args: Array of const) ; Overload`
`procedure DatabaseErrorFmt(const Fmt: String;Args: Array of const; Comp: TComponent); Overload`

Visibility: default

Description: `DatabaseErrorFmt` raises an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception, passing it a message made by calling `rtl.sysutils.format` (208) with the `fmt` and `Args` arguments. If `Comp` is specified, the name of the component is prepended to the message.

See also: `DatabaseError` (218), `EDatabaseError` (220)

10.4.4 DateTimeRecToDateTime

Synopsis: Convert `TDateTimeRec` record to a `TDateTime` value.

Declaration: `function DateTimeRecToDateTime(DT: TFieldType;Data: TDateTimeRec) : TDateTime`

Visibility: default

Description: `DateTimeRecToDateTime` examines `Data` and `Dt` and uses `dt` to convert the timestamp in `Data` to a `TDateTime` value.

See also: `TFieldType` (215), `TDateTimeRec` (213), `DateTimeToDateTimeRec` (219)

10.4.5 DateTimeToDateTimeRec

Synopsis: Convert `TDateTime` value to a `TDateTimeRec` record.

Declaration: `function DateTimeToDateTimeRec(DT: TFieldType;Data: TDateTime) : TDateTimeRec`

Visibility: default

Description: `DateTimeToDateTimeRec` examines `Data` and `Dt` and uses `dt` to convert the date/time value in `Data` to a `TDateTimeRec` record.

Errors:

See also: `TFieldType` (215), `TDateTimeRec` (213), `DateTimeRecToDateTime` (219)

10.4.6 DisposeMem

Synopsis: Dispose of a heap memory block and `Nil` the pointer (deprecated)

Declaration: `procedure DisposeMem(var Buffer;Size: Integer)`

Visibility: default

Description: `DisposeMem` disposes of the heap memory area pointed to by `Buffer` (`Buffer` must be of type `Pointer`). The `Size` parameter indicates the size of the memory area (it is, in fact, ignored by the heap manager). The pointer `Buffer` is set to `Nil`. If `Buffer` is `Nil`, then nothing happens. Do not use `DisposeMem` on objects, because their destructor will not be called.

Errors: If `Buffer` is not pointing to a valid heap memory block, then memory corruption may occur.

See also: `#rtl.system.FreeMem` (??), `#rtl.sysutils.freeandnil` (??)

10.4.7 ExtractFieldName

Synopsis: Extract the field name at position

Declaration: `function ExtractFieldName(const Fields: String; var Pos: Integer) : String`

Visibility: default

Description: `ExtractFieldName` returns the string starting at position `Pos` till the next semicolon (;) character or the end of the string. On return, `Pos` contains the position of the first character after the semicolon character (or one more than the length of the string).

See also: `TFields.GetFieldList` (329)

10.4.8 SkipComments

Synopsis: Skip SQL comments

Declaration: `function SkipComments(var p: PChar; EscapeSlash: Boolean; EscapeRepeat: Boolean) : Boolean`

Visibility: default

Description: `SkipComments` examines the null-terminated string in `P` and skips any SQL comment or string literal found at the start. It returns `P` the first non-comment or non-string literal position. The `EscapeSlash` parameter determines whether the backslash character (\) functions as an escape character (i.e. the following character is not considered a delimiter). `EscapeRepeat` must be set to `True` if the quote character is repeated to indicate itself.

The function returns `True` if a comment was found and skipped, `False` otherwise.

Errors: No checks are done on the validity of `P`.

See also: `TParams.ParseSQL` (370)

10.5 EDatabaseError

10.5.1 Description

`EDatabaseError` is the base class from which database-related exception classes should derive. It is raised by the `DatabaseError` (218) call.

10.6 EUpdateError

10.6.1 Description

`EupdateError` is an exception used by the `TProvider` database support. It should never be raised directly.

10.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 221 | Create | Create a new EUpdateError instance |
| 221 | Destroy | Free the EupdateError instance |

10.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------|--|
| 221 | Context | r | Context in which exception occurred. |
| 222 | ErrorCode | r | Numerical error code. |
| 222 | OriginalException | r | Original exception object, if available. |
| 222 | PreviousError | r | Previous error number |

10.6.4 EUpdateError.Create

Synopsis: Create a new EUpdateError instance

Declaration: constructor `Create(NativeError: String; Context: String; ErrCode: Integer; PrevError: Integer; E: Exception)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` instantiates a new `EUpdateError` object and populates the various properties with the `NativeError`, `Context`, `ErrCode` and `PrevError` parameters. The `E` parameter is the actual exception that occurred while the update operation was attempted. The exception object `E` will be freed if the `EUpdateError` instance is freed.

See also: `EDatabaseError` ([220](#))

10.6.5 EUpdateError.Destroy

Synopsis: Free the EupdateError instance

Declaration: destructor `Destroy`; `Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` frees the original exception object (if there was one) and then calls the inherited destructor.

Errors: If the original exception object was already freed, an error will occur.

See also: `EUpdateError.OriginalException` ([220](#))

10.6.6 EUpdateError.Context

Synopsis: Context in which exception occurred.

Declaration: Property `Context` : `String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: A description of the context in which the original exception was raised.

See also: `EUpdateError.OriginalException` ([220](#)), `EUpdateError.ErrorCode` ([222](#)), `EUpdateError.PreviousError` ([222](#))

10.6.7 EUpdateError.ErrorCode

Synopsis: Numerical error code.

Declaration: `Property ErrorCode : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `ErrorCode` is a numerical error code, provided by the native data access layer, to describe the error. It may or not be filled.

See also: [EUpdateError.OriginalException \(220\)](#), [EUpdateError.Context \(221\)](#), [EUpdateError.PreviousError \(222\)](#)

10.6.8 EUpdateError.OriginalException

Synopsis: Original exception object, if available.

Declaration: `Property OriginalException : Exception`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `OriginalException` is the original exception object as raised by the database access layer. It may or may not be available.

See also: [EUpdateError.ErrorCode \(222\)](#), [EUpdateError.Context \(221\)](#), [EUpdateError.PreviousError \(222\)](#)

10.6.9 EUpdateError.PreviousError

Synopsis: Previous error number

Declaration: `Property PreviousError : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `PreviousError` is used to order the errors which occurred during an update operation.

See also: [EUpdateError.ErrorCode \(222\)](#), [EUpdateError.Context \(221\)](#), [EUpdateError.OriginalException \(220\)](#)

10.7 TAutoIncField

10.7.1 Description

`TAutoIncField` is the class created when a dataset must manage 32-bit signed integer data, of datatype `ftAutoInc`: This field gets its data automatically by the database engine. It exposes no new properties, but simply overrides some methods to manage 32-bit signed integer data.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TAutoIncField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each auto-incremental field when a dataset is opened.

10.7.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 223 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TAutoIncField</code> class. |

10.7.3 TAutoIncField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TAutoIncField` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TAutoIncField` class. It simply calls the inherited constructor and then sets up some of the `TField` (298) class' fields.

See also: `TField` (298)

10.8 TBCDField

10.8.1 Description

`TBCDField` is the class used when a dataset must manage data of Binary Coded Decimal type. (`TField.DataType` (310) equals `ftBCD`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField` (298) class, and overrides some of its methods to be able to work with BCD fields.

`TBCDField` assumes that the field's contents can be stored in a currency type, i.e. the maximum number of decimals after the decimal separator that can be stored in a `TBCDField` is 4. Fields that need to store a larger amount of decimals should be represented by a `TFMTBCDField` (208) instance.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TBCDField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each BCD field when a dataset is opened.

10.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 224 | <code>CheckRange</code> | Check whether a values falls within the allowed range |
| 223 | Create | Create a new instance of a <code>TBCDField</code> class. |

10.8.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 225 | <code>Currency</code> | <code>rw</code> | Does the field represent a currency amount |
| 225 | <code>MaxValue</code> | <code>rw</code> | Maximum value for the field |
| 225 | <code>MinValue</code> | <code>rw</code> | Minimum value for the field |
| 224 | <code>Precision</code> | <code>rw</code> | Precision of the BCD field |
| 226 | <code>Size</code> | | Number of decimals after the decimal separator |
| 224 | <code>Value</code> | <code>rw</code> | Value of the field contents as a Currency type |

10.8.4 TBCDField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TBCDField` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TBCDField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField` (298) properties to configure the instance for working with BCD data values.

See also: `TField` (298)

10.8.5 TBCDField.CheckRange

Synopsis: Check whether a values falls within the allowed range

Declaration: `function CheckRange(AValue: Currency) : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `CheckRange` returns `True` if `AValue` lies within the range defined by the `MinValue` (225) and `MaxValue` (225) properties. If the value lies outside of the allowed range, then `False` is returned.

See also: `TBCDField.MaxValue` (225), `TBCDField.MinValue` (225)

10.8.6 TBCDField.Value

Synopsis: Value of the field contents as a Currency type

Declaration: `Property Value : Currency`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Value` is overridden from the `TField.Value` (314) property to a currency type field. It returns the same value as the `TField.AsCurrency` (306) field.

See also: `TField.Value` (314), `TField.AsCurrency` (306)

10.8.7 TBCDField.Precision

Synopsis: Precision of the BCD field

Declaration: `Property Precision : LongInt`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Precision` is the total number of decimals in the BCD value. It is not the same as `TBCDField.Size` (226), which is the number of decimals after the decimal point. The `Precision` property should be set by the descendent classes when they initialize the field, and should be considered read-only. Changing the value will influence the values returned by the various `AsXXX` properties.

See also: `TBCDField.Size` (226), `TBCDField.Value` (224)

10.8.8 TBCDField.Currency

Synopsis: Does the field represent a currency amount

Declaration: Property `Currency` : Boolean

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Currency` can be set to `True` to indicate that the field contains data representing an amount of currency. This affects the way the `TField.DisplayText` (311) and `TField.Text` (313) properties format the value of the field: if the `Currency` property is `True`, then these properties will format the value as a currency value (generally appending the currency sign) and if the `Currency` property is `False`, then they will format it as a normal floating-point value.

See also: `TField.DisplayText` (311), `TField.Text` (313)

10.8.9 TBCDField.MaxValue

Synopsis: Maximum value for the field

Declaration: Property `MaxValue` : Currency

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MaxValue` can be set to a value different from zero, it is then the maximum value for the field if set to any value different from zero. When setting the field's value, the value may not be larger than `MaxValue`. Any attempt to write a larger value as the field's content will result in an exception. By default `MaxValue` equals 0, i.e. any floating-point value is allowed.

If `MaxValue` is set, `MinField` (208) should also be set, because it will also be checked.

See also: `TBCDField.MinValue` (225), `TBCDField.CheckRange` (224)

10.8.10 TBCDField.MinValue

Synopsis: Minimum value for the field

Declaration: Property `MinValue` : Currency

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MinValue` can be set to a value different from zero, then it is the minimum value for the field. When setting the field's value, the value may not be less than `MinValue`. Any attempt to write a smaller value as the field's content will result in an exception. By default `MinValue` equals 0, i.e. any floating-point value is allowed.

If `MinValue` is set, `MaxField` (208) should also be set, because it will also be checked.

See also: `TBCDField.MaxValue` (225), `TBCDField.CheckRange` (224)

10.8.11 TBCDField.Size

Synopsis: Number of decimals after the decimal separator

Declaration: `Property Size :`

Visibility: `published`

Access:

Description: `Size` is the number of decimals after the decimal separator. It is not the total number of decimals, which is stored in the `TBCDField.Precision` (224) field.

See also: `TBCDField.Precision` (224)

10.9 TBinaryField

10.9.1 Description

`TBinaryField` is an abstract class, designed to handle binary data of variable size. It overrides some of the properties and methods of the `TField` (298) class to be able to work with binary field data, such as retrieving the contents as a string or as a variant.

One must never create an instance of `TBinaryField` manually, it is an abstract class. Instead, a descendent class such as `TBytesField` (232) or `TVarBytesField` (375) should be created.

10.9.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| 226 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of a <code>TBinaryField</code> class. |

10.9.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 226 | <code>Size</code> | | Size of the binary data |

10.9.4 TBinaryField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TBinaryField` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TBinaryField` class. It simply calls the inherited destructor.

See also: `TField` (298)

10.9.5 TBinaryField.Size

Synopsis: Size of the binary data

Declaration: `Property Size :`

Visibility: `published`

Access:

Description: `Size` is simply redeclared published with a default value of 16.

See also: `TField.Size` (313)

10.10 TBlobField

10.10.1 Description

`TBlobField` is the class used when a dataset must manage BLOB data. (`TField.DataType` (310) equals `ftBLOB`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField` (298) class, and overrides some of its methods to be able to work with BLOB fields. It also serves as parent class for some specialized blob-like field types such as `TMemoField` (353), `TWideMemoField` (377) or `TGraphicField` (337)

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TBlobField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each BLOB field when a dataset is opened.

10.10.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|-----------------------------|---|
| 228 | <code>Clear</code> | Clear the BLOB field's contents |
| 227 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of a <code>TBlobField</code> class. |
| 228 | <code>IsBlob</code> | Is the field a blob field |
| 228 | <code>LoadFromFile</code> | Load the contents of the field from a file |
| 228 | <code>LoadFromStream</code> | Load the field's contents from stream |
| 229 | <code>SaveToFile</code> | Save field contents to a file |
| 229 | <code>SaveToStream</code> | Save the field's contents to stream |
| 229 | <code>SetFieldType</code> | Set field type |

10.10.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------------------------|--------|--|
| 229 | <code>BlobSize</code> | r | Size of the current blob |
| 230 | <code>BlobType</code> | rw | Type of blob |
| 230 | <code>Modified</code> | rw | Has the field's contents been modified. |
| 231 | <code>Size</code> | | Size of the blob field |
| 230 | <code>Transliterate</code> | rw | Should the contents of the field be transliterated |
| 230 | <code>Value</code> | rw | Return the field's contents as a string |

10.10.4 TBlobField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TBlobField` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TBlobField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField` (298) properties to configure the instance for working with BLOB data.

See also: `TField` (298)

10.10.5 TBlobField.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the BLOB field's contents

Declaration: `procedure Clear; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Clear` overrides the `TField` implementation of `TField.Clear` (303). It creates and immediately releases an empty blob stream in write mode, effectively clearing the contents of the BLOB field.

See also: `TField.Clear` (303), `TField.IsNull` (312)

10.10.6 TBlobField.IsBlob

Synopsis: Is the field a blob field

Declaration: `function IsBlob : Boolean; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IsBlob` is overridden by `TBlobField` to return `True`

See also: `TField.IsBlob` (304)

10.10.7 TBlobField.LoadFromFile

Synopsis: Load the contents of the field from a file

Declaration: `procedure LoadFromFile(const FileName: String)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `LoadFromFile` creates a file stream with `FileName` as the name of the file to open, then calls `LoadFromStream` (228) to read the contents of the blob field from the file. The file is opened in read-only mode.

Errors: If the file does not exist or is not available for reading, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TBlobField.LoadFromStream` (228), `TBlobField.SaveToFile` (229)

10.10.8 TBlobField.LoadFromStream

Synopsis: Load the field's contents from stream

Declaration: `procedure LoadFromStream(Stream: TStream)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `LoadFromStream` can be used to load the contents of the field from a `TStream` (??) descendent. The entire data of the stream will be copied, and the stream will be positioned on the first byte of data, so it must be seekable.

Errors: If the stream is not seekable, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TBlobField.SaveToStream` (229), `TBlobField.LoadFromFile` (228)

10.10.9 TBlobField.SaveToFile

Synopsis: Save field contents to a file

Declaration: `procedure SaveToFile(const FileName: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: `SaveToFile` creates a file stream with `FileName` as the name of the file to open, en then calls `SaveToStream` (229) to write the contents of the blob field to the file. The file is opened in write mode and is created if it does not yet exist.

Errors: If the file cannot be created or is not available for writing, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TBlobField.LoadFromFile` (228), `TBlobField.SaveToStream` (229)

10.10.10 TBlobField.SaveToStream

Synopsis: Save the field's contents to stream

Declaration: `procedure SaveToStream(Stream: TStream)`

Visibility: public

Description: `SaveToStream` can be used to save the contents of the field to a `TStream` (??) descendent. The entire data of the field will be copied. The stream must of course support writing.

Errors: If the stream is not writable, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TBlobField.SaveToFile` (229), `TBlobField.LoadFromStream` (228)

10.10.11 TBlobField.SetFieldType

Synopsis: Set field type

Declaration: `procedure SetFieldType(AValue: TFieldType); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `SetFieldType` is overridden by `TBlobField` to check whether a valid Blob field type is set. If so, it calls the inherited method.

See also: `TField.DataType` (310)

10.10.12 TBlobField.BlobSize

Synopsis: Size of the current blob

Declaration: `Property BlobSize : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `BlobSize` is the size (in bytes) of the current contents of the field. It will vary as the dataset's current record moves from record to record.

See also: `TField.Size` (313), `TField.DataSize` (310)

10.10.13 TBlobField.Modified

Synopsis: Has the field's contents been modified.

Declaration: `Property Modified : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Modified` indicates whether the field's contents have been modified for the current record.

See also: [TBlobField.LoadFromStream \(228\)](#)

10.10.14 TBlobField.Value

Synopsis: Return the field's contents as a string

Declaration: `Property Value : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Value` is redefined by `TBlobField` as a string value: getting or setting this value will convert the BLOB data to a string, it will return the same value as the `TField.AsString (308)` property.

See also: [TField.Value \(314\)](#), [TField.AsString \(308\)](#)

10.10.15 TBlobField.Transliterate

Synopsis: Should the contents of the field be transliterated

Declaration: `Property Transliterate : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Transliterate` indicates whether the contents of the field should be transliterated (i.e. changed from OEM to non OEM codepage and vice versa) when reading or writing the value. The actual transliteration must be done in the `TDataset.Translate (270)` method of the dataset to which the field belongs. By default this property is `False`, but it can be set to `True` for BLOB data which contains text in another codepage.

See also: [TStringField.Transliterate \(374\)](#), [TDataset.Translate \(270\)](#)

10.10.16 TBlobField.BlobType

Synopsis: Type of blob

Declaration: `Property BlobType : TBlobType`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `BlobType` is an alias for `TField.DataType (310)`, but with a restricted set of values. Setting `BlobType` is equivalent to setting the `TField.DataType (310)` property.

See also: [TField.DataType \(310\)](#)

10.10.17 TBlobField.Size

Synopsis: Size of the blob field

Declaration: Property Size :

Visibility: published

Access:

Description: `Size` is the size of the blob in the internal memory buffer. It defaults to 0, as the BLOB data is not stored in the internal memory buffer. To get the size of the data in the current record, use the `BlobSize` (229) property instead.

See also: `TBlobField.BlobSize` (229)

10.11 TBooleanField

10.11.1 Description

`TBooleanField` is the field class used by `TDataset` (250) whenever it needs to manage boolean data (`TField.DataType` (310) equals `ftBoolean`). It overrides some properties and methods of `TField` (298) to be able to work with boolean data.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TBooleanField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each boolean field when a dataset is opened.

10.11.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 231 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of the <code>TBooleanField</code> class. |

10.11.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------|---|
| 232 | <code>DisplayValues</code> | rw | Textual representation of the true and false values |
| 232 | <code>Value</code> | rw | Value of the field as a boolean value |

10.11.4 TBooleanField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TBooleanField` class.

Declaration: constructor `Create(AOwner: TComponent);` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TBooleanField` class. It calls the inherited constructor and then sets some `TField` (298) properties to configure it for working with boolean values.

See also: `TField` (298)

10.11.5 TBooleanField.Value

Synopsis: Value of the field as a boolean value

Declaration: `Property Value : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Value` is redefined from `TField.Value` (314) by `TBooleanField` as a boolean value. It returns the same value as the `TField.AsBoolean` (306) property.

See also: `TField.AsBoolean` (306), `TField.Value` (314)

10.11.6 TBooleanField.DisplayValues

Synopsis: Textual representation of the true and false values

Declaration: `Property DisplayValues : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DisplayValues` contains 2 strings, separated by a semicolon (;) which are used to display the `True` and `False` values of the fields. The first string is used for `True` values, the second value is used for `False` values. If only one value is given, it will serve as the representation of the `True` value, the `False` value will be represented as an empty string.

A value of `Yes;No` will result in `True` values being displayed as 'Yes', and `False` values as 'No'. When writing the value of the field as a string, the string will be compared (case insensitively) with the value for `True`, and if it matches, the field's value will be set to `True`. After this it will be compared to the value for `False`, and if it matches, the field's value will be set to `False`. If the text matches neither of the two values, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TField.AsString` (308), `TField.Text` (313)

10.12 TBytesField

10.12.1 Description

`TBytesField` is the class used when a dataset must manage data of fixed-size binary type. (`TField.DataType` (310) equals `ftBytes`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField` (298) class to be able to work with fixed-size byte fields.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TBytesField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each binary data field when a dataset is opened.

10.12.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|--|
| 233 | Create | Create a new instance of a <code>TBytesField</code> class. |

10.12.3 TBytesField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TBytesField` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TBytesField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField` (298) properties to configure the instance for working with binary data values.

See also: `TField` (298)

10.13 TCheckConstraint

10.13.1 Description

`TCheckConstraint` can be used to store the definition of a record-level constraint. It does not enforce the constraint, it only stores the constraint's definition. The constraint can come from several sources: an imported constraints from the database, usually stored in the `TCheckConstraint.ImportedConstraint` (234) property, or a constraint enforced by the user on a particular dataset instance stored in `TCheckConstraint.CustomConstraint` (234)

10.13.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 233 | <code>Assign</code> | Assign one constraint to another |

10.13.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|---------------------------------|--------|--|
| 234 | <code>CustomConstraint</code> | rw | User-defined constraint |
| 234 | <code>ErrorMessage</code> | rw | Message to display when the constraint is violated |
| 234 | <code>FromDictionary</code> | rw | True if the constraint is imported from a datadictionary |
| 234 | <code>ImportedConstraint</code> | rw | Constraint imported from the database engine |

10.13.4 TCheckConstraint.Assign

Synopsis: Assign one constraint to another

Declaration: `procedure Assign(Source: TPersistent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Assign` is overridden by `TCheckConstraint` to copy all published properties if `Source` is also a `TCheckConstraint` instance.

Errors: If `Source` is not an instance of `TCheckConstraint`, an exception may be thrown.

See also: `TCheckConstraint.ImportedConstraint` (234), `TCheckConstraint.CustomConstraint` (234)

10.13.5 TCheckConstraint.CustomConstraint

Synopsis: User-defined constraint

Declaration: `Property CustomConstraint : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `CustomConstraint` is an SQL expression with an additional user-defined constraint. The expression should be enforced by a `TDataset` (250) descendent when data is posted to the dataset. If the constraint is violated, then the dataset should raise an exception, with message as specified in `TCustomConstraint.ErrorMessage` (208)

See also: `TCustomConstraint.ErrorMessage` (208)

10.13.6 TCheckConstraint.ErrorMessage

Synopsis: Message to display when the constraint is violated

Declaration: `Property ErrorMessage : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ErrorMessage` is used as the message when the dataset instance raises an exception if the constraint is violated.

See also: `TCheckConstraint.CustomConstraint` (234)

10.13.7 TCheckConstraint.FromDictionary

Synopsis: True if the constraint is imported from a datadictionary

Declaration: `Property FromDictionary : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `FromDictionary` indicates whether a constraint is imported from a data dictionary. This can be set by `TDataset` (250) descendents to indicate the source of the constraint, but is otherwise ignored.

See also: `TCheckConstraint.ImportedConstraint` (234)

10.13.8 TCheckConstraint.ImportedConstraint

Synopsis: Constraint imported from the database engine

Declaration: `Property ImportedConstraint : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ImportedConstraint` is a constraint imported from the database engine: it will not be enforced locally by the `TDataset` (250) descendent.

See also: `TCheckConstraint.CustomConstraint` (234)

10.14 TCheckConstraints

10.14.1 Description

`TCheckConstraints` is a `TCollection` descendent which keeps a collection of `TCheckConstraint` (233) items. It overrides the `Add` (235) method to return a `TCheckConstraint` instance.

10.14.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 235 | <code>Add</code> | Add new <code>TCheckConstraint</code> item to the collection |
| 235 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of the <code>TCheckConstraints</code> class. |

10.14.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| 235 | <code>Items</code> | <code>rw</code> | Indexed access to the items in the collection |

10.14.4 TCheckConstraints.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TCheckConstraints` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TPersistent)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TCheckConstraints` class. The `AOwner` argument is usually the `TDataset` (250) instance for which the data is managed. It is kept for future reference. After storing the owner, the inherited constructor is called with the `TCheckConstraint` (233) class pointer.

See also: `TCheckConstraint` (233), `TDataset` (250)

10.14.5 TCheckConstraints.Add

Synopsis: Add new `TCheckConstraint` item to the collection

Declaration: `function Add : TCheckConstraint`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Add` is overridden by `TCheckConstraint` to add a new `TCheckConstraint` (233) instance to the collection. it returns the newly added instance.

See also: `TCheckConstraint` (233), `#rtl.classes.TCollection.Add` (??)

10.14.6 TCheckConstraints.Items

Synopsis: Indexed access to the items in the collection

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: LongInt]: TCheckConstraint; default`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Items` is overridden by `TCheckConstraints` to provide type-safe access to the items in the collection. The `index` is zero-based, so it runs from 0 to `Count-1`.

See also: `#rtl.classes.TCollection.Items` (??)

10.15 TCurrencyField

10.15.1 Description

`TCurrencyField` is the field class used by `TDataset` (250) when it needs to manage currency-valued data. (`TField.Datatype` (310) equals `ftCurrency`). It simply sets some `Tfield` (298) properties to be able to work with currency data.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TCurrencyField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each currency field when a dataset is opened.

10.15.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 236 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of a <code>TCurrencyField</code> . |

10.15.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 236 | <code>Currency</code> | | Is the field a currency field |

10.15.4 TCurrencyField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TCurrencyField`.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of `TCurrencyField`. It calls the inherited constructor and then sets some properties (`TCurrencyField.Currency` (236)) to be able to work with currency data.

See also: `TField` (298), `TCurrencyField.Currency` (236)

10.15.5 TCurrencyField.Currency

Synopsis: Is the field a currency field

Declaration: `Property Currency :`

Visibility: `published`

Access:

Description: `Currency` is inherited from `TFloatField.Currency` (335) but is initialized to `True` by the `TCurrencyField` constructor. It can be set to `False` if the contents of the field is of type currency, but does not represent an amount of currency.

See also: `TFloatField.Currency` (335)

10.16 TCustomConnection

10.16.1 Description

TCustomConnection must be used for all database classes that need a connection to a server. The class introduces some methods and classes to activate the connection (Open (238)) and to deactivate the connection (TCustomConnection.Close (237)), plus a property to inspect the state (Connected (239)) of the connected.

10.16.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|---|
| 237 | Close | Close the connection |
| 237 | Destroy | Remove the TCustomconnection instance from memory |
| 238 | Open | Makes the connection to the server |

10.16.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|------------------|--------|---|
| 239 | AfterConnect | rw | Event triggered after a connection is made. |
| 239 | AfterDisconnect | rw | Event triggered after a connection is closed |
| 240 | BeforeConnect | rw | Event triggered before a connection is made. |
| 240 | BeforeDisconnect | rw | Event triggered before a connection is closed |
| 239 | Connected | rw | Is the connection established or not |
| 238 | DataSetCount | r | Number of datasets connected to this connection |
| 238 | DataSets | r | Datasets linked to this connection |
| 239 | LoginPrompt | rw | Should the OnLogin be triggered |
| 240 | OnLogin | rw | Event triggered when a login prompt is shown. |

10.16.4 TCustomConnection.Close

Synopsis: Close the connection

Declaration: `procedure Close`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Close` closes the connection with the server if it was connected. Calling this method first triggers the `BeforeDisconnect` (240) event. If an exception is raised during the execution of that event handler, the disconnect process is aborted. After calling this event, the connection is actually closed. After the connection was closed, the `AfterDisconnect` (239) event is triggered.

Calling the `Close` method is equivalent to setting the `Connected` (239) property to `False`.

Errors: If the connection cannot be broken for some reason, an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception will be raised.

See also: `TCustomConnection.BeforeDisconnect` (240), `TCustomConnection.AfterDisconnect` (239), `TCustomConnection.Open` (238), `TCustomConnection.Connected` (239)

10.16.5 TCustomConnection.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove the TCustomconnection instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` closes the connection, and then calls the inherited destructor.

Errors: If an exception is raised during the disconnect process, an exception will be raised, and the instance is not removed from memory.

See also: `TCustomConnection.Close` (237)

10.16.6 TCustomConnection.Open

Synopsis: Makes the connection to the server

Declaration: `procedure Open`

Visibility: public

Description: `Open` establishes the connection with the server if it was not yet connected. Calling this method first triggers the `BeforeConnect` (240) event. If an exception is raised during the execution of that event handler, the connect process is aborted. If `LoginPrompt` (239) is `True`, the `OnLogin` (240) event handler is called. Only after this event, the connection is actually established. After the connection was established, the `AfterConnect` (239) event is triggered.

Calling the `Open` method is equivalent to setting the `Connected` (239) property to `True`.

Errors: If an exception is raised during the `BeforeConnect` or `OnLogin` handlers, the connection is not actually established.

See also: `TCustomConnection.BeforeConnect` (240), `TCustomConnection.LoginPrompt` (239), `TCustomConnection.OnLogin` (240), `TCustomConnection.AfterConnect` (239), `TCustomConnection.Connected` (239)

10.16.7 TCustomConnection.DataSetCount

Synopsis: Number of datasets connected to this connection

Declaration: `Property DataSetCount : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `DataSetCount` is the number of datasets connected to this connection component. The actual datasets are available through the `Datasets` (238) array property. As implemented in `TCustomConnection`, this property is always zero. Descendent classes implement the actual count.

See also: `TDataset` (250), `TCustomConnection.Datasets` (238)

10.16.8 TCustomConnection.DataSets

Synopsis: Datasets linked to this connection

Declaration: `Property DataSets[Index: LongInt]: TDataSet`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Datasets` allows indexed access to the datasets connected to this connection. `Index` is a zero-based indexed, its maximum value is `DataSetCount-1` (238).

See also: `TCustomConnection.DataSetCount` (238)

10.16.9 TCustomConnection.Connected

Synopsis: Is the connection established or not

Declaration: Property Connected : Boolean

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: Connected is True if the connection to the server is established, False if it is disconnected. The property can be set to True to establish a connection (equivalent to calling TCustomConnection.Open (238), or to False to break it (equivalent to calling TCustomConnection.Close (237)).

See also: TCustomConnection.Open (238), TCustomConnection.Close (237)

10.16.10 TCustomConnection.LoginPrompt

Synopsis: Should the OnLogin be triggered

Declaration: Property LoginPrompt : Boolean

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: LoginPrompt can be set to True if the OnLogin handler should be called when the Open method is called. If it is not True, then the event handler is not called.

See also: TCustomConnection.OnLogin (240)

10.16.11 TCustomConnection.AfterConnect

Synopsis: Event triggered after a connection is made.

Declaration: Property AfterConnect : TNotifyEvent

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: AfterConnect is called after a connection is successfully established in TCustomConnection.Open (238). It can be used to open datasets, or indicate a connection status change.

See also: TCustomConnection.Open (238), TCustomConnection.BeforeConnect (240), TCustomConnection.OnLogin (240)

10.16.12 TCustomConnection.AfterDisconnect

Synopsis: Event triggered after a connection is closed

Declaration: Property AfterDisconnect : TNotifyEvent

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: AfterDisconnect is called after a connection is successfully closed in TCustomConnection.Close (237). It can be used for instance to indicate a connection status change.

See also: TCustomConnection.Close (237), TCustomConnection.BeforeDisconnect (240)

10.16.13 TCustomConnection.BeforeConnect

Synopsis: Event triggered before a connection is made.

Declaration: Property BeforeConnect : TNotifyEvent

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: BeforeConnect is called before a connection is attempted in TCustomConnection.Open (238). It can be used to set connection parameters, or to abort the establishing of the connection: if an exception is raised during this event, the connection attempt is aborted.

See also: TCustomConnection.Open (238), TCustomConnection.AfterConnect (239), TCustomConnection.OnLogin (240)

10.16.14 TCustomConnection.BeforeDisconnect

Synopsis: Event triggered before a connection is closed

Declaration: Property BeforeDisconnect : TNotifyEvent

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: BeforeDisConnect is called before a connection is closed in TCustomConnection.Close (237). It can be used for instance to check for unsaved changes, to save these changes, or to abort the disconnect operation: if an exception is raised during the event handler, the disconnect operation is aborted entirely.

See also: TCustomConnection.Close (237), TCustomConnection.AfterDisconnect (239)

10.16.15 TCustomConnection.OnLogin

Synopsis: Event triggered when a login prompt is shown.

Declaration: Property OnLogin : TLoginEvent

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: OnLogin is triggered when the connection needs a login prompt during the call: it is triggered when the LoginPrompt (239) property is True, after the TCustomConnection.BeforeConnect (240) event, but before the connection is actually established.

See also: TCustomConnection.BeforeConnect (240), TCustomConnection.LoginPrompt (239), TCustomConnection.Open (238)

10.17 TDatabase

10.17.1 Description

`TDatabase` is a component whose purpose is to provide a connection to an external database engine, not to provide the database itself. This class provides generic methods for attachment to databases and querying their contents; the details of the actual connection are handled by database-specific components (such as `SQLDb` for SQL-based databases, or `DBA` for `DBASE/FoxPro` style databases).

Like `TDataset` (250), `TDatabase` is an abstract class. It provides methods to keep track of datasets connected to the database, and to close these datasets when the connection to the database is closed. To this end, it introduces a `Connected` (244) boolean property, which indicates whether a connection to the database is established or not. The actual logic to establish a connection to a database must be implemented by descendent classes.

10.17.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 242 | <code>CloseDataSets</code> | Close all connected datasets |
| 242 | <code>CloseTransactions</code> | End all transactions |
| 241 | <code>Create</code> | Initialize a new <code>TDatabase</code> class instance. |
| 242 | <code>Destroy</code> | Remove a <code>TDatabase</code> instance from memory. |
| 243 | <code>EndTransaction</code> | End an active transaction. |
| 242 | <code>StartTransaction</code> | Start a new transaction. |

10.17.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| 244 | <code>Connected</code> | rw | Is the database connected |
| 244 | <code>DatabaseName</code> | rw | Database name or path |
| 243 | <code>Directory</code> | rw | Directory for the database |
| 244 | <code>IsSQLBased</code> | r | Is the database SQL based. |
| 244 | <code>KeepConnection</code> | rw | Should the connection be kept active |
| 245 | <code>Params</code> | rw | Connection parameters |
| 243 | <code>TransactionCount</code> | r | Number of transaction components connected to this database. |
| 243 | <code>Transactions</code> | r | Indexed access to all transaction components connected to this database. |

10.17.4 TDatabase.Create

Synopsis: Initialize a new `TDatabase` class instance.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TDatabase` class. It allocates some resources and then calls the inherited constructor.

See also: `TDBDataset` (293), `TTransaction` (208), `TDatabase.Destroy` (242)

10.17.5 TDatabase.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove a TDatabase instance from memory.

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` starts by disconnecting the database (thus closing all datasets and ending all transactions), then notifies all connected datasets and transactions that it is about to be released. After this, it releases all resources used by the TDatabase instance

See also: `TDatabase.CloseDatasets` (242)

10.17.6 TDatabase.CloseDataSets

Synopsis: Close all connected datasets

Declaration: `procedure CloseDataSets`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CloseDatasets` closes all connected datasets. It is called automatically when the connection is closed.

See also: `TCustomConnection.Close` (237), `TDatabase.CloseTransactions` (242)

10.17.7 TDatabase.CloseTransactions

Synopsis: End all transactions

Declaration: `procedure CloseTransactions`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CloseTransaction` calls `TTransaction.EndTransaction` (208) on all connected transactions. It is called automatically when the connection is closed, after all datasets are closed.

See also: `TCustomConnection.Close` (237), `TDatabase.CloseDatasets` (242)

10.17.8 TDatabase.StartTransaction

Synopsis: Start a new transaction.

Declaration: `procedure StartTransaction; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `StartTransaction` must be implemented by descendent classes to start a new transaction. This method is provided for Delphi compatibility: new applications should use a `TDBTransaction` (294) component instead and invoke the `TDBTransaction.StartTransaction` (294) method.

See also: `TDBTransaction` (294), `TDBTransaction.StartTransaction` (294)

10.17.9 TDatabase.EndTransaction

Synopsis: End an active transaction.

Declaration: `procedure EndTransaction; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `EndTransaction` must be implemented by descendent classes to end an active transaction. This method is provided for Delphi compatibility: new applications should use a `TDBTransaction` (294) component instead and invoke the `TDBTransaction.EndTransaction` (294) method.

See also: `TDBTransaction` (294), `TDBTransaction.EndTransaction` (294)

10.17.10 TDatabase.TransactionCount

Synopsis: Number of transaction components connected to this database.

Declaration: `Property TransactionCount : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `TransactionCount` is the number of transaction components which are connected to this database instance. It is the upper bound for the `TDatabase.Transactions` (243) array property.

See also: `TDatabase.Transactions` (243)

10.17.11 TDatabase.Transactions

Synopsis: Indexed access to all transaction components connected to this database.

Declaration: `Property Transactions[Index: LongInt]: TDBTransaction`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Transactions` provides indexed access to the transaction components connected to this database. The `Index` is zero based: it runs from 0 to `TransactionCount-1`.

See also: `TDatabase.TransactionCount` (243)

10.17.12 TDatabase.Directory

Synopsis: Directory for the database

Declaration: `Property Directory : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Directory` is provided for Delphi compatibility: it indicates (for Paradox and dBase based databases) the directory where the database files are located. It is not used in the Free Pascal implementation of `TDatabase` (241).

See also: `TDatabase.Params` (245), `TDatabase.IsSQLBased` (244)

10.17.13 TDatabase.IsSQLBased

Synopsis: Is the database SQL based.

Declaration: Property `IsSQLBased` : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `IsSQLbased` is a read-only property which indicates whether a property is SQL-Based, i.e. whether the database engine accepts SQL commands.

See also: `TDatabase.Params` (245), `TDatabase.Directory` (243)

10.17.14 TDatabase.Connected

Synopsis: Is the database connected

Declaration: Property `Connected` : Boolean

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Connected` is simply promoted to published property from `TCustomConnection.Connected` (239).

See also: `TCustomConnection.Connected` (239)

10.17.15 TDatabase.DatabaseName

Synopsis: Database name or path

Declaration: Property `DatabaseName` : String

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DatabaseName` specifies the path of the database. For directory-based databases this will be the same as the `Directory` (243) property. For other databases this will be the name of a known pre-configured connection, or the location of the database file.

See also: `TDatabase.Directory` (243), `TDatabase.Params` (245)

10.17.16 TDatabase.KeepConnection

Synopsis: Should the connection be kept active

Declaration: Property `KeepConnection` : Boolean

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `KeepConnection` is provided for Delphi compatibility, and is not used in the Free Pascal implementation of `TDatabase`.

See also: `TDatabase.Params` (245)

10.17.17 TDatabase.Params

Synopsis: Connection parameters

Declaration: `Property Params : TStrings`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Params` is a catch-all storage mechanism for database connection parameters. It is a list of strings in the form of `Name=Value` pairs. Which name/value pairs are supported depends on the `TDatabase` descendent, but the `user_name` and `password` parameters are commonly used to store the login credentials for the database.

See also: [TDatabase.Directory \(243\)](#), [TDatabase.DatabaseName \(244\)](#)

10.18 TDataLink

10.18.1 Description

`TDataLink` is used by GUI controls or datasets in a master-detail relationship to handle data events coming from a `TDataSource` (287) instance. It is a class that exists for component programmers, application coders should never need to use `TDataLink` or one of its descendents.

DB-Aware Component coders must use a `TDataLink` instance to handle all communication with a `TDataSet` (250) instance, rather than communicating directly with the dataset. `TDataLink` contains methods which are called by the various events triggered by the dataset. Inversely, it has some methods to trigger actions in the dataset.

`TDataLink` is an abstract class; it is never used directly. Instead, a descendent class is used which overrides the various methods that are called in response to the events triggered by the dataset. Examples are .

10.18.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------|--|
| 246 | Create | Initialize a new instance of <code>TDataLink</code> |
| 246 | Destroy | Remove an instance of <code>TDataLink</code> from memory |
| 246 | Edit | Set the dataset in edit mode, if possible |
| 247 | ExecuteAction | Execute action |
| 247 | UpdateAction | Update handler for actions |
| 247 | UpdateRecord | Called when the data in the dataset must be updated |

10.18.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------|--|
| 247 | Active | r | Is the link active |
| 248 | ActiveRecord | rw | Currently active record |
| 248 | BOF | r | Is the dataset at the first record |
| 248 | BufferCount | rw | Set to the number of record buffers this datalink needs. |
| 249 | DataSet | r | Dataset this datalink is connected to |
| 249 | DataSource | rw | Datasource this datalink is connected to |
| 249 | DataSourceFixed | rw | Can the datasource be changed |
| 249 | Editing | r | Is the dataset in edit mode |
| 250 | Eof | r | |
| 250 | ReadOnly | rw | Is the link readonly |
| 250 | RecordCount | r | Number of records in the buffer of the dataset |

10.18.4 TDataLink.Create

Synopsis: Initialize a new instance of TDataLink

Declaration: constructor Create

Visibility: public

Description: Create calls the inherited constructor and then initializes some fields. In particular, it sets the buffercount to 1.

See also: TDatalink.Destroy ([246](#))

10.18.5 TDataLink.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove an instance of TDatalink from memory

Declaration: destructor Destroy; Override

Visibility: public

Description: Destroy cleans up the TDatalink instance (in particular, it removes itself from the datasource it is coupled to), and then calls the inherited destructor.

See also: TDatalink.Destroy ([246](#))

10.18.6 TDataLink.Edit

Synopsis: Set the dataset in edit mode, if possible

Declaration: function Edit : Boolean

Visibility: public

Description: Edit attempts to put the dataset in edit mode. It returns True if this operation succeeded, False if not. To this end, it calls the Edit ([288](#)) method of the DataSource ([249](#)) to which the datalink instance is coupled. If the TDatasource.AutoEdit ([289](#)) property is False then this operation will not succeed, unless the dataset is already in edit mode. GUI controls should always respect the result of this function, and not allow the user to edit data if this function returned false.

See also: TDatasource ([287](#)), TDatalink.Datasource ([249](#)), TDatasource.Edit ([288](#)), TDatasource.AutoEdit ([289](#))

10.18.7 TDataLink.UpdateRecord

Synopsis: Called when the data in the dataset must be updated

Declaration: procedure UpdateRecord

Visibility: public

Description: `UpdateRecord` is called when the dataset expects the GUI controls to post any pending changes to the dataset. This method guards against recursive behaviour: while an `UpdateRecord` is in progress, the `TDataLink.RecordChange` (245) notification (which could result from writing data to the dataset) will be blocked.

See also: `TDataLink.RecordChange` (245)

10.18.8 TDataLink.ExecuteAction

Synopsis: Execute action

Declaration: function ExecuteAction(Action: TBasicAction) : Boolean; Virtual

Visibility: public

Description: `ExecuteAction` implements action support. It should never be necessary to call `ExecuteAction` from program code, as it is called automatically whenever a target control needs to handle an action. This method must be overridden in case any additional action must be taken when the action must be executed. The implementation in `TDataLink` checks if the action handles the datasource, and then calls `Action.ExecuteTarget`, passing it the datasource. If so, it returns `True`.

See also: `TDataLink.UpdateAction` (247)

10.18.9 TDataLink.UpdateAction

Synopsis: Update handler for actions

Declaration: function UpdateAction(Action: TBasicAction) : Boolean; Virtual

Visibility: public

Description: `UpdateAction` implements action update support. It should never be necessary to call `UpdateAction` from program code, as it is called automatically whenever a target control needs to update an action. This method must be overridden in case any specific action must be taken when the action must be updated. The implementation in `TDataLink` checks if the action handles the datasource, and then calls `Action.UpdateTarget`, passing it the datasource. If so, it returns `True`.

See also: `TDataLink.ExecuteAction` (247)

10.18.10 TDataLink.Active

Synopsis: Is the link active

Declaration: Property Active : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Active` determines whether the events of the dataset are passed on to the control connected to the `actionlink`. If it is set to `False`, then no events are passed between control and dataset. It is set to `TDataset.Active` (278) whenever the `DataSource` (249) property is set.

See also: `TDatalink.DataSource` (249), `TDatalink.ReadOnly` (250), `TDataset.Active` (278)

10.18.11 `TDatalink.ActiveRecord`

Synopsis: Currently active record

Declaration: `Property ActiveRecord : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `ActiveRecord` returns the index of the active record in the dataset's record buffer for this datalink.

See also: `TDatalink.BOF` (248), `TDatalink.EOF` (250)

10.18.12 `TDatalink.BOF`

Synopsis: Is the dataset at the first record

Declaration: `Property BOF : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `BOF` returns `TDataset.BOF` (271) if the dataset is available, `True` otherwise.

See also: `TDatalink.EOF` (250), `TDataset.BOF` (271)

10.18.13 `TDatalink.BufferCount`

Synopsis: Set to the number of record buffers this datalink needs.

Declaration: `Property BufferCount : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `BufferCount` can be set to the number of buffers that the dataset should manage on behalf of the control connected to this datalink. By default, this is 1. Controls that must display more than 1 buffer (such as grids) can set this to a higher value.

See also: `TDataset.ActiveBuffer` (255), `TDatalink.ActiveRecord` (248)

10.18.14 TDataLink.DataSet

Synopsis: Dataset this datalink is connected to

Declaration: `Property DataSet : TDataSet`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `DataSet` equals `Datasource.Datase`t if the `datasource` is set, or `Nil` otherwise.

See also: [TDatalink.DataSource \(249\)](#), [TDataSet \(250\)](#)

10.18.15 TDataLink.DataSource

Synopsis: Datasource this datalink is connected to

Declaration: `Property DataSource : TDataSource`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DataSource` should be set to a [TDataSource \(287\)](#) instance to get access to the dataset it is connected to. A datalink never points directly to a [TDataSet \(250\)](#) instance, always to a `datasource`. When the `datasource` is enabled or disabled, all `TDatalink` instances connected to it are enabled or disabled at once.

See also: [TDataSet \(250\)](#), [TDataSource \(287\)](#)

10.18.16 TDataLink.DataSourceFixed

Synopsis: Can the datasource be changed

Declaration: `Property DataSourceFixed : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DataSourceFixed` can be set to `True` to prevent changing of the `DataSource (249)` property. When lengthy operations are in progress, this can be done to prevent user code (e.g. event handlers) from changing the `datasource` property which might interfere with the operation in progress.

See also: [TDataLink.DataSource \(249\)](#)

10.18.17 TDataLink.Editing

Synopsis: Is the dataset in edit mode

Declaration: `Property Editing : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Editing` determines whether the dataset is in one of the edit states (`dsEdit,dsInsert`). It can be set into this mode by calling the [TDatalink.Edit \(246\)](#) method. Never attempt to set the dataset in editing mode directly. The `Edit` method will perform the needed checks prior to setting the dataset in edit mode and will return `True` if the dataset was successfully set in the editing state.

See also: [TDatalink.Edit \(246\)](#), [TDataSet.Edit \(260\)](#)

10.18.18 TDataLink.Eof

Synopsis:

Declaration: `Property Eof : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `EOF` returns `TDataset.EOF` (273) if the dataset is available, `True` otherwise.

See also: `TDatalink.BOF` (248), `TDataset.EOF` (273)

10.18.19 TDataLink.ReadOnly

Synopsis: Is the link readonly

Declaration: `Property ReadOnly : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `ReadOnly` can be set to `True` to indicate that the link is read-only, i.e. the connected control will not modify the dataset. Methods as `TDatalink.Edit` (246) will check this property and fail if the link is read-only. This setting has no effect on the communication of dataset events to the datalink: the `TDatalink.Active` (247) property can be used to disable delivery of events to the datalink.

See also: `TDatalink.Active` (247), `TDatalink.edit` (246)

10.18.20 TDataLink.RecordCount

Synopsis: Number of records in the buffer of the dataset

Declaration: `Property RecordCount : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `RecordCount` returns the number of records in the dataset's buffer. It is limited by the `TDatalink.BufferCount` (248) property: `RecordCount` is always less than `Buffercount`.

See also: `TDatalink.BufferCount` (248)

10.19 TDataSet

10.19.1 Description

`TDataSet` is the main class of the `db` unit. This abstract class provides all basic functionality to access data stored in tabular format: The data consists of records, and the data in each record is organised in several fields.

`TDataSet` has a buffer to cache a few records in memory, this buffer is used by `TDatasource` to create the ability to use data-aware components.

`TDataSet` is an abstract class, which provides the basic functionality to access, navigate through the data and - in case read-write access is available, edit existing or add new records.

`TDataset` is an abstract class: it does not have the knowledge to store or load the records from whatever medium the records are stored on. Descendants add the functionality to load and save the data. Therefore `TDataset` is never used directly, one always instantiates a descendent class.

Initially, no data is available: the dataset is inactive. The `Open` (268) method must be used to fetch data into memory. After this command, the data is available in memory for browsing or editing purposes: The dataset is active (indicated by the `TDataset.Active` (278) property). Likewise, the `Close` (258) method can be used to remove the data from memory. Any changes not yet saved to the underlying medium will be lost.

Data is expected to be in tabular format, where each row represents a record. The dataset has an idea of a cursor: this is the current position of the data cursor in the set of rows. Only the data of the current record is available for display or editing purposes. Through the `Next` (267), `Prev` (250), `First` (263) and `Last` (266) methods, it is possible to navigate through the records. The `EOF` (273) property will be `True` if the last row has been reached. Likewise, the `BOF` (271) property will return `True` if the first record in the dataset has been reached when navigating backwards. If both properties are empty, then there is no data available. For dataset descendants that support counting the number of records, the `RecordCount` (275) will be zero.

The `Append` (256) and `Insert` (265) methods can be used to insert new records to the set of records. The `TDataset.Delete` (259) statement is used to delete the current record, and the `Edit` (260) command must be used to set the dataset in editing mode: the contents of the current record can then be changed. Any changes made to the current record (be it a new or existing record) must be saved by the `Post` (268) method, or can be undone using the `Cancel` (257) method.

The data in the various fields properties is available through the `Fields` (277) array property, giving indexed access to all the fields in a record. The contents of a field is always readable. If the dataset is in one of the editing modes, then the fields can also be written to.

10.19.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|------------------|---|
| 255 | ActiveBuffer | Currently active memory buffer |
| 256 | Append | Append a new record to the data |
| 256 | AppendRecord | Append a new record to the dataset and fill with data |
| 257 | BookmarkValid | Test whether <code>ABookMark</code> is a valid bookmark. |
| 257 | Cancel | Cancel the current editing operation |
| 257 | CheckBrowseMode | Check whether the dataset is in browse mode. |
| 257 | ClearFields | Clear the values of all fields |
| 258 | Close | Close the dataset |
| 258 | CompareBookmarks | Compare two bookmarks |
| 258 | ControlsDisabled | Check whether the controls are disabled |
| 255 | Create | Create a new <code>TDataset</code> instance |
| 259 | CreateBlobStream | Create blob stream |
| 259 | CursorPosChanged | Indicate a change in cursor position |
| 259 | DataConvert | Convert data from/to native format |
| 259 | Delete | Delete the current record. |
| 255 | Destroy | Free a <code>TDataset</code> instance |
| 260 | DisableControls | Disable event propagation of controls |
| 260 | Edit | Set the dataset in editing mode. |
| 261 | EnableControls | Enable event propagation of controls |
| 261 | FieldByName | Search a field by name |
| 261 | FindField | Find a field by name |
| 262 | FindFirst | Find the first active record (deprecated) |
| 262 | FindLast | Find the last active record (deprecated) |
| 262 | FindNext | Find the next active record (deprecated) |
| 262 | FindPrior | Find the previous active record (deprecated) |
| 263 | First | Position the dataset on the first record. |
| 263 | FreeBookmark | Free a bookmark obtained with <code>GetBookmark</code> (deprecated) |
| 263 | GetBookmark | Get a bookmark pointer (deprecated) |
| 264 | GetCurrentRecord | Copy the data for the current record in a memory buffer |
| 255 | GetFieldData | Get the data for a field |
| 264 | GetFieldList | Return field instances in a list |
| 264 | GetFieldNames | Return a list of all available field names |
| 264 | GotoBookmark | Jump to bookmark |
| 265 | Insert | Insert a new record at the current position. |
| 265 | InsertRecord | Insert a new record with given values. |
| 265 | IsEmpty | Check if the dataset contains no data |
| 265 | IsLinkedTo | Check whether a datasource is linked to the dataset |
| 266 | IsSequenced | Is the data sequenced |
| 266 | Last | Navigate forward to the last record |
| 266 | Locate | Locate a record based on some key values |
| 267 | Lookup | Search for a record and return matching values. |
| 267 | MoveBy | Move the cursor position |
| 267 | Next | Go to the next record in the dataset. |
| 268 | Open | Activate the dataset: Fetch data into memory. |
| 268 | Post | Post pending edits to the database. |
| 269 | Prior | Go to the previous record |
| 269 | Refresh | Refresh the records in the dataset |
| 269 | Resync | Resynchronize the data buffer |
| 256 | SetFieldData | Store the data for a field |
| 270 | SetFields | Set a number of field values at once |
| 270 | Translate | Transliterate a buffer |
| 270 | UpdateCursorPos | Update cursor position |
| 270 | UpdateRecord | Indicate that the record contents have changed |
| 271 | UpdateStatus | Get the update status for the current record |

10.19.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|------------------|--------|--|
| 278 | Active | rw | Is the dataset open or closed. |
| 283 | AfterCancel | rw | Event triggered after a Cancel operation. |
| 280 | AfterClose | rw | Event triggered after the dataset is closed |
| 283 | AfterDelete | rw | |
| 281 | AfterEdit | rw | Event triggered after the dataset is put in edit mode. |
| 281 | AfterInsert | rw | Event triggered after the dataset is put in insert mode. |
| 280 | AfterOpen | rw | Event triggered after the dataset is opened. |
| 282 | AfterPost | rw | Event called after changes have been posted to the underlying database |
| 284 | AfterRefresh | rw | Event triggered after the data has been refreshed. |
| 284 | AfterScroll | rw | Event triggered after the cursor has changed position. |
| 279 | AutoCalcFields | rw | How often should the value of calculated fields be calculated |
| 282 | BeforeCancel | rw | Event triggered before a Cancel operation. |
| 280 | BeforeClose | rw | Event triggered before the dataset is closed. |
| 283 | BeforeDelete | rw | Event triggered before a Delete operation. |
| 281 | BeforeEdit | rw | Event triggered before the dataset is put in edit mode. |
| 280 | BeforeInsert | rw | Event triggered before the dataset is put in insert mode. |
| 279 | BeforeOpen | rw | Event triggered before the dataset is opened. |
| 282 | BeforePost | rw | Event called before changes are posted to the underlying database |
| 284 | BeforeRefresh | rw | Event triggered before the data is refreshed. |
| 283 | BeforeScroll | rw | Event triggered before the cursor changes position. |
| 271 | BOF | r | Is the cursor at the beginning of the data (on the first record) |
| 271 | Bookmark | rw | Get or set the current cursor position |
| 272 | CanModify | r | Can the data in the dataset be modified |
| 272 | DataSource | r | Datasource this dataset is connected to. |
| 273 | DefaultFields | r | Is the dataset using persistent fields or not. |
| 273 | EOF | r | Indicates whether the last record has been reached. |
| 274 | FieldCount | r | Number of fields |
| 274 | FieldDefs | rw | Definitions of available fields in the underlying database |
| 277 | Fields | r | Indexed access to the fields of the dataset. |
| 277 | FieldValues | rw | Access to field values based on the field names. |
| 277 | Filter | rw | Filter to apply to the data in memory. |
| 278 | Filtered | rw | Is the filter active or not. |
| 278 | FilterOptions | rw | Options to apply when filtering |
| 274 | Found | r | Check success of one of the Find methods |
| 275 | IsUniDirectional | r | Is the dataset unidirectional (i.e. forward scrolling only) |
| 275 | Modified | rw | Was the current record modified ? |
| 285 | OnCalcFields | rw | Event triggered when values for calculated fields must be computed. |
| 285 | OnDeleteError | rw | Event triggered when a delete operation fails. |
| 286 | OnEditError | rw | Event triggered when an edit operation fails. |
| 286 | OnFilterRecord | rw | Event triggered to filter records. |
| 286 | OnNewRecord | rw | Event triggered when a new record is created. |
| 287 | OnPostError | rw | Event triggered when a post operation fails. |
| 276 | RecNo | rw | Current record number |
| 275 | RecordCount | r | Number of records in the dataset |
| 276 | RecordSize | r | Size of the record in memory |
| 276 | State | r | Current operational state of the dataset |

10.19.4 TDataSet.Create

Synopsis: Create a new TDataSet instance

Declaration: constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override

Visibility: public

Description: Create initializes a new TDataSet (250) instance. It calls the inherited constructor, and then initializes the internal structures needed to manage the dataset (fielddefs, fieldlist, constraints etc.).

See also: TDataSet.Destroy (255)

10.19.5 TDataSet.Destroy

Synopsis: Free a TDataSet instance

Declaration: destructor Destroy; Override

Visibility: public

Description: Destroy removes a TDataSet instance from memory. It closes the dataset if it was open, clears all internal structures and then calls the inherited destructor.

Errors: An exception may occur during the close operation, in that case, the dataset will not be removed from memory.

See also: TDataSet.Close (258), TDataSet.Create (255)

10.19.6 TDataSet.ActiveBuffer

Synopsis: Currently active memory buffer

Declaration: function ActiveBuffer : PChar

Visibility: public

Description: ActiveBuffer points to the currently active memory buffer. It should not be used in application code.

10.19.7 TDataSet.GetFieldData

Synopsis: Get the data for a field

```
Declaration: function GetFieldData(Field: TField; Buffer: Pointer) : Boolean; Virtual
                ; Overload
function GetFieldData(Field: TField; Buffer: Pointer;
                NativeFormat: Boolean) : Boolean; Virtual
                ; Overload
```

Visibility: public

Description: GetFieldData should copy the data for field Field from the internal dataset memory buffer into the memory pointed to by Buffer. This function is not intended for use by end-user applications, and should be used only in descendent classes, where it can be overridden. The function should return True if data was available and has been copied, or False if no data was available (in which case the field has value Null). The NativeFormat determines whether the data should be in native format (e.g. whether the date/time values should be in TDateTime format).

Errors: No checks are performed on the validity of the memory buffer

See also: [TField.DisplayText \(311\)](#)

10.19.8 TDataSet.SetFieldData

Synopsis: Store the data for a field

```
Declaration: procedure SetFieldData(Field: TField; Buffer: Pointer); Virtual
              ; Overload
              procedure SetFieldData(Field: TField; Buffer: Pointer;
              NativeFormat: Boolean); Virtual; Overload
```

Visibility: public

Description: `SetFieldData` should copy the data from field `Field`, stored in the memory pointed to by `Buffer` to the dataset memory buffer for the current record. This function is not intended for use by end-user applications, and should be used only in descendent classes, where it can be overridden. The `NativeFormat` determines whether the data is in native format (e.g. whether the date/time values are in `TDateTime` format).

See also: [TField.DisplayText \(311\)](#)

10.19.9 TDataSet.Append

Synopsis: Append a new record to the data

```
Declaration: procedure Append
```

Visibility: public

Description: `Append` appends a new record at the end of the dataset. It is functionally equal to the `TDataSet.Insert (265)` call, but the cursor is positioned at the end of the dataset prior to performing the insert operation. The same events occur as when the `Insert` call is made.

See also: [TDataSet.Insert \(265\)](#), [TDataSet.Edit \(260\)](#)

10.19.10 TDataSet.AppendRecord

Synopsis: Append a new record to the dataset and fill with data

```
Declaration: procedure AppendRecord(const Values: Array of const)
```

Visibility: public

Description: `AppendRecord` first calls `Append` to add a new record to the dataset. It then copies the values in `Values` to the various fields (using `TDataSet.SetFields (270)`) and attempts to post the record using `TDataSet.Post (268)`. If all went well, the result is that the values in `Values` have been added as a new record to the dataset.

Errors: Various errors may occur (not supplying a value for all required fields, invalid values) and may cause an exception. This may leave the dataset in editing mode.

See also: [TDataSet.Append \(256\)](#), [TDataSet.SetFields \(270\)](#), [TDataSet.Post \(268\)](#)

10.19.11 TDataSet.BookmarkValid

Synopsis: Test whether ABookMark is a valid bookmark.

Declaration: `function BookmarkValid(ABookmark: TBookmark) : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `BookmarkValid` returns `True` if `ABookMark` is a valid bookmark for the dataset. Various operations can render a bookmark invalid: changing the sort order, closing and re-opening the dataset. `BookmarkValid` always returns `False` in `TDataSet`. Descendent classes must override this method to do an actual test.

Errors: If the bookmark is a completely arbitrary pointer, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TDataSet.GetBookmark` (263), `TDataSet.SetBookmark` (250), `TDataSet.FreeBookmark` (263), `TDataSet.BookmarkAvailable` (250)

10.19.12 TDataSet.Cancel

Synopsis: Cancel the current editing operation

Declaration: `procedure Cancel; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Cancel` cancels the current editing operation and sets the dataset again in browse mode. This operation triggers the `TDataSet.OnBeforeCancel` (250) and `TDataSet.OnAfterCancel` (250) events. If the dataset was in insert mode, then the `TDataSet.OnBeforeScroll` (250) and `TDataSet.OnAfterScroll` (250) events are triggered after and respectively before the `OnBeforeCancel` and `OnAfterCancel` events.

If the dataset was not in one of the editing modes when `Cancel` is called, then nothing will happen.

Errors:

See also: `TDataSet.State` (276), `TDataSet.Append` (256), `TDataSet.Insert` (265), `TDataSet.Edit` (260)

10.19.13 TDataSet.CheckBrowseMode

Synopsis: Check whether the dataset is in browse mode.

Declaration: `procedure CheckBrowseMode`

Visibility: public

Description: `CheckBrowseMode` checks whether the dataset is in browse mode (`State=dsBrowse`). If it is not, an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception is raised.

See also: `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.14 TDataSet.ClearFields

Synopsis: Clear the values of all fields

Declaration: `procedure ClearFields`

Visibility: public

Description: `ClearFields` clears the values of all fields.

Errors: If the dataset is not in editing mode (`State` in `dsEditmodes`), then an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception will be raised.

See also: `TDataset.State` (276), `TField.Clear` (303)

10.19.15 `TDataset.Close`

Synopsis: Close the dataset

Declaration: `procedure Close`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Close` closes the dataset if it is open (`Active=True`). This action triggers the `TDataset.OnBeforeClose` (250) and `TDataset.OnAfterClose` (250) events. If the dataset is not active, nothing happens.

Errors: If an exception occurs during the closing of the dataset, the `OnAfterClose` event will not be triggered.

See also: `TDataset.Active` (278), `TDataset.Open` (268)

10.19.16 `TDataset.ControlsDisabled`

Synopsis: Check whether the controls are disabled

Declaration: `function ControlsDisabled : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ControlsDisabled` returns `True` if the controls are disabled, i.e. no events are propagated to the controls connected to this dataset. The `TDataset.DisableControls` (260) call can be used to disable sending of data events to the controls. The sending can be re-enabled with `TDataset.EnableControls` (261). This mechanism has a counting mechanism: in order to enable sending of events to the controls, `EnableControls` must be called as much as `DisableControls` was called. The `ControlsDisabled` function will return `true` as long as the internal counter is not zero.

See also: `TDataset.DisableControls` (260), `TDataset.EnableControls` (261)

10.19.17 `TDataset.CompareBookmarks`

Synopsis: Compare two bookmarks

Declaration: `function CompareBookmarks (Bookmark1: TBookmark; Bookmark2: TBookmark)
: LongInt; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CompareBookmarks` can be used to compare the relative positions of 2 bookmarks. It returns a negative value if `Bookmark1` is located before `Bookmark2`, zero if they refer to the same record, and a positive value if the second bookmark appears before the first bookmark. This function must be overridden by descendent classes of `TDataset`. The implementation in `TDataset` always returns zero.

Errors: No checks are performed on the validity of the bookmarks.

See also: `TDataset.BookmarkValid` (257), `TDataset.GetBookmark` (263), `TDataset.SetBookmark` (250)

10.19.18 TDataSet.CreateBlobStream

Synopsis: Create blob stream

Declaration: `function CreateBlobStream(Field: TField; Mode: TBlobStreamMode) : TStream
; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `CreateBlobStream` is not intended for use by application programmers. It creates a stream object which can be used to read or write data from a blob field. Instead, application programmers should use the `TBlobField.LoadFromStream` (228) and `TBlobField.SaveToStream` (229) methods when reading and writing data from/to BLOB fields. Which operation must be performed on the stream is indicated in the `Mode` parameter, and the `Field` parameter contains the field whose data should be read. The caller is responsible for freeing the stream created by this function.

See also: `TBlobField.LoadFromStream` (228), `TBlobField.SaveToStream` (229)

10.19.19 TDataSet.CursorPosChanged

Synopsis: Indicate a change in cursor position

Declaration: `procedure CursorPosChanged`

Visibility: public

Description: `CursorPosChanged` is not intended for internal use only, and serves to indicate that the current cursor position has changed. (it clears the internal cursor position).

10.19.20 TDataSet.DataConvert

Synopsis: Convert data from/to native format

Declaration: `procedure DataConvert(aField: TField; aSource: Pointer; aDest: Pointer;
aToNative: Boolean); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `DataConvert` converts the data from field `AField` in buffer `ASource` to native format and puts the result in `ADest`. If the `aToNative` parameter equals `False`, then the data is converted from native format to non-native format. Currently, only date/time/datetime and BCD fields are converted from/to native data. This means the routine handles conversion between `TDateTime` (the native format) and `TDateTimeRec`, and between `TBCD` and currency (the native format) for BCD fields. `DataConvert` is used internally by `TDataset` and descendent classes. There should be no need to use this routine in application code.

Errors: No checking on the validity of the buffer pointers is performed. If an invalid pointer is passed, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TDataset.GetFieldData` (255), `TDataset.SetFieldData` (256)

10.19.21 TDataSet.Delete

Synopsis: Delete the current record.

Declaration: `procedure Delete`

Visibility: public

Description: `Delete` will delete the current record. This action will trigger the `TDataset.BeforeDelete` (283), `TDataset.BeforeScroll` (283), `TDataset.AfterDelete` (283) and `TDataset.AfterScroll` (284) events. If the dataset was in edit mode, the edits will be canceled before the delete operation starts.

Errors: If the dataset is empty or read-only, then an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception will be raised.

See also: `TDataset.Cancel` (257), `TDataset.BeforeDelete` (283), `TDataset.BeforeScroll` (283), `TDataset.AfterDelete` (283), `TDataset.AfterScroll` (284)

10.19.22 TDataSet.DisableControls

Synopsis: Disable event propagation of controls

Declaration: `procedure DisableControls`

Visibility: public

Description: `DisableControls` tells the dataset to stop sending data-related events to the controls. This can be used before starting operations that will cause the current record to change a lot, or before any other lengthy operation that may cause a lot of events to be sent to the controls that show data from the dataset: each event will cause the control to update itself, which is a time-consuming operation that may also cause a lot of flicker on the screen.

The sending of events to the controls can be re-enabled with `Tdataset.EnableControls` (261). Note that for each call to `DisableControls`, a matching call to `EnableControls` must be made: an internal count is kept and only when the count reaches zero, the controls are again notified of changes to the dataset. It is therefore essential that the call to `EnableControls` is put in a `Finally` block:

```
MyDataset.DisableControls;
Try
    // Do some intensive stuff
Finally
    MyDataset.EnableControls
end;
```

Errors: Failure to call `enablecontrols` will prevent the controls from receiving updates. The state can be checked with `TDataset.ControlsDisabled` (258).

See also: `TDataset.EnableControls` (261), `TDataset.ControlsDisabled` (258)

10.19.23 TDataSet.Edit

Synopsis: Set the dataset in editing mode.

Declaration: `procedure Edit`

Visibility: public

Description: `Edit` will set the dataset in edit mode: the contents of the current record can then be changed. This action will call the `TDataset.BeforeEdit` (281) and `TDataset.AfterEdit` (281) events. If the dataset was already in insert or edit mode, nothing will happen (the events will also not be triggered). If the dataset is empty, this action will execute `TDataset.Append` (256) instead.

Errors: If the dataset is read-only or not opened, then an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception will be raised.

See also: `TDataset.State` (276), `TDataset.EOF` (273), `TDataset.BOF` (271), `TDataset.Append` (256), `TDataset.BeforeEdit` (281), `TDataset.AfterEdit` (281)

10.19.24 TDataSet.EnableControls

Synopsis: Enable event propagation of controls

Declaration: procedure EnableControls

Visibility: public

Description: EnableControls tells the dataset to resume sending data-related events to the controls. This must be used after a call to TDataSet.DisableControls (260) to re-enable updating of controls.

Note that for each call to DisableControls, a matching call to EnableControls must be made: an internal count is kept and only when the count reaches zero, the controls are again notified of changes to the dataset. It is therefore essential that the call to EnableControls is put in a Finally block:

```

MyDataset.DisableControls;
Try
  // Do some intensive stuff
Finally
  MyDataset.EnableControls
end;

```

Errors: Failure to call enablecontrols will prevent the controls from receiving updates. The state can be checked with TDataSet.ControlsDisabled (258).

See also: TDataSet.DisableControls (260), TDataSet.ControlsDisabled (258)

10.19.25 TDataSet.FieldByName

Synopsis: Search a field by name

Declaration: function FieldByName(const FieldName: String) : TField

Visibility: public

Description: FieldByName is a shortcut for Fields.FieldByName (331): it searches for the field with fieldname equalling FieldName. The case is performed case-insensitive. The matching field instance is returned.

Errors: If the field is not found, an EDatabaseError (220) exception will be raised.

See also: TFields.FieldByName (331), TDataSet.FindField (261)

10.19.26 TDataSet.FindField

Synopsis: Find a field by name

Declaration: function FindField(const FieldName: String) : TField

Visibility: public

Description: FindField is a shortcut for Fields.FindField (331): it searches for the field with fieldname equalling FieldName. The case is performed case-insensitive. The matching field instance is returned, and if no match is found, Nil is returned.

See also: TDataSet.FieldByName (261), TFields.FindField (331)

10.19.27 TDataSet.FindFirst

Synopsis: Find the first active record (deprecated)

Declaration: `function FindFirst : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindFirst` positions the cursor on the first record (taking into account filtering), and returns `True` if the cursor position was changed. This method must be implemented by descendents of `TDataSet`: The implementation in `TDataSet` always returns `False`, indicating that the position was not changed.

This method is deprecated, use `TDataSet.First` (263) instead.

See also: `TDataSet.First` (263), `TDataSet.FindLast` (262), `TDataSet.FindNext` (262), `TDataSet.FindPrior` (262)

10.19.28 TDataSet.FindLast

Synopsis: Find the last active record (deprecated)

Declaration: `function FindLast : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindLast` positions the cursor on the last record (taking into account filtering), and returns `True` if the cursor position was changed. This method must be implemented by descendents of `TDataSet`: The implementation in `TDataSet` always returns `False`, indicating that the position was not changed.

This method is deprecated, use `TDataSet.Last` (266) instead.

See also: `TDataSet.Last` (266), `TDataSet.FindFirst` (262), `TDataSet.FindNext` (262), `TDataSet.FindPrior` (262)

10.19.29 TDataSet.FindNext

Synopsis: Find the next active record (deprecated)

Declaration: `function FindNext : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindNext` positions the cursor on the next record (taking into account filtering), and returns `True` if the cursor position was changed. This method must be implemented by descendents of `TDataSet`: The implementation in `TDataSet` always returns `False`, indicating that the position was not changed.

This method is deprecated, use `TDataSet.Next` (267) instead.

See also: `TDataSet.Next` (267), `TDataSet.FindFirst` (262), `TDataSet.FindLast` (262), `TDataSet.FindPrior` (262)

10.19.30 TDataSet.FindPrior

Synopsis: Find the previous active record (deprecated)

Declaration: `function FindPrior : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindPrior` positions the cursor on the previous record (taking into account filtering), and returns `True` if the cursor position was changed. This method must be implemented by descendents of `TDataSet`: The implementation in `TDataSet` always returns `False`, indicating that the position was not changed.

This method is deprecated, use `TDataSet.Prior` (269) instead.

See also: `TDataSet.Prior` (269), `TDataSet.FindFirst` (262), `TDataSet.FindLast` (262), `TDataSet.FindPrior` (262)

10.19.31 TDataSet.First

Synopsis: Position the dataset on the first record.

Declaration: `procedure First`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `First` positions the dataset on the first record. This action will trigger the `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283) and `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284) events. After the action is completed, the `TDataSet.BOF` (271) property will be `True`.

Errors: If the dataset is unidirectional or is closed, an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception will be raised.

See also: `TDataSet.Prior` (269), `TDataSet.Last` (266), `TDataSet.Next` (267), `TDataSet.BOF` (271), `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283), `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284)

10.19.32 TDataSet.FreeBookmark

Synopsis: Free a bookmark obtained with `GetBookmark` (deprecated)

Declaration: `procedure FreeBookmark(ABookmark: TBookmark); Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `FreeBookmark` must be used to free a bookmark obtained by `TDataSet.GetBookmark` (263). It should not be used on bookmarks obtained with the `TDataSet.Bookmark` (271) property. Both `GetBookmark` and `FreeBookmark` are deprecated. Use the `Bookmark` property instead: it uses a string type, which is automatically disposed of when the string variable goes out of scope.

See also: `TDataSet.GetBookmark` (263), `TDataSet.Bookmark` (271)

10.19.33 TDataSet.GetBookmark

Synopsis: Get a bookmark pointer (deprecated)

Declaration: `function GetBookmark : TBookmark; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `GetBookmark` gets a bookmark pointer to the current cursor location. The `TDataSet.SetBookmark` (250) call can be used to return to the current record in the dataset. After use, the bookmark must be disposed of with the `TDataSet.FreeBookmark` (263) call. The bookmark will be `Nil` if the dataset is empty or not active.

This call is deprecated. Use the `TDataSet.Bookmark` (271) property instead to get a bookmark.

See also: `TDataSet.SetBookmark` (250), `TDataSet.FreeBookmark` (263), `TDataSet.Bookmark` (271)

10.19.34 TDataSet.GetCurrentRecord

Synopsis: Copy the data for the current record in a memory buffer

Declaration: `function GetCurrentRecord(Buffer: PChar) : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetCurrentRecord` can be overridden by `TDataSet` descendants to copy the data for the current record to `Buffer`. `Buffer` must point to a memory area, large enough to contain the data for the record. If the data is copied successfully to the buffer, the function returns `True`. The `TDataSet` implementation is empty, and returns `False`.

See also: `TDataSet.ActiveBuffer` (255)

10.19.35 TDataSet.GetFieldList

Synopsis: Return field instances in a list

Declaration: `procedure GetFieldList(List: TList; const FieldNames: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetFieldList` parses `FieldNames` for names of fields, and returns the field instances that match the names in `list`. `FieldNames` must be a list of field names, separated by semicolons. The list is cleared prior to filling with the requested field instances.

Errors: If `FieldNames` contains a name of a field that does not exist in the dataset, then an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception will be raised.

See also: `TDataSet.GetFieldNames` (264), `TDataSet.FieldByName` (261), `TDataSet.FindField` (261)

10.19.36 TDataSet.GetFieldNames

Synopsis: Return a list of all available field names

Declaration: `procedure GetFieldNames(List: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetFieldNames` returns in `List` the names of all available fields, one field per item in the list. The dataset must be open for this function to work correctly.

See also: `TDataSet.GetFieldNameList` (250), `TDataSet.FieldByName` (261), `TDataSet.FindField` (261)

10.19.37 TDataSet.GotoBookmark

Synopsis: Jump to bookmark

Declaration: `procedure GotoBookmark(ABookmark: TBookmark)`

Visibility: public

Description: `GotoBookmark` positions the dataset to the bookmark position indicated by `ABookmark`. `ABookmark` is a bookmark obtained by the `TDataSet.GetBookmark` (263) function.

This function is deprecated, use the `TDataSet.Bookmark` (271) property instead.

Errors: if `ABookmark` does not contain a valid bookmark, then an exception may be raised.

See also: `TDataSet.Bookmark` (271), `TDataSet.GetBookmark` (263), `TDataSet.FreeBookmark` (263)

10.19.38 TDataSet.Insert

Synopsis: Insert a new record at the current position.

Declaration: `procedure Insert`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Insert` will insert a new record at the current position. When this function is called, any pending modifications (when the dataset already is in insert or edit mode) will be posted. After that, the `BeforeInsert` (280), `BeforeScroll` (283), `OnNewRecord` (286), `AfterInsert` (281) and `AfterScroll` (284) events are triggered in the order indicated here. The dataset is in the `dsInsert` state after this method is called, and the contents of the various fields can be set. To write the new record to the underlying database `TDataSet.Post` (268) must be called.

Errors: If the dataset is read-only, calling `Insert` will result in an `EDatabaseError` (220).

See also: `TDataSet.BeforeInsert` (280), `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283), `TDataSet.OnNewrecord` (286), `TDataSet.AfterInsert` (281), `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284), `TDataSet.Post` (268), `TDataSet.Append` (256)

10.19.39 TDataSet.InsertRecord

Synopsis: Insert a new record with given values.

Declaration: `procedure InsertRecord(const Values: Array of const)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `InsertRecord` is not yet implemented in Free Pascal. It does nothing.

Errors:

See also: `TDataSet.Insert` (265), `TDataSet.SetFieldValues` (250)

10.19.40 TDataSet.IsEmpty

Synopsis: Check if the dataset contains no data

Declaration: `function IsEmpty : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IsEmpty` returns `True` if the dataset is empty, i.e. if `EOF` (273) and `TDataSet.BOF` (271) are both `True`, and the dataset is not in insert mode.

See also: `TDataSet.EOF` (273), `TDataSet.BOF` (271), `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.41 TDataSet.IsLinkedTo

Synopsis: Check whether a datasource is linked to the dataset

Declaration: `function IsLinkedTo(ADatasource: TDataSource) : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IsLinkedTo` returns `True` if `ADatasource` is linked to this dataset, either directly (the `ADatasource.Dataset`" (289) points to the current dataset instance, or indirectly.

See also: `TDataSource.Dataset` (289)

10.19.42 TDataSet.IsSequenced

Synopsis: Is the data sequenced

Declaration: `function IsSequenced : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IsSequenced` indicates whether it is safe to use the `TDataSet.RecNo` (276) property to navigate in the records of the data. By default, this property is set to `True`, but `TDataSet` descendents may set this property to `False` (for instance, unidirectional datasets), in which case `RecNo` should not be used to navigate through the data.

See also: `TDataSet.RecNo` (276)

10.19.43 TDataSet.Last

Synopsis: Navigate forward to the last record

Declaration: `procedure Last`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Last` puts the cursor at the last record in the dataset, fetching more records from the underlying database if needed. After a call to `Last`, the `TDataSet.EOF` (273) property will be `True`. Calling this method will trigger the `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283) and `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284) events.

See also: `TDataSet.First` (263), `TDataSet.Next` (267), `TDataSet.EOF` (273), `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283), `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284)

10.19.44 TDataSet.Locate

Synopsis: Locate a record based on some key values

Declaration: `function Locate(const keyfields: String;const keyvalues: Variant;
options: TLocateOptions) : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Locate` attempts to locate a record in the dataset. There are 2 possible cases when using `Locate`.

1. `Keyvalues` is a single value. In that case, `KeyFields` is the name of the field whose value must be matched to the value in `KeyValues`
2. `Keyvalues` is a variant array. In that case, `KeyFields` must contain a list of names of fields (separated by semicolons) whose values must be matched to the values in the `KeyValues` array

The matching always happens according to the `Options` parameter. For a description of the possible values, see `TLocateOption` (216).

If a record is found that matches the criteria, then the `locate` operation positions the cursor on this record, and returns `True`. If no record is found to match the criteria, `False` is returned, and the position of the cursor is unchanged.

The implementation in `TDataSet` always returns `False`. It is up to `TDataSet` descendents to implement this method and return an appropriate value.

See also: `TDataSet.Find` (250), `TDataSet.Lookup` (267), `TLocateOption` (216)

10.19.45 TDataSet.Lookup

Synopsis: Search for a record and return matching values.

Declaration: `function Lookup(const KeyFields: String; const KeyValues: Variant;
const ResultFields: String) : Variant; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Lookup` always returns `False` in `TDataSet`. Descendents of `TDataSet` can override this method to call `TDataSet.Locate` (266) to locate the record with fields `KeyFields` matching `KeyValues` and then to return the values of the fields in `ResultFields`. If `ResultFields` contains more than one fieldname (separated by semicolons), then the function returns an array. If there is only 1 fieldname, the value is returned directly.

Errors: If the dataset is unidirectional, then a `EDatabaseError` (220) exception will be raised.

See also: `TDataSet.Locate` (266)

10.19.46 TDataSet.MoveBy

Synopsis: Move the cursor position

Declaration: `function MoveBy(Distance: LongInt) : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Description: `MoveBy` moves the current record pointer with `Distance` positions. `Distance` may be a positive number, in which case the cursor is moved forward, or a negative number, in which case the cursor is moved backward. The move operation will stop as soon as the beginning or end of the data is reached. The `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283) and `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284) events are triggered (once) when this method is called. The function returns the distance which was actually moved by the cursor.

Errors: A negative distance will result in an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception on unidirectional datasets.

See also: `TDataSet.RecNo` (276), `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283), `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284)

10.19.47 TDataSet.Next

Synopsis: Go to the next record in the dataset.

Declaration: `procedure Next`

Visibility: public

Description: `Next` positions the cursor on the next record in the dataset. It is equivalent to a `MoveBy(1)` operation. Calling this method triggers the `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283) and `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284) events. If the dataset is located on the last known record (`EOF` (273) is true), then no action is performed, and the events are not triggered.

Errors: Calling this method on a closed dataset will result in an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception.

See also: `TDataSet.MoveBy` (267), `TDataSet.Prior` (269), `TDataSet.Last` (266), `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283), `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284), `TDataSet.EOF` (273)

10.19.48 TDataSet.Open

Synopsis: Activate the dataset: Fetch data into memory.

Declaration: `procedure Open`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Open` must be used to make the `TDataSet` Active. It does nothing if the dataset is already active. `Open` initialises the `TDataSet` and brings the dataset in a browsable state:

Effectively the following happens:

1. The `BeforeOpen` event is triggered.
2. The descendents `InternalOpen` method is called to actually fetch data and initialize field-
defs and field instances.
3. `BOF` (271) is set to `True`
4. Internal buffers are allocated and filled with data
5. If the dataset is empty, `EOF` (273) is set to `true`
6. `State` (276) is set to `dsBrowse`
7. The `AfterOpen` (280) event is triggered

Errors: If the descendent class cannot fetch the data, or the data does not match the field definitions present in the dataset, then an exception will be raised.

See also: `TDataSet.Active` (278), `TDataSet.State` (276), `TDataSet.BOF` (271), `TDataSet.EOF` (273), `TDataSet.BeforeOpen` (279), `TDataSet.AfterOpen` (280)

10.19.49 TDataSet.Post

Synopsis: Post pending edits to the database.

Declaration: `procedure Post; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Post` attempts to save pending edits when the dataset is in one of the edit modes: that is, after a `Insert` (265), `Append` (256) or `TDataSet.Edit` (260) operation. The changes will be committed to memory - and usually immediatly to the underlying database as well. Prior to saving the data to memory, it will check some constraints: in `TDataSet`, the presence of a value for all required fields is checked. if for a required field no value is present, an exception will be raised. A call to `Post` results in the triggering of the `BeforePost` (282), `AfterPost` (282) events. After the call to `Post`, the `State` (276) of the dataset is again `dsBrowse`, i.e. the dataset is again in browse mode.

Errors: Invoking the `post` method when the dataset is not in one of the editing modes (`dsEditModes` (209)) will result in an `EdatabaseError` (220) exception. If an exception occurs during the save operation, the `OnPostError` (287) event is triggered to handle the error.

See also: `TDataSet.Insert` (265), `Tdataset.Append` (256), `TDataSet.Edit` (260), `Tdataset.OnPostError` (287), `TDataSet.BeforePost` (282), `TDataSet.AfterPost` (282), `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.50 TDataSet.Prior

Synopsis: Go to the previous record

Declaration: `procedure Prior`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Prior` moves the cursor to the previous record. It is equivalent to a `MoveBy(-1)` operation. Calling this method triggers the `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283) and `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284) events. If the dataset is located on the first record, (`BOF` (271) is true) then no action is performed, and the events are not triggered.

Errors: Calling this method on a closed dataset will result in an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception.

See also: `TDataSet.MoveBy` (267), `TDataSet.Next` (267), `TDataSet.First` (263), `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283), `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284), `TDataSet.BOF` (271)

10.19.51 TDataSet.Refresh

Synopsis: Refresh the records in the dataset

Declaration: `procedure Refresh`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Refresh` posts any pending edits, and refetches the data in the dataset from the underlying database, and attempts to reposition the cursor on the same record as it was. This operation is not supported by all datasets, and should be used with care. The repositioning may not always succeed, in which case the cursor will be positioned on the first record in the dataset. This is in particular true for unidirectional datasets. Calling `Refresh` results in the triggering of the `BeforeRefresh` (284) and `AfterRefresh` (284) events.

Errors: Refreshing may fail if the underlying dataset descendent does not support it.

See also: `TDataSet.Close` (258), `TDataSet.Open` (268), `TDataSet.BeforeRefresh` (284), `TDataSet.AfterRefresh` (284)

10.19.52 TDataSet.Resync

Synopsis: Resynchronize the data buffer

Declaration: `procedure Resync (Mode: TResyncMode); Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Resync` refetches the records around the cursor position. It should not be used by application code, instead `TDataSet.Refresh` (269) should be used. The `Resync` parameter indicates how the buffers should be refreshed.

See also: `TDataSet.Refresh` (269)

10.19.53 TDataSet.SetFields

Synopsis: Set a number of field values at once

Declaration: `procedure SetFields(const Values: Array of const)`

Visibility: public

Description: `SetFields` sets the values of the fields with the corresponding values in the array. It starts with the first field in the `TDataSet.Fields` (277) property, and works it's way down the array.

Errors: If the dataset is not in edit mode, then an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception will be raised. If there are more values than fields, an `EListError` exception will be raised.

See also: `TDataSet.Fields` (277)

10.19.54 TDataSet.Translate

Synopsis: Transliterate a buffer

Declaration: `function Translate(Src: PChar; Dest: PChar; ToOem: Boolean) : Integer; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Translate` is called for all string fields for which the `TStringField.Transliterate` (374) property is set to `True`. The `toOEM` parameter is set to `True` if the transliteration must happen from the used codepage to the codepage used for storage, and if it is set to `False` then the transliteration must happen from the native codepage to the storage codepage. This call must be overridden by descendents of `TDataSet` to provide the necessary transliteration: `TDataSet` just copies the contents of the `Src` buffer to the `Dest` buffer. The result must be the number of bytes copied to the destination buffer.

Errors: No checks are performed on the buffers.

See also: `TStringField.Transliterate` (374)

10.19.55 TDataSet.UpdateCursorPos

Synopsis: Update cursor position

Declaration: `procedure UpdateCursorPos`

Visibility: public

Description: `UpdateCursorPos` should not be used in application code. It is used to ensure that the logical cursor position is the correct (physical) position.

See also: `TDataSet.Refresh` (269)

10.19.56 TDataSet.UpdateRecord

Synopsis: Indicate that the record contents have changed

Declaration: `procedure UpdateRecord`

Visibility: public

Description: `UpdateRecord` notifies controls that the contents of the current record have changed. It triggers the event. This should never be called by application code, and is intended only for descendants of `TDataset`.

See also: `TDataset.OnUpdateRecord` (250)

10.19.57 `TDataset.UpdateStatus`

Synopsis: Get the update status for the current record

Declaration: `function UpdateStatus : TUpdateStatus; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `UpdateStatus` always returns `usUnModified` in the `TDataset` implementation. Descendent classes should override this method to indicate the status for the current record in case they support cached updates: the function should return the status of the current record: has the record been locally inserted, modified or deleted, or none of these. `UpdateStatus` is not used in `TDataset` itself, but is provided so applications have a unique API to work with datasets that have support for cached updates.

10.19.58 `TDataset.BOF`

Synopsis: Is the cursor at the beginning of the data (on the first record)

Declaration: `Property BOF : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `BOF` returns `True` if the first record is the first record in the dataset, `False` otherwise. It will always be `True` if the dataset is just opened, or after a call to `TDataset.First` (263). As soon as `TDataset.Next` (267) is called, `BOF` will no longer be true.

See also: `TDataset.EOF` (273), `TDataset.Next` (267), `TDataset.First` (263)

10.19.59 `TDataset.Bookmark`

Synopsis: Get or set the current cursor position

Declaration: `Property Bookmark : TBookmarkStr`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Bookmark` can be read to obtain a bookmark to the current position in the dataset. The obtained value can be used to return to current position at a later stage. Writing the `Bookmark` property with a value previously obtained like this, will reposition the dataset on the same position as it was when the property was read.

This is often used when scanning all records, like this:

```

Var
  B : TBookmarkStr;

begin
  With MyDataset do
    begin
    B:=Bookmark;
      DisableControls;
    try
      First;
      While Not EOF do
        begin
        DoSomething;
        Next;
        end;
      finally
        EnableControls;
        Bookmark:=B;
      end;
    end;
  end;
end;

```

At the end of this code, the dataset will be positioned on the same record as when the code was started. The `TDataset.DisableControls` (260) and `TDataset.EnableControls` (261) calls prevent the controls from receiving update notifications as the dataset scrolls through the records, thus reducing flicker on the screen.

Note that bookmarks become invalid as soon as the dataset closes. A call to refresh may also destroy the bookmarks.

See also: `TDataset.DisableControls` (260), `TDataset.EnableControls` (261)

10.19.60 `TDataset.CanModify`

Synopsis: Can the data in the dataset be modified

Declaration: `Property CanModify : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `CanModify` indicates whether the dataset allows editing. Unidirectional datasets do not allow editing. Descendent datasets can impose additional conditions under which the data can not be modified (read-only datasets, for instance). If the `CanModify` property is `False`, then the edit, append or insert methods will fail.

See also: `TDataset.Insert` (265), `TDataset.Append` (256), `TDataset.Delete` (259), `TDataset.Edit` (260)

10.19.61 `TDataset.DataSource`

Synopsis: Datasource this dataset is connected to.

Declaration: `Property DataSource : TDataSource`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Datasource` is the datasource this dataset is connected to, and from which it can get values for parameters. In `TDataSet`, the `Datasource` property is not used, and is always `Nil`. It is up to descendent classes that actually support a datasource to implement getter and setter routines for the `Datasource` property.

See also: `TDatasource` (287)

10.19.62 TDataSet.DefaultFields

Synopsis: Is the dataset using persistent fields or not.

Declaration: Property `DefaultFields` : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `DefaultFields` is `True` if the fields were generated dynamically when the dataset was opened. If it is `False` then the field instances are persistent, i.e. they were created at design time with the fields editor. If `DefaultFields` is `True`, then for each item in the `TDataSet.FieldDefs` (274) property, a field instance is created. These fields instances are freed again when the dataset is closed. If `DefaultFields` is `False`, then there may be less field instances than there are items in the `FieldDefs` property. This can be the case for instance when opening a DBF file at runtime which has more fields than the file used at design time.

See also: `TDataSet.FieldDefs` (274), `TDataSet.Fields` (277), `TField` (298)

10.19.63 TDataSet.EOF

Synopsis: Indicates whether the last record has been reached.

Declaration: Property `EOF` : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `EOF` is `True` if the cursor is on the last record in the dataset, and no more records are available. It is also `True` for an empty dataset. The `EOF` property will be set to `True` in the following cases:

1. The `TDataSet.Last` (266) method is called.
2. The record is on the last record, and the `TDataSet.Next` (267) method is called.
3. The dataset is empty when opened

In all other cases, `EOF` is `False`. Note that when the cursor is on the last-but-one record, and `Next` is called, `EOF` will not yet be `True`. It is only when the cursor is on the last record and `Next` is called, that `EOF` will become `True`. This means that the following loop will stop after the last record was visited:

```
With MyDataset do
  While not EOF do
    begin
      DoSomething;
      Next;
    end;
```

See also: `TDataSet.BOF` (271), `TDataSet.Next` (267), `TDataSet.Last` (266), `TDataSet.IsEmpty` (265)

10.19.64 TDataSet.FieldCount

Synopsis: Number of fields

Declaration: Property FieldCount : LongInt

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: FieldCount is the same as Fields.Count (333), i.e. the number of fields. For a dataset with persistent fields (when DefaultFields (273) is False) then this number will be always the same every time the dataset is opened. For a dataset with dynamically created fields, the number of fields may be different each time the dataset is opened.

See also: TFields (329)

10.19.65 TDataSet.FieldDefs

Synopsis: Definitions of available fields in the underlying database

Declaration: Property FieldDefs : TFieldDefs

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: FieldDefs is filled by the TDataSet descendent when the dataset is opened. It represents the fields as they are returned by the particular database when the data is initially fetched from the engine. If the dataset uses dynamically created fields (when DefaultFields (273) is True), then for each item in this list, a field instance will be created with default properties available in the field definition. If the dataset uses persistent fields, then the fields in the field list will be checked against the items in the FieldDefs property. If no matching item is found for a persistent field, then an exception will be raised. Items that exist in the fielddefs property but for which there is no matching field instance, are ignored.

See also: TDataSet.Open (268), TDataSet.DefaultFields (273), TDataSet.Fields (277)

10.19.66 TDataSet.Found

Synopsis: Check success of one of the Find methods

Declaration: Property Found : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: Found is True if the last of one of the TDataSet.FindFirst (262), TDataSet.FindLast (262), TDataSet.FindNext (262) or TDataSet.FindPrior (262) operations was succesful.

See also: TDataSet.FindFirst (262), TDataSet.FindLast (262), TDataSet.FindNext (262), TDataSet.FindPrior (262)

10.19.67 TDataSet.Modified

Synopsis: Was the current record modified ?

Declaration: Property Modified : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: Modified is True if the current record was modified after a call to Tdataset.Edit (260) or Tdataset.Insert (265). It becomes True if a value was written to one of the fields of the dataset.

See also: Tdataset.Edit (260), TDataSet.Insert (265), TDataSet.Append (256), TDataSet.Cancel (257), TDataSet.Post (268)

10.19.68 TDataSet.IsUniDirectional

Synopsis: Is the dataset unidirectional (i.e. forward scrolling only)

Declaration: Property IsUniDirectional : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: IsUniDirectional is True if the dataset is unidirectional. By default it is False, i.e. scrolling backwards is allowed. If the dataset is unidirectional, then any attempt to scroll backwards (using one of TDataSet.Prior (269) or TDataSet.Next (267)), random positioning of the cursor, editing or filtering will result in an EDatabaseError (220). Unidirectional datasets are also not suitable for display in a grid, as they have only 1 record in memory at any given time: they are only useful for performing an action on all records:

```
With MyDataset do
  While not EOF do
    begin
      DoSomething;
      Next;
    end;
```

See also: TDataSet.Prior (269), TDataSet.Next (267)

10.19.69 TDataSet.RecordCount

Synopsis: Number of records in the dataset

Declaration: Property RecordCount : LongInt

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: RecordCount is the number of records in the dataset. This number is not necessarily equal to the number of records returned by a query. For optimization purposes, a TDataSet descendent may choose not to fetch all records from the database when the dataset is opened. If this is the case, then the RecordCount will only reflect the number of records that have actually been fetched at the current time, and therefor the value will change as more records are fetched from the database.

Only when `Last` has been called (and the dataset has been forced to fetch all records returned by the database), will the value of `RecordCount` be equal to the number of records returned by the query.

In general, datasets based on in-memory data or flat files, will return the correct number of records in `RecordCount`.

See also: `TDataset.RecNo` (276)

10.19.70 `TDataset.RecNo`

Synopsis: Current record number

Declaration: Property `RecNo` : `LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `RecNo` returns the current position in the dataset. It can be written to set the cursor to the indicated position. This property must be implemented by `TDataset` descendents, for `TDataset` the property always returns -1.

This property should not be used if exact positioning is required. it is inherently unreliable.

See also: `TDataset.RecordCount` (275)

10.19.71 `TDataset.RecordSize`

Synopsis: Size of the record in memory

Declaration: Property `RecordSize` : `Word`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `RecordSize` is the total size of the memory buffer used for the records. This property returns always 0 in the `TDataset` implementation. Descendent classes should implement this property. Note that this property does not necessarily reflect the actual data size for the records. that may be more or less, depending on how the `TDataset` descendent manages it's data.

See also: `TField.Datasize` (310), `TDataset.RecordCount` (275), `TDataset.RecNo` (276)

10.19.72 `TDataset.State`

Synopsis: Current operational state of the dataset

Declaration: Property `State` : `TDatasetState`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `State` determines the current operational state of the dataset. During it's lifetime, the dataset is in one of many states, depending on which operation is currently in progress:

- If a dataset is closed, the `State` is `dsInactive`.
- As soon as it is opened, it is in `dsBrowse` mode, and remains in this state while changing the cursor position.

- If the `Edit` or `Insert` or `Append` methods is called, the `State` changes to `dsEdit` or `dsInsert`, respectively.
- As soon as edits have been posted or cancelled, the state is again `dsBrowse`.
- Closing the dataset sets the state again to `dsInactive`.

There are some other states, mainly connected to internal operations, but which can become visible in some of the dataset's events.

See also: `TDataset.Active` (278), `TDataset.Edit` (260), `TDataset.Insert` (265), `TDataset.Append` (256), `TDataset.Post` (268), `TDataset.Cancel` (257)

10.19.73 TDataset.Fields

Synopsis: Indexed access to the fields of the dataset.

Declaration: `Property Fields : Tfields`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Fields` provides access to the fields of the dataset. It is of type `TFields` (329) and therefore gives indexed access to the fields, but also allows other operations such as searching for fields based on their names or getting a list of fieldnames.

See also: `TFieldDefs` (326), `TField` (298)

10.19.74 TDataset.FieldValues

Synopsis: Acces to field values based on the field names.

Declaration: `Property FieldValues[fieldname: String]: Variant; default`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `FieldValues` provides array-like access to the values of the fields, based on the names of the fields. The value is read or written as a variant type. It is equivalent to the following:

```
FieldByName(FieldName).AsVariant
```

It can be read as well as written.

See also: `FieldByname` (208)

10.19.75 TDataset.Filter

Synopsis: Filter to apply to the data in memory.

Declaration: `Property Filter : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Filter` is not implemented by `TDataSet`. It is up to descendent classes to implement actual filtering: the filtering happens on in-memory data, and is not applied on the database level. (in particular: setting the filter property will in no way influence the `WHERE` clause of an SQL-based dataset).

In general, the `filter` property accepts a SQL-like syntax usually encountered in the `WHERE` clause of an SQL `SELECT` statement.

The filter is only applied if the `Filtered` property is set to `True`. If the `Filtered` property is `False`, the `Filter` property is ignored.

See also: `TDataSet.Filtered` (278), `TDataSet.FilterOptions` (278)

10.19.76 TDataSet.Filtered

Synopsis: Is the filter active or not.

Declaration: `Property Filtered : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Filtered` determines whether the filter condition in `TDataSet.Filter` (277) is applied or not. The filter is only applied if the `Filtered` property is set to `True`. If the `Filtered` property is `False`, the `Filter` property is ignored.

See also: `TDataSet.Filter` (277), `TDataSet.FilterOptions` (278)

10.19.77 TDataSet.FilterOptions

Synopsis: Options to apply when filtering

Declaration: `Property FilterOptions : TFilterOptions`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `FilterOptions` determines what options should be taken into account when applying the filter in `TDataSet.Filter` (277), such as case-sensitivity or whether to treat an asterisk as a wildcard: By default, an asterisk (*) at the end of a literal string in the filter expression is treated as a wildcard. When `FilterOptions` does not include `foNoPartialCompare`, strings that have an asterisk at the end, indicate a partial string match. In that case, the asterisk matches any number of characters. If `foNoPartialCompare` is included in the options, the asterisk is regarded as a regular character.

See also: `TDataSet.Filter` (277), `TDataSet.FilterOptions` (278)

10.19.78 TDataSet.Active

Synopsis: Is the dataset open or closed.

Declaration: `Property Active : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Active` is `True` if the dataset is open, and `False` if it is closed (`TDataset.State` (276) is then `dsInactive`). Setting the `Active` property to `True` is equivalent to calling `TDataset.Open` (268), setting it to `False` is equivalent to calling `TDataset.Close` (258)

See also: `TDataset.State` (276), `TDataset.Open` (268), `TDataset.Close` (258)

10.19.79 `TDataset.AutoCalcFields`

Synopsis: How often should the value of calculated fields be calculated

Declaration: `Property AutoCalcFields : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `AutoCalcFields` is by default `true`, meaning that the values of calculated fields will be computed in the following cases:

- When the dataset is opened
- When the dataset is put in edit mode
- When a data field changed

When `AutoCalcFields` is `False`, then the calculated fields are called whenever

- The dataset is opened
- The dataset is put in edit mode

Both proper calculated fields and lookup fields are computed. Calculated fields are computed through the `TDataset.OnCalcFields` (285) event.

See also: `TField.FieldKind` (316), `TDataset.OnCalcFields` (285)

10.19.80 `TDataset.BeforeOpen`

Synopsis: Event triggered before the dataset is opened.

Declaration: `Property BeforeOpen : TDatasetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `BeforeOpen` is triggered before the dataset is opened. No actions have been performed yet when this event is called, and the dataset is still in `dsInactive` state. It can be used to set parameters and options that influence the opening process. If an exception is raised during the event handler, the dataset remains closed.

See also: `TDataset.AfterOpen` (280), `TDataset.State` (276)

10.19.81 TDataSet.AfterOpen

Synopsis: Event triggered after the dataset is opened.

Declaration: Property `AfterOpen` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterOpen` is triggered after the dataset is opened. The dataset has fetched its data and is in `dsBrowse` state when this event is triggered. If the dataset is not empty, then a `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284) event will be triggered immediately after the `AfterOpen` event. If an exception is raised during the event handler, the dataset remains open, but the `AfterScroll` event will not be triggered.

See also: `TDataSet.AfterOpen` (280), `TDataSet.State` (276), `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284)

10.19.82 TDataSet.BeforeClose

Synopsis: Event triggered before the dataset is closed.

Declaration: Property `BeforeClose` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforeClose` is triggered before the dataset is closed. No actions have been performed yet when this event is called, and the dataset is still in `dsBrowse` state or one of the editing states. It can be used to prevent closing of the dataset, for instance if there are pending changes not yet committed to the database. If an exception is raised during the event handler, the dataset remains opened.

See also: `TDataSet.AfterClose` (280), `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.83 TDataSet.AfterClose

Synopsis: Event triggered after the dataset is closed

Declaration: Property `AfterClose` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterOpen` is triggered after the dataset is opened. The dataset has discarded its data and has cleaned up its internal memory structures. It is in `dsInactive` state when this event is triggered.

See also: `TDataSet.BeforeClose` (280), `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.84 TDataSet.BeforeInsert

Synopsis: Event triggered before the dataset is put in insert mode.

Declaration: Property `BeforeInsert` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforeInsert` is triggered at the start of the `TDataset.Append` (256) or `TDataset.Insert` (265) methods. The dataset is still in `dsBrowse` state when this event is triggered. If an exception is raised in the `BeforeInsert` event handler, then the dataset will remain in `dsBrowse` state, and the append or insert operation is cancelled.

See also: `TDataset.AfterInsert` (281), `TDataset.Append` (256), `TDataset.Insert` (265)

10.19.85 TDataset.AfterInsert

Synopsis: Event triggered after the dataset is put in insert mode.

Declaration: `Property AfterInsert : TDatasetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterInsert` is triggered after the dataset has finished putting the dataset in `dsInsert` state and it has initialized the new record buffer. This event can be used e.g. to set initial field values. After the `Afterinsert` event, the `TDataset.AfterScroll` (284) event is still triggered. Raising an exception in the `AfterInsert` event, will prevent the `AfterScroll` event from being triggered, but does not undo the insert or append operation.

See also: `TDataset.BeforeInsert` (280), `TDataset.AfterScroll` (284), `TDataset.Append` (256), `TDataset.Insert` (265)

10.19.86 TDataset.BeforeEdit

Synopsis: Event triggered before the dataset is put in edit mode.

Declaration: `Property BeforeEdit : TDatasetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforeEdit` is the triggered at the start of the `TDataset.Edit` (260) method. The dataset is still in `dsBrowse` state when this event is triggered. If an exception is raised in the `BeforeEdit` event handler, then the dataset will remain in `dsBrowse` state, and the edit operation is cancelled.

See also: `TDataset.AfterEdit` (281), `TDataset.Edit` (260), `TDataset.State` (276)

10.19.87 TDataset.AfterEdit

Synopsis: Event triggered after the dataset is put in edit mode.

Declaration: `Property AfterEdit : TDatasetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterEdit` is triggered after the dataset has finished putting the dataset in `dsEdit` state and it has initialized the edit buffer for the record. Raising an exception in the `AfterEdit` event does not undo the edit operation.

See also: `TDataset.BeforeEdit` (281), `TDataset.Edit` (260), `TDataset.State` (276)

10.19.88 TDataSet.BeforePost

Synopsis: Event called before changes are posted to the underlying database

Declaration: Property `BeforePost` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforePost` is triggered at the start of the `TDataSet.Post` (268) method, when the dataset is still in one of the edit states (`dsEdit,dsInsert`). If the dataset was not in an edit state when `Post` is called, the `BeforePost` event is not triggered. This event can be used to supply values for required fields that have no value yet (the `Post` operation performs the check on required fields only after this event), or it can be used to abort the post operation: if an exception is raised during the `BeforePost` operation, the posting operation is cancelled, and the dataset remains in the editing state it was in before the post operation.

See also: `TDataSet.post` (268), `TDataSet.AfterPost` (282), `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.89 TDataSet.AfterPost

Synopsis: Event called after changes have been posted to the underlying database

Declaration: Property `AfterPost` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterPost` is triggered when the `TDataSet.Post` (268) operation was successfully completed, and the dataset is again in `dsBrowse` state. If an error occurred during the post operation, then the `AfterPost` event is not called, but the `TDataSet.OnPostError` (287) event is triggered instead.

See also: `TDataSet.BeforePost` (282), `TDataSet.Post` (268), `TDataSet.State` (276), `TDataSet.OnPostError` (287)

10.19.90 TDataSet.BeforeCancel

Synopsis: Event triggered before a Cancel operation.

Declaration: Property `BeforeCancel` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforeCancel` is triggered at the start of the `TDataSet.Cancel` (257) operation, when the state is still one of the editing states (`dsEdit,dsInsert`). The event handler can be used to abort the cancel operation: if an exception is raised during the event handler, then the cancel operation stops. If the dataset was not in one of the editing states when the `Cancel` method was called, then the event is not triggered.

See also: `TDataSet.AfterCancel` (283), `TDataSet.Cancel` (257), `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.91 TDataSet.AfterCancel

Synopsis: Event triggered after a Cancel operation.

Declaration: Property `AfterCancel` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterCancel` is triggered when the `TDataSet.Cancel` (257) operation was successfully completed, and the dataset is again in `dsBrowse` state.

See also: `TDataSet.BeforeCancel` (282), `TDataSet.Cancel` (257), `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.92 TDataSet.BeforeDelete

Synopsis: Event triggered before a Delete operation.

Declaration: Property `BeforeDelete` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforeDelete` is triggered at the start of the `TDataSet.Delete` (259) operation, when the dataset is still in `dsBrowse` state. The event handler can be used to abort the delete operation: if an exception is raised during the event handler, then the delete operation stops. The event is followed by a `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283) event. If the dataset was in insert mode when the `Delete` method was called, then the event will not be called, as `TDataSet.Cancel` (257) is called instead.

See also: `TDataSet.AfterDelete` (283), `TDataSet.Delete` (259), `TDataSet.BeforeScroll` (283), `TDataSet.Cancel` (257), `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.93 TDataSet.AfterDelete

Synopsis:

Declaration: Property `AfterDelete` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterDelete` is triggered after the successful completion of the `TDataSet.Delete` (259) operation, when the dataset is again in `dsBrowse` state. The event is followed by a `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284) event.

See also: `TDataSet.BeforeDelete` (283), `TDataSet.Delete` (259), `TDataSet.AfterScroll` (284), `TDataSet.State` (276)

10.19.94 TDataSet.BeforeScroll

Synopsis: Event triggered before the cursor changes position.

Declaration: Property `BeforeScroll` : `TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforeScroll` is triggered before the cursor changes position. This can happen with one of the navigation methods: `TDataset.Next` (267), `TDataset.Prior` (269), `TDataset.First` (263), `TDataset.Last` (266), but also with two of the editing operations: `TDataset.Insert` (265) and `TDataset.Delete` (259). Raising an exception in this event handler aborts the operation in progress.

See also: `TDataset.AfterScroll` (284), `TDataset.Next` (267), `TDataset.Prior` (269), `TDataset.First` (263), `TDataset.Last` (266), `TDataset.Insert` (265), `TDataset.Delete` (259)

10.19.95 TDataSet.AfterScroll

Synopsis: Event triggered after the cursor has changed position.

Declaration: `Property AfterScroll : TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterScroll` is triggered after the cursor has changed position. This can happen with one of the navigation methods: `TDataset.Next` (267), `TDataset.Prior` (269), `TDataset.First` (263), `TDataset.Last` (266), but also with two of the editing operations: `TDataset.Insert` (265) and `TDataset.Delete` (259) and after the dataset was opened. It is suitable for displaying status information or showing a value that needs to be calculated for each record.

See also: `TDataset.AfterScroll` (284), `TDataset.Next` (267), `TDataset.Prior` (269), `TDataset.First` (263), `TDataset.Last` (266), `TDataset.Insert` (265), `TDataset.Delete` (259), `TDataset.Open` (268)

10.19.96 TDataSet.BeforeRefresh

Synopsis: Event triggered before the data is refreshed.

Declaration: `Property BeforeRefresh : TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `BeforeRefresh` is triggered at the start of the `TDataset.Refresh` (269) method, after the dataset has been put in browse mode. If the dataset cannot be put in browse mode, the `BeforeRefresh` method will not be triggered. If an exception is raised during the `BeforeRefresh` method, then the refresh method is cancelled and the dataset remains in the `dsBrowse` state.

See also: `TDataset.Refresh` (269), `TDataset.AfterRefresh` (284), `TDataset.State` (276)

10.19.97 TDataSet.AfterRefresh

Synopsis: Event triggered after the data has been refreshed.

Declaration: `Property AfterRefresh : TDataSetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AfterRefresh` is triggered at the end of the `TDataset.Refresh` (269) method, after the dataset has refreshed its data and is again in `dsBrowse` state. This event can be used to react on changes in data in the current record

See also: `TDataset.Refresh` (269), `TDataset.State` (276), `TDataset.BeforeRefresh` (284)

10.19.98 TDataset.OnCalcFields

Synopsis: Event triggered when values for calculated fields must be computed.

Declaration: Property `OnCalcFields` : `TDatasetNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnCalcFields` is triggered whenever the dataset needs to (re)compute the values of any calculated fields in the dataset. It is called very often, so this event should return as quickly as possible. Only the values of the calculated fields should be set, no methods of the dataset that change the data or cursor position may be called during the execution of this event handler. The frequency with which this event is called can be controlled through the `TDataset.AutoCalcFields` (279) property. Note that the value of lookup fields does not need to be calculated in this event, their value is computed automatically before this event is triggered.

See also: `TDataset.AutoCalcFields` (279), `TField.Kind` (298)

10.19.99 TDataset.OnDeleteError

Synopsis: Event triggered when a delete operation fails.

Declaration: Property `OnDeleteError` : `TDatasetErrorEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnDeleteError` is triggered when the `TDataset.Delete` (259) method fails to delete the record in the underlying database. The event handler can be used to indicate what the response to the failed delete should be. To this end, it gets the exception object passed to it (parameter `E`), and it can examine this object to return an appropriate action in the `DataAction` parameter. The following responses are supported:

daFailThe operation should fail (an exception will be raised)

daAbortThe operation should be aborted (edits are undone, and an `EAbort` exception is raised)

daRetryRetry the operation.

For more information, see also the description of the `TDatasetErrorEvent` (212) event handler type.

See also: `TDatasetErrorEvent` (212), `TDataset.Delete` (259), `TDataset.OnEditError` (286), `TDataset.OnPostError` (287)

10.19.100 TDataSet.OnEditError

Synopsis: Event triggered when an edit operation fails.

Declaration: Property OnEditError : TDataSetErrorEvent

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: OnEditError is triggered when the TDataSet.Edit (260) method fails to put the dataset in edit mode because the underlying database engine reported an error. The event handler can be used to indicate what the response to the failed edit operation should be. To this end, it gets the exception object passed to it (parameter E), and it can examine this object to return an appropriate action in the DataAction parameter. The following responses are supported:

daFailThe operation should fail (an exception will be raised)

daAbortThe operation should be aborted (edits are undone, and an EAbort exception is raised)

daRetryRetry the operation.

For more information, see also the description of the TDataSetErrorEvent (212) event handler type.

See also: TDataSetErrorEvent (212), TDataSet.Edit (260), TDataSet.OnDeleteError (285), TDataSet.OnPostError (287)

10.19.101 TDataSet.OnFilterRecord

Synopsis: Event triggered to filter records.

Declaration: Property OnFilterRecord : TFilterRecordEvent

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: OnFilterRecord can be used to provide event-based filtering for datasets that support it. This event is only triggered when the Tdataset.Filtered (278) property is set to True. The event handler should set the Accept parameter to True if the current record should be accepted, or to False if it should be rejected. No methods that change the state of the dataset may be used during this event, and calculated fields or lookup field values are not yet available.

See also: TDataSet.Filter (277), TDataSet.Filtered (278), TDataSet.state (276)

10.19.102 TDataSet.OnNewRecord

Synopsis: Event triggered when a new record is created.

Declaration: Property OnNewRecord : TDataSetNotifyEvent

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: OnNewRecord is triggered by the TDataSet.Append (256) or TDataSet.Insert (265) methods when the buffer for the new record's data has been allocated. This event can be used to set default value for some of the fields in the dataset. If an exception is raised during this event handler, the operation is cancelled and the dataset is put again in browse mode (TDataSet.State (276) is again dsBrowse).

See also: TDataSet.Append (256), TDataSet.Insert (265), TDataSet.State (276)

10.19.103 TDataSet.OnPostError

Synopsis: Event triggered when a post operation fails.

Declaration: Property OnPostError : TDataSetErrorEvent

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: OnPostError is triggered when the TDataSet.Post (268) method fails to post the changes in the dataset buffer to the underlying database, because the database engine reported an error. The event handler can be used to indicate what the response to the failed post operation should be. To this end, it gets the exception object passed to it (parameter E), and it can examine this object to return an appropriate action in the DataAction parameter. The following responses are supported:

daFailThe operation should fail (an exception will be raised)

daAbortThe operation should be aborted (edits are undone, and an EAbort exception is raised)

daRetryRetry the operation.

For more information, see also the description of the TDataSetErrorEvent (212) event handler type.

See also: TDataSetErrorEvent (212), TDataSet.Post (268), TDataSet.OnDeleteError (285), TDataSet.OnEditError (286)

10.20 TDataSource

10.20.1 Description

TDataSource is a mediating component: it handles communication between any DB-Aware component (often edit controls on a form) and a TDataSet (250) instance. Any database aware component should never communicate with a dataset directly. Instead, it should communicate with a TDataSource (287) instance. The TDataSet instance will communicate with the TDataSource instance, which will notify every component attached to it. Vice versa, any component that wishes to make changes to the dataset, will notify the TDataSource instance, which will then (if needed) notify the TDataSet instance. The datasource can be disabled, in which case all communication between the dataset and the DB-Aware components is suspended until the datasource is again enabled.

10.20.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|------------|---|
| 288 | Create | Create a new instance of TDataSource |
| 288 | Destroy | Remove a TDataSource instance from memory |
| 288 | Edit | Put the dataset in edit mode, if needed |
| 289 | IsLinkedTo | Check if a dataset is linked to a certain dataset |

10.20.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|---|
| 289 | AutoEdit | rw | Should the dataset be put in edit mode automatically |
| 289 | DataSet | rw | Dataset this datasource is connected to |
| 290 | Enabled | rw | Enable or disable sending of events |
| 290 | OnDataChange | rw | Called whenever data changes in the current record |
| 290 | OnStateChange | rw | Called whenever the state of the dataset changes |
| 291 | OnUpdateData | rw | Called whenever the data in the dataset must be updated |
| 289 | State | r | State of the dataset |

10.20.4 TDataSource.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of TDataSource

Declaration: constructor `Create(AOwner: TComponent);` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of `TDataSource`. It simply allocates some resources and then calls the inherited constructor.

See also: `TDataSource.Destroy` ([288](#))

10.20.5 TDataSource.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove a TDataSource instance from memory

Declaration: destructor `Destroy;` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` notifies all `TDataLink` ([245](#)) instances connected to it that the dataset is no longer available, and then removes itself from the `TDataLink` instance. It then cleans up all resources and calls the inherited constructor.

See also: `TDataSource.Create` ([288](#)), `TDataLink` ([245](#))

10.20.6 TDataSource.Edit

Synopsis: Put the dataset in edit mode, if needed

Declaration: procedure `Edit`

Visibility: public

Description: `Edit` will check `AutoEdit` ([289](#)): if it is `True`, then it puts the `Dataset` ([289](#)) it is connected to in edit mode, if it was in browse mode. If `AutoEdit` is `False`, then nothing happens. Application or component code that deals with GUI development should always attempt to set a dataset in edit mode through this method instead of calling `TDataset.Edit` ([260](#)) directly.

Errors: An `EDatabaseError` ([220](#)) exception can occur if the dataset is read-only or fails to set itself in edit mode. (e.g. unidirectional datasets).

See also: `TDataSource.AutoEdit` ([289](#)), `TDataset.Edit` ([260](#)), `TDataset.State` ([276](#))

10.20.7 TDataSource.IsLinkedTo

Synopsis: Check if a dataset is linked to a certain dataset

Declaration: `function IsLinkedTo (ADataset: TDataSet) : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `IsLinkedTo` checks if it is somehow linked to `ADataset`: it checks the `Dataset` (289) property, and returns `True` if it is the same. If not, it continues by checking any detail dataset fields that the dataset possesses (recursively). This function can be used to detect circular links in e.g. master-detail relationships.

See also: `TDataSource.Dataset` (289)

10.20.8 TDataSource.State

Synopsis: State of the dataset

Declaration: `Property State : TDataSetState`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `State` contains the `State` (276) of the dataset it is connected to, or `dsInactive` if the dataset property is not set or the `datasource` is not enabled. Components connected to a dataset through a `datasource` property should always check `TDataSource.State` instead of checking `TDataSet.State` (276) directly, to take into account the effect of the `Enabled` (290) property.

See also: `TDataSet.State` (276), `TDataSource.Enabled` (290)

10.20.9 TDataSource.AutoEdit

Synopsis: Should the dataset be put in edit mode automatically

Declaration: `Property AutoEdit : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AutoEdit` can be set to `True` to prevent visual controls from putting the dataset in edit mode. Visual controls use the `TDataSource.Edit` (288) method to attempt to put the dataset in edit mode as soon as the user changes something. If `AutoEdit` is set to `False` then the `Edit` method does nothing. The effect is that the user must explicitly set the dataset in edit mode (by clicking some button or some other action) before the fields can be edited.

See also: `TDataSource.Edit` (288), `TDataSet.Edit` (260)

10.20.10 TDataSource.DataSet

Synopsis: Dataset this `datasource` is connected to

Declaration: `Property DataSet : TDataSet`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Dataset` must be set by the application programmer to the `TDataset` (250) instance for which this datasource is handling events. Setting it to `Nil` will disable all controls that are connected to this datasource instance. Once it is set and the datasource is enabled, the datasource will start sending data events to the controls or components connected to it.

See also: `TDataset` (250), `TDataSource.Enabled` (290)

10.20.11 TDataSource.Enabled

Synopsis: Enable or disable sending of events

Declaration: `Property Enabled : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Enabled` is by default set to `True`: the datasource instance communicates events from the dataset to components connected to the datasource, and vice versa: components can interact with the dataset. If the `Enabled` property is set to `False` then no events are communicated to connected components: it is as if the dataset property was set to `Nil`. Reversely, the components cannot interact with the dataset if the `Enabled` property is set to `False`.

See also: `TDataset` (250), `TDataSource.Dataset` (289), `TDataSource.AutoEdit` (289)

10.20.12 TDataSource.OnStateChange

Synopsis: Called whenever the state of the dataset changes

Declaration: `Property OnStateChange : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnStateChange` is called whenever the `TDataset.State` (276) property changes, and the datasource is enabled. It can be used in application code to react to state changes: enabling or disabling non-DB-Aware controls, setting empty values etc.

See also: `TDataSource.OnUpdateData` (291), `TDataSource.OnStateChange` (290), `TDataset.State` (276), `TDataSource.Enabled` (290)

10.20.13 TDataSource.OnDataChange

Synopsis: Called whenever data changes in the current record

Declaration: `Property OnDataChange : TDataChangeEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnDataChange` is called whenever a field value changes: if the `Field` parameter is set, a single field value changed. If the `Field` parameter is `Nil`, then the whole record changed: when the dataset is opened, when the user scrolls to a new record. This event handler can be set to react to data changes: to update the contents of non-DB-aware controls for instance. The event is not called when the datasource is not enabled.

See also: `TDataSource.OnUpdateData` (291), `TDataSource.OnStateChange` (290), `TDataset.AfterScroll` (284), `TField.OnChange` (321), `TDataSource.Enabled` (290)

10.20.14 TDataSource.OnUpdateData

Synopsis: Called whenever the data in the dataset must be updated

Declaration: Property OnUpdateData : TNotifyEvent

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: OnUpdateData is called whenever the dataset needs the latest data from the controls: usually just before a TDataSet.Post (268) operation. It can be used to copy data from non-db-aware controls to the dataset just before the dataset is posting the changes to the underlying database.

See also: TDataSource.OnDataChange (290), TDataSource.OnStateChange (290), TDataSet.Post (268)

10.21 TDateField

10.21.1 Description

TDateField is the class used when a dataset must manage data of type date. (TField.DataType (310) equals ftDate). It initializes some of the properties of the TField (298) class to be able to work with date fields.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of TDateField manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each date field when a dataset is opened.

10.21.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 291 | Create | Create a new instance of a TDateField class. |

10.21.3 TDateField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a TDateField class.

Declaration: constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override

Visibility: public

Description: Create initializes a new instance of the TDateField class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some TField (298) properties to configure the instance for working with date values.

See also: TField (298)

10.22 TDateTimeField

10.22.1 Description

TDateTimeField is the class used when a dataset must manage data of type datetime. (TField.DataType (310) equals ftDateTime). It also serves as base class for the TDateField (291) or TTimeField (375) classes. It overrides some of the properties and methods of the TField (298) class to be able to work with date/time fields.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of TDateTimeField manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each datetime field when a dataset is opened.

10.22.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 292 | Create | Create a new instance of a <code>TDateTimeField</code> class. |

10.22.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|---|
| 292 | DisplayFormat | rw | Formatting string for textual representation of the field |
| 292 | Value | rw | Contents of the field as a <code>TDateTime</code> value |

10.22.4 TDateTimeField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TDateTimeField` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TDateTimeField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField` ([298](#)) properties to configure the instance for working with date/time values.

See also: `TField` ([298](#))

10.22.5 TDateTimeField.Value

Synopsis: Contents of the field as a `TDateTime` value

Declaration: `Property Value : TDateTime`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Value` is redefined from `TField.Value` ([314](#)) by `TDateTimeField` as a `TDateTime` value. It returns the same value as the `TField.AsDateTime` ([306](#)) property.

See also: `TField.AsDateTime` ([306](#)), `TField.Value` ([314](#))

10.22.6 TDateTimeField.DisplayFormat

Synopsis: Formatting string for textual representation of the field

Declaration: `Property DisplayFormat : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DisplayFormat` can be set to a formatting string that will then be used by the `TField.DisplayText` ([311](#)) property to format the value with the `DateTimeToString` ([??](#)) function.

See also: `#rtl.sysutils.datetimetostring` ([??](#)), `#rtl.sysutils.formatdatetime` ([??](#)), `TField.DisplayText` ([311](#))

10.23 TDBDataset

10.23.1 Description

`TDBDataset` is a `TDataset` descendent which introduces the concept of a database: a central component (`TDatabase` (241)) which represents a connection to a database. This central component is exposed in the `TDBDataset.Database` (293) property. When the database is no longer connected, or is no longer in memory, all `TDBDataset` instances connected to it are disabled.

`TDBDataset` also introduces the notion of a transaction, exposed in the `Transaction` (294) property.

`TDBDataset` is an abstract class, it should never be used directly.

Dataset component writers should descend their component from `TDBDataset` if they wish to introduce a central database connection component. The database connection logic will be handled automatically by `TDBDataset`.

10.23.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| 293 | <code>destroy</code> | Remove the <code>TDBDataset</code> instance from memory. |

10.23.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 293 | <code>DataBase</code> | <code>rw</code> | Database this dataset is connected to |
| 294 | <code>Transaction</code> | <code>rw</code> | Transaction in which this dataset is running. |

10.23.4 TDBDataset.destroy

Synopsis: Remove the `TDBDataset` instance from memory.

Declaration: `destructor destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` will disconnect the `TDBDataset` from its `Database` (293) and `Transaction` (294). After this it calls the inherited destructor.

See also: `TDBDataset.Database` (293), `TDatabase` (241)

10.23.5 TDBDataset.DataBase

Synopsis: Database this dataset is connected to

Declaration: `Property DataBase : TDataBase`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Database` should be set to the `TDatabase` (241) instance this dataset is connected to. It can only be set when the dataset is closed.

Descendent classes should check in the property setter whether the database instance is of the correct class.

Errors: If the property is set when the dataset is active, an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception will be raised.

See also: `TDatabase` (241), `TDBDataset.Transaction` (294)

10.23.6 TDBDataset.Transaction

Synopsis: Transaction in which this dataset is running.

Declaration: `Property Transaction : TDBTransaction`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Transaction` points to a `TDBTransaction` (294) component that represents the transaction this dataset is active in. This property should only be used for databases that support transactions.

The property can only be set when the dataset is disabled.

See also: `TDBTransaction` (294), `TDBDataset.Database` (293)

10.24 TDBTransaction

10.24.1 Description

`TDBTransaction` encapsulates a SQL transaction. It is an abstract class, and should be used by component creators that wish to encapsulate transactions in a class. The `TDBTransaction` class offers functionality to refer to a `TDatabase` (241) instance, and to keep track of `TDataset` instances which are connected to the transaction.

10.24.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 295 | <code>CloseDataSets</code> | Close all connected datasets |
| 294 | <code>Create</code> | Transaction property |
| 295 | <code>destroy</code> | Remove a <code>TDBTransaction</code> instance from memory. |

10.24.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|---|
| 295 | <code>Active</code> | rw | Is the transaction active or not |
| 295 | <code>DataBase</code> | rw | Database this transaction is connected to |

10.24.4 TDBTransaction.Create

Synopsis: Transaction property

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new `TDBTransaction` instance. It sets up the necessary resources, after having called the inherited constructor.

See also: `TDBTransaction.Destroy` (295)

10.24.5 TDBTransaction.destroy

Synopsis: Remove a `TDBTransaction` instance from memory.

Declaration: `destructor destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` first disconnects all connected `TDBDataset` (293) instances and then cleans up the resources allocated in the `Create` (294) constructor. After that it calls the inherited destructor.

See also: `TDBTransaction.Create` (294)

10.24.6 TDBTransaction.CloseDataSets

Synopsis: Close all connected datasets

Declaration: `procedure CloseDataSets`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CloseDataSets` closes all connected datasets (All `TDBDataset` (293) instances whose `Transaction` (294) property points to this `TDBTransaction` instance).

See also: `TDBDataset` (293), `TDBDataset.Transaction` (294)

10.24.7 TDBTransaction.DataBase

Synopsis: Database this transaction is connected to

Declaration: `Property DataBase : TDataBase`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `DataBase` points to the database that this transaction is part of. This property can be set only when the transaction is not active.

Errors: Setting this property to a new value when the transaction is active will result in an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception.

See also: `TDBTransaction.Active` (295), `TDataBase` (241)

10.24.8 TDBTransaction.Active

Synopsis: Is the transaction active or not

Declaration: `Property Active : Boolean`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Active` is `True` if a transaction was started using `TDBTransaction.StartTransaction` (294). Reversely, setting `Active` to `True` will call `StartTransaction`, setting it to `False` will call `TDBTransaction.EndTransaction` (294).

See also: `TDBTransaction.StartTransaction` (294), `TDBTransaction.EndTransaction` (294)

10.25 TDefCollection

10.25.1 Description

`TDefCollection` is a parent class for the `TFieldDefs` (326) and `TIndexDefs` (341) collections: It holds a set of named definitions on behalf of a `TDataset` (250) component. To this end, it introduces a dataset (297) property, and a mechanism to notify the dataset of any updates in the collection. It is supposed to hold items of class `TNamedItem` (354), so the `TDefCollection.Find` (296) method can find items by named.

10.25.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 296 | <code>create</code> | Instantiate a new <code>TDefCollection</code> instance. |
| 296 | <code>Find</code> | Find an item by name |
| 297 | <code>GetItemNames</code> | Return a list of all names in the collection |
| 297 | <code>IndexOf</code> | Find location of item by name |

10.25.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------|--|
| 297 | <code>Dataset</code> | r | Dataset this collection manages definitions for. |
| 297 | <code>Updated</code> | rw | Has one of the items been changed |

10.25.4 TDefCollection.create

Synopsis: Instantiate a new `TDefCollection` instance.

Declaration: `constructor create(ADataset: TDataSet; AOwner: TPersistent;
AClass: TCollectionItemClass)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` saves the `ADataset` and `AOwner` components in local variables for later reference, and then calls the inherited `Create` with `AClass` as a parameter. `AClass` should at least be of type `TNamedItem`. `ADataset` is the dataset on whose behalf the collection is managed. `AOwner` is the owner of the collection, normally this is the form or datamodule on which the dataset is dropped.

See also: `TDataset` (250), `TNamedItem` (354)

10.25.5 TDefCollection.Find

Synopsis: Find an item by name

Declaration: `function Find(const AName: String) : TNamedItem`

Visibility: public

Description: `Find` searches for an item in the collection with name `AName` and returns the item if it is found. If no item with the requested name is found, `Nil` is returned. The search is performed case-insensitive.

Errors: If no item with matching name is found, `Nil` is returned.

See also: `TNamedItem.Name` (354), `TDefCollection.IndexOf` (297)

10.25.6 TDefCollection.GetItemNames

Synopsis: Return a list of all names in the collection

Declaration: `procedure GetItemNames(List: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetItemNames` fills `List` with the names of all items in the collection. It clears the list first.

Errors: If `List` is not a valid `TStrings` instance, an exception will occur.

See also: `TNamedItem.Name` ([354](#))

10.25.7 TDefCollection.IndexOf

Synopsis: Find location of item by name

Declaration: `function IndexOf(const AName: String) : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Description: `IndexOf` searches in the collection for an item whose `Name` property matches `AName` and returns the index of the item if it finds one. If no item is found, -1 is returned. The search is performed case-insensitive.

See also: `TDefCollection.Find` ([296](#)), `TNamedItem.Name` ([354](#))

10.25.8 TDefCollection.Dataset

Synopsis: Dataset this collection manages definitions for.

Declaration: `Property Dataset : TDataSet`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Dataset` is the dataset this collection manages definitions for. It must be supplied when the collection is created and cannot change during the lifetime of the collection.

10.25.9 TDefCollection.Updated

Synopsis: Has one of the items been changed

Declaration: `Property Updated : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Changed` indicates whether the collection has changed: an item was added or removed, or one of the properties of the items was changed.

10.26 TDetailDataLink

10.26.1 Description

`TDetailDataLink` handles the communication between a detail dataset and the master datasource in a master-detail relationship between datasets. It should never be used in an application, and should only be used by component writers that wish to provide master-detail functionality for `TDataSet` descendants.

10.26.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------|--|
| 298 | <code>DetailDataSet</code> | r | Detail dataset in Master-detail relation |

10.26.3 TDetailDataLink.DetailDataSet

Synopsis: Detail dataset in Master-detail relation

Declaration: `Property DetailDataSet : TDataSet`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `DetailDataSet` is the detail dataset in a master-detail relationship between 2 datasets. `DetailDataSet` is always `Nil` in `TDetailDataLink` and is only filled in in descendent classes like `TMasterDataLink` ([349](#)). The master dataset is available through the regular `TDataLink.DataSource` ([249](#)) property.

See also: `TDataSet` ([250](#)), `TMasterDataLink` ([349](#)), `TDataLink.DataSource` ([249](#))

10.27 TField

10.27.1 Description

`TField` is an abstract class that defines access methods for a field in a record, controlled by a `TDataSet` ([250](#)) instance. It provides methods and properties to access the contents of the field in the current record. Reading one of the `AsXXX` properties of `TField` will access the field contents and return the contents as the desired type. Writing one of the `AsXXX` properties will write a value to the buffer represented by the `TField` instance.

`TField` is an abstract class, meaning that it should never be created directly. `TDataSet` instances always create one of the descendent classes of `TField`, depending on the type of the underlying data.

10.27.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| 302 | Assign | Copy properties from one TField instance to another |
| 302 | AssignValue | Assign value of a variant record to the field. |
| 303 | Clear | Clear the field contents. |
| 302 | Create | Create a new TField instance |
| 302 | Destroy | Destroy the TField instance |
| 303 | FocusControl | Set focus to the first control connected to this field. |
| 303 | GetData | Get the data from this field |
| 304 | IsBlob | Is the field a BLOB field (untyped data of indeterminate size). |
| 304 | IsValidChar | Check whether a character is valid input for the field |
| 304 | RefreshLookupList | Refresh the lookup list |
| 304 | SetData | Save the field data |
| 305 | SetFieldType | Set the field data type |
| 305 | Validate | Validate the data buffer |

10.27.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|------------------------|--------|--|
| 315 | Alignment | rw | Alignment for this field |
| 305 | AsBCD | rw | Access the field's contents as a BCD (Binary coded Decimal) |
| 306 | AsBoolean | rw | Access the field's contents as a Boolean value. |
| 306 | AsCurrency | rw | Access the field's contents as a Currency value. |
| 306 | AsDateTime | rw | Access the field's contents as a TDateTime value. |
| 307 | AsFloat | rw | Access the field's contents as a floating-point (Double) value. |
| 308 | AsInteger | rw | Access the field's contents as a 32-bit signed integer (longint) value. |
| 307 | AsLargeInt | rw | Access the field's contents as a 64-bit signed integer (longint) value. |
| 307 | AsLongint | rw | Access the field's contents as a 32-bit signed integer (longint) value. |
| 308 | AsString | rw | Access the field's contents as an AnsiString value. |
| 309 | AsVariant | rw | Access the field's contents as a Variant value. |
| 308 | AsWideString | rw | Access the field's contents as a WideString value. |
| 309 | AttributeSet | rw | |
| 309 | Calculated | rw | Is the field a calculated field ? |
| 309 | CanModify | r | Can the field's contents be modified. |
| 315 | ConstraintErrorMessage | rw | Message to display if the CustomConstraint constraint is violated. |
| 310 | CurValue | r | Current value of the field |
| 315 | CustomConstraint | rw | Custom constraint for the field's value |
| 310 | DataSet | rw | Dataset this field belongs to |
| 310 | DataSetSize | r | Size of the field's data |
| 310 | DataType | r | The data type of the field. |
| 316 | DefaultExpression | rw | Default value for the field |
| 316 | DisplayLabel | rws | Name of the field for display purposes |
| 311 | DisplayName | r | User-readable fieldname |
| 311 | DisplayText | r | Formatted field value |
| 316 | DisplayWidth | rw | Width of the field in characters |
| 316 | FieldKind | rw | The kind of field. |
| 317 | FieldName | rw | Name of the field |
| 311 | FieldNo | r | Number of the field in the record |
| 317 | HasConstraints | r | Does the field have any constraints defined |
| 317 | ImportedConstraint | rw | Constraint for the field value on the level of the underlying database |
| 317 | Index | rw | Index of the field in the list of fields |
| 312 | IsIndexedField | r | Is the field an indexed field ? |
| 312 | IsNull | r | Is the field empty |
| 318 | KeyFields | rw | Key fields to use when looking up a field value. |
| 312 | Lookup | rw | Is the field a lookup field |
| 318 | LookupCache | rw | Should lookup values be cached |
| 318 | LookupDataSet | rw | Dataset with lookup values |
| 319 | LookupKeyFields | rw | Names of fields on which to perform a locate |
| 314 | LookupList | r | List of lookup values |
| 319 | LookupResultField | rw | Name of field to use as lookup value |
| 312 | NewValue | rw | The new value of the field |
| 313 | Offset | r | Offset of the field's value in the dataset buffer |
| 314 | OldValue | r | Old value of the field |
| 321 | OnChange | rw | Event triggered when the field's value has changed |
| 321 | OnGetText | rw | Event to format the field's content |
| 321 | OnSetText | rw | Event to set the field's content based on a user-formatted string |
| 322 | OnValidate | rw | Event to validate the value of a field before it is written to the data buffer |
| 319 | Origin | rw | Original fieldname of the field. |
| 319 | ProviderFlags | rw | Flags for provider or update support |

10.27.4 TField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new TField instance

Declaration: constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override

Visibility: public

Description: Create creates a new TField instance and sets up initial values for the fields. TField is a component, and AOwner will be used as the owner of the TField instance. This usually will be the form or datamodule on which the dataset was placed. There should normally be no need for a programmer to create a TField instance manually. The TDataSet.Open (268) method will create the necessary TField instances, if none had been created in the designer.

See also: TDataSet.Open (268)

10.27.5 TField.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroy the TField instance

Declaration: destructor Destroy; Override

Visibility: public

Description: Destroy cleans up any structures set up by the field instance, and then calls the inherited destructor. There should be no need to call this method under normal circumstances: the dataset instance will free any TField instances it has created when the dataset was opened.

See also: TDataSet.Close (258)

10.27.6 TField.Assign

Synopsis: Copy properties from one TField instance to another

Declaration: procedure Assign(Source: TPersistent); Override

Visibility: public

Description: Assign is overridden by TField to copy the field value (not the field properties) from Source if it exists. If Source is Nil then the value of the field is cleared.

Errors: If Source is not a TField instance, then an exception will be raised.

See also: TField.Value (314)

10.27.7 TField.AssignValue

Synopsis: Assign value of a variant record to the field.

Declaration: procedure AssignValue(const AValue: TVarRec)

Visibility: public

Description: AssignValue assigns the value of a "array of const" record AValue (of type TVarRec) to the field's value. If the record contains a TPersistent instance, it will be used as argument for the Assign to the field.

The dataset must be in edit mode to execute this method.

Errors: If the `AValue` contains an unsupported value (such as a non-nil pointer) then an exception will be raised. If the dataset is not in one of the edit modes, then executing this method will raise an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception.

See also: `TField.Assign` (302), `TField.Value` (314)

10.27.8 TField.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the field contents.

Declaration: `procedure Clear; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Clear` clears the contents of the field. After calling this method the value of the field is `Null` and `IsNull` (312) returns `True`.

The dataset must be in edit mode to execute this method.

Errors: If the dataset is not in one of the edit modes, then executing this method will raise an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception.

See also: `TField.IsNull` (312), `TField.Value` (314)

10.27.9 TField.FocusControl

Synopsis: Set focus to the first control connected to this field.

Declaration: `procedure FocusControl`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `FocusControl` will set focus to the first control that is connected to this field.

Errors: If the control cannot receive focus, then this method will raise an exception.

See also: `TDataset.EnableControls` (261), `TDataset.DisableControls` (260)

10.27.10 TField.GetData

Synopsis: Get the data from this field

Declaration: `function GetData(Buffer: Pointer) : Boolean; Overload`
`function GetData(Buffer: Pointer; NativeFormat: Boolean) : Boolean`
`; Overload`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `GetData` is used internally by `TField` to fetch the value of the data of this field into the data buffer pointed to by `Buffer`. It returns `False` if the field has no value (i.e. is `Null`). If the `NativeFormat` parameter is `true`, then date/time formats should use the `TDateTime` format. It should not be necessary to use this method, instead use the various 'AsXXX' methods to access the data.

Errors: No validity checks are performed on `Buffer`: it should point to a valid memory area, and should be large enough to contain the value of the field. Failure to provide a buffer that matches these criteria will result in an exception.

See also: `TField.IsNull` (312), `TField.SetData` (304), `TField.Value` (314)

10.27.11 TField.IsBlob

Synopsis: Is the field a BLOB field (untyped data of indeterminate size).

Declaration: `function IsBlob : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `IsBlob` returns `True` if the field is one of the blob field types. The `TField` implementation returns `false`. Only one of the blob-type field classes override this function and let it return `True`.

Errors: None.

See also: `TBlobField.IsBlob` (228)

10.27.12 TField.IsValidChar

Synopsis: Check whether a character is valid input for the field

Declaration: `function IsValidChar(InputChar: Char) : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `IsValidChar` checks whether `InputChar` is a valid characters for the current field. It does this by checking whether `InputChar` is in the set of characters specified by the `TField.ValidChars` (313) property. The `ValidChars` property will be initialized to a correct set of characters by descendent classes. For instance, a numerical field will only accept numerical characters and the sign and decimal separator characters.

Descendent classes can override this method to provide custom checks. The `ValidChars` property can be set to restrict the list of valid characters to a subset of what would normally be available.

See also: `TField.ValidChars` (313)

10.27.13 TField.RefreshLookupList

Synopsis: Refresh the lookup list

Declaration: `procedure RefreshLookupList`

Visibility: public

Description: `RefreshLookupList` fills the lookup list for a lookup fields with all key, value pairs found in the lookup dataset. It will open the lookup dataset if needed. The lookup list is only used if the `TField.LookupCache` (318) property is set to `True`.

Errors: If the values of the various lookup properties is not correct or the lookup dataset cannot be opened, then an exception will be raised.

See also: `TField.LookupDataset` (318), `TField.LookupKeyFields` (319), `TField.LookupResultField` (319)

10.27.14 TField.SetData

Synopsis: Save the field data

Declaration: `procedure SetData(Buffer: Pointer); Overload`
`procedure SetData(Buffer: Pointer;NativeFormat: Boolean); Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `SetData` saves the value of the field data in `Buffer` to the dataset internal buffer. The `Buffer` pointer should point to a memory buffer containing the data for the field in the correct format. If the `NativeFormat` parameter is true, then date/time formats should use the `TDateTime` format.

There should normally not be any need to call `SetData` directly: it is called by the various setter methods of the `AsXXX` properties of `TField`.

Errors: No validity checks are performed on `Buffer`: it should point to a valid memory area, and should be large enough to contain the value of the field. Failure to provide a buffer that matches these criteria will result in an exception.

See also: `TField.GetData` (303), `TField.Value` (314)

10.27.15 TField.SetFieldType

Synopsis: Set the field data type

Declaration: `procedure SetFieldType(AValue: TFieldType); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `SetFieldType` does nothing, but it can be overridden by descendent classes to provide special handling when the field type is set.

See also: `TField.DataType` (310)

10.27.16 TField.Validate

Synopsis: Validate the data buffer

Declaration: `procedure Validate(Buffer: Pointer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Validate` is called by `SetData` prior to writing the data from `Buffer` to the dataset buffer. It will call the `TField.OnValidate` (322) event handler, if one is set, to allow the application programmer to program additional checks.

See also: `TField.SetData` (304), `TField.OnValidate` (322)

10.27.17 TField.AsBCD

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a BCD (Binary coded Decimal)

Declaration: `Property AsBCD : TBCD`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsBCD` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a BCD value (Binary Coded Decimal). If the native type of the field is not BCD, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a BCD value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefore, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a BCD value, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TField.AsCurrency` (306), `TField.Value` (314)

10.27.18 TField.AsBoolean

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a Boolean value.

Declaration: `Property AsBoolean : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsBoolean` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a boolean value. If the native type of the field is not Boolean, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a boolean value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefor, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a Boolean value (for instance a string value), an exception may be raised.

See also: [TField.Value \(314\)](#), [TField.AsInteger \(308\)](#)

10.27.19 TField.AsCurrency

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a Currency value.

Declaration: `Property AsCurrency : Currency`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsBoolean` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a currency value. If the native type of the field is not Boolean, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a currency value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefor, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a currency-compatible value (dates or string values), an exception may be raised.

See also: [TField.Value \(314\)](#), [TField.AsFloat \(307\)](#)

10.27.20 TField.AsDateTime

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a TDateTime value.

Declaration: `Property AsDateTime : TDateTime`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsDateTime` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a TDateTime value (for both date and time values). If the native type of the field is not a date or time value, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a TDateTime value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefor, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a TDateTime-compatible value (dates or string values), an exception may be raised.

See also: [TField.Value \(314\)](#), [TField.AsString \(308\)](#)

10.27.21 TField.AsFloat

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a floating-point (Double) value.

Declaration: `Property AsFloat : Double`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsFloat` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a floating-point value (of type `double`, i.e. with double precision). If the native type of the field is not a floating-point value, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a floating-point value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefor, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a floating-point-compatible value (string values for instance), an exception may be raised.

See also: [TField.Value \(314\)](#), [TField.AsString \(308\)](#), [TField.AsCurrency \(306\)](#)

10.27.22 TField.AsLongint

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a 32-bit signed integer (longint) value.

Declaration: `Property AsLongint : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsLongint` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a 32-bit signed integer value (of type `longint`). If the native type of the field is not a `longint` value, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a `longint` value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefor, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a 32-bit signed integer-compatible value (string values for instance), an exception may be raised.

This is an alias for the [TField.AsInteger \(308\)](#).

See also: [TField.Value \(314\)](#), [TField.AsString \(308\)](#), [TField.AsInteger \(308\)](#)

10.27.23 TField.AsLargeInt

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a 64-bit signed integer (longint) value.

Declaration: `Property AsLargeInt : LargeInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsLargeInt` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a 64-bit signed integer value (of type `Int64`). If the native type of the field is not an `Int64` value, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to an `Int64` value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefor, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a 64-bit signed integer-compatible value (string values for instance), an exception may be raised.

See also: [TField.Value \(314\)](#), [TField.AsString \(308\)](#), [TField.AsInteger \(308\)](#)

10.27.24 TField.AsInteger

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a 32-bit signed integer (longint) value.

Declaration: `Property AsInteger : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsInteger` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a 32-bit signed integer value (of type `Integer`). If the native type of the field is not an integer value, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a integer value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefore, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a 32-bit signed integer-compatible value (string values for instance), an exception may be raised.

See also: `TField.Value` (314), `TField.AsString` (308), `TField.AsLongint` (307), `TField.AsInt64` (298)

10.27.25 TField.AsString

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as an `AnsiString` value.

Declaration: `Property AsString : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsString` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as an `AnsiString` value. If the native type of the field is not an `ansistring` value, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a `ansistring` value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefore, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not an `ansistring`-compatible value, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TField.Value` (314), `TField.AsWideString` (308)

10.27.26 TField.AsWideString

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a `WideString` value.

Declaration: `Property AsWideString : WideString`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsWideString` can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a `WideString` value. If the native type of the field is not a `widestring` value, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a `widestring` value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefore, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a `widestring`-compatible value, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TField.Value` (314), `TField.Astring` (298)

10.27.27 TField.AsVariant

Synopsis: Access the field's contents as a Variant value.

Declaration: Property AsVariant : variant

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: AsVariant can be used to read or write the contents of the field as a Variant value. If the native type of the field is not a Variant value, then an attempt will be made to convert the field value from the native format to a variant value when reading the field's content. Likewise, when writing the property, the value will be converted to the native type of the field (if the value allows it). Therefore, when reading or writing a field value for a field whose native data type is not a variant-compatible value, an exception may be raised.

See also: TField.Value (314), TField.Astring (298)

10.27.28 TField.AttributeSet

Synopsis:

Declaration: Property AttributeSet : String

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description:

10.27.29 TField.Calculated

Synopsis: Is the field a calculated field ?

Declaration: Property Calculated : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: Calculated is True if the FieldKind (316) is fkCalculated. Setting the property will result in FieldKind being set to fkCalculated (for a value of True) or fkData. This property should be considered read-only.

See also: TField.FieldKind (316)

10.27.30 TField.CanModify

Synopsis: Can the field's contents be modified.

Declaration: Property CanModify : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: CanModify is True if the field is not read-only and the dataset allows modification.

See also: TField.ReadOnly (320), TDataset.CanModify (272)

10.27.31 TField.CurValue

Synopsis: Current value of the field

Declaration: `Property CurValue : Variant`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `CurValue` returns the current value of the field as a variant.

See also: `TField.Value` (314)

10.27.32 TField.DataSet

Synopsis: Dataset this field belongs to

Declaration: `Property DataSet : TDataSet`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DataSet` contains the dataset this field belongs to. Writing this property will add the field to the list of fields of a dataset, after removing it from the list of fields of the dataset the field was previously assigned to. It should under normal circumstances never be necessary to set this property, the `TDataSet` code will take care of this.

See also: `TDataSet` (250), `TDataSet.Fields` (277)

10.27.33 TField.DataSize

Synopsis: Size of the field's data

Declaration: `Property DataSize : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `DataSize` is the memory size needed to store the field's contents. This is different from the `Size` (313) property which declares a logical size for datatypes that have a variable size (such as string fields). For BLOB fields, use the `TBlobField.BlobSize` (229) property to get the size of the field's contents for the current record..

See also: `TField.Size` (313), `TBlobField.BlobSize` (229)

10.27.34 TField.DataType

Synopsis: The data type of the field.

Declaration: `Property DataType : TFieldType`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Datatype` indicates the type of data the field has. This property is initialized when the dataset is opened or when persistent fields are created for the dataset. Instead of checking the class type of the field, it is better to check the `Datatype`, since the actual class of the `TField` instance may differ depending on the dataset.

See also: `TField.FieldKind` (316)

10.27.35 TField.DisplayName

Synopsis: User-readable fieldname

Declaration: `Property DisplayName : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `DisplayName` is the name of the field as it will be displayed to the user e.g. in grid column headers. By default it equals the `FieldName` (317) property, unless assigned another value.

The use of this property is deprecated. Use `DisplayLabel` (316) instead.

See also: `Tfield.FieldName` (317)

10.27.36 TField.DisplayText

Synopsis: Formatted field value

Declaration: `Property DisplayText : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `DisplayText` returns the field's value as it should be displayed to the user, with all necessary formatting applied. Controls that should display the value of the field should use `DisplayText` instead of the `TField.AsString` (308) property, which does not take into account any formatting.

See also: `TField.AsString` (308)

10.27.37 TField.FieldNo

Synopsis: Number of the field in the record

Declaration: `Property FieldNo : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `FieldNo` is the position of the field in the record. It is a 1-based index and is initialized when the dataset is opened or when persistent fields are created for the dataset.

See also: `TField.Index` (317)

10.27.38 TField.IsIndexField

Synopsis: Is the field an indexed field ?

Declaration: `Property IsIndexField : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `IsIndexField` is true if the field is an indexed field. By default this property is `False`, descendants of `TDataset` (250) can change this to `True`.

See also: `TField.Calculated` (309)

10.27.39 TField.IsNull

Synopsis: Is the field empty

Declaration: `Property IsNull : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `IsNull` is `True` if the field does not have a value. If the underlying data contained a value, or a value is written to it, `IsNull` will return `False`. After `TDataset.Insert` (265) is called or `Clear` (303) is called then `IsNull` will return `True`.

See also: `TField.Clear` (303), `TDataset.Insert` (265)

10.27.40 TField.Lookup

Synopsis: Is the field a lookup field

Declaration: `Property Lookup : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Lookup` is `True` if the `FieldKind` (316) equals `fkLookup`, `False` otherwise. Setting the `Lookup` property will switch the `FieldKind` between the `fkLookup` and `fkData`.

See also: `TField.FieldKind` (316)

10.27.41 TField.NewValue

Synopsis: The new value of the field

Declaration: `Property NewValue : Variant`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `NewValue` returns the new value of the field. The FPC implementation of `TDataset` (250) does not yet support this.

See also: `TField.Value` (314), `TField.CurValue` (310)

10.27.42 TField.Offset

Synopsis: Offset of the field's value in the dataset buffer

Declaration: `Property Offset : Word`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Offset` is the location of the field's contents in the dataset memory buffer. It is read-only and initialized by the dataset when it is opened.

See also: `TField.FieldNo` (311), `TField.Index` (317), `TField.Datasize` (310)

10.27.43 TField.Size

Synopsis: Logical size of the field

Declaration: `Property Size : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Size` is the declared size of the field for datatypes that can have variable size, such as string types, BCD types or array types. To get the size of the storage needed to store the field's content, the `DataSize` (310) should be used. For blob fields, the current size of the

10.27.44 TField.Text

Synopsis: Text representation of the field

Declaration: `Property Text : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Text` can be used to retrieve or set the value of the value as a string value for editing purposes. It will trigger the `TField.OnGetText` (321) event handler if a handler was specified. For display purposes, the `TField.DisplayText` (311) property should be used. Controls that should display the value in a textual format should use `Text` whenever they must display the text for editing purposes. Inversely, when a control should save the value entered by the user, it should write the contents to the `Text` property, not the `AsString` (308) property, this will invoke the `Tfield.OnSetText` (321) event handler, if one is set.

See also: `TField.AsString` (308), `TField.DisplayText` (311), `TField.Value` (314)

10.27.45 TField.ValidChars

Synopsis: Characters that are valid input for the field's content

Declaration: `Property ValidChars : TFieldChars`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `ValidChars` is a property that is initialized by descendent classes to contain the set of characters that can be entered in an edit control which is used to edit the field. Numerical fields will set this to a set of numerical characters, string fields will set this to all possible characters. It is possible to restrict the possible input by setting this property to a subset of all possible characters (for example, set it to all uppercase letters to allow the user to enter only uppercase characters. `TField` itself does not enforce the validity of the data when the content of the field is set, an edit control should check the validity of the user input by means of the `IsValidChar` (304) function.

See also: `TField.IsValidChar` (304)

10.27.46 TField.Value

Synopsis: Value of the field as a variant value

Declaration: `Property Value : variant`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Value` can be used to read or write the value of the field as a Variant value. When setting the value, the value will be converted to the actual type of the field as defined in the underlying data. Likewise, when reading the value property, the actual field value will be converted to a variant value. If the field does not contain a value (when `IsNull` (312) returns `True`), then `Value` will contain `Null`.

It is not recommended to use the `Value` property: it should only be used when the type of the field is unknown. If the type of the field is known, it is better to use one of the `AsXXX` properties, which will not only result in faster code, but will also avoid strange type conversions.

See also: `TField.IsNull` (312), `TField.Text` (313), `TField.DisplayText` (311)

10.27.47 TField.OldValue

Synopsis: Old value of the field

Declaration: `Property OldValue : variant`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `OldValue` returns the value of the field prior to an edit operation. This feature is currently not supported in FPC.

See also: `TField.Value` (314), `TField.CurValue` (310), `TField.NewValue` (312)

10.27.48 TField.LookupList

Synopsis: List of lookup values

Declaration: `Property LookupList : TLookupList`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `LookupList` contains the list of key, value pairs used when caching the possible lookup values for a lookup field. The list is only valid when the `LookupCache` (318) property is set to `True`. It can be refreshed using the `RefreshLookupList` (304) method.

See also: `TField.RefreshLookupList` (304), `TField.LookupCache` (318)

10.27.49 TField.Alignment

Synopsis: Alignment for this field

Declaration: `Property Alignment : TAlignment`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Alignment` contains the alignment that UI controls should observe when displaying the contents of the field. Setting the property at the field level will make sure that all DB-Aware controls will display the contents of the field with the same alignment.

See also: `TField.DisplayText` (311)

10.27.50 TField.CustomConstraint

Synopsis: Custom constraint for the field's value

Declaration: `Property CustomConstraint : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `CustomConstraint` may contain a constraint that will be enforced when the dataset posts its data. It should be a SQL-like expression that results in a `True` or `False` value. Examples of valid constraints are:

```
Salary < 10000  
YearsEducation < Age
```

If the constraint is not satisfied when the record is posted, then an exception will be raised with the value of `ConstraintErrorMessage` (315) as a message.

This feature is not yet implemented in FPC.

See also: `TField.ConstraintErrorMessage` (315), `TField.ImportedConstraint` (317)

10.27.51 TField.ConstraintErrorMessage

Synopsis: Message to display if the `CustomConstraint` constraint is violated.

Declaration: `Property ConstraintErrorMessage : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ConstraintErrorMessage` is the message that should be displayed when the dataset checks the constraints and the constraint in `TField.CustomConstraint` (315) is violated.

This feature is not yet implemented in FPC.

See also: `TField.CustomConstraint` (315)

10.27.52 TField.DefaultExpression

Synopsis: Default value for the field

Declaration: Property DefaultExpression : String

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: DefaultValue can be set to a value that should be entered in the field whenever the TDataSet.Append (256) or TDataSet.Insert (265) methods are executed. It should contain a valid SQL expression that results in the correct type for the field.

This feature is not yet implemented in FPC.

See also: TDataSet.Insert (265), TDataSet.Append (256), TDataSet.CustomConstraint (250)

10.27.53 TField.DisplayLabel

Synopsis: Name of the field for display purposes

Declaration: Property DisplayLabel : String

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: DisplayLabel is the name of the field as it will be displayed to the user e.g. in grid column headers. By default it equals the FieldName (317) property, unless assigned another value.

See also: TField.FieldName (317)

10.27.54 TField.DisplayWidth

Synopsis: Width of the field in characters

Declaration: Property DisplayWidth : LongInt

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: DisplayWidth is the width (in characters) that should be used by controls that display the contents of the field (such as in grids or lookup lists). It is initialized to a default value for most fields (e.g. it equals Size (313) for string fields) but can be modified to obtain a more appropriate value for the field's expected content.

See also: TField.Alignment (315), TField.DisplayText (311)

10.27.55 TField.FieldKind

Synopsis: The kind of field.

Declaration: Property FieldKind : TFieldKind

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: FieldKind indicates the type of the TField instance. Besides TField instances that represent fields present in the underlying data records, there can also be calculated or lookup fields. This property determines what kind of field the TField instance is.

10.27.56 TField.FieldName

Synopsis: Name of the field

Declaration: `Property FieldName : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `FieldName` is the name of the field as it is defined in the underlying data structures (for instance the name of the field in a SQL table, DBase file, or the alias of the field if it was aliased in a SQL SELECT statement. It does not always equal the `Name` property, which is the name of the `TField` component instance. The `Name` property will generally equal the name of the dataset appended with the value of the `FieldName` property.

See also: `TFieldDef.Name` (322), `TField.Size` (313), `TField.DataType` (310)

10.27.57 TField.HasConstraints

Synopsis: Does the field have any constraints defined

Declaration: `Property HasConstraints : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read

Description: `HasConstraints` will contain `True` if one of the `CustomConstraint` (315) or `ImportedConstraint` (317) properties is set to a non-empty value.

See also: `TField.CustomConstraint` (315), `TField.ImportedConstraint` (317)

10.27.58 TField.Index

Synopsis: Index of the field in the list of fields

Declaration: `Property Index : LongInt`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Index` is the name of the field in the list of fields of a dataset. It is, in general, the (0-based) position of the field in the underlying data structures, but this need not always be so. The `TField.FieldNo` (311) property should be used for that.

See also: `TField.FieldNo` (311)

10.27.59 TField.ImportedConstraint

Synopsis: Constraint for the field value on the level of the underlying database

Declaration: `Property ImportedConstraint : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ImportedConstraint` contains any constraints that the underlying data engine imposes on the values of a field (usually in an SQL CONSTRAINT) clause. Whether this field is filled with appropriate data depends on the implementation of the `TDataSet` (250) descendent.

See also: `TField.CustomConstraint` (315), `TDataSet` (250), `TField.ConstraintErrorMessage` (315)

10.27.60 TField.KeyFields

Synopsis: Key fields to use when looking up a field value.

Declaration: `Property KeyFields : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `KeyFields` should contain a semi-colon separated list of field names from the lookupfield's dataset which will be matched to the fields enumerated in `LookupKeyFields` (319) in the dataset pointed to by the `LookupDataset` (318) property.

See also: `TField.LookupKeyFields` (319), `Tfield.LookupDataset` (318)

10.27.61 TField.LookupCache

Synopsis: Should lookup values be cached

Declaration: `Property LookupCache : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `LookupCache` is by default `False`. If it is set to `True` then a list of key, value pairs will be created from the `LookupKeyFields` (319) in the dataset pointed to by the `LookupDataset` (318) property. The list of key, value pairs is available through the `TField.LookupList` (314) property.

See also: `TField.LookupKeyFields` (319), `Tfield.LookupDataset` (318), `TField.LookupList` (314)

10.27.62 TField.LookupDataSet

Synopsis: Dataset with lookup values

Declaration: `Property LookupDataSet : TDataSet`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `LookupDataset` is used by lookup fields to fetch the field's value. The `LookupKeyFields` (319) property is used as a list of fields to locate a record in this dataset, and the value of the `LookupResultField` (319) field is then used as the value of the lookup field.

See also: `TField.KeyFields` (318), `TField.LookupKeyFields` (319), `TField.LookupResultField` (319), `TField.LookupCache` (318)

10.27.63 TField.LookupKeyFields

Synopsis: Names of fields on which to perform a locate

Declaration: Property `LookupKeyFields` : `String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `LookupKeyFields` should contain a semi-colon separated list of field names from the dataset pointed to by the `LookupDataset` (318) property. These fields will be used when locating a record corresponding to the values in the `TField.KeyFields` (318) property.

See also: `TField.KeyFields` (318), `TField.LookupDataset` (318), `TField.LookupResultField` (319), `TField.LookupCache` (318)

10.27.64 TField.LookupResultField

Synopsis: Name of field to use as lookup value

Declaration: Property `LookupResultField` : `String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `LookupResultField` contains the field name from a field in the dataset pointed to by the `LookupDataset` (318) property. The value of this field will be used as the lookup's field value when a record is found in the lookup dataset as result for the lookup field value.

See also: `TField.KeyFields` (318), `TField.LookupDataset` (318), `TField.LookupKeyFields` (319), `TField.LookupCache` (318)

10.27.65 TField.Origin

Synopsis: Original fieldname of the field.

Declaration: Property `Origin` : `String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Origin` contains the origin of the field in the form `TableName.fieldName`. This property is filled only if the `TDataset` (250) descendent or the database engine support retrieval of this property. It can be used to automatically create update statements, together with the `TField.ProviderFlags` (319) property.

See also: `TDataset` (250), `TField.ProviderFlags` (319)

10.27.66 TField.ProviderFlags

Synopsis: Flags for provider or update support

Declaration: Property `ProviderFlags` : `TProviderFlags`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ProviderFlags` contains a set of flags that can be used by engines that automatically generate update SQL statements or update data packets. The various items in the set tell the engine whether the key is a key field, should be used in the where clause of an update statement or whether - in fact - it should be updated at all.

These properties should be set by the programmer so engines such as SQLDB can create correct update SQL statements whenever they need to post changes to the database. Note that to be able to set these properties in a designer, persistent fields must be created.

See also: `TField.Origin` (319)

10.27.67 TField.ReadOnly

Synopsis: Is the field read-only

Declaration: `Property ReadOnly : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ReadOnly` can be set to `True` to prevent controls of writing data to the field, effectively making it a read-only field. Setting this property to `True` does not prevent the field from getting a value through code: it is just an indication for GUI controls that the field's value is considered read-only.

See also: `TFieldDef.Attributes` (325)

10.27.68 TField.Required

Synopsis: Does the field require a value

Declaration: `Property Required : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Required` determines whether the field needs a value when posting the data: when a dataset posts the changed made to a record (new or existing), it will check whether all fields with the `Required` property have a value assigned to them. If not, an exception will be raised. Descendents of `TDataset` (250) will set the property to `True` when opening the dataset, depending on whether the field is required in the underlying data engine. For fields that are not required by the database engine, the programmer can still set the property to `True` if the business logic requires a field.

See also: `TDataset.Open` (268), `TField.ReadOnly` (320), `TField.Visible` (320)

10.27.69 TField.Visible

Synopsis: Should the field be shown in grids

Declaration: `Property Visible : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Visible` can be used to hide fields from a grid when displaying data to the user. Invisible fields will by default not be shown in the grid.

See also: `TField.ReadOnly` (320), `TField.Required` (320)

10.27.70 TField.OnChange

Synopsis: Event triggered when the field's value has changed

Declaration: `Property OnChange : TFieldNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnChange` is triggered whenever the field's value has been changed. It is triggered only after the new contents have been written to the dataset buffer, so it can be used to react to changes in the field's content. To prevent the writing of changes to the buffer, use the `TField.OnValidate` (322) event. It is not allowed to change the state of the dataset or the contents of the field during the execution of this event handler: doing so may lead to infinite loops and other unexpected results.

See also: `TField.OnChange` (321)

10.27.71 TField.OnGetText

Synopsis: Event to format the field's content

Declaration: `Property OnGetText : TFieldGetTextEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnGetText` is triggered whenever the `TField.Text` (313) or `TField.DisplayText` (311) properties are read. It can be used to return a custom formatted string in the `AText` parameter which will then typically be used by a control to display the field's contents to the user. It is not allowed to change the state of the dataset or the contents of the field during the execution of this event handler.

See also: `TField.Text` (313), `TField.DisplayText` (311), `TField.OnSetText` (321), `TFieldGetTextEvent` (214)

10.27.72 TField.OnSetText

Synopsis: Event to set the field's content based on a user-formatted string

Declaration: `Property OnSetText : TFieldSetTextEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnSetText` is called whenever the `TField.Text` (313) property is written. It can be used to set the actual value of the field based on the passed `AText` parameter. Typically, this event handler will perform the inverse operation of the `TField.OnGetText` (321) handler, if it exists.

See also: `TField.Text` (313), `TField.OnGetText` (321), `TFieldGetTextEvent` (214)

10.27.73 TField.OnValidate

Synopsis: Event to validate the value of a field before it is written to the data buffer

Declaration: `Property OnValidate : TFieldNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnValidate` is called prior to writing a new field value to the dataset's data buffer. It can be used to prevent writing the new value to the buffer by raising an exception in the event handler. Note that this event handler is always called, irrespective of the way the value of the field is set.

See also: [TField.Text \(313\)](#), [TField.OnGetText \(321\)](#), [TField.OnSetText \(321\)](#), [TField.OnChange \(321\)](#)

10.28 TFieldDef

10.28.1 Description

`TFieldDef` is used to describe the fields that are present in the data underlying the dataset. For each field in the underlying field, an `TFieldDef` instance is created when the dataset is opened. This class offers almost no methods, it is mainly a storage class, to store all relevant properties of fields in a record (name, data type, size, required or not, etc.)

10.28.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------|--|
| 323 | Assign | Assign the contents of one <code>TFieldDef</code> instance to another. |
| 322 | Create | Constructor for <code>TFieldDef</code> . |
| 323 | CreateField | Create <code>TField</code> instance based on definitions in current <code>TFieldDef</code> instance. |
| 323 | Destroy | Free the <code>TFieldDef</code> instance |

10.28.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------|--|
| 325 | Attributes | rw | Additional attributes of the field. |
| 325 | DataType | rw | Data type for the field |
| 324 | FieldClass | r | <code>TField</code> class used for this fielddef |
| 324 | FieldNo | r | Field number |
| 324 | InternalCalcField | rw | Is this a definition of an internally calculated field ? |
| 325 | Precision | rw | Precision used in BCD (Binary Coded Decimal) fields |
| 324 | Required | rw | Is the field required ? |
| 326 | Size | rw | Size of the buffer needed to store the data of the field |

10.28.4 TFieldDef.Create

Synopsis: Constructor for `TFieldDef`.

Declaration: `constructor create(ACollection: TCollection); Override
constructor Create(AOwner: TFieldDefs;const AName: String;
ADataType: TFieldType;ASize: Integer;
ARequired: Boolean;AFieldNo: LongInt); Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` is the constructor for the `TFieldDef` class.

If a simple call is used, with a single argument `ACollection`, the inherited `Create` is called and the `Field` number is set to the incremented current index.

If the more complicated call is used, with multiple arguments, then after the inherited `Create` call, the `Name` (322), `datatype` (325), `size` (326), `precision` (325), `FieldNo` (324) and the `Required` (324) property are all set according to the passed arguments.

Errors: If a duplicate name is passed, then an exception will occur.

See also: `TFieldDef.name` (322), `TFieldDef.Datatype` (325), `TFieldDef.Size` (326), `TFieldDef.Precision` (325), `TFieldDef.FieldNo` (324), `TFieldDef.Required` (324)

10.28.5 TFieldDef.Destroy

Synopsis: Free the `TFieldDef` instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` destroys the `TFieldDef` instance. It simply calls the inherited destructor.

See also: `TFieldDef.Create` (322)

10.28.6 TFieldDef.Assign

Synopsis: Assign the contents of one `TFieldDef` instance to another.

Declaration: `procedure Assign(APersistent: TPersistent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Assign` assigns all published properties of `APersistent` to the current instance, if `APersistent` is an instance of class `TFieldDef`.

Errors: If `APersistent` is not of class `TFieldDef` (322), then an exception will be raised.

10.28.7 TFieldDef.CreateField

Synopsis: Create `TField` instance based on definitions in current `TFieldDef` instance.

Declaration: `function CreateField(AOwner: TComponent) : TField`

Visibility: public

Description: `CreateField` determines, based on the `DataType` (325) what `TField` (298) descendent it should create, and then returns a newly created instance of this class. It sets the appropriate defaults for the `Size` (313), `FieldName` (317), `FieldNo` (311), `Precision` (298), `ReadOnly` (320) and `Required` (320) properties of the newly created instance. It should never be necessary to use this call in an end-user program, only `TDataset` descendent classes should use this call.

The newly created field is owned by the component instance passed in the `AOwner` parameter.

The `DefaultFieldClasses` (208) array is used to determine which `TField` Descendent class should be used when creating the `TField` instance, but descendents of `TDataset` may override the values in that array.

Errors:

See also: [DefaultFieldClasses \(208\)](#), [TField \(298\)](#)

10.28.8 TFieldDef.FieldClass

Synopsis: TField class used for this fielddef

Declaration: `Property FieldClass : TFieldClass`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `FieldClass` is the class of the `TField` instance that is created by the [CreateField \(323\)](#) class. The return value is retrieved from the `TDataset` instance the `TFieldDef` instance is associated with. If there is no `TDataset` instance available, the return value is `Nil`.

See also: [TDataset \(250\)](#), [TFieldDef.CreateField \(323\)](#), [TField \(298\)](#)

10.28.9 TFieldDef.FieldNo

Synopsis: Field number

Declaration: `Property FieldNo : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `FieldNo` is the number of the field in the data structure where the dataset contents comes from, for instance in a `DBase` file. If the underlying data layer does not support the concept of field number, a sequential number is assigned.

10.28.10 TFieldDef.InternalCalcField

Synopsis: Is this a definition of an internally calculated field ?

Declaration: `Property InternalCalcField : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `InternalCalc` is `True` if the `fielddef` instance represents an internally calculated field: for internally calculated fields, storage must be provided by the underlying data mechanism.

10.28.11 TFieldDef.Required

Synopsis: Is the field required ?

Declaration: `Property Required : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Required` is set to `True` if the field requires a value when posting data to the dataset. If no value was entered, the dataset will raise an exception when the record is posted. The `Required` property is usually initialized based on the definition of the field in the underlying database. For SQL-based databases, a field declared as `NOT NULL` will result in a `Required` property of `True`.

10.28.12 TFieldDef.Attributes

Synopsis: Additional attributes of the field.

Declaration: `Property Attributes : TFieldAttributes`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Attributes` contain additional attributes of the field. It shares the `faRequired` attribute with the `Required` property.

See also: `TFieldDef.Required` ([324](#))

10.28.13 TFieldDef.DataType

Synopsis: Data type for the field

Declaration: `Property DataType : TFieldType`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `DataType` contains the data type of the field's contents. Based on this property, the `FieldClass` property determines what kind of field class must be used to represent this field.

See also: `TFieldDef.FieldClass` ([324](#)), `TFieldDef.CreateField` ([323](#))

10.28.14 TFieldDef.Precision

Synopsis: Precision used in BCD (Binary Coded Decimal) fields

Declaration: `Property Precision : LongInt`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Precision` is the number of digits used in a BCD (Binary Coded Decimal) field. It is not the number of digits after the decimal separator, but the total number of digits.

See also: `TFieldDef.Size` ([326](#))

10.28.15 TFieldDef.Size

Synopsis: Size of the buffer needed to store the data of the field

Declaration: `Property Size : Integer`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Size` indicates the size of the buffer needed to hold data for the field. For types with a fixed size (such as integer, word or data/time) the size can be zero: the buffer mechanism reserves automatically enough heap memory. For types which can have various sizes (blobs, string types, BCD types), the `Size` property tells the buffer mechanism how many bytes are needed to hold the data for the field.

See also: [TFieldDef.Precision \(325\)](#), [TFieldDef.DataType \(325\)](#)

10.29 TFieldDefs

10.29.1 Description

`TFieldDefs` is used by each `TDataSet` instance to keep a description of the data that it manages; for each field in a record that makes up the underlying data, the `TFieldDefs` instance keeps an instance of `TFieldDef` that describes the field's contents. For any internally calculated fields of the dataset, a `TFieldDef` instance is kept as well. This collection is filled by descendent classes of `TDataSet` as soon as the dataset is opened; it is cleared when the dataset closes. After the collection was populated, the dataset creates `TField` instances based on all the definitions in the collections. If persistent fields were used, the contents of the `fielddefs` collection is compared to the field components that are present in the dataset. If the collection contains more field definitions than field components, these extra fields will not be available in the dataset.

10.29.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| 327 | Add | Add a new field definition to the collection. |
| 327 | AddFieldDef | Add new <code>TFieldDef</code> |
| 327 | Assign | Copy all items from one dataset to another |
| 326 | Create | Create a new instance of <code>TFieldDefs</code> |
| 328 | Find | Find item by name |
| 328 | MakeNameUnique | Create a unique field name starting from a base name |
| 328 | Update | Force update of definitions |

10.29.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|--------------|--------|---|
| 328 | HiddenFields | rw | Should field instances be created for hidden fields |
| 329 | Items | rw | Indexed access to the <code>fielddef</code> instances |

10.29.4 TFieldDefs.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TFieldDefs`

Declaration: `constructor Create (ADataset : TDataSet)`

Visibility: public

Description: Create is used to create a new instance of TFieldDefs. The ADataset argument contains the dataset instance for which the collection contains the field definitions.

See also: TFieldDef (322), TDataset (250)

10.29.5 TFieldDefs.Add

Synopsis: Add a new field definition to the collection.

Declaration:

```
procedure Add(const AName: String; ADataType: TFieldType; ASize: Word;
              ARequired: Boolean); Overload
procedure Add(const AName: String; ADataType: TFieldType; ASize: Word)
              ; Overload
procedure Add(const AName: String; ADataType: TFieldType); Overload
```

Visibility: public

Description: Add adds a new item to the collection and fills in the Name, DataType, Size and Required properties of the newly added item with the provided parameters.

Errors: If an item with name AName already exists in the collection, then an exception will be raised.

See also: TFieldDefs.AddFieldDef (327)

10.29.6 TFieldDefs.AddFieldDef

Synopsis: Add new TFieldDef

Declaration:

```
function AddFieldDef : TFieldDef
```

Visibility: public

Description: AddFieldDef creates a new TFieldDef item and returns the instance.

See also: TFieldDefs.Add (327)

10.29.7 TFieldDefs.Assign

Synopsis: Copy all items from one dataset to another

Declaration:

```
procedure Assign(FieldDefs: TFieldDefs); Overload
```

Visibility: public

Description: Assign simply calls inherited Assign with the FieldDefs argument.

See also: TFieldDef.Assign (323)

10.29.8 TFieldDefs.Find

Synopsis: Find item by name

Declaration: `function Find(const AName: String) : TFieldDef`

Visibility: public

Description: `Find` simply calls the inherited `TDefCollection.Find` (296) to find an item with name `AName` and typecasts the result to `TFieldDef`.

Errors:

See also: `TDefCollection.Find` (296), `TNamedItem.Name` (354)

10.29.9 TFieldDefs.Update

Synopsis: Force update of definitions

Declaration: `procedure Update; Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Update` notifies the dataset that the field definitions are updated, if it was not yet notified.

See also: `TDefCollection.Updated` (297)

10.29.10 TFieldDefs.MakeNameUnique

Synopsis: Create a unique field name starting from a base name

Declaration: `function MakeNameUnique(const AName: String) : String; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `MakeNameUnique` uses `AName` to construct a name of a field that is not yet in the collection. If `AName` is not yet in the collection, then `AName` is returned. If a field definition with field name equal to `AName` already exists, then a new name is constructed by appending a sequence number to `AName` till the resulting name does not appear in the list of field definitions.

See also: `TFieldDefs.Find` (328), `TFieldDef.Name` (322)

10.29.11 TFieldDefs.HiddenFields

Synopsis: Should field instances be created for hidden fields

Declaration: `Property HiddenFields : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `HiddenFields` determines whether a field is created for fielddefs that have the `faHiddenCol` attribute set. If set to `False` (the default) then no `TField` instances will be created for hidden fields. If it is set to `True`, then a `TField` instance will be created for hidden fields.

See also: `TFieldDef.Attributes` (325)

10.29.12 TFieldDefs.Items

Synopsis: Indexed access to the fielddef instances

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: LongInt]: TFieldDef; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Items` provides zero-based indexed access to all `TFieldDef` instances in the collection. The index must vary between 0 and `Count-1`, or an exception will be raised.

See also: [TFieldDef \(322\)](#)

10.30 Tfields

10.30.1 Description

`TFields` mimics a `TCollection` class for the `Fields (277)` property of `TDataset (250)` instance. Since `TField (298)` is a descendent of `TComponent`, it cannot be an item of a collection, and must be managed by another class.

10.30.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|
| 330 | Add | Add a new field to the list |
| 330 | CheckFieldName | Check field name for duplicate entries |
| 330 | CheckFieldNames | Check a list of field names for duplicate entries |
| 331 | Clear | Clear the list of fields |
| 329 | Create | Create a new instance of <code>TFields</code> |
| 330 | Destroy | Free the <code>TFields</code> instance |
| 331 | FieldByName | Find a field based on its name |
| 331 | FieldByNumber | Search field based on its fieldnumber |
| 331 | FindField | Find a field based on its name |
| 332 | GetEnumerator | |
| 332 | GetFieldNames | Get the list of fieldnames |
| 332 | IndexOf | Return the index of a field instance |
| 332 | Remove | Remove an instance from the list |

10.30.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|--|
| 333 | Count | r | Number of fields in the list |
| 333 | Dataset | r | Dataset the fields belong to |
| 333 | Fields | rw | Indexed access to the fields in the list |

10.30.4 Tfields.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TFields`

Declaration: `constructor Create(ADataset: TDataSet)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of `TFields`. It stores the `ADataset` parameter, so it can be retrieved at any time in the `TFields.Dataset` (333) property, and initializes an internal list object to store the list of fields.

See also: `TDataset` (250), `TFields.Dataset` (333), `TField` (298)

10.30.5 Tfields.Destroy

Synopsis: Free the `TFields` instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` frees the field instances that it manages on behalf of the `Dataset` (333). After that it cleans up the internal structures and then calls the inherited destructor.

See also: `TDataset` (250), `TField` (298), `TFields.Clear` (331)

10.30.6 Tfields.Add

Synopsis: Add a new field to the list

Declaration: `procedure Add(Field: TField)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Add` must be used to add a new `TField` (298) instance to the list of fields. After a `TField` instance is added to the list, the `TFields` instance will free the field instance if it is cleared.

See also: `TField` (298), `TFields.Clear` (331)

10.30.7 Tfields.CheckFieldName

Synopsis: Check field name for duplicate entries

Declaration: `procedure CheckFieldName(const Value: String)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CheckFieldName` checks whether a field with name equal to `Value` (case insensitive) already appears in the list of fields (using `TFields.Find` (329)). If it does, then an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception is raised.

See also: `TField.FieldName` (317), `TFields.Find` (329)

10.30.8 Tfields.CheckFieldNames

Synopsis: Check a list of field names for duplicate entries

Declaration: `procedure CheckFieldNames(const Value: String)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CheckFieldNames` splits `Value` in a list of fieldnames, using semicolon as a separator. For each of the fieldnames obtained in this way, it calls `CheckFieldName` (330).

Errors: Spaces are not discarded, so leaving a space after or before a fieldname will not find the fieldname, and will yield a false negative result.

See also: [TField.FieldName \(317\)](#), [TFields.CheckFieldName \(330\)](#), [TFields.Find \(329\)](#)

10.30.9 Tfields.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the list of fields

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: public

Description: `Clear` removes all [TField \(298\)](#) var instances from the list. All field instances are freed after they have been removed from the list.

See also: [TField \(298\)](#)

10.30.10 Tfields.FindField

Synopsis: Find a field based on its name

Declaration: `function FindField(const Value: String) : TField`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindField` searches the list of fields and returns the field instance whose [FieldName \(317\)](#) property matches `Value`. The search is performed case-insensitively. If no field instance is found, then `Nil` is returned.

See also: [TFields.FieldByName \(331\)](#)

10.30.11 Tfields.FieldByName

Synopsis: Find a field based on its name

Declaration: `function FieldByName(const Value: String) : TField`

Visibility: public

Description: `Fieldbyname` searches the list of fields and returns the field instance whose [FieldName \(317\)](#) property matches `Value`. The search is performed case-insensitively.

Errors: If no field instance is found, then an exception is raised. If this behaviour is undesired, use [TField.FindField \(298\)](#), where `Nil` is returned if no match is found.

See also: [TFields.FindField \(331\)](#), [TFields.FieldName \(329\)](#), [Tfields.FieldByNumber \(331\)](#), [TFields.IndexOf \(332\)](#)

10.30.12 Tfields.FieldByNumber

Synopsis: Search field based on its fieldnumber

Declaration: `function FieldByNumber(FieldNo: Integer) : TField`

Visibility: public

Description: `FieldByNumber` searches for the field whose `TField.FieldNo` (311) property matches the `FieldNo` parameter. If no such field is found, `Nil` is returned.

See also: `TFields.FieldByName` (331), `TFields.FindField` (331), `TFields.IndexOf` (332)

10.30.13 Tfields.GetEnumerator

Declaration: `function GetEnumerator : TFieldsEnumerator`

Visibility: `public`

10.30.14 Tfields.GetFieldNames

Synopsis: Get the list of fieldnames

Declaration: `procedure GetFieldNames(Values: TStrings)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `GetFieldNames` fills `Values` with the fieldnames of all the fields in the list, each item in the list contains 1 fieldname. The list is cleared prior to filling it.

See also: `TField.FieldName` (317)

10.30.15 Tfields.IndexOf

Synopsis: Return the index of a field instance

Declaration: `function IndexOf(Field: TField) : LongInt`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IndexOf` scans the list of fields and returns the index of the field instance in the list (it compares actual field instances, not field names). If the field does not appear in the list, -1 is returned.

See also: `TFields.FieldByName` (331), `TFields.FieldByNumber` (331), `TFields.FindField` (331)

10.30.16 Tfields.Remove

Synopsis: Remove an instance from the list

Declaration: `procedure Remove(Value: TField)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Remove` removes the field `Value` from the list. It does not free the field after it was removed. If the field is not in the list, then nothing happens.

See also: `Tields.Clear` (208)

10.30.17 Tfields.Count

Synopsis: Number of fields in the list

Declaration: `Property Count : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Count` is the number of fields in the fieldlist. The items in the `Fields` (333) property are numbered from 0 to `Count-1`.

See also: `TFields.fields` (333)

10.30.18 Tfields.Dataset

Synopsis: Dataset the fields belong to

Declaration: `Property Dataset : TDataSet`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Dataset` is the dataset instance that owns the fieldlist. It is set when the `TFields` (329) instance is created. This property is purely for informational purposes. When adding fields to the list, no check is performed whether the field's `Dataset` property matches this dataset.

See also: `TFields.Create` (329), `TField.Dataset` (310), `TDataSet` (250)

10.30.19 Tfields.Fields

Synopsis: Indexed access to the fields in the list

Declaration: `Property Fields[Index: Integer]: TField; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Fields` is the default property of the `TFields` class. It provides indexed access to the fields in the list: the index runs from 0 to `Count-1`.

Errors: Providing an index outside the allowed range will result in an `EListError` exception.

See also: `TFields.FieldByName` (331)

10.31 TFieldsEnumerator

10.31.1 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|-------------|
| 334 | Create | |
| 334 | MoveNext | |

10.31.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|-------------|
| 334 | Current | r | |

10.31.3 TFieldsEnumerator.Create

Declaration: constructor Create(AFields: TFields)

Visibility: public

10.31.4 TFieldsEnumerator.MoveNext

Declaration: function MoveNext : Boolean

Visibility: public

10.31.5 TFieldsEnumerator.Current

Declaration: Property Current : TField

Visibility: public

Access: Read

10.32 TFloatField

10.32.1 Description

TFloatField is the class created when a dataset must manage floating point values of double precision. It exposes a few new properties such as Currency ([335](#)), MaxValue ([336](#)), MinValue ([336](#)) and overrides some TField ([298](#)) methods to work with floating point data.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of TFloatField manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each floating-point field when a dataset is opened.

10.32.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|------------|---|
| 335 | CheckRange | Check whether a value is in the allowed range of values for the field |
| 335 | Create | Create a new instance of the TFloatField |

10.32.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|---|
| 335 | Currency | rw | Is the field a currency field. |
| 336 | MaxValue | rw | Maximum value for the field |
| 336 | MinValue | rw | Minimum value for the field |
| 336 | Precision | rw | Precision (number of digits) of the field in text representations |
| 335 | Value | rw | Value of the field as a double type |

10.32.4 TFloatField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TFloatField`

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of `TFloatField`. It calls the inherited constructor and then initializes some properties.

10.32.5 TFloatField.CheckRange

Synopsis: Check whether a value is in the allowed range of values for the field

Declaration: `function CheckRange(AValue: Double) : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CheckRange` returns `True` if `AValue` lies within the range defined by the `MinValue` (336) and `MaxValue` (336) properties. If the value lies outside of the allowed range, then `False` is returned.

See also: `TFloatField.MaxValue` (336), `TFloatField.MinValue` (336)

10.32.6 TFloatField.Value

Synopsis: Value of the field as a double type

Declaration: `Property Value : Double`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Value` is redefined by `TFloatField` to return a value of type `Double`. It returns the same value as `TField.AsFloat` (307)

See also: `TField.AsFloat` (307), `TField.Value` (314)

10.32.7 TFloatField.Currency

Synopsis: Is the field a currency field.

Declaration: `Property Currency : Boolean`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Currency` can be set to `True` to indicate that the field contains data representing an amount of currency. This affects the way the `TField.DisplayText` (311) and `TField.Text` (313) properties format the value of the field: if the `Currency` property is `True`, then these properties will format the value as a currency value (generally appending the currency sign) and if the `Currency` property is `False`, then they will format it as a normal floating-point value.

See also: `TField.DisplayText` (311), `TField.Text` (313), `TNumericField.DisplayFormat` (356), `TNumericField.EditFormat` (356)

10.32.8 TFloatField.MaxValue

Synopsis: Maximum value for the field

Declaration: `Property MaxValue : Double`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MaxValue` can be set to a value different from zero, it is then the maximum value for the field if set to any value different from zero. When setting the field's value, the value may not be larger than `MaxValue`. Any attempt to write a larger value as the field's content will result in an exception. By default `MaxValue` equals 0, i.e. any floating-point value is allowed.

If `MaxValue` is set, `MinField` (208) should also be set, because it will also be checked.

See also: `TFloatField.MinValue` (336)

10.32.9 TFloatField.MinValue

Synopsis: Minimum value for the field

Declaration: `Property MinValue : Double`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MinValue` can be set to a value different from zero, then it is the minimum value for the field. When setting the field's value, the value may not be less than `MinValue`. Any attempt to write a smaller value as the field's content will result in an exception. By default `MinValue` equals 0, i.e. any floating-point value is allowed.

If `MinValue` is set, `MaxField` (208) should also be set, because it will also be checked.

See also: `TFloatField.MaxValue` (336), `TFloatField.CheckRange` (335)

10.32.10 TFloatField.Precision

Synopsis: Precision (number of digits) of the field in text representations

Declaration: `Property Precision : LongInt`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Precision` is the maximum number of digits that should be used when the field is converted to a textual representation in `TField.Displaytext` (311) or `TField.Text` (313), it is used in the arguments to `FormatFloat` (??).

See also: `TField.Displaytext` (311), `TField.Text` (313), `#rtl.sysutils.FormatFloat` (??)

10.33 TGraphicField

10.33.1 Description

`TGraphicField` is the class used when a dataset must manage graphical BLOB data. (`TField.DataType` (310) equals `ftGraphic`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField` (298) class. All methods to be able to work with graphical BLOB data have been implemented in the `TBlobField` (227) parent class.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TGraphicField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each graphical BLOB field when a dataset is opened.

10.33.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 337 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TGraphicField</code> class |

10.33.3 TGraphicField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TGraphicField` class

Declaration: constructor `Create(AOwner: TComponent);` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TGraphicField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField` (298) properties to configure the instance for working with graphical BLOB values.

See also: `TField` (298)

10.34 TGUIDField

10.34.1 Description

`TGUIDField` is the class used when a dataset must manage native variant-typed data. (`TField.DataType` (310) equals `ftGUID`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField` (298) class and overrides some of its methods to be able to work with variant data. It also adds a method to retrieve the field value as a native `TGUID` type.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TGUIDField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each GUID field when a dataset is opened.

10.34.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 338 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TGUIDField</code> class |

10.34.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 338 | <code>AsGuid</code> | rw | Field content as a GUID value |

10.34.4 TGUIDField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the TGUIDField class

Declaration: constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override

Visibility: public

Description: Create initializes a new instance of the TGUIDField class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some TField (298) properties to configure the instance for working with GUID values.

See also: TField (298)

10.34.5 TGUIDField.AsGUID

Synopsis: Field content as a GUID value

Declaration: Property AsGUID : TGUID

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: AsGUID can be used to get or set the field's content as a value of type TGUID.

See also: TField.AsString (308)

10.35 TIndexDef

10.35.1 Description

TIndexDef describes one index in a set of indexes of a TDataset (250) instance. The collection of indexes is described by the TIndexDefs (341) class. It just has the necessary properties to describe an index, but does not implement any functionality to maintain an index.

10.35.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|-------------------------------|
| 339 | Create | Create a new index definition |
| 339 | Destroy | Remove the index from memory |

10.35.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|---------------|--------|--|
| 340 | CaseInsFields | rw | Fields in field list that are ordered case-insensitively |
| 340 | DescFields | rw | Fields in field list that are ordered descending |
| 339 | Expression | rw | Expression that makes up the index values |
| 339 | Fields | rw | Fields making up the index |
| 340 | Options | rw | Index options |
| 341 | Source | rw | Source of the index |

10.35.4 TIndexDef.Create

Synopsis: Create a new index definition

Declaration: constructor `Create(Owner: TIndexDefs; const AName: String;
const TheFields: String; TheOptions: TIndexOptions)
; Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new `TIndexDef` (338) instance with the `AName` value as the index name, `AField` as the fields making up the index, and `TheOptions` as the options. `Owner` should be the `TIndexDefs` (341) instance to which the new `TIndexDef` can be added.

Errors: If an index with name `AName` already exists in the collection, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TIndexDefs` (341), `TIndexDef.Options` (340), `TIndexDef.Fields` (339)

10.35.5 TIndexDef.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove the index from memory

Declaration: destructor `Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` calls the inherited destructor, and removes the item from memory.

See also: `TIndexDef.Create` (339)

10.35.6 TIndexDef.Expression

Synopsis: Expression that makes up the index values

Declaration: Property `Expression : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Expression` is an SQL expression based on which the index values are computed. It is only used when `ixExpression` is in `TIndexDef.Options` (340)

See also: `TIndexDef.Options` (340), `TIndexDef.Fields` (339)

10.35.7 TIndexDef.Fields

Synopsis: Fields making up the index

Declaration: Property `Fields : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Fields` is a list of fieldnames, separated by semicolons: the fields that make up the index, in case the index is not based on an expression. The list contains the names of all fields, regardless of whether the sort order for a particular field is ascending or descending. The fields should be in the right order, i.e. the first field is sorted on first, and so on.

The `TIndexDef.DescFields` (340) property can be used to determine the fields in the list that have a descending sort order. The `TIndexDef.CaseInsFields` (340) property determines which fields are sorted in a case-insensitive manner.

See also: `TIndexDef.DescFields` (340), `TIndexDef.CaseInsFields` (340), `TIndexDef.Expression` (339)

10.35.8 TIndexDef.CaseInsFields

Synopsis: Fields in field list that are ordered case-insensitively

Declaration: `Property CaseInsFields : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `CaseInsFields` is a list of fieldnames, separated by semicolons. It contains the names of the fields in the `Fields` (339) property which are ordered in a case-insensitive manner. `CaseInsFields` may not contain fieldnames that do not appear in `Fields`.

See also: `TIndexDef.Fields` (339), `TIndexDef.Expression` (339), `TIndexDef.DescFields` (340)

10.35.9 TIndexDef.DescFields

Synopsis: Fields in field list that are ordered descending

Declaration: `Property DescFields : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DescFields` is a list of fieldnames, separated by semicolons. It contains the names of the fields in the `Fields` (339) property which are ordered in a descending manner. `DescFields` may not contain fieldnames that do not appear in `Fields`.

See also: `TIndexDef.Fields` (339), `TIndexDef.Expression` (339), `TIndexDef.DescFields` (340)

10.35.10 TIndexDef.Options

Synopsis: Index options

Declaration: `Property Options : TIndexOptions`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Options` describes the various properties of the index. This is usually filled by the dataset that provides the index definitions. For datasets that provide In-memory indexes, this should be set prior to creating the index: it cannot be changed once the index is created.

See the description of `TIndexOption` (216) for more information on the various available options.

See also: `TIndexOptions` (216)

10.35.11 TIndexDef.Source

Synopsis: Source of the index

Declaration: `Property Source : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Source` describes where the index comes from. This is a property for the convenience of the various datasets that provide indexes: they can use it to describe the source of the index.

10.36 TIndexDefs

10.36.1 Description

`TIndexDefs` is used to keep a collection of index (sort order) definitions. It can be used by classes that provide in-memory or on-disk indexes to provide a list of available indexes.

10.36.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| 342 | Add | Add a new index definition with given name and options |
| 342 | AddIndexDef | Add a new, empty, index definition |
| 341 | Create | Create a new <code>TIndexDefs</code> instance |
| 342 | Destroy | Remove the indexdefs from memory. |
| 342 | Find | Find an index by name |
| 343 | FindIndexForFields | Find index definition based on field names |
| 343 | GetIndexForFields | Get index definition based on field names |
| 343 | Update | Called whenever one of the items changes |

10.36.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---|
| 343 | Items | rw | Indexed access to the index definitions |

10.36.4 TIndexDefs.Create

Synopsis: Create a new `TIndexDefs` instance

Declaration: `constructor Create(ADataset: TDataSet); Virtual; Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TIndexDefs` class. It simply calls the inherited destructor with the appropriate item class, `TIndexDef` ([338](#)).

See also: `TIndexDef` ([338](#)), `TIndexDefs.Destroy` ([342](#))

10.36.5 TIndexDefs.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove the indexdefs from memory.

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` removes the indexdefs from memory. If the `TIndexDefs` instance is created by a `TDataset` (250) instance, the dataset instance will also destroy it.

See also: `TIndexDefs.Create` (341)

10.36.6 TIndexDefs.Add

Synopsis: Add a new index definition with given name and options

Declaration: `procedure Add(const Name: String; const Fields: String;
Options: TIndexOptions)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Add` adds a new `TIndexDef` (338) instance to the list of indexes. It initializes the index definition properties `Name`, `Fields` and `Options` with the values given in the parameters with the same names.

Errors: If an index with the same `Name` already exists in the list of indexes, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TIndexDef` (338), `TNamedItem.Name` (354), `TIndexDef.Fields` (339), `TIndexDef.Options` (340), `TIndexDefs.AddIndexDef` (342)

10.36.7 TIndexDefs.AddIndexDef

Synopsis: Add a new, empty, index definition

Declaration: `function AddIndexDef : TIndexDef`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `AddIndexDef` adds a new `TIndexDef` (338) instance to the list of indexes, and returns the newly created instance. It does not initialize any of the properties of the new index definition.

See also: `TIndexDefs.Add` (342)

10.36.8 TIndexDefs.Find

Synopsis: Find an index by name

Declaration: `function Find(const IndexName: String) : TIndexDef`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Find` overloads the `TDefCollection.Find` (296) method to search and return a `TIndexDef` (338) instance based on the name. The search is case-insensitive and returns `Nil` if no matching index definition was found.

Errors:

See also: `TIndexDef` (338), `TDefCollection.Find` (296), `TIndexDefs.FindIndexForFields` (343)

10.36.9 TIndexDefs.FindIndexForFields

Synopsis: Find index definition based on field names

Declaration: `function FindIndexForFields(const Fields: String) : TIndexDef`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindIndexForFields` searches in the list of indexes for an index whose `TIndexDef.Fields` (339) property matches the list of fields in `Fields`. If it finds an index definition, then it returns the found instance.

Errors: If no matching definition is found, an exception is raised. This is different from other Find functionality, where Find usually returns Nil if nothing is found.

See also: `TIndexDef` (338), `TIndexDefs.Find` (342), `TIndexDefs.GetindexForFields` (343)

10.36.10 TIndexDefs.GetIndexForFields

Synopsis: Get index definition based on field names

Declaration: `function GetIndexForFields(const Fields: String;
CaseInsensitive: Boolean) : TIndexDef`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetIndexForFields` searches in the list of indexes for an index whose `TIndexDef.Fields` (339) property matches the list of fields in `Fields`. If `CaseInsensitive` is `True` it only searches for case-sensitive indexes. If it finds an index definition, then it returns the found instance. If it does not find a matching definition, `Nil` is returned.

See also: `TIndexDef` (338), `TIndexDefs.Find` (342), `TIndexDefs.FindIndexForFields` (343)

10.36.11 TIndexDefs.Update

Synopsis: Called whenever one of the items changes

Declaration: `procedure Update; Virtual; Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Update` can be called to have the dataset update its index definitions.

10.36.12 TIndexDefs.Items

Synopsis: Indexed access to the index definitions

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: Integer]: TIndexDef; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Items` is redefined by `TIndexDefs` using `TIndexDef` as the type for the elements. It is the default property of the `TIndexDefs` class.

See also: `TIndexDef` (338)

10.37 TLargeIntField

10.37.1 Description

`TLargeIntField` is instantiated when a dataset must manage a field with 64-bit signed data: the data type `ftLargeInt`. It overrides some methods of `TField` (298) to handle `int64` data, and sets some of the properties to values for `int64` data. It also introduces some methods and properties specific to 64-bit integer data such as `MinValue` (345) and `MaxValue` (208).

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TLargeIntField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each `int64` field when a dataset is opened.

10.37.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 344 | <code>CheckRange</code> | Check whether a values falls within the allowed range |
| 344 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of the <code>TLargeIntField</code> class |

10.37.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|--|
| 345 | <code>MaxValue</code> | rw | Maximum value for the field |
| 345 | <code>MinValue</code> | rw | Minimum value for the field |
| 345 | <code>Value</code> | rw | Field contents as a 64-bit integer value |

10.37.4 TLargeIntField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TLargeIntField` class

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TLargeIntField` class: it calls the inherited constructor and then initializes the various properties of `Tfield` (298) and `MinValue` (345) and `MaxValue` (208).

See also: `TField` (298), `TLargeIntField.MinValue` (345), `TLargeInField.MaxValue` (208)

10.37.5 TLargeIntField.CheckRange

Synopsis: Check whether a values falls within the allowed range

Declaration: `function CheckRange(AValue: LargeInt) : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CheckRange` returns `True` if `AValue` lies within the range defined by the `MinValue` (345) and `MaxValue` (345) properties. If the value lies outside of the allowed range, then `False` is returned.

See also: `TLargeIntField.MaxValue` (345), `TLargeIntField.MinValue` (345)

10.37.6 TLargeintField.Value

Synopsis: Field contents as a 64-bit integer value

Declaration: `Property Value : LargeInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Value` is redefined by `TLargeintField` as a 64-bit integer value. It returns the same value as `TField.AsLargeInt` (307).

See also: `TField.Value` (314), `TField.AsLargeInt` (307)

10.37.7 TLargeintField.MaxValue

Synopsis: Maximum value for the field

Declaration: `Property MaxValue : LargeInt`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MaxValue` is the maximum value for the field if set to any value different from zero. When setting the field's value, the value may not be larger than `MaxValue`. Any attempt to write a larger value as the field's content will result in an exception. By default `MaxValue` equals 0, i.e. any integer value is allowed.

If `MaxValue` is set, `MinField` (208) should also be set, because it will also be checked.

See also: `TLargeintField.MinValue` (345)

10.37.8 TLargeintField.MinValue

Synopsis: Minimum value for the field

Declaration: `Property MinValue : LargeInt`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MinValue` is the minimum value for the field. When setting the field's value, the value may not be less than `MinValue`. Any attempt to write a smaller value as the field's content will result in an exception. By default `MinValue` equals 0, i.e. any integer value is allowed.

If `MinValue` is set, `MaxField` (208) should also be set, because it will also be checked.

See also: `TLargeintField.MaxValue` (345)

10.38 TLongintField

10.38.1 Description

TLongintField is instantiated when a dataset must manage a field with 32-bit signed data: the data type `ftInteger`. It overrides some methods of TField (298) to handle integer data, and sets some of the properties to values for integer data. It also introduces some methods and properties specific to integer data such as `MinValue` (347) and `MaxValue` (347).

It should never be necessary to create an instance of TLongintField manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each integer field when a dataset is opened.

10.38.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|------------|---|
| 346 | CheckRange | Check whether a valid is in the allowed range of values for the field |
| 346 | Create | Create a new instance of TLongintField |

10.38.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 347 | MaxValue | rw | Maximum value for the field |
| 347 | MinValue | rw | Minimum value for the field |
| 347 | Value | rw | Value of the field as longint |

10.38.4 TLongintField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of TLongintField

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of TLongintField. After calling the inherited constructor, it initializes the `MinValue` (347) and `MaxValue` (347) properties.

See also: TField (298), TLongintField.MaxValue (347), TLongintField.MinValue (347)

10.38.5 TLongintField.CheckRange

Synopsis: Check whether a valid is in the allowed range of values for the field

Declaration: `function CheckRange(AValue: LongInt) : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CheckRange` returns `True` if `AValue` lies within the range defined by the `MinValue` (347) and `MaxValue` (347) properties. If the value lies outside of the allowed range, then `False` is returned.

See also: TLongintField.MaxValue (347), TLongintField.MinValue (347)

10.38.6 TLongintField.Value

Synopsis: Value of the field as longint

Declaration: `Property Value : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: Value is redefined by `TLongintField` as a 32-bit signed integer value. It returns the same value as the `TField.AsInteger` (308) property.

See also: `TField.Value` (314)

10.38.7 TLongintField.MaxValue

Synopsis: Maximum value for the field

Declaration: `Property MaxValue : LongInt`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MaxValue` is the maximum value for the field. When setting the field's value, the value may not be larger than `MaxValue`. Any attempt to write a larger value as the field's content will result in an exception. By default `MaxValue` equals `MaxInt`, i.e. any integer value is allowed.

See also: `TLongintField.MinValue` (347)

10.38.8 TLongintField.MinValue

Synopsis: Minimum value for the field

Declaration: `Property MinValue : LongInt`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MinValue` is the minimum value for the field. When setting the field's value, the value may not be less than `MinValue`. Any attempt to write a smaller value as the field's content will result in an exception. By default `MinValue` equals `-MaxInt`, i.e. any integer value is allowed.

See also: `TLongintField.MaxValue` (347)

10.39 TLookupList

10.39.1 Description

`TLookupList` is a list object used for storing values of lookup operations by lookup fields. There should be no need to create an instance of `TLookupList` manually, the `TField` instance will create an instance of `TLookupList` on demand.

10.39.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| 348 | Add | Add a key, value pair to the list |
| 348 | Clear | Remove all key, value pairs from the list |
| 348 | Create | Create a new instance of <code>TLookupList</code> . |
| 348 | Destroy | Free a <code>TLookupList</code> instance from memory |
| 349 | FirstKeyByValue | Find the first key that matches a value |
| 349 | ValueOfKey | Look up value based on a key |
| 349 | ValuesToStrings | Convert values to stringlist |

10.39.3 TLookupList.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TLookupList`.

Declaration: `constructor Create`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` sets up the necessary structures to manage a list of lookup values for a lookup field.

See also: `TLookupList.Destroy` ([348](#))

10.39.4 TLookupList.Destroy

Synopsis: Free a `TLookupList` instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` frees all resources (mostly memory) allocated by the lookup list, and calls then the inherited destructor.

See also: `TLookupList.Create` ([208](#))

10.39.5 TLookupList.Add

Synopsis: Add a key, value pair to the list

Declaration: `procedure Add(const AKey: Variant;const AValue: Variant)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Add` will add the value `AValue` to the list and associate it with key `AKey`. The same key cannot be added twice.

See also: `TLookupList.Clear` ([348](#))

10.39.6 TLookupList.Clear

Synopsis: Remove all key, value pairs from the list

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Clear` removes all keys and associated values from the list.

See also: `TLookupList.Add` ([348](#))

10.39.7 TLookupList.FirstKeyByValue

Synopsis: Find the first key that matches a value

Declaration: `function FirstKeyByValue(const AValue: Variant) : Variant`

Visibility: public

Description: `FirstKeyByValue` does a reverse lookup: it returns the first key value in the list that matches the `AValue` value. If none is found, `Null` is returned. This mechanism is quite slow, as a linear search is performed.

Errors: If no key is found, `Null` is returned.

See also: `TLookupList.ValueOfKey` (349)

10.39.8 TLookupList.ValueOfKey

Synopsis: Look up value based on a key

Declaration: `function ValueOfKey(const AKey: Variant) : Variant`

Visibility: public

Description: `ValueOfKey` does a value lookup based on a key: it returns the value in the list that matches the `AKey` key. If none is found, `Null` is returned. This mechanism is quite slow, as a linear search is performed.

See also: `TLookupList.FirstKeyByValue` (349), `TLookupList.Add` (348)

10.39.9 TLookupList.ValuesToStrings

Synopsis: Convert values to stringlist

Declaration: `procedure ValuesToStrings(AStrings: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `ValuesToStrings` converts the list of values to a stringlist, so they can be used e.g. in a drop-down list.

See also: `TLookupList.ValueOfKey` (349)

10.40 TMasterDataLink

10.40.1 Description

`TMasterDataLink` is a `TDataLink` descendent which handles master-detail relations. It can be used in `TDataSet` (250) descendents that must have master-detail functionality: the detail dataset creates an instance of `TMasterDataLink` to point to the master dataset, which is subsequently available through the `TDataLink.Dataset` (249) property.

The class also provides functionailty for keeping a list of fields that make up the master-detail functionality, in the `TMasterDataLink.FieldName` (350) and `TMasterDataLink.Fields` (351) properties.

This class should never be used in application code.

10.40.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 350 | Create | Create a new instance of TMasterDataLink |
| 350 | Destroy | Free the datalink instance from memory |

10.40.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------|--|
| 350 | FieldNames | rw | List of fieldnames that make up the master-detail relationship |
| 351 | Fields | r | List of fields as specified in FieldNames |
| 351 | OnMasterChange | rw | Called whenever the master dataset data changes |
| 351 | OnMasterDisable | rw | Called whenever the master dataset is disabled |

10.40.4 TMasterDataLink.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of TMasterDataLink

Declaration: constructor `Create(ADataset: TDataSet); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of TMasterDataLink. The `ADataset` parameter is the detail dataset in the master-detail relation: it is saved in the `DetailDataset` ([298](#)) property. The master dataset must be set through the `DataSource` ([249](#)) property, and is usually set by the application programmer.

See also: `TDetailDataLink.DetailDataset` ([298](#)), `TDataLink.DataSource` ([249](#))

10.40.5 TMasterDataLink.Destroy

Synopsis: Free the datalink instance from memory

Declaration: destructor `Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the resources used by TMasterDataLink and then calls the inherited destructor.

See also: `TMasterDataLink.Create` ([350](#))

10.40.6 TMasterDataLink.FieldNames

Synopsis: List of fieldnames that make up the master-detail relationship

Declaration: Property `FieldNames : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `FieldNames` is a semicolon-separated list of fieldnames in the master dataset (`TDataLink.Dataset` ([249](#))) on which the master-detail relationship is based. Setting this property will fill the `TMasterDataLink.Fields` ([351](#)) property with the field instances of the master dataset.

See also: `TMasterDataLink.Fields` ([351](#)), `TDataLink.Dataset` ([249](#)), `TDataSet.GetFieldList` ([264](#))

10.40.7 TMasterDataLink.Fields

Synopsis: List of fields as specified in `FieldNames`

Declaration: `Property Fields : TList`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Fields` is filled with the `TField` (298) instances from the master dataset (`TDatalink.Dataset` (249)) when the `FieldNames` (350) property is set, and when the master dataset opens.

See also: `TField` (298), `TMasterDataLink.FieldNames` (350)

10.40.8 TMasterDataLink.OnMasterChange

Synopsis: Called whenever the master dataset data changes

Declaration: `Property OnMasterChange : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnMasterChange` is called whenever the field values in the master dataset changes, i.e. when it becomes active, or when the current record changes. If the `TMasterDataLink.Fields` (351) list is empty, `TMasterDataLink.OnMasterDisable` (351) is called instead.

See also: `TMasterDataLink.OnMasterDisable` (351)

10.40.9 TMasterDataLink.OnMasterDisable

Synopsis: Called whenever the master dataset is disabled

Declaration: `Property OnMasterDisable : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnMasterDisable` is called whenever the master dataset is disabled, or when it is active and the field list is empty.

See also: `TMasterDataLink.OnMasterChange` (351)

10.41 TMasterParamsDataLink

10.41.1 Description

`TMasterParamsDataLink` is a `TDataLink` (245) descendent that can be used to establish a master-detail relationship between 2 `TDataset` instances where the detail dataset is parametrized using a `TParams` instance. It takes care of closing and opening the detail dataset and copying the parameter values from the master dataset whenever the data in the master dataset changes.

10.41.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| 352 | CopyParamsFromMaster | Copy parameter values from master dataset. |
| 352 | Create | Initialize a new TMasterParamsDataLink instance |
| 352 | RefreshParamNames | Refresh the list of parameter names |

10.41.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 353 | Params | rw | Parameters of detail dataset. |

10.41.4 TMasterParamsDataLink.Create

Synopsis: Initialize a new TMasterParamsDataLink instance

Declaration: `constructor Create(ADataset: TDataSet); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` first calls the inherited constructor using `ADataset`, and then looks for a property named `Params` of type `TParams` ([368](#)) in the published properties of `ADataset` and assigns it to the `Params` ([353](#)) property.

See also: `TDataSet` ([250](#)), `TParams` ([368](#)), `TMasterParamsDataLink.Params` ([353](#))

10.41.5 TMasterParamsDataLink.RefreshParamNames

Synopsis: Refresh the list of parameter names

Declaration: `procedure RefreshParamNames; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `RefreshParamNames` scans the `Params` ([353](#)) property and sets the `FieldNames` ([350](#)) property to the list of parameter names.

See also: `TMasterParamsDataLink.Params` ([353](#)), `TMasterDataLink.FieldNames` ([350](#))

10.41.6 TMasterParamsDataLink.CopyParamsFromMaster

Synopsis: Copy parameter values from master dataset.

Declaration: `procedure CopyParamsFromMaster(CopyBound: Boolean); Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `CopyParamsFromMaster` calls `TParams.CopyParamValuesFromDataset` ([371](#)), passing it the master dataset: it provides the parameters of the detail dataset with their new values. If `CopyBound` is `false`, then only parameters with their `Bound` ([364](#)) property set to `False` are copied. If it is `True` then the value is set for all parameters.

Errors: If the master dataset does not have a corresponding field for each parameter, then an exception will be raised.

See also: `TParams.CopyParamValuesFromDataset` ([371](#)), `TParam.Bound` ([364](#))

10.41.7 TMasterParamsDataLink.Params

Synopsis: Parameters of detail dataset.

Declaration: `Property Params : TParams`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Params` is the `TParams` instance of the detail dataset. If the detail dataset contains a property named `Params` of type `TParams`, then it will be set when the `TMasterParamsDataLink` instance was created. If the property is not published, or has another name, then the `Params` property must be set in code.

See also: [Tparams \(368\)](#), [TMasterParamsDataLink.Create \(352\)](#)

10.42 TMemoField

10.42.1 Description

`TMemoField` is the class used when a dataset must manage memo (Text BLOB) data. (`TField.DataType (310)` equals `ftMemo`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField (298)` class. All methods to be able to work with memo fields have been implemented in the `TBlobField (227)` parent class.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TMemoField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each memo field when a dataset is opened.

10.42.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 353 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of the <code>TMemoField</code> class |

10.42.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------|--|
| 354 | <code>Transliterate</code> | | Should the contents of the field be transliterated |

10.42.4 TMemoField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TMemoField` class

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TMemoField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField (298)` properties to configure the instance for working with memo values.

See also: [TField \(298\)](#)

10.42.5 TMemoField.Transliterate

Synopsis: Should the contents of the field be transliterated

Declaration: `Property Transliterate :`

Visibility: `published`

Access:

Description: `Transliterate` is redefined from `TBlobField.Transliterate` (230) with a default value of `true`.

See also: `TBlobField.Transliterate` (230), `TStringField.Transliterate` (374), `TDataset.Translate` (270)

10.43 TNamedItem

10.43.1 Description

`NamedItem` is a `TCollectionItem` (??) descendent which introduces a `Name` (354) property. It automatically returns the value of the `Name` property as the value of the `DisplayName` (354) property.

10.43.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 354 | <code>DisplayName</code> | <code>rw</code> | Display name |
| 354 | <code>Name</code> | <code>rw</code> | Name of the item |

10.43.3 TNamedItem.DisplayName

Synopsis: Display name

Declaration: `Property DisplayName : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `DisplayName` is declared in `TCollectionItem` (??), and is made `public` in `TNamedItem`. The value equals the value of the `Name` (354) property.

See also: `TNamedItem.Name` (354)

10.43.4 TNamedItem.Name

Synopsis: Name of the item

Declaration: `Property Name : String`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Name` is the name of the item in the collection. This property is also used as the value for the `DisplayName` (354) property. If the `TNamedItem` item is owned by a `TDefCollection` (296) collection, then the name must be unique, i.e. each `Name` value may appear only once in the collection.

See also: `TNamedItem.DisplayName` (354), `TDefCollection` (296)

10.44 TNumericField

10.44.1 Description

TNumericField is an abstract class which overrides some of the methods of TField (298) to handle numerical data. It also introduces or publishes a couple of properties that are only relevant in the case of numerical data, such as TNumericField.DisplayFormat (208) and TNumericField.EditFormat (208).

Since TNumericField is an abstract class, it must never be instantiated directly. Instead one of the descendent classes should be created.

10.44.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 355 | Create | Create a new instance of TNumericField |

10.44.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|---|
| 355 | Alignment | | Alignment of the field |
| 356 | DisplayFormat | rw | Format string for display of numerical data |
| 356 | EditFormat | rw | Format string for editing of numerical data |

10.44.4 TNumericField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of TNumericField

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: Create calls the inherited constructor and then initializes the TField.Alignment (315) property with

See also: TField.Alignment (315)

10.44.5 TNumericField.Alignment

Synopsis: Alignment of the field

Declaration: `Property Alignment :`

Visibility: published

Access:

Description: Alignment is published by TNumericField with taRightJustify as a default value.

See also: TField.Alignment (315)

10.44.6 TNumericField.DisplayFormat

Synopsis: Format string for display of numerical data

Declaration: `Property DisplayFormat : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DisplayFormat` specifies a format string (such as used by the `Format (??)` and `FormatFloat (??)` functions) for display purposes: the `TField.DisplayText (311)` property will use this property to format the field's value. Which formatting function (and, consequently, which format can be entered) is used depends on the descendent of the `TNumericField` class.

See also: `#rtl.sysutils.Format (??)`, `#rtl.sysutils.FormatFloat (??)`, `TField.DisplayText (311)`, `TNumericField.EditFormat (356)`

10.44.7 TNumericField.EditFormat

Synopsis: Format string for editing of numerical data

Declaration: `Property EditFormat : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `EditFormat` specifies a format string (such as used by the `Format (??)` and `FormatFloat (??)` functions) for editing purposes: the `TField.Text (313)` property will use this property to format the field's value. Which formatting function (and, consequently, which format can be entered) is used depends on the descendent of the `TNumericField` class.

See also: `#rtl.sysutils.Format (??)`, `#rtl.sysutils.FormatFloat (??)`, `TField.Text (313)`, `TNumericField.DisplayFormat (356)`

10.45 TParam

10.45.1 Description

`TParam` is one item in a `TParams (368)` collection. It describes the name (`TParam.Name (366)`), type (`ParamType (367)`) and value (`TParam.Value (365)`) of a parameter in a parametrized query or stored procedure. Under normal circumstances, it should never be necessary to create a `TParam` instance manually; the `TDataset (250)` descendent that owns the parameters should have created all necessary `TParam` instances.

10.45.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|------------------|--|
| 358 | Assign | Assign one parameter instance to another |
| 358 | AssignField | Copy value from field instance |
| 359 | AssignFieldValue | Assign field value to the parameter. |
| 359 | AssignFromField | Copy field type and value |
| 358 | AssignToField | Assign parameter value to field |
| 359 | Clear | Clear the parameter value |
| 357 | Create | Create a new parameter value |
| 359 | GetData | Get the parameter value from a memory buffer |
| 360 | GetDataSize | Return the size of the data. |
| 360 | LoadFromFile | Load a parameter value from file |
| 360 | LoadFromStream | Load a parameter value from stream |
| 360 | SetBlobData | Set BLOB data |
| 361 | SetData | Set the parameter value from a buffer |

10.45.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|--------------|--------|--|
| 361 | AsBlob | rw | Return parameter value as a blob |
| 361 | AsBoolean | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a boolean value |
| 361 | AsCurrency | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a currency value |
| 362 | AsDate | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a date (TDateTime) value |
| 362 | AsDateTime | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a date/time (TDateTime) value |
| 362 | AsFloat | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a floating-point value |
| 362 | AsInteger | rw | Get/Set parameter value as an integer (32-bit) value |
| 363 | AsLargeInt | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a 64-bit integer value |
| 363 | AsMemo | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a memo (string) value |
| 363 | AsSmallInt | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a smallint value |
| 363 | AsString | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a string value |
| 364 | AsTime | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a time (TDateTime) value |
| 366 | AsWideString | rw | Get/Set the value as a widestring |
| 364 | AsWord | rw | Get/Set parameter value as a word value |
| 364 | Bound | rw | Is the parameter value bound (set to fixed value) |
| 364 | Dataset | r | Dataset to which this parameter belongs |
| 366 | DataType | rw | Data type of the parameter |
| 365 | IsNull | r | Is the parameter empty |
| 366 | Name | rw | Name of the parameter |
| 365 | NativeStr | rw | No description available |
| 366 | NumericScale | rw | Numeric scale |
| 367 | ParamType | rw | Type of parameter |
| 367 | Precision | rw | Precision of the BCD value |
| 367 | Size | rw | Size of the parameter |
| 365 | Text | rw | Read or write the value of the parameter as a string |
| 365 | Value | rws | Value as a variant |

10.45.4 TParam.Create

Synopsis: Create a new parameter value

Declaration: constructor Create(ACollection: TCollection); Override; Overload
 constructor Create(AParams: TParams; AParamType: TParamType); Overload
 ; Reintroduce

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` first calls the inherited `create`, and then initializes the parameter properties. The first form creates a default parameter, the second form is a convenience function and initializes a parameter of a certain kind (`AParamType`), in which case the owning `TParams` collection must be specified in `AParams`

See also: `TParams` (368)

10.45.5 TParam.Assign

Synopsis: Assign one parameter instance to another

Declaration: `procedure Assign(Source: TPersistent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Assign` copies the `Name`, `ParamType`, `Bound`, `Value`, `SizePrecision` and `NumericScale` properties from `ASource` if it is of type `TParam`. If `Source` is of type `TField` (298), then it is passed to `TParam.AssignField` (358). If `Source` is of type `TStrings`, then it is assigned to `TParams.AsMemo` (368).

Errors: If `Source` is not of type `TParam`, `TField` or `TStrings`, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TField` (298), `TParam.Name` (366), `TParam.Bound` (364), `TParam.NumericScale` (366), `TParam.ParamType` (367), `TParam.value` (365), `TParam.Size` (367), `TParam.AssignField` (358), `TParam.AsMemo` (363)

10.45.6 TParam.AssignField

Synopsis: Copy value from field instance

Declaration: `procedure AssignField(Field: TField)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AssignField` copies the `Field`, `FieldName` (317) and `Value` (314) to the parameter instance. The parameter is bound after this operation. If `Field` is `Nil` then the parameter name and value are cleared.

See also: `TParam.assign` (358), `TParam.AssignToField` (358), `TParam.AssignFieldValue` (359)

10.45.7 TParam.AssignToField

Synopsis: Assign parameter value to field

Declaration: `procedure AssignToField(Field: TField)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AssignToField` copies the parameter value (365) to the field instance. If `Field` is `Nil`, nothing happens.

Errors: An `EDatabaseError` (220) exception is raised if the field has an unsupported field type (for types `ftCursor`, `ftArray`, `ftDataset`, `ftReference`).

See also: `TParam.Assign` (358), `TParam.AssignField` (358), `TParam.AssignFromField` (359)

10.45.8 TParam.AssignFieldValue

Synopsis: Assign field value to the parameter.

Declaration: `procedure AssignFieldValue(Field: TField; const AValue: Variant)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AssignFieldValue` copies only the field type from `Field` and the value from the `AValue` parameter. It sets the `TParam.Bound` (364) bound parameter to `True`. This method is called from `TParam.AssignField` (358).

See also: `TField` (298), `TParam.AssignField` (358), `TParam.Bound` (364)

10.45.9 TParam.AssignFromField

Synopsis: Copy field type and value

Declaration: `procedure AssignFromField(Field: TField)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AssignFromField` copies the field value (314) and data type (`TField.DataType` (310)) to the parameter instance. If `Field` is `Nil`, nothing happens. This is the reverse operation of `TParam.AssignToField` (358).

Errors: An `EDatabaseError` (220) exception is raised if the field has an unsupported field type (for types `ftCursor`, `ftArray`, `ftDataset`, `ftReference`).

See also: `TParam.Assign` (358), `TParam.AssignField` (358), `TParam.AssignToField` (358)

10.45.10 TParam.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the parameter value

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: public

Description: `Clear` clears the parameter value, it is set to `UnAssigned`. The `Datatype`, parameter type or name are not touched.

See also: `TParam.Value` (365), `TParam.Name` (366), `TParam.ParamType` (367), `TParam.DataType` (366)

10.45.11 TParam.GetData

Synopsis: Get the parameter value from a memory buffer

Declaration: `procedure GetData(Buffer: Pointer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetData` retrieves the parameter value and stores it in `buffer`. It uses the same data layout as `TField` (298), and can be used to copy the parameter value to a record buffer.

Errors: Only basic field types are supported. Using an unsupported field type will result in an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception.

See also: `TParam.SetData` (361), `TField` (298)

10.45.12 TParam.GetDataSize

Synopsis: Return the size of the data.

Declaration: `function GetDataSize : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `GetDataSize` returns the size (in bytes) needed to store the current value of the parameter.

Errors: For an unsupported data type, an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception is raised when this function is called.

See also: `TParam.GetData` (359), `TParam.SetData` (361)

10.45.13 TParam.LoadFromFile

Synopsis: Load a parameter value from file

Declaration: `procedure LoadFromFile(const FileName: String; BlobType: TBlobType)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `LoadFromFile` can be used to load a BLOB-type parameter from a file named `FileName`. The `BlobType` parameter can be used to set the exact data type of the parameter: it must be one of the BLOB data types. This function simply creates a `TFileStream` instance and passes it to `TParam.LoadFromStream` (360).

Errors: If the specified `FileName` is not a valid file, or the file is not readable, an exception will occur.

See also: `TParam.LoadFromStream` (360), `TBlobType` (210), `TParam.SaveToFile` (356)

10.45.14 TParam.LoadFromStream

Synopsis: Load a parameter value from stream

Declaration: `procedure LoadFromStream(Stream: TStream; BlobType: TBlobType)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `LoadFromStream` can be used to load a BLOB-type parameter from a stream. The `BlobType` parameter can be used to set the exact data type of the parameter: it must be one of the BLOB data types.

Errors: If the stream does not support taking the `Size` of the stream, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TParam.LoadFromFile` (360), `TParam.SaveToStream` (356)

10.45.15 TParam.SetBlobData

Synopsis: Set BLOB data

Declaration: `procedure SetBlobData(Buffer: Pointer; ASize: Integer)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `SetBlobData` reads the value of a BLOB type parameter from a memory buffer: the data is read from the memory buffer `Buffer` and is assumed to be `Size` bytes long.

Errors: No checking is performed on the validity of the data buffer. If the data buffer is invalid or the size is wrong, an exception may occur.

See also: `TParam.LoadFromStream` (360)

10.45.16 TParam.SetData

Synopsis: Set the parameter value from a buffer

Declaration: `procedure SetData(Buffer: Pointer)`

Visibility: public

Description: `SetData` performs the reverse operation of `TParam.GetData` (359): it reads the parameter value from the memory area pointed to by `Buffer`. The size of the data read is determined by `TParam.GetDataSize` (360) and the type of data by `TParam.DataType` (366): it is the same storage mechanism used by `TField` (298), and so can be used to copy the value from a `TDataset` (250) record buffer.

Errors: Not all field types are supported. If an unsupported field type is encountered, an `EDatabaseError` (220) exception is raised.

See also: `TDataset` (250), `TParam.GetData` (359), `TParam.DataType` (366), `TParam.GetDataSize` (360)

10.45.17 TParam.AsBlob

Synopsis: Return parameter value as a blob

Declaration: `Property AsBlob : TBlobData`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsBlob` returns the parameter value as a blob: currently this is a string. It can be set to set the parameter value.

See also: `TParam.AsString` (363)

10.45.18 TParam.AsBoolean

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a boolean value

Declaration: `Property AsBoolean : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsBoolean` will return the parameter value as a boolean value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to `ftBoolean`.

See also: `TParam.DataType` (366), `TParam.Value` (365)

10.45.19 TParam.AsCurrency

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a currency value

Declaration: `Property AsCurrency : Currency`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsCurrency` will return the parameter value as a currency value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to `ftCurrency`.

See also: `TParam.AsFloat` (362), `TParam.DataType` (366), `TParam.Value` (365)

10.45.20 TParam.AsDate

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a date (TDateTime) value

Declaration: Property AsDate : TDateTime

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: AsDate will return the parameter value as a date value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to ftDate.

See also: TParam.AsDateTime (362), TParam.AsTime (364), TParam.DataType (366), TParam.Value (365)

10.45.21 TParam.AsDateTime

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a date/time (TDateTime) value

Declaration: Property AsDateTime : TDateTime

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: AsDateTime will return the parameter value as a TDateTime value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to ftDateTime.

See also: TParam.AsDate (362), TParam.asTime (364), TParam.DataType (366), TParam.Value (365)

10.45.22 TParam.AsFloat

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a floating-point value

Declaration: Property AsFloat : Double

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: AsFloat will return the parameter value as a double floating-point value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to ftFloat.

See also: TParam.AsCurrency (361), TParam.DataType (366), TParam.Value (365)

10.45.23 TParam.AsInteger

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as an integer (32-bit) value

Declaration: Property AsInteger : LongInt

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: AsInteger will return the parameter value as a 32-bit signed integer value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to ftInteger.

See also: TParam.AsLargeInt (363), TParam.AsSmallInt (363), TParam.AsWord (364), TParam.DataType (366), TParam.Value (365)

10.45.24 TParam.AsLargeInt

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a 64-bit integer value

Declaration: `Property AsLargeInt : LargeInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsLargeInt` will return the parameter value as a 64-bit signed integer value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to `ftLargeInt`.

See also: `TParam.AsInteger` (362), `TParam.AsSmallInt` (363), `TParam.AsWord` (364), `TParam.DataType` (366), `TParam.Value` (365)

10.45.25 TParam.AsMemo

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a memo (string) value

Declaration: `Property AsMemo : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsMemo` will return the parameter value as a memo (string) value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to `ftMemo`.

See also: `TParam.AsString` (363), `TParam.LoadFromStream` (360), `TParam.SaveToStream` (356), `TParam.DataType` (366), `TParam.Value` (365)

10.45.26 TParam.AsSmallInt

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a smallint value

Declaration: `Property AsSmallInt : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsSmallInt` will return the parameter value as a 16-bit signed integer value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to `ftSmallInt`.

See also: `TParam.AsInteger` (362), `TParam.AsLargeInt` (363), `TParam.AsWord` (364), `TParam.DataType` (366), `TParam.Value` (365)

10.45.27 TParam.AsString

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a string value

Declaration: `Property AsString : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsString` will return the parameter value as a string value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to `ftString`.

See also: `TParam.DataType` (366), `TParam.Value` (365)

10.45.28 TParam.AsTime

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a time (TDateTime) value

Declaration: `Property AsTime : TDateTime`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `AsTime` will return the parameter value as a time (TDateTime) value. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to `ftTime`.

See also: [TParam.AsDate \(362\)](#), [TParam.AsDateTime \(362\)](#), [TParam.DataType \(366\)](#), [TParam.Value \(365\)](#)

10.45.29 TParam.AsWord

Synopsis: Get/Set parameter value as a word value

Declaration: `Property AsWord : LongInt`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `AsWord` will return the parameter value as an integer. If it is written, the value is set to the specified value and the data type is set to `ftWord`.

See also: [TParam.AsInteger \(362\)](#), [TParam.AsLargeInt \(363\)](#), [TParam.AsSmallint \(363\)](#), [TParam.DataType \(366\)](#), [TParam.Value \(365\)](#)

10.45.30 TParam.Bound

Synopsis: Is the parameter value bound (set to fixed value)

Declaration: `Property Bound : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Bound` indicates whether a parameter has received a fixed value: setting the parameter value will set `Bound` to `True`. When creating master-detail relationships, parameters with their `Bound` property set to `True` will not receive a value from the master dataset: their value will be kept. Only parameters where `Bound` is `False` will receive a new value from the master dataset.

See also: [TParam.DataType \(366\)](#), [TParam.Value \(365\)](#)

10.45.31 TParam.Dataset

Synopsis: Dataset to which this parameter belongs

Declaration: `Property Dataset : TDataSet`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Dataset` is the dataset that owns the `TParams (368)` instance of which this `TParam` instance is a part. It is `Nil` if the collection is not set, or is not a `TParams` instance.

See also: [TDataSet \(250\)](#), [TParams \(368\)](#)

10.45.32 TParam.IsNull

Synopsis: Is the parameter empty

Declaration: `Property IsNull : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `IsNull` is `True` if the value is empty or not set (`Null` or `UnAssigned`).

See also: `TParam.Clear` (359), `TParam.Value` (365)

10.45.33 TParam.NativeStr

Synopsis: No description available

Declaration: `Property NativeStr : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: No description available

10.45.34 TParam.Text

Synopsis: Read or write the value of the parameter as a string

Declaration: `Property Text : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsText` returns the same value as `TParam.AsString` (363), but, when written, does not set the data type: instead, it attempts to convert the value to the type specified in `TParam.DataType` (366).

See also: `TParam.AsString` (363), `TParam.DataType` (366)

10.45.35 TParam.Value

Synopsis: Value as a variant

Declaration: `Property Value : Variant`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Value` returns (or sets) the value as a variant value.

See also: `TParam.DataType` (366)

10.45.36 TParam.AsWideString

Synopsis: Get/Set the value as a widestring

Declaration: `Property AsWideString : WideString`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AsWideString` returns the parameter value as a widestring value. Setting the property will set the value of the parameter and will also set the `DataType` (366) to `ftWideString`.

See also: `TParam.AsString` (363), `TParam.Value` (365), `TParam.DataType` (366)

10.45.37 TParam.DataType

Synopsis: Data type of the parameter

Declaration: `Property DataType : TFieldType`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `DataType` is the current data type of the parameter value. It is set automatically when one of the various `AsXYZ` properties is written, or when the value is copied from a field value.

See also: `TParam.IsNull` (365), `TParam.Value` (365), `TParam.AssignField` (358)

10.45.38 TParam.Name

Synopsis: Name of the parameter

Declaration: `Property Name : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Name` is the name of the parameter. The name is usually determined automatically from the SQL statement the parameter is part of. Each parameter name should appear only once in the collection.

See also: `TParam.DataType` (366), `TParam.Value` (365), `TParams.ParamByName` (370)

10.45.39 TParam.NumericScale

Synopsis: Numeric scale

Declaration: `Property NumericScale : Integer`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `NumericScale` can be used to store the numerical scale for BCD values. It is currently unused.

See also: `TParam.Precision` (367), `TParam.Size` (367)

10.45.40 TParam.ParamType

Synopsis: Type of parameter

Declaration: `Property ParamType : TParamType`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ParamType` specifies the type of parameter: is the parameter value written to the database engine, or is it received from the database engine, or both ? It can have the following value:

ptUnknownUnknown type

ptInputInput parameter

ptOutputOutput paramete, filled on result

ptInputOutputInput/output parameter

ptResultResult parameter

The `ParamType` property is usually set by the database engine that creates the parameter instances.

See also: [TParam.DataType \(366\)](#), [TParam.DataSize \(356\)](#), [TParam.Name \(366\)](#)

10.45.41 TParam.Precision

Synopsis: Precision of the BCD value

Declaration: `Property Precision : Integer`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Precision` can be used to store the numerical precision for BCD values. It is currently unused.

See also: [TParam.NumericScale \(366\)](#), [TParam.Size \(367\)](#)

10.45.42 TParam.Size

Synopsis: Size of the parameter

Declaration: `Property Size : Integer`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Size` is the declared size of the parameter. In the current implementation, this parameter is ignored other than copying it from `TField.DataSize (310)` in the `TParam.AssignFieldValue (359)` method. The actual size can be retrieved through the `TParam.Datasize (356)` property.

See also: [TParam.Datasize \(356\)](#), [TField.DataSize \(310\)](#), [TParam.AssignFieldValue \(359\)](#)

10.46 TParams

10.46.1 Description

`TParams` is a collection of `TParam` (356) values. It is used to specify parameter values for parametrized SQL statements, but is also used to specify parameter values for stored procedures. Its default property is an array of `TParam` (356) values. The class also offers a method to scan a SQL statement for parameter names and replace them with placeholders understood by the SQL engine: `TParams.ParseSQL` (370).

`TDataset` (250) itself does not use `TParams`. The class is provided in the `DB` unit, so all `TDataset` descendants that need some kind of parametrization make use of the same interface. The `TMasterParamsDataLink` (351) class can be used to establish a master-detail relationship between a parameter-aware `TDataset` instance and another dataset; it will automatically refresh parameter values when the fields in the master dataset change. To this end, the `TParams.CopyParamValuesFromDataset` (371) method exists.

10.46.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|---|--|
| 369 | <code>AddParam</code> | Add a parameter to the collection |
| 369 | <code>AssignValues</code> | Copy values from another collection |
| 371 | <code>CopyParamValuesFromDataset</code> | Copy parameter values from a the fields in a dataset. |
| 368 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of <code>TParams</code> |
| 369 | <code>CreateParam</code> | Create and add a new parameter to the collection |
| 369 | <code>FindParam</code> | Find a parameter with given name |
| 370 | <code>GetParamList</code> | Fetch a list of <code>TParam</code> instances |
| 370 | <code>IsEqual</code> | Is the list of parameters equal |
| 370 | <code>ParamByName</code> | Return a parameter by name |
| 370 | <code>ParseSQL</code> | Parse SQL statement, replacing parameter names with SQL parameter placeholders |
| 371 | <code>RemoveParam</code> | Remove a parameter from the collection |

10.46.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|--------------------------|--------|--|
| 372 | <code>Dataset</code> | r | Dataset that owns the <code>TParams</code> instance |
| 372 | <code>Items</code> | rw | Indexed access to <code>TParams</code> instances in the collection |
| 372 | <code>ParamValues</code> | rw | Named access to the parameter values. |

10.46.4 TParams.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TParams`

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TPersistent); Overload`
`constructor Create; Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of `TParams`. It calls the inherited constructor with `TParam` (356) as the collection's item class, and sets `AOwner` as the owner of the collection. Usually, `AOwner` will be the dataset that needs parameters.

See also: `#rtl.classes.collection.create` (?), `TParam` (356)

10.46.5 TParams.AddParam

Synopsis: Add a parameter to the collection

Declaration: `procedure AddParam(Value: TParam)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AddParam` adds `Value` to the collection.

Errors: No checks are done on the `TParam` instance. If it is `Nil`, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TParam` (356), `#rtl.classes.tcollection.add` (??)

10.46.6 TParams.AssignValues

Synopsis: Copy values from another collection

Declaration: `procedure AssignValues(Value: TParams)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AssignValues` examines all `TParam` (356) instances in `Value`, and looks in its own items for a `TParam` instance with the same name. If it is found, then the value and type of the parameter are copied (using `TParam.Assign` (358)). If it is not found, nothing is done.

See also: `TParam` (356), `TParam.Assign` (358)

10.46.7 TParams.CreateParam

Synopsis: Create and add a new parameter to the collection

Declaration: `function CreateParam(FldType: TFieldType; const ParamName: String; ParamType: TParamType) : TParam`

Visibility: public

Description: `CreateParam` creates a new `TParam` (356) instance with datatype equal to `fldType`, `Name` equal to `ParamName` and sets its `ParamType` property to `ParamType`. The parameter is then added to the collection.

See also: `TParam` (356), `TParam.Name` (366), `TParam.Datatype` (366), `TParam.Paramtype` (367)

10.46.8 TParams.FindParam

Synopsis: Find a parameter with given name

Declaration: `function FindParam(const Value: String) : TParam`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindParam` searches the collection for the `TParam` (356) instance with property `Name` equal to `Value`. It will return the last instance with the given name, and will only return one instance. If no match is found, `Nil` is returned.

Remark: A `TParams` collection can have 2 `TParam` instances with the same name: no checking for duplicates is done.

See also: `TParam.Name` (366), `TParams.ParamByName` (370), `TParams.GetParamList` (370)

10.46.9 TParams.GetParamList

Synopsis: Fetch a list of TParam instances

Declaration: `procedure GetParamList(List: TList; const ParamNames: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetParamList` examines the parameter names in the semicolon-separated list `ParamNames`. It searches each TParam instance from the names in the list and adds it to `List`.

Errors: If the `ParamNames` list contains an unknown parameter name, then an exception is raised. Whitespace is not discarded.

See also: TParam (356), TParam.Name (366), TParams.ParamByName (370)

10.46.10 TParams.IsEqual

Synopsis: Is the list of parameters equal

Declaration: `function IsEqual(Value: TParams) : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `IsEqual` compares the parameter count of `Value` and if it matches, it compares all TParam items of `Value` with the items it owns. If all items are equal (all properties match), then `True` is returned. The items are compared on index, so the order is important.

See also: TParam (356)

10.46.11 TParams.ParamByName

Synopsis: Return a parameter by name

Declaration: `function ParamByName(const Value: String) : TParam`

Visibility: public

Description: `ParamByName` searches the collection for the TParam (356) instance with property `Name` equal to `Value`. It will return the last instance with the given name, and will only return one instance. If no match is found, an exception is raised.

Remark: A TParams collection can have 2 TParam instances with the same name: no checking for duplicates is done.

See also: TParam.Name (366), TParams.FindParam (369), TParams.GetParamList (370)

10.46.12 TParams.ParseSQL

Synopsis: Parse SQL statement, replacing parameter names with SQL parameter placeholders

Declaration: `function ParseSQL(SQL: String; DoCreate: Boolean) : String; Overload`
`function ParseSQL(SQL: String; DoCreate: Boolean; EscapeSlash: Boolean;`
`EscapeRepeat: Boolean; ParameterStyle: TParamStyle)`
`: String; Overload`
`function ParseSQL(SQL: String; DoCreate: Boolean; EscapeSlash: Boolean;`
`EscapeRepeat: Boolean; ParameterStyle: TParamStyle;`
`var ParamBinding: TParamBinding) : String; Overload`

```
function ParseSQL(SQL: String; DoCreate: Boolean; EscapeSlash: Boolean;
    EscapeRepeat: Boolean; ParameterStyle: TParamStyle;
    var ParamBinding: TParamBinding;
    var ReplaceString: String) : String; Overload
```

Visibility: public

Description: ParseSQL parses the SQL statement for parameter names in the form :ParamName. It replaces them with a SQL parameter placeholder. If DoCreate is True then a TParam instance is added to the collection with the found parameter name.

The parameter placeholder is determined by the ParameterStyle property, which can have the following values:

psInterbaseParameters are specified by a ? character

psPostgreSQLParameters are specified by a \$N character.

psSimulatedParameters are specified by a \$N character.

psInterbase is the default.

If the EscapeSlash parameter is True, then backslash characters are used to quote the next character in the SQL statement. If it is False, the backslash character is regarded as a normal character.

If the EscapeRepeat parameter is True (the default) then embedded quotes in string literals are escaped by repeating themselves. If it is false then they should be quoted with backslashes.

ParamBinding, if specified, is filled with the indexes of the parameter instances in the parameter collection: for each SQL parameter placeholder, the index of the corresponding TParam instance is returned in the array.

ReplaceString, if specified, contains the placeholder used for the parameter names (by default, \$). It has effect only when ParameterStyle equals psSimulated.

The function returns the SQL statement with the parameter names replaced by placeholders.

See also: TParam (356), TParam.Name (366), TParamStyle (217)

10.46.13 TParams.RemoveParam

Synopsis: Remove a parameter from the collection

Declaration: procedure RemoveParam(Value: TParam)

Visibility: public

Description: RemoveParam removes the parameter Value from the collection, but does not free the instance.

Errors: Value must be a valid instance, or an exception will be raised.

See also: TParam (356)

10.46.14 TParams.CopyParamValuesFromDataset

Synopsis: Copy parameter values from a the fields in a dataset.

Declaration: procedure CopyParamValuesFromDataset(ADataset: TDataSet;
CopyBound: Boolean)

Visibility: public

Description: `CopyParamValuesFromDataset` assigns values to all parameters in the collection by searching in `ADataset` for fields with the same name, and assigning the value of the field to the `TParam` instances using `TParam.AssignField` (358). By default, this operation is only performed on `TParam` instances with their `Bound` (364) property set to `False`. If `CopyBound` is true, then the operation is performed on all `TParam` instances in the collection.

Errors: If, for some `TParam` instance, `ADataset` misses a field with the same name, an `EDatabaseError` exception will be raised.

See also: `TParam` (356), `TParam.Bound` (364), `TParam.AssignField` (358), `TDataset` (250), `TDataset.FieldName` (261)

10.46.15 TParams.Dataset

Synopsis: Dataset that owns the `TParams` instance

Declaration: `Property Dataset : TDataSet`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Dataset` is the `TDataset` (250) instance that was specified when the `TParams` instance was created.

See also: `TParams.Create` (368), `TDataset` (250)

10.46.16 TParams.Items

Synopsis: Indexed access to `TParams` instances in the collection

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: Integer]: TParam; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Items` is overridden by `TParams` so it has the proper type (`TParam`). The `Index` runs from 0 to `Count-1`.

See also: `TParam` (208)

10.46.17 TParams.ParamValues

Synopsis: Named access to the parameter values.

Declaration: `Property ParamValues[ParamName: String]: Variant`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ParamValues` provides access to the parameter values (`TParam.Value` (365)) by name. It is equivalent to reading and writing

`ParamByName(ParamName).Value`

See also: `TParam.Value` (365), `TParams.ParamByName` (370)

10.47 TSmallIntField

10.47.1 Description

`TSmallIntField` is the class created when a dataset must manage 16-bit signed integer data, of datatype `ftSmallInt`. It exposes no new properties, but simply overrides some methods to manage 16-bit signed integer data.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TSmallIntField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each smallint field when a dataset is opened.

10.47.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 373 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TSmallIntField</code> class. |

10.47.3 TSmallIntField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TSmallIntField` class.

Declaration: constructor `Create(AOwner: TComponent);` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TSmallIntField` ([373](#)) class. It calls the inherited constructor and then simply sets some of the `TField` ([298](#)) properties to work with 16-bit signed integer data.

See also: `TField` ([298](#))

10.48 TStringField

10.48.1 Description

`TStringField` is the class used whenever a dataset has to handle a string field type (data type `ftString`). This class overrides some of the standard `TField` ([298](#)) methods to handle string data, and introduces some properties that are only pertinent for data fields of string type. It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TStringField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each string field when a dataset is opened.

10.48.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|--------------|--|
| 374 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TStringField</code> class |
| 374 | SetFieldType | |

10.48.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|--|
| 374 | FixedChar | rw | Is the string declared with a fixed length ? |
| 375 | Size | | Maximum size of the string |
| 374 | Transliterate | rw | Should the field value be transliterated when reading or writing |
| 374 | Value | rw | Value of the field as a string |

10.48.4 TStringField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the TStringField class

Declaration: constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override

Visibility: public

Description: Create is used to create a new instance of the TStringField class. It initializes some TField (298) properties after having called the inherited constructor.

10.48.5 TStringField.SetFieldType

Declaration: procedure SetFieldType(AValue: TFieldType); Override

Visibility: public

10.48.6 TStringField.FixedChar

Synopsis: Is the string declared with a fixed length ?

Declaration: Property FixedChar : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: FixedChar is True if the underlying data engine has declared the field with a fixed length, as in a SQL CHAR() declaration: the field's value will then always be padded with as many spaces as needed to obtain the declared length of the field. If it is False then the declared length is simply the maximum length for the field, and no padding with spaces is performed.

10.48.7 TStringField.Transliterate

Synopsis: Should the field value be transliterated when reading or writing

Declaration: Property Transliterate : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: Transliterate can be set to True if the field's contents should be transliterated prior to copying it from or to the field's buffer. Transliteration is done by a method of TDataset: TDataset.Translate (270).

See also: TDataset.Translate (270)

10.48.8 TStringField.Value

Synopsis: Value of the field as a string

Declaration: Property Value : String

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Value` is overridden in `TField` to return the value of the field as a string. It returns the contents of `TField.AsString` (308) when read, or sets the `AsString` property when written to.

See also: `TField.AsString` (308), `TField.Value` (314)

10.48.9 TStringField.Size

Synopsis: Maximum size of the string

Declaration: `Property Size :`

Visibility: published

Access:

Description: `Size` is made published by the `TStringField` class so it can be set in the IDE: it is the declared maximum size of the string (in characters) and is used to calculate the size of the dataset buffer.

See also: `TField.Size` (313)

10.49 TTimeField

10.49.1 Description

`TimeField` is the class used when a dataset must manage data of type time. (`TField.DataType` (310) equals `ftTime`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField` (298) class to be able to work with time fields.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TTimeField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each time field when a dataset is opened.

10.49.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|---------------------|---|
| 375 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of a <code>TTimeField</code> class. |

10.49.3 TTimeField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TTimeField` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TTimeField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField` (298) properties to configure the instance for working with time values.

See also: `TField` (298)

10.50 TVarBytesField

10.50.1 Description

`TVarBytesField` is the class used when a dataset must manage data of variable-size binary type. (`TField.DataType` (310) equals `ftVarBytes`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField` (298) class to be able to work with variable-size byte fields.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TVarBytesField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each variable-sized binary data field when a dataset is opened.

10.50.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 376 | Create | Create a new instance of a <code>TVarBytesField</code> class. |

10.50.3 TVarBytesField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of a `TVarBytesField` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TVarBytesField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField` ([298](#)) properties to configure the instance for working with variable-size binary data values.

See also: `TField` ([298](#))

10.51 TVariantField

10.51.1 Description

`TVariantField` is the class used when a dataset must manage native variant-typed data. (`TField.DataType` ([310](#)) equals `ftVariant`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField` ([298](#)) class and overrides some of its methods to be able to work with variant data.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TVariantField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each variant field when a dataset is opened.

10.51.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 376 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TVariantField</code> class |

10.51.3 TVariantField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TVariantField` class

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TVariantField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField` ([298](#)) properties to configure the instance for working with variant values.

See also: `TField` ([298](#))

10.52 TWideMemoField

10.52.1 Description

`TWideMemoField` is the class used when a dataset must manage memo (Text BLOB) data. (`TField.DataType (310)` equals `ftWideMemo`). It initializes some of the properties of the `TField (298)` class. All methods to be able to work with widestring memo fields have been implemented in the `TBlobField (227)` parent class.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TWideMemoField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each widestring memo field when a dataset is opened.

10.52.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 377 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TWideMemoField</code> class |

10.52.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---|
| 377 | Value | rw | Value of the field's contents as a widestring |

10.52.4 TWideMemoField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TWideMemoField` class

Declaration: `constructor Create(aOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the `TWideMemoField` class. It calls the inherited destructor, and then sets some `TField (298)` properties to configure the instance for working with widestring memo values.

See also: `TField (298)`

10.52.5 TWideMemoField.Value

Synopsis: Value of the field's contents as a widestring

Declaration: `Property Value : WideString`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Value` is redefined by `TWideMemoField` as a `WideString` value. Reading and writing this property is equivalent to reading and writing the `TField.AsWideString (308)` property.

See also: `TField.Value (314)`, `Tfield.AsWideString (308)`

10.53 TWideStringField

10.53.1 Description

`TWideStringField` is the string field class instantiated for fields of data type `ftWideString`. This class overrides some of the standard `TField` (298) methods to handle widestring data, and introduces some properties that are only pertinent for data fields of widestring type. It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TWideStringField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each widestring field when a dataset is opened.

10.53.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 378 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TWideStringField</code> class. |

10.53.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| 378 | Value | rw | Value of the field as a widestring |

10.53.4 TWideStringField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TWideStringField` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(aOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` is used to create a new instance of the `TWideStringField` class. It initializes some `TField` (298) properties after having called the inherited constructor.

10.53.5 TWideStringField.Value

Synopsis: Value of the field as a widestring

Declaration: `Property Value : WideString`

Visibility: `public`

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Value` is overridden by the `TWideStringField` to return a `WideString` value. It is the same value as the `TField.AsWideString` (308) property.

See also: `TField.AsWideString` (308), `TField.Value` (314)

10.54 TWordField

10.54.1 Description

`TWordField` is the class created when a dataset must manage 16-bit unsigned integer data, of datatype `ftWord`. It exposes no new properties, but simply overrides some methods to manage 16-bit unsigned integer data.

It should never be necessary to create an instance of `TWordField` manually, a field of this class will be instantiated automatically for each word field when a dataset is opened.

10.54.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 379 | Create | Create a new instance of the TWordField class. |

10.54.3 TWordField.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the TWordField class.

Declaration: constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override

Visibility: public

Description: Create initializes a new instance of the TWordField ([378](#)) class. It calls the inherited constructor and then simply sets some of the TField ([298](#)) properties to work with 16-bit unsigned integer data.

See also: TField ([298](#))

Table 10.9: Enumeration values for type TFieldType

| Value | Explanation |
|-----------------|--|
| ftADT | ADT value |
| ftArray | Array data |
| ftAutoInc | Auto-increment integer value (4 bytes) |
| ftBCD | Binary Coded Decimal value (DECIMAL and NUMERIC SQL types) |
| ftBlob | Binary data value (no type, no size) |
| ftBoolean | Boolean value |
| ftBytes | Array of bytes value, fixed size (untyped) |
| ftCurrency | Currency value (4 decimal points) |
| ftCursor | Cursor data value (no size) |
| ftDataSet | Dataset data (blob) |
| ftDate | Date value |
| ftDateTime | Date/Time (timestamp) value |
| ftDBaseOle | Paradox OLE field data |
| ftFixedChar | Fixed character array (string) |
| ftFixedWideChar | Fixed wide character date (2 bytes per character) |
| ftFloat | Floating point value (double) |
| ftFMTBcd | Formatted BCD (Binary Coded Decimal) value. |
| ftFmtMemo | Formatted memo ata value (no size) |
| ftGraphic | Graphical data value (no size) |
| ftGuid | GUID data value |
| ftIDispatch | Dispatch data value |
| ftInteger | Regular integer value (4 bytes, signed) |
| ftInterface | interface data value |
| ftLargeint | Large integer value (8-byte) |
| ftMemo | Binary text data (no size) |
| ftOraBlob | Oracle BLOB data |
| ftOraClob | Oracle CLOB data |
| ftParadoxOle | Paradox OLE field data (no size) |
| ftReference | Reference data |
| ftSmallint | Small integer value(1 byte, signed) |
| ftString | String data value (ansistring) |
| ftTime | Time value |
| ftTimeStamp | Timestamp data value |
| ftTypedBinary | Binary typed data (no size) |
| ftUnknown | Unknown data type |
| ftVarBytes | Array of bytes value, variable size (untyped) |
| ftVariant | Variant data value |
| ftWideMemo | Widestring memo data |
| ftWideString | Widestring (2 bytes per character) |
| ftWord | Word-sized value(2 bytes, unsigned) |

Table 10.10: Enumeration values for type TFilterOption

| Value | Explanation |
|--------------------|---|
| foCaseInsensitive | Filter case insensitively. |
| foNoPartialCompare | Do not compare values partially, always compare completely. |

Table 10.11: Enumeration values for type TGetMode

| Value | Explanation |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| gmCurrent | Retrieve the current record |
| gmNext | Retrieve the next record. |
| gmPrior | Retrieve the previous record. |

Table 10.12: Enumeration values for type TGetResult

| Value | Explanation |
|---------|---|
| grBOF | The beginning of the recordset is reached |
| grEOF | The end of the recordset is reached. |
| grError | An error occurred |
| grOK | The operation was completed successfully |

Table 10.13: Enumeration values for type TIndexOption

| Value | Explanation |
|-------------------|--|
| ixCaseInsensitive | The values in the index are sorted case-insensitively |
| ixDescending | The values in the index are sorted descending. |
| ixExpression | The values in the index are based on a calculated expression. |
| ixNonMaintained | The index is non-maintained, i.e. changing the data will not update the index. |
| ixPrimary | The index is the primary index for the data |
| ixUnique | The index is a unique index, i.e. each index value can occur only once |

Table 10.14: Enumeration values for type TLocateOption

| Value | Explanation |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| loCaseInsensitive | Perform a case-insensitive search |
| loPartialKey | Accept partial key matches |

Table 10.15: Enumeration values for type TParamStyle

| Value | Explanation |
|--------------|--|
| psInterbase | Parameters are specified by a ? character |
| psPostgreSQL | Parameters are specified by a \$N character. |
| psSimulated | Parameters are specified by a \$N character. |

Table 10.16: Enumeration values for type TParamType

| Value | Explanation |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| ptInput | Input parameter |
| ptInputOutput | Input/output parameter |
| ptOutput | Output parameter, filled on result |
| ptResult | Result parameter |
| ptUnknown | Unknown type |

Table 10.17: Enumeration values for type TProviderFlag

| Value | Explanation |
|------------|--|
| pfHidden | |
| pfInKey | Field is a key field and used in the WHERE clause of an update statement |
| pfInUpdate | Changes to the field should be propagated to the database. |
| pfInWhere | Field should be used in the WHERE clause of an update statement in case of upWhereChanged. |

Table 10.18: Enumeration values for type TResolverResponse

| Value | Explanation |
|----------|---|
| rrAbort | Abor the whole update process |
| rrApply | Replace the update with new values applied by the event handler |
| rrIgnore | Ignore the error and remove update from change log |
| rrMerge | Merge the update with existing changes on the server |
| rrSkip | Skip the current update, leave it in the change log |

Table 10.19: Enumeration values for type TUpdateAction

| Value | Explanation |
|-----------|---|
| uaAbort | The whole update operation should abort |
| uaApplied | Consider the update as applied |
| uaFail | Update operation should fail |
| uaRetry | Retry the update operation |
| uaSkip | The update of the current record should be skipped. (but not discarded) |

Table 10.20: Enumeration values for type TUpdateKind

| Value | Explanation |
|----------|--|
| ukDelete | Delete a record in the database. |
| ukInsert | insert a new record in the database. |
| ukModify | Modify an existing record in the database. |

Table 10.21: Enumeration values for type TUpdateMode

| Value | Explanation |
|----------------|--|
| upWhereAll | Use all old field values |
| upWhereChanged | Use only old field values of modified fields |
| upWhereKeyOnly | Only use key fields in the where clause. |

Table 10.22: Enumeration values for type TUpdateStatus

| Value | Explanation |
|--------------|--|
| usDeleted | Record exists in the database, but is locally deleted. |
| usInserted | Record does not yet exist in the database, but is locally inserted |
| usModified | Record exists in the database but is locally modified |
| usUnmodified | Record is unmodified |

Chapter 11

Reference for unit 'dbugintf'

11.1 Writing a debug server

Writing a debug server is relatively easy. It should instantiate a `TSimpleIPCServer` class from the `SimpleIPC` (384) unit, and use the `DebugServerID` as `ServerID` identification. This constant, as well as the record containing the message which is sent between client and server is defined in the `msgintf` unit.

The `dbugintf` unit relies on the `SimpleIPC` (384) mechanism to communicate with the debug server, hence it works on all platforms that have a functional version of that unit. It also uses `TProcess` to start the debug server if needed, so the `process` (384) unit should also be functional.

11.2 Overview

Use `dbugintf` to add debug messages to your application. The messages are not sent to standard output, but are sent to a debug server process which collects messages from various clients and displays them somehow on screen.

The unit is transparent in its use: it does not need initialization, it will start the debug server by itself if it can find it: the program should be called `debugserver` and should be in the `PATH`. When the first debug message is sent, the unit will initialize itself.

The FCL contains a sample debug server (`dbugsvr`) which can be started in advance, and which writes debug message to the console (both on Windows and Linux). The Lazarus project contains a visual application which displays the messages in a GUI.

The `dbugintf` unit relies on the `SimpleIPC` (384) mechanism to communicate with the debug server, hence it works on all platforms that have a functional version of that unit. It also uses `TProcess` to start the debug server if needed, so the `process` (384) unit should also be functional.

11.3 Constants, types and variables

11.3.1 Resource strings

```
SEntering = '> Entering '
```

String used when sending method enter message.

```
SExiting = '< Exiting '
```

String used when sending method exit message.

`SProcessID = 'Process %s'`

String used when sending identification message to the server.

`SSeparator = '>-----<'`

String used when sending a separator line.

`SServerStartFailed = 'Failed to start debugserver. (%s)'`

String used to display an error message when the start of the debug server failed

11.3.2 Constants

`SendError : String = ''`

Whenever a call encounters an exception, the exception message is stored in this variable.

11.3.3 Types

`TDebugLevel = (dlInformation, dlWarning, dlError)`

Table 11.1: Enumeration values for type TDebugLevel

| Value | Explanation |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <code>dlError</code> | Error message |
| <code>dlInformation</code> | Informational message |
| <code>dlWarning</code> | Warning message |

`TDebugLevel` indicates the severity level of the debug message to be sent. By default, an informational message is sent.

11.4 Procedures and functions

11.4.1 GetDebuggingEnabled

Synopsis: Check if sending of debug messages is enabled.

Declaration: `function GetDebuggingEnabled : Boolean`

Visibility: default

Description: `GetDebuggingEnabled` returns the value set by the last call to `SetDebuggingEnabled`. It is `True` by default.

See also: `SetDebuggingEnabled` (389), `SendDebug` (386)

11.4.2 InitDebugClient

Synopsis: Initialize the debug client.

Declaration: `function InitDebugClient : Boolean`

Visibility: default

Description: `InitDebugClient` starts the debug server and then performs all necessary initialization of the debug IPC communication channel.

Normally this function should not be called. The `SendDebug` (386) call will initialize the debug client when it is first called.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `StartDebugServer` (389)

11.4.3 SendBoolean

Synopsis: Send the value of a boolean variable

Declaration: `procedure SendBoolean(const Identifier: String;const Value: Boolean)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendBoolean` is a simple wrapper around `SendDebug` (386) which sends the name and value of a boolean value as an informational message.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendDateTime` (386), `SendInteger` (388), `SendPointer` (389)

11.4.4 SendDateTime

Synopsis: Send the value of a `TDateTime` variable.

Declaration: `procedure SendDateTime(const Identifier: String;const Value: TDateTime)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendDateTime` is a simple wrapper around `SendDebug` (386) which sends the name and value of an integer value as an informational message. The value is converted to a string using the `DateTimeToStr` (??) call.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendBoolean` (386), `SendInteger` (388), `SendPointer` (389)

11.4.5 SendDebug

Synopsis: Send a message to the debug server.

Declaration: `procedure SendDebug(const Msg: String)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendDebug` sends the message `Msg` to the debug server as an informational message (debug level `dlInformation`). If no debug server is running, then an attempt will be made to start the server first.

The binary that is started is called `debugserver` and should be somewhere on the `PATH`. A sample binary which writes received messages to standard output is included in the FCL, it is called `dbugsrv`. This binary can be renamed to `debugserver` or can be started before the program is started.

Errors: Errors are silently ignored, any exception messages are stored in `SendError` (385).

See also: `SendDebugEx` (387), `SendDebugFmt` (387), `SendDebugFmtEx` (387)

11.4.6 SendDebugEx

Synopsis: Send debug message other than informational messages

Declaration: `procedure SendDebugEx(const Msg: String; MType: TDebugLevel)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendDebugEx` allows to specify the debug level of the message to be sent in `MType`. By default, `SendDebug` (386) uses informational messages.

Other than that the function of `SendDebugEx` is equal to that of `SendDebug`

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendDebugFmt` (387), `SendDebugFmtEx` (387)

11.4.7 SendDebugFmt

Synopsis: Format and send a debug message

Declaration: `procedure SendDebugFmt(const Msg: String; const Args: Array of const)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendDebugFmt` is a utility routine which formats a message by passing `Msg` and `Args` to `Format` (??) and sends the result to the debug server using `SendDebug` (386). It exists mainly to avoid the `Format` call in calling code.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendDebugEx` (387), `SendDebugFmtEx` (387), `#rtl.sysutils.format` (??)

11.4.8 SendDebugFmtEx

Synopsis: Format and send message with alternate type

Declaration: `procedure SendDebugFmtEx(const Msg: String; const Args: Array of const; MType: TDebugLevel)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendDebugFmtEx` is a utility routine which formats a message by passing `Msg` and `Args` to `Format` (??) and sends the result to the debug server using `SendDebugEx` (387) with Debug level `MType`. It exists mainly to avoid the `Format` call in calling code.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendDebugEx` (387), `SendDebugFmt` (387), `#rtl.sysutils.format` (??)

11.4.9 SendInteger

Synopsis: Send the value of an integer variable.

Declaration: `procedure SendInteger(const Identifier: String;const Value: Integer;
HexNotation: Boolean)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendInteger` is a simple wrapper around `SendDebug` (386) which sends the name and value of an integer value as an informational message. If `HexNotation` is `True`, then the value will be displayed using hexadecimal notation.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendBoolean` (386), `SendDateTime` (386), `SendPointer` (389)

11.4.10 SendMethodEnter

Synopsis: Send method enter message

Declaration: `procedure SendMethodEnter(const MethodName: String)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendMethodEnter` sends a "Entering `MethodName`" message to the debug server. After that it increases the message indentation (currently 2 characters). By sending a corresponding `SendMethodExit` (388), the indentation of messages can be decreased again.

By using the `SendMethodEnter` and `SendMethodExit` methods at the beginning and end of a procedure/method, it is possible to visually trace program execution.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendMethodExit` (388), `SendSeparator` (389)

11.4.11 SendMethodExit

Synopsis: Send method exit message

Declaration: `procedure SendMethodExit(const MethodName: String)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendMethodExit` sends a "Exiting `MethodName`" message to the debug server. After that it decreases the message indentation (currently 2 characters). By sending a corresponding `SendMethodEnter` (388), the indentation of messages can be increased again.

By using the `SendMethodEnter` and `SendMethodExit` methods at the beginning and end of a procedure/method, it is possible to visually trace program execution.

Note that the indentation level will not be made negative.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendMethodEnter` (388), `SendSeparator` (389)

11.4.12 SendPointer

Synopsis: Send the value of a pointer variable.

Declaration: `procedure SendPointer(const Identifier: String; const Value: Pointer)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendInteger` is a simple wrapper around `SendDebug` (386) which sends the name and value of a pointer value as an informational message. The pointer value is displayed using hexadecimal notation.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendBoolean` (386), `SendDateTime` (386), `SendInteger` (388)

11.4.13 SendSeparator

Synopsis: Send a separator message

Declaration: `procedure SendSeparator`

Visibility: default

Description: `SendSeparator` is a simple wrapper around `SendDebug` (386) which sends a short horizontal line to the debug server. It can be used to visually separate execution of blocks of code or blocks of values.

Errors: None.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `SendMethodEnter` (388), `SendMethodExit` (388)

11.4.14 SetDebuggingEnabled

Synopsis: Temporary enables or disables debugging

Declaration: `procedure SetDebuggingEnabled(const AValue: Boolean)`

Visibility: default

Description: `SetDebuggingEnabled` can be used to temporarily enable or disable sending of debug messages: this allows to control the amount of messages sent to the debug server without having to remove the `SendDebug` (386) statements. By default, debugging is enabled. If set to false, debug messages are simply discarded till debugging is enabled again.

A value of `True` enables sending of debug messages. A value of `False` disables sending.

Errors: None.

See also: `GetDebuggingEnabled` (385), `SendDebug` (386)

11.4.15 StartDebugServer

Synopsis: Start the debug server

Declaration: `function StartDebugServer : Integer`

Visibility: default

Description: `StartDebugServer` attempts to start the debug server. The process started is called `debugserver` and should be located in the `PATH`.

Normally this function should not be called. The `SendDebug` (386) call will attempt to start the server by itself if it is not yet running.

Errors: On error, `False` is returned.

See also: `SendDebug` (386), `InitDebugClient` (386)

Chapter 12

Reference for unit 'dbugmsg'

12.1 Used units

Table 12.1: Used units by unit 'dbugmsg'

| Name | Page |
|---------|------|
| Classes | ?? |

12.2 Overview

`dbugmsg` is an auxiliary unit used in the `dbugintf` (384) unit. It defines the message protocol used between the debug unit and the debug server.

12.3 Constants, types and variables

12.3.1 Constants

```
DebugServerID : String = 'fpcdebugserver'
```

`DebugServerID` is a string which is used when creating the message protocol, it is used when identifying the server in the (platform dependent) client-server protocol.

```
lctError = 2
```

`lctError` is the identification of error messages.

```
lctIdentify = 3
```

`lctIdentify` is sent by the client to a server when it first connects. It's the first message, and contains the name of client application.

```
lctInformation = 0
```

`lctInformation` is the identification of informational messages.

`lctStop = -1`

`lctStop` is sent by the client to a server when it disconnects.

`lctWarning = 1`

`lctWarning` is the identification of warning messages.

12.3.2 Types

```
TDebugMessage = record
  MsgType : Integer;
  MsgTimeStamp : TDateTime;
  Msg : String;
end
```

`TDebugMessage` is a record that describes the message passed from the client to the server. It should not be passed directly in shared memory, as the string containing the message is allocated on the heap. Instead, the `WriteDebugMessageToStream` (393) and `ReadDebugMessageFromStream` (392) can be used to read or write the message from/to a stream.

12.4 Procedures and functions

12.4.1 DebugMessageName

Synopsis: Return the name of the debug message

Declaration: `function DebugMessageName(msgType: Integer) : String`

Visibility: default

Description: `DebugMessageName` returns the name of the message type. It can be used to examine the `MsgType` field of a `TDebugMessage` (392) record, and if `msgType` contains a known type, it returns a string describing this type.

Errors: If `MsgType` contains an unknown type, 'Unknown' is returned.

12.4.2 ReadDebugMessageFromStream

Synopsis: Read a message from stream

Declaration: `procedure ReadDebugMessageFromStream(AStream: TStream;
var Msg: TDebugMessage)`

Visibility: default

Description: `ReadDebugMessageFromStream` reads a `TDebugMessage` (392) record (`Msg`) from the stream `AStream`.

The record is not read in a byte-ordering safe way, i.e. it cannot be exchanged between little- and big-endian systems.

Errors: If the stream contains not enough bytes or is malformed, then an exception may be raised.

See also: `TDebugMessage` (392), `WriteDebugMessageToStream` (393)

12.4.3 WriteDebugMessageToStream

Synopsis: Write a message to stream

Declaration: `procedure WriteDebugMessageToStream(AStream: TStream;
const Msg: TDebugMessage)`

Visibility: default

Description: `WriteDebugMessageFromStream` writes a `TDebugMessage` (392) record (`Msg`) to the stream `AStream`.

The record is not written in a byte-ordering safe way, i.e. it cannot be exchanged between little- and big-endian systems.

Errors: A stream write error may occur if the stream cannot be written to.

See also: `TDebugMessage` (392), `ReadDebugMessageToStream` (391)

Chapter 13

Reference for unit 'eventlog'

13.1 Used units

Table 13.1: Used units by unit 'eventlog'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

13.2 Overview

The EventLog unit implements the TEventLog (395) component, which is a component that can be used to send log messages to the system log (if it is available) or to a file.

13.3 Constants, types and variables

13.3.1 Resource strings

```
SErrLogFailedMsg = 'Failed to log entry (Error: %s)'
```

Message used to format an error when an error exception is raised.

```
SLogCustom = 'Custom (%d)'
```

Custom message formatting string

```
SLogDebug = 'Debug'
```

Debug message name

```
SLogError = 'Error'
```

Error message name

SLogInfo = 'Info'

Informational message name

SLogWarning = 'Warning'

Warning message name

13.3.2 Types

TLogCategoryEvent = procedure(Sender: TObject; var Code: Word) of object

TLogCategoryEvent is the event type for the TEventLog.OnGetCustomCategory (402) event handler. It should return a OS event category code for the etCustom log event type in the Code parameter.

TLogCodeEvent = procedure(Sender: TObject; var Code: DWord) of object

TLogCodeEvent is the event type for the OnGetCustomEvent (402) and OnGetCustomEventID (402) event handlers. It should return a OS system log code for the etCustom log event or event ID type in the Code parameter.

TLogType = (ltSystem, ltFile)

Table 13.2: Enumeration values for type TLogType

| Value | Explanation |
|----------|--------------------|
| ltFile | Write to file |
| ltSystem | Use the system log |

TLogType determines where the log messages are written. It is the type of the TEventLog.LogType (399) property. It can have 2 values:

ltFile This is used to write all messages to file. if no system logging mechanism exists, this is used as a fallback mechanism.

ltSystem This is used to send all messages to the system log mechanism. Which log mechanism this is, depends on the operating system.

13.4 ELogError

13.4.1 Description

ELogError is the exception used in the TEventLog (395) component to indicate errors.

13.5 TEventLog

13.5.1 Description

TEventLog is a component which can be used to send messages to the system log. In case no system log exists (such as on Windows 95/98 or DOS), the messages are written to a file. Messages

can be logged using the general Log (398) call, or the specialized Warning (398), Error (398), Info (399) or Debug (399) calls, which have the event type predefined.

13.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|---------------------|---|
| 399 | Debug | Log a debug message |
| 396 | Destroy | Clean up TEventLog instance |
| 398 | Error | Log an error message to |
| 396 | EventTypeToString | Create a string representation of an event type |
| 399 | Info | Log an informational message |
| 398 | Log | Log a message to the system log. |
| 397 | RegisterMessageFile | Register message file |
| 398 | Warning | Log a warning message. |

13.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|-----------------------|--------|---|
| 400 | Active | rw | Activate the log mechanism |
| 401 | CustomLogType | rw | Custom log type ID |
| 400 | DefaultEventType | rw | Default event type for the Log (398) call. |
| 401 | EventIDOffset | rw | Offset for event ID messages identifiers |
| 400 | FileName | rw | File name for log file |
| 399 | Identification | rw | Identification string for messages |
| 399 | LogType | rw | Log type |
| 402 | OnGetCustomCategory | rw | Event to retrieve custom message category |
| 402 | OnGetCustomEvent | rw | Event to retrieve custom event Code |
| 402 | OnGetCustomEventID | rw | Event to retrieve custom event ID |
| 400 | RaiseExceptionOnError | rw | Determines whether logging errors are reported or ignored |
| 401 | TimeStampFormat | rw | Format for the timestamp string |

13.5.4 TEventLog.Destroy

Synopsis: Clean up TEventLog instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: Destroy cleans up the TEventLog instance. It cleans any log structures that might have been set up to perform logging, by setting the Active (400) property to False.

See also: TEventLog.Active (400)

13.5.5 TEventLog.EventTypeToString

Synopsis: Create a string representation of an event type

Declaration: `function EventTypeToString(E: TEventType) : String`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `EventTypeToString` converts the event type `E` to a suitable string representation for logging purposes. It's mainly used when writing messages to file, as the system log usually has it's own mechanisms for displaying the various event types.

See also: `TEventType` (394)

13.5.6 TEventLog.RegisterMessageFile

Synopsis: Register message file

Declaration: `function RegisterMessageFile(AFileName: String) : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `RegisterMessageFile` is used on Windows to register the file `AFileName` containing the formatting strings for the system messages. This should be a file containing resource strings. If `AFileName` is empty, the filename of the application binary is substituted.

When a message is logged to the windows system log, Windows looks for a formatting string in the file registered with this call.

There are 2 kinds of formatting strings:

Category strings these should be numbered from 1 to 4

1Should contain the description of the `etInfo` event type.

2Should contain the description of the `etWarning` event type.

4Should contain the description of the `etError` event type.

4Should contain the description of the `etDebug` event type.

None of these strings should have a string substitution placeholder.

The second type of strings are the **message definitions**. Their number starts at `EventIDOffset` (401) (default is 1000) and each string should have 1 placeholder.

Free Pascal comes with a `fclel.res` resource file which contains default values for the 8 strings, in english. It can be linked in the application binary with the statement

```
{$R fclel.res}
```

This file is generated from the `fclel.mc` and `fclel.rc` files that are distributed with the Free Pascal sources.

If the strings are not registered, windows will still display the event messages, but they will not be formatted nicely.

Note that while any messages logged with the event logger are displayed in the event viewern Windows locks the file registered here. This usually means that the binary is locked.

On non-windows operating systems, this call is ignored.

Errors: If `AFileName` is invalid, false is returned.

13.5.7 TEventLog.Log

Synopsis: Log a message to the system log.

```

Declaration: procedure Log(EventType: TEventType;Msg: String); Overload
             procedure Log(EventType: TEventType;Fmt: String;Args: Array of const)
                   ; Overload
             procedure Log(Msg: String); Overload
             procedure Log(Fmt: String;Args: Array of const); Overload

```

Visibility: public

Description: Log sends a log message to the system log. The message is either the parameter `Msg` as is, or is formatted from the `Fmt` and `Args` parameters. If `EventType` is specified, then it is used as the message event type. If `EventType` is omitted, then the event type is determined from `Default-EventType` (400).

If `EventType` is `etCustom`, then the `OnGetCustomEvent` (402), `OnGetCustomEventID` (402) and `OnGetCustomCategory` (402).

The other logging calls: `Info` (399), `Warning` (398), `Error` (398) and `Debug` (399) use the `Log` call to do the actual work.

See also: `TEventLog.Info` (399), `TEventLog.Warning` (398), `TEventLog.Error` (398), `TEventLog.Debug` (399), `TEventLog.OnGetCustomEvent` (402), `TEventLog.OnGetCustomEventID` (402), `TEventLog.OnGetCustomCategory` (402)

13.5.8 TEventLog.Warning

Synopsis: Log a warning message.

```

Declaration: procedure Warning(Msg: String); Overload
             procedure Warning(Fmt: String;Args: Array of const); Overload

```

Visibility: public

Description: `Warning` is a utility function which logs a message with the `etWarning` type. The message is either the parameter `Msg` as is, or is formatted from the `Fmt` and `Args` parameters.

See also: `TEventLog.Log` (398), `TEventLog.Info` (399), `TEventLog.Error` (398), `TEventLog.Debug` (399)

13.5.9 TEventLog.Error

Synopsis: Log an error message to

```

Declaration: procedure Error(Msg: String); Overload
             procedure Error(Fmt: String;Args: Array of const); Overload

```

Visibility: public

Description: `Error` is a utility function which logs a message with the `etError` type. The message is either the parameter `Msg` as is, or is formatted from the `Fmt` and `Args` parameters.

See also: `TEventLog.Log` (398), `TEventLog.Info` (399), `TEventLog.Warning` (398), `TEventLog.Debug` (399)

13.5.10 TEventLog.Debug

Synopsis: Log a debug message

Declaration: `procedure Debug(Msg: String); Overload`
`procedure Debug(Fmt: String;Args: Array of const); Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Debug` is a utility function which logs a message with the `etDebug` type. The message is either the parameter `Msg` as is, or is formatted from the `Fmt` and `Args` parameters.

See also: `TEventLog.Log` (398), `TEventLog.Info` (399), `TEventLog.Warning` (398), `TEventLog.Error` (398)

13.5.11 TEventLog.Info

Synopsis: Log an informational message

Declaration: `procedure Info(Msg: String); Overload`
`procedure Info(Fmt: String;Args: Array of const); Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Info` is a utility function which logs a message with the `etInfo` type. The message is either the parameter `Msg` as is, or is formatted from the `Fmt` and `Args` parameters.

See also: `TEventLog.Log` (398), `TEventLog.Warning` (398), `TEventLog.Error` (398), `TEventLog.Debug` (399)

13.5.12 TEventLog.Identification

Synopsis: Identification string for messages

Declaration: `Property Identification : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Identification` is used as a string identifying the source of the messages in the system log. If it is empty, the filename part of the application binary is used.

See also: `TEventLog.Active` (400), `TEventLog.TimeStampFormat` (401)

13.5.13 TEventLog.LogType

Synopsis: Log type

Declaration: `Property LogType : TLogType`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `LogType` is the type of the log: if it is `ltSystem`, then the system log is used, if it is available. If it is `ltFile` or there is no system log available, then the log messages are written to a file. The name for the log file is taken from the `FileName` (400) property.

See also: `TEventLog.FileName` (400)

13.5.14 TEventLog.Active

Synopsis: Activate the log mechanism

Declaration: Property Active : Boolean

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: Active determines whether the log mechanism is active: if set to True, the component connects to the system log mechanism, or opens the log file if needed. Any attempt to log a message while the log is not active will try to set this property to True. Disconnecting from the system log or closing the log file is done by setting the Active property to False.

If the connection to the system logger fails, or the log file cannot be opened, then setting this property may result in an exception.

See also: TEventLog.Log (398)

13.5.15 TEventLog.RaiseExceptionOnError

Synopsis: Determines whether logging errors are reported or ignored

Declaration: Property RaiseExceptionOnError : Boolean

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: RaiseExceptionOnError determines whether an error during a logging operation will be signaled with an exception or not. If set to False, errors will be silently ignored, thus not disturbing normal operation of the program.

13.5.16 TEventLog.DefaultEventType

Synopsis: Default event type for the Log (398) call.

Declaration: Property DefaultEventType : TEventType

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: DefaultEventType is the event type used by the Log (398) call if it's EventType parameter is omitted.

See also: TEventLog.Log (398)

13.5.17 TEventLog.FileName

Synopsis: File name for log file

Declaration: Property FileName : String

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `FileName` is the name of the log file used to log messages if no system logger is available or the `LogType` (394) is `ltFile`. If none is specified, then the name of the application binary is used, with the extension replaced by `.log`. The file is then located in the `/tmp` directory on unix-like systems, or in the application directory for Dos/Windows like systems.

See also: `TEventType.LogType` (394)

13.5.18 TEventLog.TimeStampFormat

Synopsis: Format for the timestamp string

Declaration: `Property TimeStampFormat : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `TimeStampFormat` is the formatting string used to create a timestamp string when writing log messages to file. It should have a format suitable for the `FormatDateTime` (??) call. If it is left empty, then `yyyy-mm-dd hh:nn:ss.zzz` is used.

See also: `TEventLog.Identification` (399)

13.5.19 TEventLog.CustomLogType

Synopsis: Custom log type ID

Declaration: `Property CustomLogType : Word`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `CustomLogType` is used in the `EventTypeToString` (396) to format the custom log event type string.

See also: `TEventLog.EventTypeToString` (396)

13.5.20 TEventLog.EventIDOffset

Synopsis: Offset for event ID messages identifiers

Declaration: `Property EventIDOffset : DWord`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `EventIDOffset` is the offset for the message formatting strings in the windows resource file. This property is ignored on other platforms.

The message strings in the file registered with the `RegisterMessageFile` (397) call are windows resource strings. They each have a unique ID, which must be communicated to windows. In the resource file distributed by Free Pascal, the resource strings are numbered from 1000 to 1004. The actual number communicated to windows is formed by adding the ordinal value of the message's eventtype to `EventIDOffset` (which is by default 1000), which means that by default, the string numbers are:

1000Custom event types

1001Information event type

1002Warning event type

1003Error event type

1004Debug event type

See also: [TEventLog.RegisterMessageFile \(397\)](#)

13.5.21 TEventLog.OnGetCustomCategory

Synopsis: Event to retrieve custom message category

Declaration: Property `OnGetCustomCategory` : `TLogCategoryEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnGetCustomCategory` is called on the windows platform to determine the category of a custom event type. It should return an ID which will be used by windows to look up the string which describes the message category in the file containing the resource strings.

See also: [TEventLog.OnGetCustomEventID \(402\)](#), [TEventLog.OnGetCustomEvent \(402\)](#)

13.5.22 TEventLog.OnGetCustomEventID

Synopsis: Event to retrieve custom event ID

Declaration: Property `OnGetCustomEventID` : `TLogCodeEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnGetCustomEventID` is called on the windows platform to determine the category of a custom event type. It should return an ID which will be used by windows to look up the string which formats the message, in the file containing the resource strings.

See also: [TEventLog.OnGetCustomCategory \(402\)](#), [TEventLog.OnGetCustomEvent \(402\)](#)

13.5.23 TEventLog.OnGetCustomEvent

Synopsis: Event to retrieve custom event Code

Declaration: Property `OnGetCustomEvent` : `TLogCodeEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnGetCustomEvent` is called on the windows platform to determine the event code of a custom event type. It should return an ID.

See also: [TEventLog.OnGetCustomCategory \(402\)](#), [TEventLog.OnGetCustomEventID \(402\)](#)

Chapter 14

Reference for unit 'ezcgi'

14.1 Used units

Table 14.1: Used units by unit 'ezcgi'

| Name | Page |
|----------|---------------------|
| Classes | ?? |
| strings | 403 |
| sysutils | ?? |

14.2 Overview

ezcgi, written by Michael Hess, provides a single class which offers simple access to the CGI environment which a CGI program operates under. It supports both GET and POST methods. It's intended for simple CGI programs which do not need full-blown CGI support. File uploads are not supported by this component.

To use the unit, a descendent of the `TEZCGI` class should be created and the `DoPost` ([406](#)) or `DoGet` ([406](#)) methods should be overridden.

14.3 Constants, types and variables

14.3.1 Constants

```
hexTable = '0123456789ABCDEF'
```

String constant used to convert a number to a hexadecimal code or back.

14.4 ECGIException

14.4.1 Description

Exception raised by `TEZcgi` ([404](#))

14.5 TEZcgi

14.5.1 Description

TEZcgi implements all functionality to analyze the CGI environment and query the variables present in it. It's main use is the exposed variables.

Programs wishing to use this class should make a descendent class of this class and override the DoPost (406) or DoGet (406) methods. To run the program, an instance of this class must be created, and it's Run (405) method should be invoked. This will analyze the environment and call the DoPost or DoGet method, depending on what HTTP method was used to invoke the program.

14.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|--------------|--|
| 404 | Create | Creates a new instance of the TEZCGI component |
| 404 | Destroy | Removes the TEZCGI component from memory |
| 406 | DoGet | Method to handle GET requests |
| 406 | DoPost | Method to handle POST requests |
| 406 | GetValue | Return the value of a request variable. |
| 405 | PutLine | Send a line of output to the web-client |
| 405 | Run | Run the CGI application. |
| 405 | WriteContent | Writes the content type to standard output |

14.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|---------------|--------|---|
| 408 | Email | rw | Email of the server administrator |
| 408 | Name | rw | Name of the server administrator |
| 407 | Names | r | Indexed array with available variable names. |
| 406 | Values | r | Variables passed to the CGI script |
| 408 | VariableCount | r | Number of available variables. |
| 407 | Variables | r | Indexed array with variables as name=value pairs. |

14.5.4 TEZcgi.Create

Synopsis: Creates a new instance of the TEZCGI component

Declaration: constructor Create

Visibility: public

Description: Create initializes the CGI program's environment: it reads the environment variables passed to the CGI program and stores them in the Variable (403) property.

See also: TZEZCGI.Variables (403), TZEZCGI.Names (403), TZEZCGI.Values (403)

14.5.5 TEZcgi.Destroy

Synopsis: Removes the TEZCGI component from memory

Declaration: destructor Destroy; Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` removes all variables from memory and then calls the inherited `destroy`, removing the `TEZCGI` instance from memory.

`Destroy` should never be called directly. Instead `Free` should be used, or `FreeAndNil`

See also: `TEZcgi.Create` (404)

14.5.6 TEZcgi.Run

Synopsis: Run the CGI application.

Declaration: `procedure Run`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Run` analyses the variables passed to the application, processes the request variables (it stores them in the `Variables` (403) property) and calls the `DoPost` (406) or `DoGet` (406) methods, depending on the method passed to the web server.

After creating the instance of `TEZCGI`, the `Run` method is the only method that should be called when using this component.

See also: `TEZCGI.Variables` (403), `TEZCGI.DoPost` (406), `TEZCGI.DoGet` (406)

14.5.7 TEZcgi.WriteContent

Synopsis: Writes the content type to standard output

Declaration: `procedure WriteContent(cType: String)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `WriteContent` writes the content type `cType` to standard output, followed by an empty line. After this method was called, no more HTTP headers may be written to standard output. Any HTTP headers should be written before `WriteContent` is called. It should be called from the `DoPost` (406) or `DoGet` (406) methods.

See also: `TEZCGI.DoPost` (406), `TEZCGI.DoGet` (406), `TEZcgi.PutLine` (405)

14.5.8 TEZcgi.PutLine

Synopsis: Send a line of output to the web-client

Declaration: `procedure PutLine(sOut: String)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `PutLine` writes a line of text (`sOut`) to the web client (currently, to standard output). It should be called only after `WriteContent` (405) was called with a content type of `text`. The sent text is not processed in any way, i.e. no HTML entities or so are inserted instead of special HTML characters. This should be done by the user.

Errors: No check is performed whether the content type is right.

See also: `TEZcgi.WriteContent` (405)

14.5.9 TEZcgi.GetValue

Synopsis: Return the value of a request variable.

Declaration: `function GetValue(Index: String; defaultValue: String) : String`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetValue` returns the value of the variable named `Index`, and returns `DefaultValue` if it is empty or does not exist.

See also: [TEZCGI.Values \(406\)](#)

14.5.10 TEZcgi.DoPost

Synopsis: Method to handle POST requests

Declaration: `procedure DoPost; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `DoPost` is called by the `Run (405)` method the POST method was used to invoke the CGI application. It should be overridden in descendents of `TEZcgi` to actually handle the request.

See also: [TEZcgi.Run \(405\)](#), [TEZcgi.DoGet \(406\)](#)

14.5.11 TEZcgi.DoGet

Synopsis: Method to handle GET requests

Declaration: `procedure DoGet; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `DoGet` is called by the `Run (405)` method the GET method was used to invoke the CGI application. It should be overridden in descendents of `TEZcgi` to actually handle the request.

See also: [TEZcgi.Run \(405\)](#), [TEZcgi.DoPost \(406\)](#)

14.5.12 TEZcgi.Values

Synopsis: Variables passed to the CGI script

Declaration: `Property Values[Index: String]: String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Values` is a name-based array of variables that were passed to the script by the web server or the HTTP request. The `Index` variable is the name of the variable whose value should be retrieved. The following standard values are available:

AUTH_TYPEAuthorization type

CONTENT_LENGTHContent length

CONTENT_TYPEContent type

GATEWAY_INTERFACEUsed gateway interface
PATH_INFORequested URL
PATH_TRANSLATEDTransformed URL
QUERY_STRINGClient query string
REMOTE_ADDRAddress of remote client
REMOTE_HOSTDNS name of remote client
REMOTE_IDENTRemote identity.
REMOTE_USERRemote user
REQUEST_METHODRequest methods (POST or GET)
SCRIPT_NAMEScript name
SERVER_NAMEServer host name
SERVER_PORTServer port
SERVER_PROTOCOLServer protocol
SERVER_SOFTWAREWeb server software
HTTP_ACCEPTAccepted responses
HTTP_ACCEPT_CHARSETAccepted character sets
HTTP_ACCEPT_ENCODINGAccepted encodings
HTTP_IF_MODIFIED_SINCEProxy information
HTTP_REFERERReferring page
HTTP_USER_AGENTClient software name

Other than the standard list, any variables that were passed by the web-client request, are also available. Note that the variables are case insensitive.

See also: [TEZCGI.Variables \(407\)](#), [TEZCGI.Names \(407\)](#), [TEZCGI.GetValue \(406\)](#), [TEZcgi.VariableCount \(408\)](#)

14.5.13 TEZcgi.Names

Synopsis: Indexed array with available variable names.

Declaration: `Property Names[Index: Integer]: String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Names` provides indexed access to the available variable names. The `Index` may run from 0 to `VariableCount` ([408](#)). Any other value will result in an exception being raised.

See also: [TEZcgi.Variables \(407\)](#), [TEZcgi.Values \(406\)](#), [TEZcgi.GetValue \(406\)](#), [TEZcgi.VariableCount \(408\)](#)

14.5.14 TEZcgi.Variables

Synopsis: Indexed array with variables as name=value pairs.

Declaration: `Property Variables[Index: Integer]: String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Variables` provides indexed access to the available variable names and values. The variables are returned as `Name=Value` pairs. The `Index` may run from 0 to `VariableCount` (408). Any other value will result in an exception being raised.

See also: `TEZcgi.Names` (407), `TEZcgi.Values` (406), `TEZcgi.GetValue` (406), `TEZcgi.VariableCount` (408)

14.5.15 `TEZcgi.VariableCount`

Synopsis: Number of available variables.

Declaration: `Property VariableCount : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `TEZcgi.VariableCount` returns the number of available CGI variables. This includes both the standard CGI environment variables and the request variables. The actual names and values can be retrieved with the `Names` (407) and `Variables` (407) properties.

See also: `TEZcgi.Names` (407), `TEZcgi.Variables` (407), `TEZcgi.Values` (406), `TEZcgi.GetValue` (406)

14.5.16 `TEZcgi.Name`

Synopsis: Name of the server administrator

Declaration: `Property Name : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Name` is used when displaying an error message to the user. This should set prior to calling the `TEZcgi.Run` (405) method.

See also: `TEZcgi.Run` (405), `TEZcgi.Email` (408)

14.5.17 `TEZcgi.Email`

Synopsis: Email of the server administrator

Declaration: `Property Email : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Email` is used when displaying an error message to the user. This should set prior to calling the `TEZcgi.Run` (405) method.

See also: `TEZcgi.Run` (405), `TEZcgi.Name` (408)

Chapter 15

Reference for unit 'fpTimer'

15.1 Used units

Table 15.1: Used units by unit 'fpTimer'

| Name | Page |
|---------|------|
| Classes | ?? |

15.2 Overview

The fpTimer unit implements a timer class TFPTimer (411) which can be used on all supported platforms. The timer class uses a driver class TFPTimerDriver (412) which does the actual work.

A default timer driver class is implemented on all platforms. It will work in GUI and non-gui applications, but only in the application's main thread.

An alternative driver class can be used by setting the DefaultTimerDriverClass (409) variable to the class pointer of the driver class. The driver class should descend from TFPTimerDriver (412).

15.3 Constants, types and variables

15.3.1 Types

```
TFPTimerDriverClass = Class of TFPTimerDriver
```

TFPTimerDriverClass is the class pointer of TFPTimerDriver (412) it exists mainly for the purpose of being able to set DefaultTimerDriverClass (409), so a custom timer driver can be used for the timer instances.

15.3.2 Variables

```
DefaultTimerDriverClass : TFPTimerDriverClass = nil
```

`DefaultTimerDriverClass` contains the `TFPTimerDriver` (412) class pointer that should be used when a new instance of `TFPCustomTimer` (410) is created. It is by default set to the system timer class.

Setting this class pointer to another descendent of `TFPTimerDriver` allows to customize the default timer implementation used in the entire application.

15.4 TFPCustomTimer

15.4.1 Description

`TFPCustomTimer` is the timer class containing the timer's implementation. It relies on an extra driver instance (of type `TFPTimerDriver` (412)) to do the actual work.

`TFPCustomTimer` publishes no events or properties, so it is unsuitable for handling in an IDE. The `TFPTimer` (411) descendent class publishes all needed events of `TFPCustomTimer`.

15.4.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 410 | Create | Create a new timer |
| 410 | Destroy | Release a timer instance from memory |
| 411 | StartTimer | Start the timer |
| 411 | StopTimer | Stop the timer |

15.4.3 TFPCustomTimer.Create

Synopsis: Create a new timer

Declaration: constructor `Create(AOwner: TComponent);` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` instantiates a new `TFPCustomTimer` instance. It creates the timer driver instance from the `DefaultTimerDriverClass` class pointer.

See also: `TFPCustomTimer.Destroy` (410)

15.4.4 TFPCustomTimer.Destroy

Synopsis: Release a timer instance from memory

Declaration: destructor `Destroy;` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` releases the timer driver component from memory, and then calls `Inherited` to clean the `TFPCustomTimer` instance from memory.

See also: `TFPCustomTimer.Create` (410)

15.4.5 TFPCustomTimer.StartTimer

Synopsis: Start the timer

Declaration: `procedure StartTimer; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `StartTimer` starts the timer. After a call to `StartTimer`, the timer will start producing timer ticks.

The timer stops producing ticks only when the `StopTimer` (411) event is called.

See also: `TFPCustomTimer.StopTimer` (411), `TFPTimer.Enabled` (411), `TFPTimer.OnTimer` (412)

15.4.6 TFPCustomTimer.StopTimer

Synopsis: Stop the timer

Declaration: `procedure StopTimer; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `StopTimer` stops a started timer. After a call to `StopTimer`, the timer no longer produces timer ticks.

See also: `TFPCustomTimer.StartTimer` (411), `TFPTimer.Enabled` (411), `TFPTimer.OnTimer` (412)

15.5 TFPTimer

15.5.1 Description

`TFPTimer` implements no new events or properties, but merely publishes events and properties already implemented in `TFPCustomTimer` (410): `Enabled` (411), `OnTimer` (412) and `Interval` (412).

The `TFPTimer` class is suitable for use in an IDE.

15.5.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 411 | <code>Enabled</code> | | Start or stop the timer |
| 412 | <code>Interval</code> | | Timer tick interval in milliseconds. |
| 412 | <code>OnTimer</code> | | Event called on each timer tick. |

15.5.3 TFPTimer.Enabled

Synopsis: Start or stop the timer

Declaration: `Property Enabled :`

Visibility: `published`

Access:

Description: `Enabled` controls whether the timer is active. Setting `Enabled` to `True` will start the timer (calling `StartTimer` (411)), setting it to `False` will stop the timer (calling `StopTimer` (411)).

See also: `TFPCustomTimer.StartTimer` (411), `TFPCustomTimer.StopTimer` (411), `TFPTimer.OnTimer` (412), `TFPTimer.Interval` (412)

15.5.4 TFPTimer.Interval

Synopsis: Timer tick interval in milliseconds.

Declaration: `Property Interval :`

Visibility: published

Access:

Description: `Interval` specifies the timer interval in milliseconds. Every `Interval` milliseconds, the `OnTimer` (412) event handler will be called.

Note that the milliseconds interval is a minimum interval. Under high system load, the timer tick may arrive later.

See also: `TFPTimer.OnTimer` (412), `TFPTimer.Enabled` (411)

15.5.5 TFPTimer.OnTimer

Synopsis: Event called on each timer tick.

Declaration: `Property OnTimer :`

Visibility: published

Access:

Description: `OnTimer` is called on each timer tick. The event handler must be assigned to a method that will do the actual work that should occur when the timer fires.

See also: `TFPTimer.Interval` (412), `TFPTimer.Enabled` (411)

15.6 TFPTimerDriver

15.6.1 Description

`TFPTimerDriver` is the abstract timer driver class: it simply provides an interface for the `TFP-CustomTimer` (410) class to use.

The `fpTimer` unit implements a descendent of this class which implements the default timer mechanism.

15.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 413 | <code>Create</code> | Create new driver instance |
| 413 | <code>StartTimer</code> | Start the timer |
| 413 | <code>StopTimer</code> | Stop the timer |

15.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 413 | <code>Timer</code> | <code>r</code> | Timer tick |

15.6.4 TFPTimerDriver.Create

Synopsis: Create new driver instance

Declaration: constructor `Create(ATimer: TFPCustomTimer); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` should be overridden by descendents of `TFPTimerDriver` to do additional initialization of the timer driver. `Create` just stores (in `Timer` (413)) a reference to the `ATimer` instance which created the driver instance.

See also: `TFPTimerDriver.Timer` (413), `TFPTimer` (411)

15.6.5 TFPTimerDriver.StartTimer

Synopsis: Start the timer

Declaration: procedure `StartTimer; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `StartTimer` is called by `TFPCustomTimer.StartTimer` (411). It should be overridden by descendents of `TFPTimerDriver` to actually start the timer.

See also: `TFPCustomTimer.StartTimer` (411), `TFPTimerDriver.StopTimer` (413)

15.6.6 TFPTimerDriver.StopTimer

Synopsis: Stop the timer

Declaration: procedure `StopTimer; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `StopTimer` is called by `TFPCustomTimer.StopTimer` (411). It should be overridden by descendents of `TFPTimerDriver` to actually stop the timer.

See also: `TFPCustomTimer.StopTimer` (411), `TFPTimerDriver.StartTimer` (413)

15.6.7 TFPTimerDriver.Timer

Synopsis: Timer tick

Declaration: Property `Timer : TFPCustomTimer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Timer` calls the `TFPCustomTimer` (410) timer event. Descendents of `TFPTimerDriver` should call `Timer` whenever a timer tick occurs.

See also: `TFPTimer.OnTimer` (412), `TFPTimerDriver.StartTimer` (413), `TFPTimerDriver.StopTimer` (413)

Chapter 16

Reference for unit 'gettext'

16.1 Used units

Table 16.1: Used units by unit 'gettext'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

16.2 Overview

The `gettext` unit can be used to hook into the resource string mechanism of Free Pascal to provide translations of the resource strings, based on the GNU `gettext` mechanism. The unit provides a class (`TMOFile` (416)) to read the `.mo` files with localizations for various languages. It also provides a couple of calls to translate all resource strings in an application based on the translations in a `.mo` file.

16.3 Constants, types and variables

16.3.1 Constants

```
MOFileHeaderMagic = $950412de
```

This constant is found as the first integer in a `.mo`

16.3.2 Types

```
PLongWordArray = ^TLongWordArray
```

Pointer to a `TLongWordArray` (415) array.

```
PMOStringTable = ^TMOStringTable
```

Pointer to a `TMOStringTable` (415) array.

```
PPCharArray = ^TPCharArray
```

Pointer to a `TPCharArray` (415) array.

```
TLongWordArray = Array[0..(1 shl 30) div sizeof(LongWord)] of LongWord
```

`TLongWordArray` is an array used to define the `PLongWordArray` (414) pointer. A variable of type `TLongWordArray` should never be directly declared, as it would occupy too much memory. The `PLongWordArray` type can be used to allocate a dynamic number of elements.

```
TMOFileHeader = packed record
  magic : LongWord;
  revision : LongWord;
  nstrings : LongWord;
  OrigTabOffset : LongWord;
  TransTabOffset : LongWord;
  HashTabSize : LongWord;
  HashTabOffset : LongWord;
end
```

This structure describes the structure of a `.mo` file with string localizations.

```
TMOStringInfo = packed record
  length : LongWord;
  offset : LongWord;
end
```

This record is one element in the string tables describing the original and translated strings. It describes the position and length of the string. The location of these tables is stored in the `TMOFileHeader` (415) record at the start of the file.

```
TMOStringTable = Array[0..(1 shl 30) div sizeof(TMOStringInfo)] of TMOStringInfo
```

`TMOStringTable` is an array type containing `TMOStringInfo` (415) records. It should never be used directly, as it would occupy too much memory.

```
TPCharArray = Array[0..(1 shl 30) div sizeof(PChar)] of PChar
```

`TLongWordArray` is an array used to define the `PPCharArray` (415) pointer. A variable of type `TPCharArray` should never be directly declared, as it would occupy too much memory. The `PPCharArray` type can be used to allocate a dynamic number of elements.

16.4 Procedures and functions

16.4.1 GetLanguageIDs

Synopsis: Return the current language IDs

Declaration: `procedure GetLanguageIDs (var Lang: String; var FallbackLang: String)`

Visibility: default

Description: `GetLanguageIDs` returns the current language IDs (an ISO string) as returned by the operating system. On windows, the `GetUserDefaultLCID` and `GetLocaleInfo` calls are used. On other operating systems, the `LC_ALL`, `LC_MESSAGES` or `LANG` environment variables are examined.

16.4.2 TranslateResourceStrings

Synopsis: Translate the resource strings of the application.

Declaration: `procedure TranslateResourceStrings (AFile: TMOFile)`
`procedure TranslateResourceStrings (const AFilename: String)`

Visibility: default

Description: `TranslateResourceStrings` translates all the resource strings in the application based on the values in the `.mo` file `AFileName` or `AFile`. The procedure creates an `TMOFile` (416) instance to read the `.mo` file if a filename is given.

Errors: If the file does not exist or is an invalid `.mo` file.

See also: `TranslateUnitResourceStrings` (416), `TMOFile` (416)

16.4.3 TranslateUnitResourceStrings

Synopsis: Translate the resource strings of a unit.

Declaration: `procedure TranslateUnitResourceStrings (const AUnitName: String;`
`AFile: TMOFile)`
`procedure TranslateUnitResourceStrings (const AUnitName: String;`
`const AFilename: String)`

Visibility: default

Description: `TranslateUnitResourceStrings` is identical in function to `TranslateResourceStrings` (416), but translates the strings of a single unit (`AUnitName`) which was used to compile the application. This can be more convenient, since the resource string files are created on a unit basis.

See also: `TranslateResourceStrings` (416), `TMOFile` (416)

16.5 EMOFileError

16.5.1 Description

`EMOFileError` is raised in case an `TMOFile` (416) instance is created with an invalid `.mo`.

16.6 TMOFile

16.6.1 Description

`TMOFile` is a class providing easy access to a `.mo` file. It can be used to translate any of the strings that reside in the `.mo` file. The internal structure of the `.mo` is completely hidden.

16.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-----------|--|
| 417 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TMOFile</code> class. |
| 417 | Destroy | Removes the <code>TMOFile</code> instance from memory |
| 417 | Translate | Translate a string |

16.6.3 TMOFile.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TMOFile` class.

Declaration: `constructor Create(const AFilename: String)`
`constructor Create(AStream: TStream)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of the `MOFile` class. It opens the file `AFilename` or the stream `AStream`. If a stream is provided, it should be seekable.

The whole contents of the file is read into memory during the `Create` call. This means that the stream is no longer needed after the `Create` call.

Errors: If the named file does not exist, then an exception may be raised. If the file does not contain a valid `TMOFileHeader` ([415](#)) structure, then an `EMOFileError` ([416](#)) exception is raised.

See also: `TMOFile.Destroy` ([417](#))

16.6.4 TMOFile.Destroy

Synopsis: Removes the `TMOFile` instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` cleans the internal structures with the contents of the `.mo`. After this the `TMOFile` instance is removed from memory.

See also: `TMOFile.Create` ([417](#))

16.6.5 TMOFile.Translate

Synopsis: Translate a string

Declaration: `function Translate(AOrig: PChar; ALen: Integer; AHash: LongWord) : String`
`function Translate(AOrig: String; AHash: LongWord) : String`
`function Translate(AOrig: String) : String`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Translate` translates the string `AOrig`. The string should be in the `.mo` file as-is. The string can be given as a plain string, as a `PChar` (with length `ALen`). If the hash value (`AHash`) of the string is not given, it is calculated.

If the string is in the `.mo` file, the translated string is returned. If the string is not in the file, an empty string is returned.

Errors: None.

Chapter 17

Reference for unit 'idea'

17.1 Used units

Table 17.1: Used units by unit 'idea'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

17.2 Overview

Besides some low level IDEA encryption routines, the IDEA unit also offers 2 streams which offer on-the-fly encryption or decryption: there are 2 stream objects: A write-only encryption stream which encrypts anything that is written to it, and a decryption stream which decrypts anything that is read from it.

17.3 Constants, types and variables

17.3.1 Constants

IDEABLOCKSIZE = 8

IDEA block size

IDEAKEYSIZE = 16

IDEA Key size constant.

KEYLEN = (6 * ROUNDS + 4)

Key length

ROUNDS = 8

Number of rounds to encrypt

17.3.2 Types

`IdeaCryptData = T IdeaCryptData`

Provided for backward functionality.

`IdeaCryptKey = T IdeaCryptKey`

Provided for backward functionality.

`IDEAkey = T IDEAKey`

Provided for backward functionality.

`T IdeaCryptData = Array[0..3] of Word`

`T IdeaCryptData` is an internal type, defined to hold data for encryption/decryption.

`T IdeaCryptKey = Array[0..7] of Word`

The actual encryption or decryption key for IDEA is 64-bit long. This type is used to hold such a key. It can be generated with the `EnKeyIDEA` (420) or `DeKeyIDEA` (419) algorithms depending on whether an encryption or decryption key is needed.

`T IDEAKey = Array[0..keylen-1] of Word`

The IDEA key should be filled by the user with some random data (say, a passphrase). This key is used to generate the actual encryption/decryption keys.

17.4 Procedures and functions

17.4.1 CipherIdea

Synopsis: Encrypt or decrypt a buffer.

Declaration: `procedure CipherIdea (Input: T IdeaCryptData; var outdata: T IdeaCryptData;
z: T IDEAKey)`

Visibility: default

Description: `CipherIdea` encrypts or decrypts a buffer with data (`Input`) using key `z`. The resulting encrypted or decrypted data is returned in `Output`.

Errors: None.

See also: `EnKeyIdea` (420), `DeKeyIdea` (419), `TIDEAEncryptStream` (421), `TIDEADecryptStream` (420)

17.4.2 DeKeyIdea

Synopsis: Create a decryption key from an encryption key.

Declaration: `procedure DeKeyIdea (z: T IDEAKey; var dk: T IDEAKey)`

Visibility: default

Description: `DeKeyIdea` creates a decryption key based on the encryption key `z`. The decryption key is returned in `dk`. Note that only a decryption key generated from the encryption key that was used to encrypt the data can be used to decrypt the data.

Errors: None.

See also: `EnKeyIdea` (420), `CipherIdea` (419)

17.4.3 EnKeyIdea

Synopsis: Create an IDEA encryption key from a user key.

Declaration: `procedure EnKeyIdea (UserKey: TIDEACryptKey; var z: TIDEAKey)`

Visibility: default

Description: `EnKeyIdea` creates an IDEA encryption key from user-supplied data in `UserKey`. The Encryption key is stored in `z`.

Errors: None.

See also: `DeKeyIdea` (419), `CipherIdea` (419)

17.5 EIDEAError

17.5.1 Description

`EIDEAError` is used to signal errors in the IDEA encryption decryption streams.

17.6 TIDEADeCryptStream

17.6.1 Description

`TIDEADeCryptStream` is a stream which decrypts anything that is read from it using the IDEA mechanism. It reads the encrypted data from a source stream and decrypts it using the `CipherIDEA` (419) algorithm. It is a read-only stream: it is not possible to write data to this stream.

When creating a `TIDEADeCryptStream` instance, an IDEA decryption key should be passed to the constructor, as well as the stream from which encrypted data should be read written.

The encrypted data can be created with a `TIDEAEncryptStream` (421) encryption stream.

17.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 420 | Create | Constructor to create a new <code>TIDEADeCryptStream</code> instance |
| 421 | Read | Reads data from the stream, decrypting it as needed |
| 421 | Seek | Set position on the stream |

17.6.3 TIDEADeCryptStream.Create

Synopsis: Constructor to create a new `TIDEADeCryptStream` instance

Declaration: `constructor Create (const AKey: String; Dest: TStream); Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new `TIDEADecryptStream` instance using the the string `AKey` to compute the encryption key (419), which is then passed on to the inherited constructor `TIDEAStream.Create` (424). It is an easy-access function which introduces no new functionality.

The string is truncated at the maximum length of the `TIdeaCryptKey` (419) structure, so it makes no sense to provide a string with length longer than this structure.

See also: `TIdeaCryptKey` (419), `TIDEAStream.Create` (424), `TIDEAEnCryptStream.Create` (422)

17.6.4 TIDEADeCryptStream.Read

Synopsis: Reads data from the stream, decrypting it as needed

Declaration: `function Read(var Buffer;Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Read` attempts to read `Count` bytes from the stream, placing them in `Buffer` the bytes are read from the source stream and decrypted as they are read. (bytes are read from the source stream in blocks of 8 bytes. The function returns the number of bytes actually read.

Errors: If an error occurs when reading data from the source stream, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TIDEADecryptStream.Write` (420), `TIDEADecryptStream.Seek` (421), `TIDEAEncryptStream` (421)

17.6.5 TIDEADeCryptStream.Seek

Synopsis: Set position on the stream

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt;Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Seek` will only work on a forward seek. It emulates a forward seek by reading and discarding bytes from the input stream. The `TIDEADecryptStream` stream tries to provide seek capabilities for the following limited number of cases:

Origin=soFromBeginningIf `Offset` is larger than the current position, then the remaining bytes are skipped by reading them from the stream and discarding them.

Origin=soFromCurrentIf `Offset` is zero, the current position is returned. If it is positive, then `Offset` bytes are skipped by reading them from the stream and discarding them.

Errors: An `EIDEAError` (420) exception is raised if the stream does not allow the requested seek operation.

See also: `TIDEADeCryptStream.Read` (421)

17.7 TIDEAEncryptStream

17.7.1 Description

`TIDEAEncryptStream` is a stream which encrypts anything that is written to it using the IDEA mechanism, and then writes the encrypted data to the destination stream using the `CipherIDEA` (419) algorithm. It is a write-only stream: it is not possible to read data from this stream.

When creating a `TIDEAEncryptStream` instance, an IDEA encryption key should be passed to the constructor, as well as the stream to which encrypted data should be written.

The resulting encrypted data can be read again with a `TIDEADecryptStream` (420) decryption stream.

17.7.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 422 | Create | Constructor to create a new <code>TIDEAEncryptStream</code> instance |
| 422 | Destroy | Flush data buffers and free the stream instance. |
| 423 | Flush | Write remaining bytes from the stream |
| 423 | Seek | Set stream position |
| 422 | Write | Write bytes to the stream to be encrypted |

17.7.3 TIDEAEncryptStream.Create

Synopsis: Constructor to create a new `TIDEAEncryptStream` instance

Declaration: `constructor Create(const AKey: String; Dest: TStream);` Overload

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new `TIDEAEncryptStream` instance using the the string `AKey` to compute the encryption key ([419](#)), which is then passed on to the inherited constructor `TIDEAStream.Create` ([424](#)). It is an easy-access function which introduces no new functionality.

The string is truncated at the maximum length of the `TIdeaCryptKey` ([419](#)) structure, so it makes no sense to provide a string with length longer than this structure.

See also: `TIdeaCryptKey` ([419](#)), `TIDEAStream.Create` ([424](#)), `TIDEADeCryptStream.Create` ([420](#))

17.7.4 TIDEAEncryptStream.Destroy

Synopsis: Flush data buffers and free the stream instance.

Declaration: `destructor Destroy;` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` flushes any data still remaining in the internal encryption buffer, and then calls the inherited `Destroy`

By default, the destination stream is not freed when the encryption stream is freed.

Errors: None.

See also: `TIDEAStream.Create` ([424](#))

17.7.5 TIDEAEncryptStream.Write

Synopsis: Write bytes to the stream to be encrypted

Declaration: `function Write(const Buffer; Count: LongInt) : LongInt;` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Write` writes `Count` bytes from `Buffer` to the stream, encrypting the bytes as they are written (encryption in blocks of 8 bytes).

Errors: If an error occurs writing to the destination stream, an error may occur.

See also: `TIDEADeCryptStream.Read` ([421](#))

17.7.6 TIDEAEncryptStream.Seek

Synopsis: Set stream position

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt; Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Seek` return the current position if called with 0 and `soFromCurrent` as arguments. With all other values, it will always raise an exception, since it is impossible to set the position on an encryption stream.

Errors: An `EIDEAError` (420) will be raised unless called with 0 and `soFromCurrent` as arguments.

See also: `TIDEAEncryptStream.Write` (422), `EIDEAError` (420)

17.7.7 TIDEAEncryptStream.Flush

Synopsis: Write remaining bytes from the stream

Declaration: `procedure Flush`

Visibility: public

Description: `Flush` writes the current encryption buffer to the stream. Encryption always happens in blocks of 8 bytes, so if the buffer is not completely filled at the end of the writing operations, it must be flushed. It should never be called directly, unless at the end of all writing operations. It is called automatically when the stream is destroyed.

Errors: None.

See also: `TIDEAEncryptStream.Write` (422)

17.8 TIDEAStream

17.8.1 Description

Do not create instances of `TIDEAStream` directly. It implements no useful functionality: it serves as a common ancestor of the `TIDEAEncryptStream` (421) and `TIDEADeCryptStream` (420), and simply provides some fields that these descendent classes use when encrypting/decrypting. One of these classes should be created, depending on whether one wishes to encrypt or to decrypt.

17.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|--|
| 424 | Create | Creates a new instance of the <code>TIDEAStream</code> class |

17.8.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 424 | Key | r | Key used when encrypting/decrypting |

17.8.4 TIDEAStream.Create

Synopsis: Creates a new instance of the TIDEAStream class

Declaration: constructor Create(AKey: TIDEAKey; Dest: TStream); Overload

Visibility: public

Description: Create stores the encryption/decryption key and then calls the inherited Create to store the Dest stream.

Errors: None.

See also: TIDEAEncryptStream ([421](#)), TIDEADeCryptStream ([420](#))

17.8.5 TIDEAStream.Key

Synopsis: Key used when encrypting/decrypting

Declaration: Property Key : TIDEAKey

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: Key is the key as it was passed to the constructor of the stream. It cannot be changed while data is read or written. It is the key as it is used when encrypting/decrypting.

See also: CipherIdea ([419](#))

Chapter 18

Reference for unit 'inicol'

18.1 Used units

Table 18.1: Used units by unit 'inicol'

| Name | Page |
|----------|---------------------|
| Classes | ?? |
| Inifiles | 425 |
| sysutils | ?? |

18.2 Overview

`inicol` contains an implementation of `TCollection` and `TCollectionItem` descendents which cooperate to read and write the collection from and to a `.ini` file. It uses the `TCustomIniFile` ([435](#)) class for this.

18.3 Constants, types and variables

18.3.1 Constants

```
KeyCount = 'Count'
```

`KeyCount` is used as a key name when reading or writing the number of items in the collection from the global section.

```
SGlobal = 'Global'
```

`SGlobal` is used as the default name of the global section when reading or writing the collection.

18.4 EIniCol

18.4.1 Description

EIniCol is used to report error conditions in the load and save methods of TIniCollection (426).

18.5 TIniCollection

18.5.1 Description

TIniCollection is a collection (??) descendent which has the capability to write itself to an .ini file. It introduces some load and save mechanisms, which can be used to write all items in the collection to disk. The items should be descendents of the type TIniCollectionItem (429).

All methods work using a TCustomIniFile class, making it possible to save to alternate file formats, or even databases.

An instance of TIniCollection should never be used directly. Instead, a descendent should be used, which sets the FPrefix and FSectionPrefix protected variables.

18.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|--------------|--|
| 426 | Load | Loads the collection from the default filename. |
| 428 | LoadFromFile | Load collection from file. |
| 428 | LoadFromIni | Load collection from a file in .ini file format. |
| 427 | Save | Save the collection to the default filename. |
| 427 | SaveToFile | Save collection to a file in .ini file format |
| 427 | SaveToIni | Save the collection to a TCustomIniFile descendent |

18.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|---------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 429 | FileName | rw | Filename of the collection |
| 429 | GlobalSection | rw | Name of the global section |
| 428 | Prefix | r | Prefix used in global section |
| 429 | SectionPrefix | r | Prefix string for section names |

18.5.4 TIniCollection.Load

Synopsis: Loads the collection from the default filename.

Declaration: procedure Load

Visibility: public

Description: Load loads the collection from the file as specified in the FileName (429) property. It calls the LoadFromFile (428) method to do this.

Errors: If the collection was not loaded or saved to file before this call, an EIniCol exception will be raised.

See also: TIniCollection.LoadFromFile (428), TIniCollection.LoadFromIni (428), TIniCollection.Save (427), TIniCollection.FileName (429)

18.5.5 TIniCollection.Save

Synopsis: Save the collection to the default filename.

Declaration: `procedure Save`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Save` writes the collection to the file as specified in the `FileName` (429) property, using `GlobalSection` (429) as the section. It calls the `SaveToFile` (427) method to do this.

Errors: If the collection was not loaded or saved to file before this call, an `EIniCol` exception will be raised.

See also: `TIniCollection.SaveToFile` (427), `TIniCollection.SaveToIni` (427), `TIniCollection.Load` (426), `TIniCollection.FileName` (429)

18.5.6 TIniCollection.SaveToIni

Synopsis: Save the collection to a `TCustomIniFile` descendent

Declaration: `procedure SaveToIni(Ini: TCustomInifile;Section: String); Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `SaveToIni` does the actual writing. It writes the number of elements in the global section (as specified by the `Section` argument), as well as the section name for each item in the list. The item names are written using the `Prefix` (428) property for the key. After this it calls the `SaveToIni` (430) method of all `TIniCollectionItem` (429) instances.

This means that the global section of the .ini file will look something like this:

```
[globalsection]
Count=3
Prefix1=SectionPrefixFirstItemName
Prefix2=SectionPrefixSecondItemName
Prefix3=SectionPrefixThirdItemName
```

This construct allows to re-use an ini file for multiple collections.

After this method is called, the `GlobalSection` (429) property contains the value of `Section`, it will be used in the `Save` (429) method.

See also: `TIniCollectionItem.SaveToIni` (430)

18.5.7 TIniCollection.SaveToFile

Synopsis: Save collection to a file in .ini file format

Declaration: `procedure SaveToFile(AFileName: String;Section: String)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `SaveToFile` will create a `TMemIniFile` instance with the `AFileName` argument as a filename. This instance is passed on to the `SaveToIni` (427) method, together with the `Section` argument, to do the actual saving.

Errors: An exception may be raised if the path in `AFileName` does not exist.

See also: `TIniCollection.SaveToIni` (427), `TIniCollection.LoadFromFile` (428)

18.5.8 TIniCollection.LoadFromIni

Synopsis: Load collection from a file in .ini file format.

Declaration: `procedure LoadFromIni (Ini: TCustomInifile; Section: String); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `LoadFromIni` will load the collection from the `Ini` instance. It first clears the collection, and reads the number of items from the global section with the name as passed through the `Section` argument. After this, an item is created and added to the collection, and its data is read by calling the `TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromIni` (430) method, passing the appropriate section name as found in the global section.

The description of the global section can be found in the `TIniCollection.SaveToIni` (427) method description.

See also: `TIniCollection.LoadFromFile` (428), `TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromIni` (430), `TIniCollection.SaveToIni` (427)

18.5.9 TIniCollection.LoadFromFile

Synopsis: Load collection from file.

Declaration: `procedure LoadFromFile (AFileName: String; Section: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: `LoadFromFile` creates a `TMemIniFile` instance using `AFileName` as the filename. It calls `LoadFromIni` (428) using this instance and `Section` as the parameters.

See also: `TIniCollection.LoadFromIni` (428), `TIniCollection.Load` (426), `TIniCollection.SaveToIni` (427), `TIniCollection.SaveToFile` (427)

18.5.10 TIniCollection.Prefix

Synopsis: Prefix used in global section

Declaration: `Property Prefix : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Prefix` is used when writing the section names of the items in the collection to the global section, or when reading the names from the global section. If the prefix is set to `Item` then the global section might look something like this:

```
[MyCollection]
Count=2
Item1=FirstItem
Item2=SecondItem
```

A descendent of `TIniCollection` should set the value of this property, it cannot be empty.

See also: `TIniCollection.SectionPrefix` (429), `TIniCollection.GlobalSection` (429)

18.5.11 TIniCollection.SectionPrefix

Synopsis: Prefix string for section names

Declaration: `Property SectionPrefix : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `SectionPrefix` is a string that is prepended to the section name as returned by the `TIniCollectionItem.SectionName` (431) property to return the exact section name. It can be empty.

See also: `TIniCollection.Section` (426), `TIniCollection.GlobalSection` (429)

18.5.12 TIniCollection.FileName

Synopsis: Filename of the collection

Declaration: `Property FileName : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `FileName` is the filename as used in the last `LoadFromFile` (428) or `SaveToFile` (427) operation. It is used in the `Load` (426) or `Save` (427) calls.

See also: `TIniCollection.Save` (427), `TIniCollection.LoadFromFile` (428), `TIniCollection.SaveToFile` (427), `TIniCollection.Load` (426)

18.5.13 TIniCollection.GlobalSection

Synopsis: Name of the global section

Declaration: `Property GlobalSection : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `GlobalSection` contains the value of the `Section` argument in the `LoadFromIni` (428) or `SaveToIni` (427) calls. It's used in the `Load` (426) or `Save` (427) calls.

See also: `TIniCollection.Save` (427), `TIniCollection.LoadFromFile` (428), `TIniCollection.SaveToFile` (427), `TIniCollection.Load` (426)

18.6 TIniCollectionItem

18.6.1 Description

`TIniCollectionItem` is a `#rtl.classes.tcollectionitem` (??) descendent which has some extra methods for saving/loading the item to or from an `.ini` file.

To use this class, a descendent should be made, and the `SaveToIni` (430) and `LoadFromIni` (430) methods should be overridden. They should implement the actual loading and saving. The loading and saving is always initiated by the methods in `TIniCollection` (426), `TIniCollection.LoadFromIni` (428) and `TIniCollection.SaveToIni` (427) respectively.

18.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|--------------|--|
| 431 | LoadFromFile | Load item from a file |
| 430 | LoadFromIni | Method called when the item must be loaded |
| 430 | SaveToFile | Save item to a file |
| 430 | SaveToIni | Method called when the item must be saved |

18.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|----------------------|
| 431 | SectionName | rw | Default section name |

18.6.4 TIniCollectionItem.SaveToIni

Synopsis: Method called when the item must be saved

Declaration: `procedure SaveToIni (Ini: TCustomInifile; Section: String); Virtual
; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `SaveToIni` is called by `TIniCollection.SaveToIni` ([427](#)) when it saves this item. Descendent classes should override this method to save the data they need to save. All write methods of the `TCustomIniFile` instance passed in `Ini` can be used, as long as the writing happens in the section passed in `Section`.

Errors: No checking is done to see whether the values are actually written to the correct section.

See also: `TIniCollection.SaveToIni` ([427](#)), `TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromIni` ([430](#)), `TIniCollectionItem.SaveToFile` ([430](#)), `TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromFile` ([431](#))

18.6.5 TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromIni

Synopsis: Method called when the item must be loaded

Declaration: `procedure LoadFromIni (Ini: TCustomInifile; Section: String); Virtual
; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `LoadFromIni` is called by `TIniCollection.LoadFromIni` ([428](#)) when it saves this item. Descendent classes should override this method to load the data they need to load. All read methods of the `TCustomIniFile` instance passed in `Ini` can be used, as long as the reading happens in the section passed in `Section`.

Errors: No checking is done to see whether the values are actually read from the correct section.

See also: `TIniCollection.LoadFromIni` ([428](#)), `TIniCollectionItem.SaveToIni` ([430](#)), `TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromFile` ([431](#)), `TIniCollectionItem.SaveToFile` ([430](#))

18.6.6 TIniCollectionItem.SaveToFile

Synopsis: Save item to a file

Declaration: `procedure SaveToFile (FileName: String; Section: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: `SaveToFile` creates an instance of `TIniFile` with the indicated `FileName` calls `SaveToIni` (430) to save the item to the indicated file in .ini format under the section `Section`

Errors: An exception can occur if the file is not writeable.

See also: `TIniCollectionItem.SaveToIni` (430), `TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromFile` (431)

18.6.7 TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromFile

Synopsis: Load item from a file

Declaration: `procedure LoadFromFile(FileName: String;Section: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: `LoadFromFile` creates an instance of `TMemIniFile` and calls `LoadFromIni` (430) to load the item from the indicated file in .ini format from the section `Section`.

Errors: None.

See also: `TIniCollectionItem.SaveToFile` (430), `TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromIni` (430)

18.6.8 TIniCollectionItem.SectionName

Synopsis: Default section name

Declaration: `Property SectionName : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `SectionName` is the section name under which the item will be saved or from which it should be read. The read/write functions should be overridden in descendents to determine a unique section name within the .ini file.

See also: `TIniCollectionItem.SaveToFile` (430), `TIniCollectionItem.LoadFromIni` (430)

18.7 TNamedIniCollection

18.7.1 Description

`TNamedIniCollection` is the collection to go with the `TNamedIniCollectionItem` (433) item class. it provides some functions to look for items based on the `UserData` (432) or based on the `Name` (432).

18.7.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|------------------------------|---|
| 432 | <code>FindByName</code> | Return the item based on its name |
| 433 | <code>FindByUserData</code> | Return the item based on its <code>UserData</code> |
| 432 | <code>IndexOfName</code> | Search for an item, based on its name, and return its position |
| 432 | <code>IndexOfUserData</code> | Search for an item based on it's <code>UserData</code> property |

18.7.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|------------|--------|--|
| 433 | NamedItems | rw | Indexed access to the <code>TNamedIniCollectionItem</code> items |

18.7.4 `TNamedIniCollection.IndexOfUserData`

Synopsis: Search for an item based on its `UserData` property

Declaration: `function IndexOfUserData(UserData: TObject) : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IndexOfUserData` searches the list of items and returns the index of the item which has `UserData` in its `UserData` ([432](#)) property. If no such item exists, -1 is returned.

Note that the (linear) search starts at the last element and works its way back to the first.

Errors: If no item exists, -1 is returned.

See also: `TNamedIniCollection.IndexOfName` ([432](#)), `TNamedIniCollectionItem.UserData` ([433](#))

18.7.5 `TNamedIniCollection.IndexOfName`

Synopsis: Search for an item, based on its name, and return its position

Declaration: `function IndexOfName(const AName: String) : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IndexOfName` searches the list of items and returns the index of the item which has name equal to `AName` (case insensitive). If no such item exists, -1 is returned.

Note that the (linear) search starts at the last element and works its way back to the first.

Errors: If no item exists, -1 is returned.

See also: `TNamedIniCollection.IndexOfUserData` ([432](#)), `TNamedIniCollectionItem.Name` ([434](#))

18.7.6 `TNamedIniCollection.FindByName`

Synopsis: Return the item based on its name

Declaration: `function FindByName(const AName: String) : TNamedIniCollectionItem`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `FindByName` returns the collection item whose name matches `AName` (case insensitive match). It calls `IndexOfName` ([432](#)) and returns the item at the found position. If no item is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: If no item is found, `Nil` is returned.

See also: `TNamedIniCollection.IndexOfName` ([432](#)), `TNamedIniCollection.FindByUserData` ([433](#))

18.7.7 TNamedIniCollection.FindByUserData

Synopsis: Return the item based on its `UserData`

Declaration: `function FindByUserData(UserData: TObject) : TNamedIniCollectionItem`

Visibility: public

Description: `FindByName` returns the collection item whose `UserData` (433) property value matches the `UserData` parameter. If no item is found, `Nil` is returned.

Errors: If no item is found, `Nil` is returned.

18.7.8 TNamedIniCollection.NamedItems

Synopsis: Indexed access to the `TNamedIniCollectionItem` items

Declaration: `Property NamedItems[Index: Integer]: TNamedIniCollectionItem; default`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `NamedItem` is the default property of the `TNamedIniCollection` collection. It allows indexed access to the `TNamedIniCollectionItem` (433) items. The index is zero based.

See also: `TNamedIniCollectionItem` (433)

18.8 TNamedIniCollectionItem

18.8.1 Description

`TNamedIniCollectionItem` is a `TIniCollectionItem` (429) descent with a published name property. The name is used as the section name when saving the item to the ini file.

18.8.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 434 | <code>Name</code> | rw | Name of the item |
| 433 | <code>UserData</code> | rw | User-defined data |

18.8.3 TNamedIniCollectionItem.UserData

Synopsis: User-defined data

Declaration: `Property UserData : TObject`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `UserData` can be used to associate an arbitrary object with the item - much like the `Objects` property of a `TStrings`.

18.8.4 TNamedIniCollectionItem.Name

Synopsis: Name of the item

Declaration: `Property Name : String`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Name` is the name of this item. It is also used as the section name when writing the collection item to the `.ini` file.

See also: `TNamedIniCollectionItem.UserData` ([433](#))

Chapter 19

Reference for unit 'IniFiles'

19.1 Used units

Table 19.1: Used units by unit 'IniFiles'

| Name | Page |
|----------|--------------------|
| Classes | ?? |
| contnrs | 98 |
| sysutils | ?? |

19.2 Overview

IniFiles provides support for handling .ini files. It contains an implementation completely independent of the Windows API for handling such files. The basic (abstract) functionality is defined in TCustomIniFile ([435](#)) and is implemented in TIniFile ([447](#)) and TMemIniFile ([455](#)). The API presented by these components is Delphi compatible.

19.3 TCustomIniFile

19.3.1 Description

TCustomIniFile implements all calls for manipulating a .ini. It does not implement any of this behaviour, the behaviour must be implemented in a descendent class like TIniFile ([447](#)) or TMemIniFile ([455](#)).

Since TCustomIniFile is an abstract class, it should never be created directly. Instead, one of the TIniFile or TMemIniFile classes should be created.

19.3.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 436 | Create | Instantiate a new instance of TCustomIniFile. |
| 443 | DeleteKey | Delete a key from a section |
| 437 | Destroy | Remove the TCustomIniFile instance from memory |
| 443 | EraseSection | Clear a section |
| 440 | ReadBinaryStream | Read binary data |
| 438 | ReadBool | |
| 439 | ReadDate | Read a date value |
| 439 | ReadDateTime | Read a Date/Time value |
| 440 | ReadFloat | Read a floating point value |
| 438 | ReadInteger | Read an integer value from the file |
| 442 | ReadSection | Read the key names in a section |
| 443 | ReadSections | Read the list of sections |
| 443 | ReadSectionValues | Read names and values of a section |
| 437 | ReadString | Read a string valued key |
| 440 | ReadTime | Read a time value |
| 437 | SectionExists | Check if a section exists. |
| 444 | UpdateFile | Update the file on disk |
| 444 | ValueExists | Check if a value exists |
| 442 | WriteBinaryStream | Write binary data |
| 439 | WriteBool | Write boolean value |
| 441 | WriteDate | Write date value |
| 441 | WriteDateTime | Write date/time value |
| 441 | WriteFloat | Write a floating-point value |
| 438 | WriteInteger | Write an integer value |
| 438 | WriteString | Write a string value |
| 442 | WriteTime | Write time value |

19.3.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|-----------------|--------|--|
| 445 | CaseSensitive | rw | Are key and section names case sensitive |
| 445 | EscapeLineFeeds | r | Should linefeeds be escaped ? |
| 444 | FileName | r | Name of the .ini file |
| 445 | StripQuotes | rw | Should quotes be stripped from string values |

19.3.4 TCustomIniFile.Create

Synopsis: Instantiate a new instance of TCustomIniFile.

```
Declaration: constructor Create(const AFileName: String; AEscapeLineFeeds: Boolean)
                ; Virtual
```

Visibility: public

Description: Create creates a new instance of TCustomIniFile and loads it with the data from AFileName, if this file exists. If the AEscapeLineFeeds parameter is True, then lines which have their end-of-line markers escaped with a backslash, will be concatenated. This means that the following 2 lines

```
Description=This is a \
line with a long text
```

is equivalent to

```
Description=This is a line with a long text
```

By default, not escaping of linefeeds is performed (for Delphi compatibility)

Errors: If the file cannot be read, an exception may be raised.

See also: [TCustomIniFile.Destroy \(437\)](#)

19.3.5 TCustomIniFile.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove the `TCustomIniFile` instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` cleans up all internal structures and then calls the inherited `Destroy`.

See also: [TCustomIniFile \(435\)](#)

19.3.6 TCustomIniFile.SectionExists

Synopsis: Check if a section exists.

Declaration: `function SectionExists(const Section: String) : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `SectionExists` returns `True` if a section with name `Section` exists, and contains keys. (comments are not considered keys)

See also: [TCustomIniFile.ValueExists \(444\)](#)

19.3.7 TCustomIniFile.ReadString

Synopsis: Read a string valued key

Declaration: `function ReadString(const Section: String; const Ident: String; const Default: String) : String; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ReadString` reads the key `Ident` in section `Section`, and returns the value as a string. If the specified key or section do not exist, then the value in `Default` is returned. Note that if the key exists, but is empty, an empty string will be returned.

See also: [TCustomIniFile.WriteString \(438\)](#), [TCustomIniFile.ReadInteger \(438\)](#), [TCustomIniFile.ReadBool \(438\)](#), [TCustomIniFile.ReadDate \(439\)](#), [TCustomIniFile.ReadDateTime \(439\)](#), [TCustomIniFile.ReadTime \(440\)](#), [TCustomIniFile.ReadFloat \(440\)](#), [TCustomIniFile.ReadBinaryStream \(440\)](#)

19.3.8 TCustomIniFile.WriteString

Synopsis: Write a string value

Declaration: `procedure WriteString(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
const Value: String); Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteString` writes the string `Value` with the name `Ident` to the section `Section`, overwriting any previous value that may exist there. The section will be created if it does not exist.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437), `TCustomIniFile.WriteInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBool` (439), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDate` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDateTime` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteTime` (442), `TCustomIniFile.WriteFloat` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBinaryStream` (442)

19.3.9 TCustomIniFile.ReadInteger

Synopsis: Read an integer value from the file

Declaration: `function ReadInteger(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
Default: LongInt) : LongInt; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadInteger` reads the key `Ident` in section `Section`, and returns the value as an integer. If the specified key or section do not exist, then the value in `Default` is returned. If the key exists, but contains an invalid integer value, `Default` is also returned.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.WriteInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBool` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDate` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDateTime` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadTime` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadFloat` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBinaryStream` (440)

19.3.10 TCustomIniFile.WriteInteger

Synopsis: Write an integer value

Declaration: `procedure WriteInteger(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
Value: LongInt); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteInteger` writes the integer `Value` with the name `Ident` to the section `Section`, overwriting any previous value that may exist there. The section will be created if it does not exist.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteString` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBool` (439), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDate` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDateTime` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteTime` (442), `TCustomIniFile.WriteFloat` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBinaryStream` (442)

19.3.11 TCustomIniFile.ReadBool

Synopsis:

Declaration: `function ReadBool(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
Default: Boolean) : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadString` reads the key `Ident` in section `Section`, and returns the value as a boolean (valid values are 0 and 1). If the specified key or section do not exist, then the value in `Default` is returned. If the key exists, but contains an invalid integer value, `False` is also returned.

Errors:

See also: `TCustomIniFile.WriteBool` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDate` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDateTime` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadTime` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadFloat` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBinaryStream` (440)

19.3.12 TCustomIniFile.WriteBool

Synopsis: Write boolean value

Declaration:

```
procedure WriteBool(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
                    Value: Boolean); Virtual
```

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteBool` writes the boolean `Value` with the name `Ident` to the section `Section`, overwriting any previous value that may exist there. The section will be created if it does not exist.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadBool` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteString` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDate` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDateTime` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteTime` (442), `TCustomIniFile.WriteFloat` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBinaryStream` (442)

19.3.13 TCustomIniFile.ReadDate

Synopsis: Read a date value

Declaration:

```
function ReadDate(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
                 Default: TDateTime) : TDateTime; Virtual
```

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadDate` reads the key `Ident` in section `Section`, and returns the value as a date (`TDateTime`). If the specified key or section do not exist, then the value in `Default` is returned. If the key exists, but contains an invalid date value, `Default` is also returned. The international settings of the `SysUtils` are taken into account when deciding if the read value is a correct date.

Errors:

See also: `TCustomIniFile.WriteDate` (441), `TCustomIniFile.ReadInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBool` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDateTime` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadTime` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadFloat` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBinaryStream` (440)

19.3.14 TCustomIniFile.ReadDateTime

Synopsis: Read a Date/Time value

Declaration:

```
function ReadDateTime(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
                    Default: TDateTime) : TDateTime; Virtual
```

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadDateTime` reads the key `Ident` in section `Section`, and returns the value as a date/time (`TDateTime`). If the specified key or section do not exist, then the value in `Default` is returned. If the key exists, but contains an invalid date/time value, `Default` is also returned. The international settings of the `SysUtils` are taken into account when deciding if the read value is a correct date/time.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.WriteDateTime` (441), `TCustomIniFile.ReadInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBool` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDate` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadTime` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadFloat` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBinaryStream` (440)

19.3.15 TCustomIniFile.ReadFloat

Synopsis: Read a floating point value

Declaration: `function ReadFloat(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
Default: Double) : Double; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadFloat` reads the key `Ident` in section `Section`, and returns the value as a float (`Double`). If the specified key or section do not exist, then the value in `Default` is returned. If the key exists, but contains an invalid float value, `Default` is also returned. The international settings of the `SysUtils` are taken into account when deciding if the read value is a correct float.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.WriteFloat` (441), `TCustomIniFile.ReadInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBool` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDate` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDateTime` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadTime` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBinaryStream` (440)

19.3.16 TCustomIniFile.ReadTime

Synopsis: Read a time value

Declaration: `function ReadTime(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
Default: TDateTime) : TDateTime; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadTime` reads the key `Ident` in section `Section`, and returns the value as a time (`TDateTime`). If the specified key or section do not exist, then the value in `Default` is returned. If the key exists, but contains an invalid time value, `Default` is also returned. The international settings of the `SysUtils` are taken into account when deciding if the read value is a correct time.

Errors:

See also: `TCustomIniFile.WriteTime` (442), `TCustomIniFile.ReadInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBool` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDate` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDateTime` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadFloat` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBinaryStream` (440)

19.3.17 TCustomIniFile.ReadBinaryStream

Synopsis: Read binary data

Declaration: `function ReadBinaryStream(const Section: String;const Name: String;
Value: TStream) : Integer; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadBinaryStream` reads the key `Name` in section `Section`, and returns the value in the stream `Value`. If the specified key or section do not exist, then the contents of `Value` are left untouched. The stream is not cleared prior to adding data to it.

The data is interpreted as a series of 2-byte hexadecimal values, each representing a byte in the data stream, i.e, it should always be an even number of hexadecimal characters.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.WriteBinaryStream` (442), `TCustomIniFile.ReadInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadBool` (438), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDate` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadDateTime` (439), `TCustomIniFile.ReadTime` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadFloat` (440), `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437)

19.3.18 TCustomIniFile.WriteDate

Synopsis: Write date value

Declaration: `procedure WriteDate(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
Value: TDateTime); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteDate` writes the date `Value` with the name `Ident` to the section `Section`, overwriting any previous value that may exist there. The section will be created if it does not exist. The date is written using the internationalization settings in the `SysUtils` unit.

Errors:

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadDate` (439), `TCustomIniFile.WriteInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBool` (439), `TCustomIniFile.WriteString` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDateTime` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteTime` (442), `TCustomIniFile.WriteFloat` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBinaryStream` (442)

19.3.19 TCustomIniFile.WriteDateTime

Synopsis: Write date/time value

Declaration: `procedure WriteDateTime(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
Value: TDateTime); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteDateTime` writes the date/time `Value` with the name `Ident` to the section `Section`, overwriting any previous value that may exist there. The section will be created if it does not exist. The date/time is written using the internationalization settings in the `SysUtils` unit.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadDateTime` (439), `TCustomIniFile.WriteInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBool` (439), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDate` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteString` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteTime` (442), `TCustomIniFile.WriteFloat` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBinaryStream` (442)

19.3.20 TCustomIniFile.WriteFloat

Synopsis: Write a floating-point value

Declaration: `procedure WriteFloat(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
Value: Double); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteFloat` writes the time `Value` with the name `Ident` to the section `Section`, overwriting any previous value that may exist there. The section will be created if it does not exist. The floating point value is written using the internationalization settings in the `SysUtils` unit.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadFloat` (440), `TCustomIniFile.WriteInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBool` (439), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDate` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDateTime` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteTime` (442), `TCustomIniFile.WriteString` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBinaryStream` (442)

19.3.21 `TCustomIniFile.WriteTime`

Synopsis: Write time value

Declaration: `procedure WriteTime(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
Value: TDateTime); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteTime` writes the time `Value` with the name `Ident` to the section `Section`, overwriting any previous value that may exist there. The section will be created if it does not exist. The time is written using the internationalization settings in the `SysUtils` unit.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadTime` (440), `TCustomIniFile.WriteInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBool` (439), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDate` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDateTime` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteString` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteFloat` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBinaryStream` (442)

19.3.22 `TCustomIniFile.WriteBinaryStream`

Synopsis: Write binary data

Declaration: `procedure WriteBinaryStream(const Section: String;const Name: String;
Value: TStream); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteBinaryStream` writes the binary data in `Value` with the name `Ident` to the section `Section`, overwriting any previous value that may exist there. The section will be created if it does not exist.

The binary data is encoded using a 2-byte hexadecimal value per byte in the data stream. The data stream must be seekable, so it's size can be determined. The data stream is not repositioned, it must be at the correct position.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadBinaryStream` (440), `TCustomIniFile.WriteInteger` (438), `TCustomIniFile.WriteBool` (439), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDate` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteDateTime` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteTime` (442), `TCustomIniFile.WriteFloat` (441), `TCustomIniFile.WriteString` (438)

19.3.23 `TCustomIniFile.ReadSection`

Synopsis: Read the key names in a section

Declaration: `procedure ReadSection(const Section: String;Strings: TStrings); Virtual
; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadSection` will return the names of the keys in section `Section` in `Strings`, one string per key. If a non-existing section is specified, the list is cleared. To return the values of the keys as well, the `ReadSectionValues` (443) method should be used.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadSections` (443), `TCustomIniFile.SectionExists` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadSectionValues` (443)

19.3.24 `TCustomIniFile.ReadSections`

Synopsis: Read the list of sections

Declaration: `procedure ReadSections(Strings: TStrings); Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadSections` returns the names of existing sections in `Strings`. It also returns names of empty sections.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.SectionExists` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadSectionValues` (443), `TCustomIniFile.ReadSection` (442)

19.3.25 `TCustomIniFile.ReadSectionValues`

Synopsis: Read names and values of a section

Declaration: `procedure ReadSectionValues(const Section: String; Strings: TStrings); Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadSectionValues` returns the keys and their values in the section `Section` in `Strings`. They are returned as `Key=Value` strings, one per key, so the `Values` property of the stringlist can be used to read the values. To retrieve just the names of the available keys, `ReadSection` (442) can be used.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.SectionExists` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadSections` (443), `TCustomIniFile.ReadSection` (442)

19.3.26 `TCustomIniFile.EraseSection`

Synopsis: Clear a section

Declaration: `procedure EraseSection(const Section: String); Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `EraseSection` deletes all values from the section named `Section` and removes the section from the ini file. If the section didn't exist prior to a call to `EraseSection`, nothing happens.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.SectionExists` (437), `TCustomIniFile.ReadSections` (443), `TCustomIniFile.DeleteKey` (443)

19.3.27 `TCustomIniFile.DeleteKey`

Synopsis: Delete a key from a section

Declaration: `procedure DeleteKey(const Section: String; const Ident: String); Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `DeleteKey` deletes the key `Ident` from section `Section`. If the key or section didn't exist prior to the `DeleteKey` call, nothing happens.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.EraseSection` (443)

19.3.28 TCustomIniFile.UpdateFile

Synopsis: Update the file on disk

Declaration: `procedure UpdateFile; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `UpdateFile` writes the in-memory image of the ini-file to disk. To speed up operation of the ini-file class, the whole ini-file is read into memory when the class is created, and all operations are performed in-memory. If `CacheUpdates` is set to `True`, any changes to the ini-file are only in memory, until they are committed to disk with a call to `UpdateFile`. If `CacheUpdates` is set to `False`, then all operations which cause a change in the .ini file will immediately be committed to disk with a call to `UpdateFile`. Since the whole file is written to disk, this may have serious impact on performance.

See also: `TIniFile.CacheUpdates` (450)

19.3.29 TCustomIniFile.ValueExists

Synopsis: Check if a value exists

Declaration: `function ValueExists(const Section: String;const Ident: String)
: Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ValueExists` checks whether the key `Ident` exists in section `Section`. It returns `True` if a key was found, or `False` if not. The key may be empty.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.SectionExists` (437)

19.3.30 TCustomIniFile.FileName

Synopsis: Name of the .ini file

Declaration: `Property FileName : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `FileName` is the name of the ini file on disk. It should be specified when the `TCustomIniFile` instance is created. Contrary to the Delphi implementation, if no path component is present in the filename, the filename is not searched in the windows directory.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.Create` (436)

19.3.31 TCustomIniFile.EscapeLineFeeds

Synopsis: Should linefeeds be escaped ?

Declaration: Property `EscapeLineFeeds` : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `EscapeLineFeeds` determines whether escaping of linefeeds is enabled: For a description of this feature, see [Create \(436\)](#), as the value of this property must be specified when the `TCustomIniFile` instance is created.

By default, `EscapeLineFeeds` is `False`.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.Create` ([436](#)), `TCustomIniFile.CaseSensitive` ([445](#))

19.3.32 TCustomIniFile.CaseSensitive

Synopsis: Are key and section names case sensitive

Declaration: Property `CaseSensitive` : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `CaseSensitive` determines whether searches for sections and keys are performed case-sensitive or not. By default, they are not case sensitive.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.EscapeLineFeeds` ([445](#))

19.3.33 TCustomIniFile.StripQuotes

Synopsis: Should quotes be stripped from string values

Declaration: Property `StripQuotes` : Boolean

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `StripQuotes` determines whether quotes around string values are stripped from the value when reading the values from file. By default, quotes are not stripped (this is Delphi and Windows compatible).

19.4 THashedStringList

19.4.1 Description

`THashedStringList` is a `TStringList` (??) descendent which creates hash values for the strings and names (in the case of a name-value pair) stored in it. The `IndexOf` ([446](#)) and `IndexOfName` ([446](#)) functions make use of these hash values to quicker locate a value.

19.4.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------|--|
| 446 | Create | Instantiates a new instance of THashedStringList |
| 446 | Destroy | Clean up instance |
| 446 | IndexOf | Returns the index of a string in the list of strings |
| 446 | IndexOfName | Return the index of a name in the list of name=value pairs |

19.4.3 THashedStringList.Create

Synopsis: Instantiates a new instance of THashedStringList

Declaration: `constructor Create`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` calls the inherited `Create`, and then instantiates the hash tables.

Errors: If no enough memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: [THashedStringList.Destroy \(446\)](#)

19.4.4 THashedStringList.Destroy

Synopsis: Clean up instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the hash tables and then calls the inherited `Destroy`.

See also: [THashedStringList.Create \(446\)](#)

19.4.5 THashedStringList.IndexOf

Synopsis: Returns the index of a string in the list of strings

Declaration: `function IndexOf(const S: String) : Integer; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IndexOf` overrides the `TStringList.IndexOf (435)` method and uses the hash values to look for the location of `S`.

See also: [TStringList.IndexOf \(435\)](#), [THashedStringList.IndexOfName \(446\)](#)

19.4.6 THashedStringList.IndexOfName

Synopsis: Return the index of a name in the list of name=value pairs

Declaration: `function IndexOfName(const Name: String) : Integer; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `IndexOfName` overrides the `TStrings.IndexOfName (435)` method and uses the hash values of the names to look for the location of `Name`.

See also: [TStrings.IndexOfName \(435\)](#), [THashedStringList.IndexOf \(446\)](#)

19.5 TIniFile

19.5.1 Description

`TIniFile` is an implementation of `TCustomIniFile` (435) which does the same as `TMemIniFile` (455), namely it reads the whole file into memory. Unlike `TMemIniFile` it does not cache updates in memory, but immediately writes any changes to disk.

`TIniFile` introduces no new methods, it just implements the abstract methods introduced in `TCustomIniFile`

19.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|--------------------------------|---|
| 447 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of <code>TIniFile</code> |
| 449 | <code>DeleteKey</code> | Delete key |
| 447 | <code>Destroy</code> | Remove the <code>TIniFile</code> instance from memory |
| 449 | <code>EraseSection</code> | |
| 448 | <code>ReadSection</code> | Read the key names in a section |
| 448 | <code>ReadSectionRaw</code> | Read raw section |
| 449 | <code>ReadSections</code> | Read section names |
| 449 | <code>ReadSectionValues</code> | |
| 448 | <code>ReadString</code> | Read a string |
| 450 | <code>UpdateFile</code> | Update the file on disk |
| 448 | <code>WriteString</code> | Write string to file |

19.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 450 | <code>CacheUpdates</code> | rw | Should changes be kept in memory |
| 450 | <code>Stream</code> | r | Stream from which ini file was read |

19.5.4 TIniFile.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TIniFile`

Declaration: `constructor Create(const AFileName: String; AEscapeLineFeeds: Boolean)`
`; Override`
`constructor Create(AStream: TStream; AEscapeLineFeeds: Boolean)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of `TIniFile` and initializes the class by reading the file from disk if the filename `AFileName` is specified, or from stream in case `AStream` is specified. It also sets most variables to their initial values, i.e. `AEscapeLineFeeds` is saved prior to reading the file, and `CacheUpdates` is set to `False`.

See also: `TCustomIniFile` (435), `TMemIniFile` (455)

19.5.5 TIniFile.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove the `TIniFile` instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` writes any pending changes to disk, and cleans up the `TIniFile` structures, and then calls the inherited `Destroy`, effectively removing the instance from memory.

Errors: If an error happens when the file is written to disk, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.UpdateFile` (444), `TIniFile.CacheUpdates` (450)

19.5.6 TIniFile.ReadString

Synopsis: Read a string

Declaration: `function ReadString(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
const Default: String) : String; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadString` implements the `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437) abstract method by looking at the in-memory copy of the ini file and returning the string found there.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadString` (437)

19.5.7 TIniFile.WriteString

Synopsis: Write string to file

Declaration: `procedure WriteString(const Section: String;const Ident: String;
const Value: String); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteString` implements the `TCustomIniFile.WriteString` (438) abstract method by writing the string to the in-memory copy of the ini file. If `CacheUpdates` (450) property is `False`, then the whole file is immediately written to disk as well.

Errors: If an error happens when the file is written to disk, an exception will be raised.

19.5.8 TIniFile.ReadSection

Synopsis: Read the key names in a section

Declaration: `procedure ReadSection(const Section: String;Strings: TStrings)
; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadSection` reads the key names from `Section` into `Strings`, taking the in-memory copy of the ini file. This is the implementation for the abstract `TCustomIniFile.ReadSection` (442)

See also: `TCustomIniFile.ReadSection` (442), `TIniFile.ReadSectionRaw` (448)

19.5.9 TIniFile.ReadSectionRaw

Synopsis: Read raw section

Declaration: `procedure ReadSectionRaw(const Section: String;Strings: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadSectionRaw` returns the contents of the section `Section` as it is: this includes the comments in the section. (these are also stored in memory)

See also: `TIniFile.ReadSection` (448), `TCustomIniFile.ReadSection` (442)

19.5.10 TIniFile.ReadSections

Synopsis: Read section names

Declaration: `procedure ReadSections(Strings: TStrings); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadSections` is the implementation of `TCustomIniFile.ReadSections` (443). It operates on the in-memory copy of the inifile, and places all section names in `Strings`.

See also: `TIniFile.ReadSection` (448), `TCustomIniFile.ReadSections` (443), `TIniFile.ReadSectionValues` (449)

19.5.11 TIniFile.ReadSectionValues

Synopsis:

Declaration: `procedure ReadSectionValues(const Section: String; Strings: TStrings)
; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadSectionValues` is the implementation of `TCustomIniFile.ReadSectionValues` (443). It operates on the in-memory copy of the inifile, and places all key names from `Section` together with their values in `Strings`.

See also: `TIniFile.ReadSection` (448), `TCustomIniFile.ReadSectionValues` (443), `TIniFile.ReadSections` (449)

19.5.12 TIniFile.EraseSection

Synopsis:

Declaration: `procedure EraseSection(const Section: String); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `EraseSection` deletes the section `Section` from memory, if `CacheUpdates` (450) is `False`, then the file is immediately updated on disk. This method is the implementation of the abstract `TCustomIniFile.EraseSection` (443) method.

See also: `TCustomIniFile.EraseSection` (443), `TIniFile.ReadSection` (448), `TIniFile.ReadSections` (449)

19.5.13 TIniFile.DeleteKey

Synopsis: Delete key

Declaration: `procedure DeleteKey(const Section: String; const Ident: String)
; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `DeleteKey` deletes the `Ident` from the section `Section`. This operation is performed on the in-memory copy of the ini file. if `CacheUpdates` (450) is `False`, then the file is immediately updated on disk.

See also: `TIniFile.CacheUpdates` (450)

19.5.14 TIniFile.UpdateFile

Synopsis: Update the file on disk

Declaration: `procedure UpdateFile; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `UpdateFile` writes the in-memory data for the ini file to disk. The whole file is written. If the ini file was instantiated from a stream, then the stream is updated. Note that the stream must be seekable for this to work correctly. The ini file is marked as 'clean' after a call to `UpdateFile` (i.e. not in need of writing to disk).

Errors: If an error occurs when writing to stream or disk, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TIniFile.CacheUpdates` (450)

19.5.15 TIniFile.Stream

Synopsis: Stream from which ini file was read

Declaration: `Property Stream : TStream`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Stream` is the stream which was used to create the `IniFile`. The `UpdateFile` (450) method will use this stream to write changes to.

See also: `TIniFile.Create` (447), `TIniFile.UpdateFile` (450)

19.5.16 TIniFile.CacheUpdates

Synopsis: Should changes be kept in memory

Declaration: `Property CacheUpdates : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `CacheUpdates` determines how to deal with changes to the ini-file data: if set to `True` then changes are kept in memory till the file is written to disk with a call to `UpdateFile` (450). If it is set to `False` then each call that changes the data of the ini-file will result in a call to `UpdateFile`. This is the default behaviour, but it may adversely affect performance.

See also: `TIniFile.UpdateFile` (450)

19.6 TIniFileKey

19.6.1 Description

TIniFileKey is used to keep the key/value pairs in the ini file in memory. It is an internal structure, used internally by the TIniFile (447) class.

19.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 451 | Create | Create a new instance of TIniFileKey |

19.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|-------------|
| 451 | Ident | rw | Key name |
| 451 | Value | rw | Key value |

19.6.4 TIniFileKey.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of TIniFileKey

Declaration: constructor Create(AIdent: String; AValue: String)

Visibility: public

Description: Create instantiates a new instance of TIniFileKey on the heap. It fills Ident (451) with AIdent and Value (451) with AValue.

See also: TIniFileKey.Ident (451), TIniFileKey.Value (451)

19.6.5 TIniFileKey.Ident

Synopsis: Key name

Declaration: Property Ident : String

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: Ident is the key value part of the key/value pair.

See also: TIniFileKey.Value (451)

19.6.6 TIniFileKey.Value

Synopsis: Key value

Declaration: Property Value : String

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: Value is the value part of the key/value pair.

See also: TIniFileKey.Ident (451)

19.7 TIniFileKeyList

19.7.1 Description

TIniFileKeyList maintains a list of TIniFileKey (451) instances on behalf of the TIniFileSection (453) class. It stores the keys of one section of the .ini files.

19.7.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|-------------------|
| 452 | Clear | Clear the list |
| 452 | Destroy | Free the instance |

19.7.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---|
| 452 | Items | r | Indexed access to TIniFileKey items in the list |

19.7.4 TIniFileKeyList.Destroy

Synopsis: Free the instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` clears up the list using `Clear` (452) and then calls the inherited `destroy`.

See also: `TIniFileKeyList.Clear` (452)

19.7.5 TIniFileKeyList.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the list

Declaration: `procedure Clear; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Clear` removes all TIniFileKey (451) instances from the list, and frees the instances.

See also: `TIniFileKey` (451)

19.7.6 TIniFileKeyList.Items

Synopsis: Indexed access to TIniFileKey items in the list

Declaration: `Property Items[Index: Integer]: TIniFileKey; default`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Items` provides indexed access to the TIniFileKey (451) items in the list. The index is zero-based and runs from 0 to `Count-1`.

See also: `TIniFileKey` (451)

19.8 TIniFileSection

19.8.1 Description

TIniFileSection is a class which represents a section in the .ini, and is used internally by the TIniFile (447) class (one instance of TIniFileSection is created for each section in the file by the TIniFileSectionList (454) list). The name of the section is stored in the Name (454) property, and the key/value pairs in this section are available in the KeyList (454) property.

19.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 453 | Create | Create a new section object |
| 453 | Destroy | Free the section object from memory |
| 453 | Empty | Is the section empty |

19.8.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|---|
| 454 | KeyList | r | List of key/value pairs in this section |
| 454 | Name | r | Name of the section |

19.8.4 TIniFileSection.Empty

Synopsis: Is the section empty

Declaration: `function Empty : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: Empty returns True if the section contains no key values (even if they are empty). It may contain comments.

19.8.5 TIniFileSection.Create

Synopsis: Create a new section object

Declaration: `constructor Create(AName: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: Create instantiates a new TIniFileSection class, and sets the name to AName. It allocates a TIniFileKeyList (452) instance to keep all the key/value pairs for this section.

See also: TIniFileKeyList (452)

19.8.6 TIniFileSection.Destroy

Synopsis: Free the section object from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the key list, and then calls the inherited `Destroy`, removing the `TIniFileSection` instance from memory.

See also: `TIniFileSection.Create` (453), `TIniFileKeyList` (452)

19.8.7 TIniFileSection.Name

Synopsis: Name of the section

Declaration: `Property Name : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Name` is the name of the section in the file.

See also: `TIniFileSection.KeyList` (454)

19.8.8 TIniFileSection.KeyList

Synopsis: List of key/value pairs in this section

Declaration: `Property KeyList : TIniFileKeyList`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `KeyList` is the `TIniFileKeyList` (452) instance that is used by the `TIniFileSection` to keep the key/value pairs of the section.

See also: `TIniFileSection.Name` (454), `TIniFileKeyList` (452)

19.9 TIniFileSectionList

19.9.1 Description

`TIniFileSectionList` maintains a list of `TIniFileSection` (453) instances, one for each section in an `.ini` file. `TIniFileSectionList` is used internally by the `TIniFile` (447) class to represent the sections in the file.

19.9.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 455 | <code>Clear</code> | Clear the list |
| 455 | <code>Destroy</code> | Free the object from memory |

19.9.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| 455 | <code>Items</code> | <code>r</code> | Indexed access to all the section objects in the list |

19.9.4 TIniFileSectionList.Destroy

Synopsis: Free the object from memory

Declaration: destructor Destroy; Override

Visibility: public

Description: Destroy calls Clear (455) to clear the section list and then calls the inherited Destroy

See also: TIniFileSectionList.Clear (455)

19.9.5 TIniFileSectionList.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the list

Declaration: procedure Clear; Override

Visibility: public

Description: Clear removes all TIniFileSection (453) items from the list, and frees the items it removes from the list.

See also: TIniFileSection (453), TIniFileSectionList.Items (455)

19.9.6 TIniFileSectionList.Items

Synopsis: Indexed access to all the section objects in the list

Declaration: Property Items[Index: Integer]: TIniFileSection; default

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: Items provides indexed access to all the section objects in the list. Index should run from 0 to Count-1.

See also: TIniFileSection (453), TIniFileSectionList.Clear (455)

19.10 TMemIniFile

19.10.1 Description

TMemIniFile is a simple descendent of TIniFile (447) which introduces some extra methods to be compatible to the Delphi implementation of TMemIniFile. The FPC implementation of TIniFile is implemented as a TMemIniFile, except that TIniFile does not cache its updates, and TMemIniFile does.

19.10.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|------------|--|
| 456 | Clear | Clear the data |
| 456 | Create | Create a new instance of TMemIniFile |
| 456 | GetStrings | Get contents of ini file as stringlist |
| 456 | Rename | Rename the ini file |
| 457 | SetStrings | Set data from a stringlist |

19.10.3 TMemIniFile.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of TMemIniFile

Declaration: `constructor Create(const AFileName: String; AEscapeLineFeeds: Boolean)
; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` simply calls the inherited `Create` (447), and sets the `CacheUpdates` (450) to `True` so updates will be kept in memory till they are explicitly written to disk.

See also: `TIniFile.Create` (447), `TIniFile.CacheUpdates` (450)

19.10.4 TMemIniFile.Clear

Synopsis: Clear the data

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: public

Description: `Clear` removes all sections and key/value pairs from memory. If `CacheUpdates` (450) is set to `False` then the file on disk will immediatly be emptied.

See also: `TMemIniFile.SetStrings` (457), `TMemIniFile.GetStrings` (456)

19.10.5 TMemIniFile.GetStrings

Synopsis: Get contents of ini file as stringlist

Declaration: `procedure GetStrings(List: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetStrings` returns the whole contents of the ini file in a single stringlist, `List`. This includes comments and empty sections.

The `GetStrings` call can be used to get data for a call to `SetStrings` (457), which can be used to copy data between 2 in-memory ini files.

See also: `TMemIniFile.SetStrings` (457), `TMemIniFile.Clear` (456)

19.10.6 TMemIniFile.Rename

Synopsis: Rename the ini file

Declaration: `procedure Rename(const AFileName: String; Reload: Boolean)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Rename` will rename the ini file with the new name `AFileName`. If `Reload` is `True` then the in-memory contents will be cleared and replaced with the contents found in `AFileName`, if it exists. If `Reload` is `False`, the next call to `UpdateFile` will replace the contents of `AFileName` with the in-memory data.

See also: `TIniFile.UpdateFile` (450)

19.10.7 TMemIniFile.SetStrings

Synopsis: Set data from a stringlist

Declaration: `procedure SetStrings(List: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `SetStrings` sets the in-memory data from the `List` stringlist. The data is first cleared.

The `SetStrings` call can be used to set the data of the ini file to a list of strings obtained with `GetStrings` (456). The two calls combined can be used to copy data between 2 in-memory ini files.

See also: `TMemIniFile.GetStrings` (456), `TMemIniFile.Clear` (456)

Chapter 20

Reference for unit 'iostream'

20.1 Used units

Table 20.1: Used units by unit 'iostream'

| Name | Page |
|---------|------|
| Classes | ?? |

20.2 Overview

The `iostream` implements a descendent of `THandleStream` (??) streams that can be used to read from standard input and write to standard output and standard diagnostic output (`stderr`).

20.3 Constants, types and variables

20.3.1 Types

```
TIOSType = (iosInput, iosOutPut, iosError)
```

Table 20.2: Enumeration values for type `TIOSType`

| Value | Explanation |
|------------------------|---|
| <code>iosError</code> | The stream can be used to write to standard diagnostic output |
| <code>iosInput</code> | The stream can be used to read from standard input |
| <code>iosOutPut</code> | The stream can be used to write to standard output |

`TIOSType` is passed to the `Create` (459) constructor of `TIOStream` (459), it determines what kind of stream is created.

20.4 EIOStreamError

20.4.1 Description

Error thrown in case of an invalid operation on a TIOStream (459).

20.5 TIOStream

20.5.1 Description

TIOStream can be used to create a stream which reads from or writes to the standard input, output or stderr file descriptors. It is a descendent of THandleStream. The type of stream that is created is determined by the TIOSType (458) argument to the constructor. The handle of the standard input, output or stderr file descriptors is determined automatically.

The TIOStream keeps an internal Position, and attempts to provide minimal Seek (460) behaviour based on this position.

20.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|---|
| 459 | Create | Construct a new instance of TIOStream (459) |
| 459 | Read | Read data from the stream. |
| 460 | Seek | Set the stream position |
| 460 | SetSize | Set the size of the stream |
| 460 | Write | Write data to the stream |

20.5.3 TIOStream.Create

Synopsis: Construct a new instance of TIOStream (459)

Declaration: `constructor Create(aIOSType: TIOSType)`

Visibility: public

Description: Create creates a new instance of TIOStream (459), which can subsequently be used

Errors: No checking is performed to see whether the requested file descriptor is actually open for reading/writing. In that case, subsequent calls to Read or Write or seek will fail.

See also: TIOStream.Read (459), TIOStream.Write (460)

20.5.4 TIOStream.Read

Synopsis: Read data from the stream.

Declaration: `function Read(var Buffer; Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: Read checks first whether the type of the stream allows reading (type is iosInput). If not, it raises a EIOStreamError (459) exception. If the stream can be read, it calls the inherited Read to actually read the data.

Errors: An EIOStreamError exception is raised if the stream does not allow reading.

See also: TIOSType (458), TIOStream.Write (460)

20.5.5 TIOStream.Write

Synopsis: Write data to the stream

Declaration: `function Write(const Buffer;Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Write` checks first whether the type of the stream allows writing (type is `iosOutput` or `iosError`). If not, it raises a `EIOStreamError` (459) exception. If the stream can be written to, it calls the inherited `Write` to actually read the data.

Errors: An `EIOStreamError` exception is raised if the stream does not allow writing.

See also: `TIOStreamType` (458), `TIOStream.Read` (459)

20.5.6 TIOStream.SetSize

Synopsis: Set the size of the stream

Declaration: `procedure SetSize(NewSize: LongInt); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `SetSize` overrides the standard `SetSize` implementation. It always raises an exception, because the standard input, output and stderr files have no size.

Errors: An `EIOStreamError` exception is raised when this method is called.

See also: `EIOStreamError` (459)

20.5.7 TIOStream.Seek

Synopsis: Set the stream position

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt;Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Seek` overrides the standard `Seek` implementation. Normally, standard input, output and stderr are not seekable. The `TIOStream` stream tries to provide seek capabilities for the following limited number of cases:

Origin=soFromBeginningIf `Offset` is larger than the current position, then the remaining bytes are skipped by reading them from the stream and discarding them, if the stream is of type `iosInput`.

Origin=soFromCurrentIf `Offset` is zero, the current position is returned. If it is positive, then `Offset` bytes are skipped by reading them from the stream and discarding them, if the stream is of type `iosInput`.

All other cases will result in a `EIOStreamError` exception.

Errors: An `EIOStreamError` (459) exception is raised if the stream does not allow the requested seek operation.

See also: `EIOStreamError` (459)

Chapter 21

Reference for unit 'libtar'

21.1 Used units

Table 21.1: Used units by unit 'libtar'

| Name | Page |
|----------|---------------------|
| BaseUnix | 461 |
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |
| Unix | 461 |
| UnixType | 461 |
| Windows | 461 |

21.2 Overview

The libtar units provides 2 classes to read and write .tar archives: [TTarArchive \(465\)](#) class can be used to read a tar file, and the [TTarWriter \(467\)](#) class can be used to write a tar file. The unit was implemented originally by Stefan Heymann.

21.3 Constants, types and variables

21.3.1 Constants

`ALL_PERMISSIONS = [tpReadByOwner, tpWriteByOwner, tpExecuteByOwner, tpReadByGroup, tpWriteByGroup, tpExecuteByGroup, tpExecuteByOther]`

`ALL_PERMISSIONS` is a set constant containing all possible permissions (read/write/execute, for all groups of users) for an archive entry.

`EXECUTE_PERMISSIONS = [tpExecuteByOwner, tpExecuteByGroup, tpExecuteByOther]`

`WRITE_PERMISSIONS` is a set constant containing all possible execute permissions set for an archive entry.

```
FILETYPE_NAME : Array[TFileType] of String = ('Regular', 'Link', 'Symbolic Link', 'Char
```

FILETYPE_NAME can be used to get a textual description for each of the possible entry file types.

```
READ_PERMISSIONS = [tpReadByOwner, tpReadByGroup, tpReadByOther]
```

READ_PERMISSIONS is a set constant containing all possible read permissions set for an archive entry.

```
WRITE_PERMISSIONS = [tpWriteByOwner, tpWriteByGroup, tpWriteByOther]
```

WRITE_PERMISSIONS is a set constant containing all possible write permissions set for an archive entry.

21.3.2 Types

```
TFileType = (ftNormal, ftLink, ftSymbolicLink, ftCharacter, ftBlock,
             ftDirectory, ftFifo, ftContiguous, ftDumpDir, ftMultiVolume,
             ftVolumeHeader)
```

Table 21.2: Enumeration values for type TFileType

| Value | Explanation |
|----------------|--|
| ftBlock | Block device file |
| ftCharacter | Character device file |
| ftContiguous | Contiguous file |
| ftDirectory | Directory |
| ftDumpDir | List of files |
| ftFifo | FIFO file |
| ftLink | Hard link |
| ftMultiVolume | Multi-volume file part |
| ftNormal | Normal file |
| ftSymbolicLink | Symbolic link |
| ftVolumeHeader | Volume header, can appear only as first entry in the archive |

TFileType describes the file type of a file in the archive. It is used in the FileType field of the TTarDirRec (463) record.

```
TTarDirRec = record
  Name : String;
  Size : Int64;
  DateTime : TDateTime;
  Permissions : TTarPermissions;
  FileType : TFileType;
  LinkName : String;
  UID : Integer;
  GID : Integer;
  UserName : String;
  GroupName : String;
  ChecksumOK : Boolean;
```

```

Mode : TTarModes;
Magic : String;
MajorDevNo : Integer;
MinorDevNo : Integer;
FilePos : Int64;
end

```

TTarDirRec describes an entry in the tar archive. It is similar to a directory entry as in TSearchRec (??), and is returned by the TTarArchive.FindNext (466) call.

```
TTarMode = (tmSetUid, tmSetGid, tmSaveText)
```

Table 21.3: Enumeration values for type TTarMode

| Value | Explanation |
|------------|--------------------------|
| tmSaveText | Bit \$200 is set |
| tmSetGid | File has SetGID bit set |
| tmSetUid | File has SetUID bit set. |

TTarMode describes extra file modes. It is used in the Mode field of the TTarDirRec (463) record.

```
TTarModes= Set of (tmSaveText, tmSetGid, tmSetUid)
```

TTarModes denotes the full set of permission bits for the file in the field Mode field of the TTarDirRec (463) record.

```
TTarPermission = (tpReadByOwner, tpWriteByOwner, tpExecuteByOwner,
tpReadByGroup, tpWriteByGroup, tpExecuteByGroup,
tpReadByOther, tpWriteByOther, tpExecuteByOther)
```

Table 21.4: Enumeration values for type TTarPermission

| Value | Explanation |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| tpExecuteByGroup | Group can execute the file |
| tpExecuteByOther | Other people can execute the file |
| tpExecuteByOwner | Owner can execute the file |
| tpReadByGroup | Group can read the file |
| tpReadByOther | Other people can read the file. |
| tpReadByOwner | Owner can read the file |
| tpWriteByGroup | Group can write the file |
| tpWriteByOther | Other people can write the file |
| tpWriteByOwner | Owner can write the file |

TTarPermission denotes part of a files permission as it stored in the .tar archive. Each of these enumerated constants correspond with one of the permission bits from a unix file permission.

```
TTarPermissions= Set of (tpExecuteByGroup, tpExecuteByOther,
tpExecuteByOwner, tpReadByGroup, tpReadByOther,
tpReadByOwner, tpWriteByGroup, tpWriteByOther,
tpWriteByOwner)
```

`TTarPermissions` describes the complete set of permissions that a file has. It is used in the `Permissions` field of the `TTarDirRec` (463) record.

21.4 Procedures and functions

21.4.1 ClearDirRec

Synopsis: Initialize tar archive entry

Declaration: `procedure ClearDirRec(var DirRec: TTarDirRec)`

Visibility: default

Description: `ClearDirRec` clears the `DirRec` entry, it basically zeroes out all fields.

See also: `TTarDirRec` (463)

21.4.2 ConvertFilename

Synopsis: Convert filename to archive format

Declaration: `function ConvertFilename(FileName: String) : String`

Visibility: default

Description: `ConvertFileName` converts the file name `FileName` to a format allowed by the tar archive. Basically, it converts directory specifiers to forward slashes.

21.4.3 FileTimeGMT

Synopsis: Extract filetime

Declaration: `function FileTimeGMT(FileName: String) : TDateTime; Overload`
`function FileTimeGMT(SearchRec: TSearchRec) : TDateTime; Overload`

Visibility: default

Description: `FileTimeGMT` returns the timestamp of a filename (`FileName` must exist) or a search rec (`TSearchRec`) to a GMT representation that can be used in a tar entry.

See also: `TTarDirRec` (463)

21.4.4 PermissionString

Synopsis: Convert a set of permissions to a string

Declaration: `function PermissionString(Permissions: TTarPermissions) : String`

Visibility: default

Description: `PermissionString` can be used to convert a set of `Permissions` to a string in the same format as used by the unix 'ls' command.

See also: `TTarPermissions` (464)

21.5 TTarArchive

21.5.1 Description

`TTarArchive` is the class used to read and examine `.tar` archives. It can be constructed from a stream or from a filename. Creating an instance will not perform any operation on the stream yet.

21.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 465 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of the archive |
| 465 | <code>Destroy</code> | Destroy <code>TTarArchive</code> instance |
| 466 | <code>FindNext</code> | Find next archive entry |
| 466 | <code>GetFilePos</code> | Return current archive position |
| 466 | <code>ReadFile</code> | Read a file from the archive |
| 465 | <code>Reset</code> | Reset archive |
| 467 | <code>SetFilePos</code> | Set position in archive |

21.5.3 TTarArchive.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the archive

Declaration: `constructor Create(Stream: TStream); Overload`
`constructor Create(Filename: String; FileMode: Word); Overload`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` can be used to create a new instance of `TTarArchive` using either a `StreamTStream` (?) descendent or using a name of a file to open: `FileName`. In case of the filename, an open mode can be specified.

Errors: In case a filename is specified and the file cannot be opened, an exception will occur.

See also: `TTarArchive.FindNext` ([466](#))

21.5.4 TTarArchive.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroy `TTarArchive` instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` closes the archive stream (if it created a stream) and cleans up the `TTarArchive` instance.

See also: `TTarArchive.Create` ([465](#))

21.5.5 TTarArchive.Reset

Synopsis: Reset archive

Declaration: `procedure Reset`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Reset` sets the archive file position on the beginning of the archive.

See also: `TTarArchive.Create` ([465](#))

21.5.6 `TTarArchive.FindNext`

Synopsis: Find next archive entry

Declaration: `function FindNext (var DirRec: TTarDirRec) : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `FindNext` positions the file pointer on the next archive entry, and returns all information about the entry in `DirRec`. It returns `True` if the operation was successful, or `False` if not (for instance, when the end of the archive was reached).

Errors: In case there are no more entries, `False` is returned.

See also: `TTarArchive.ReadFile` ([466](#))

21.5.7 `TTarArchive.ReadFile`

Synopsis: Read a file from the archive

Declaration: `procedure ReadFile (Buffer: POINTER); Overload`
`procedure ReadFile (Stream: TStream); Overload`
`procedure ReadFile (Filename: String); Overload`
`function ReadFile : String; Overload`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ReadFile` can be used to read the current file in the archive. It can be called after the archive was successfully positioned on an entry in the archive. The file can be read in various ways:

- directly in a memory `buffer`. No checks are performed to see whether the buffer points to enough memory.
- It can be copied to a `Stream`.
- It can be copied to a file with name `FileName`.
- The file content can be copied to a string

Errors: An exception may occur if the buffer is not large enough, or when the file specified in `filename` cannot be opened.

21.5.8 `TTarArchive.GetFilesPos`

Synopsis: Return current archive position

Declaration: `procedure GetFilesPos (var Current: Int64; var Size: Int64)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `GetFilesPos` returns the position in the tar archive in `Current` and the complete archive size in `Size`.

See also: `TTarArchive.SetFilesPos` ([467](#)), `TTarArchive.Reset` ([465](#))

21.5.9 TTarArchive.SetFilePos

Synopsis: Set position in archive

Declaration: `procedure SetFilePos(NewPos: Int64)`

Visibility: public

Description: `SetFilePos` can be used to set the absolute position in the tar archive.

See also: `TTarArchive.Reset` (465), `TTarArchive.GetFilePos` (466)

21.6 TTarWriter

21.6.1 Description

`TTarWriter` can be used to create `.tar` archives. It can be created using a filename, in which case the archive will be written to the filename, or it can be created using a stream, in which case the archive will be written to the stream - for instance a compression stream.

21.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|------------------------------|--|
| 469 | <code>AddDir</code> | Add directory to archive |
| 468 | <code>AddFile</code> | Add a file to the archive |
| 470 | <code>AddLink</code> | Add hard link to archive |
| 468 | <code>AddStream</code> | Add stream contents to archive. |
| 469 | <code>AddString</code> | Add string as file data |
| 469 | <code>AddSymbolicLink</code> | Add a symbolic link to the archive |
| 470 | <code>AddVolumeHeader</code> | Add volume header entry |
| 467 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new archive |
| 468 | <code>Destroy</code> | Close archive and clean up <code>TTarWriter</code> |
| 470 | <code>Finalize</code> | Finalize the archive |

21.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|--------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| 471 | <code>GID</code> | rw | Archive entry group ID |
| 471 | <code>GroupName</code> | rw | Archive entry group name |
| 472 | <code>Magic</code> | rw | Archive entry Magic constant |
| 472 | <code>Mode</code> | rw | Archive entry mode |
| 470 | <code>Permissions</code> | rw | Archive entry permissions |
| 471 | <code>UID</code> | rw | Archive entry user ID |
| 471 | <code>UserName</code> | rw | Archive entry user name |

21.6.4 TTarWriter.Create

Synopsis: Create a new archive

Declaration: `constructor Create(TargetStream: TStream); Overload`
`constructor Create(TargetFilename: String; Mode: Integer); Overload`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new `TTarWriter` instance. This will start a new `.tar` archive. The archive will be written to the `TargetStream` stream or to a file with name `TargetFileName`, which will be opened with filemode `Mode`.

Errors: In case `TargetFileName` cannot be opened, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TTarWriter.Destroy` (468)

21.6.5 `TTarWriter.Destroy`

Synopsis: Close archive and clean up `TTarWriter`

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` will close the archive (i.e. it writes the end-of-archive marker, if it was not yet written), and then frees the `TTarWriter` instance.

See also: `TTarWriter.Finalize` (470)

21.6.6 `TTarWriter.AddFile`

Synopsis: Add a file to the archive

Declaration: `procedure AddFile(FileName: String; TarFilename: String)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `AddFile` adds a file to the archive: the contents is read from `FileName`. Optionally, an alternative filename can be specified in `TarFileName`. This name should contain only forward slash path separators. If it is not specified, the name will be computed from `FileName`.

The archive entry is written with the current owner data and permissions.

Errors: If `FileName` cannot be opened, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TTarWriter.AddStream` (468), `TTarWriter.AddString` (469), `TTarWriter.AddLink` (470), `TTarWriter.AddSymbolicLink` (469), `TTarWriter.AddDir` (469), `TTarWriter.AddVolumeHeader` (470)

21.6.7 `TTarWriter.AddStream`

Synopsis: Add stream contents to archive.

Declaration: `procedure AddStream(Stream: TStream; TarFilename: String;
FileDateGmt: TDateTime)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `AddStream` will add the contents of `Stream` to the archive. The `Stream` will not be reset: only the contents of the stream from the current position will be written to the archive. The entry will be written with file name `TarFileName`. This name should contain only forward slash path separators. The entry will be written with timestamp `FileDateGmt`.

The archive entry is written with the current owner data and permissions.

See also: `TTarWriter.AddFile` (468), `TTarWriter.AddString` (469), `TTarWriter.AddLink` (470), `TTarWriter.AddSymbolicLink` (469), `TTarWriter.AddDir` (469), `TTarWriter.AddVolumeHeader` (470)

21.6.8 TTarWriter.AddString

Synopsis: Add string as file data

Declaration: `procedure AddString(Contents: String; TarFilename: String;
FileDateGmt: TDateTime)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AddString` adds the string `Contents` as the data of an entry with file name `TarFileName`. This name should contain only forward slash path separators. The entry will be written with timestamp `FileDateGmt`.

The archive entry is written with the current owner data and permissions.

See also: `TTarWriter.AddFile` (468), `TTarWriter.AddStream` (468), `TTarWriter.AddLink` (470), `TTarWriter.AddSymbolicLink` (469), `TTarWriter.AddDir` (469), `TTarWriter.AddVolumeHeader` (470)

21.6.9 TTarWriter.AddDir

Synopsis: Add directory to archive

Declaration: `procedure AddDir(Dirname: String; DateGmt: TDateTime; MaxDirSize: Int64)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AddDir` adds a directory entry to the archive. The entry is written with name `DirName`, maximum directory size `MaxDirSize` (0 means unlimited) and timestamp `DateGmt`.

Note that this call only adds an entry for a directory to the archive: if `DirName` is an existing directory, it does not write all files in the directory to the archive.

The directory entry is written with the current owner data and permissions.

See also: `TTarWriter.AddFile` (468), `TTarWriter.AddStream` (468), `TTarWriter.AddLink` (470), `TTarWriter.AddSymbolicLink` (469), `TTarWriter.AddString` (469), `TTarWriter.AddVolumeHeader` (470)

21.6.10 TTarWriter.AddSymbolicLink

Synopsis: Add a symbolic link to the archive

Declaration: `procedure AddSymbolicLink(Filename: String; Linkname: String;
DateGmt: TDateTime)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AddSymbolicLink` adds a symbolic link entry to the archive, with name `FileName`, pointing to `LinkName`. The entry is written with timestamp `DateGmt`.

The link entry is written with the current owner data and permissions.

Errors:

See also: `TTarWriter.AddFile` (468), `TTarWriter.AddStream` (468), `TTarWriter.AddLink` (470), `TTarWriter.AddDir` (469), `TTarWriter.AddString` (469), `TTarWriter.AddVolumeHeader` (470)

21.6.11 `TTarWriter.AddLink`

Synopsis: Add hard link to archive

Declaration: `procedure AddLink(Filename: String; Linkname: String; DateGmt: TDateTime)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AddLink` adds a hard link entry to the archive. The entry has name `FileName`, timestamp `DateGmt` and points to `LinkName`.

The link entry is written with the current owner data and permissions.

Errors:

See also: `TTarWriter.AddFile` (468), `TTarWriter.AddStream` (468), `TTarWriter.AddSymbolicLink` (469), `TTarWriter.AddDir` (469), `TTarWriter.AddString` (469), `TTarWriter.AddVolumeHeader` (470)

21.6.12 `TTarWriter.AddVolumeHeader`

Synopsis: Add volume header entry

Declaration: `procedure AddVolumeHeader(VolumeId: String; DateGmt: TDateTime)`

Visibility: public

Description: `AddVolumeHeader` adds a volume header entry to the archive. The entry is written with name `VolumeID` and timestamp `DateGmt`.

The volume header entry is written with the current owner data and permissions.

Errors:

See also: `TTarWriter.AddFile` (468), `TTarWriter.AddStream` (468), `TTarWriter.AddSymbolicLink` (469), `TTarWriter.AddDir` (469), `TTarWriter.AddString` (469), `TTarWriter.AddLink` (470)

21.6.13 `TTarWriter.Finalize`

Synopsis: Finalize the archive

Declaration: `procedure Finalize`

Visibility: public

Description: `Finalize` writes the end-of-archive marker to the archive. No more entries can be added after `Finalize` was called.

If the `TTarWriter` instance is destroyed, it will automatically call `finalize` if `finalize` was not yet called.

See also: `TTarWriter.Destroy` (468)

21.6.14 `TTarWriter.Permissions`

Synopsis: Archive entry permissions

Declaration: `Property Permissions : TTarPermissions`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Permissions` is used for the `permissions` field of the archive entries.

See also: [TTarDirRec \(463\)](#)

21.6.15 TTarWriter.UID

Synopsis: Archive entry user ID

Declaration: `Property UID : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `UID` is used for the `UID` field of the archive entries.

See also: [TTarDirRec \(463\)](#)

21.6.16 TTarWriter.GID

Synopsis: Archive entry group ID

Declaration: `Property GID : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `GID` is used for the `GID` field of the archive entries.

See also: [TTarDirRec \(463\)](#)

21.6.17 TTarWriter.UserName

Synopsis: Archive entry user name

Declaration: `Property UserName : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `UserName` is used for the `UserName` field of the archive entries.

See also: [TTarDirRec \(463\)](#)

21.6.18 TTarWriter.GroupName

Synopsis: Archive entry group name

Declaration: `Property GroupName : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `GroupName` is used for the `GroupName` field of the archive entries.

See also: [TTarDirRec \(463\)](#)

21.6.19 **TTarWriter.Mode**

Synopsis: Archive entry mode

Declaration: `Property Mode : TTarModes`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Mode` is used for the `Mode` field of the archive entries.

See also: [TTarDirRec \(463\)](#)

21.6.20 **TTarWriter.Magic**

Synopsis: Archive entry Magic constant

Declaration: `Property Magic : String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Magic` is used for the `Magic` field of the archive entries.

See also: [TTarDirRec \(463\)](#)

Chapter 22

Reference for unit 'Pipes'

22.1 Used units

Table 22.1: Used units by unit 'Pipes'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

22.2 Overview

The Pipes unit implements streams that are wrappers around the OS's pipe functionality. It creates a pair of streams, and what is written to one stream can be read from another.

22.3 Constants, types and variables

22.3.1 Constants

```
ENoSeekMsg = 'Cannot seek on pipes'
```

Constant used in `EPipeSeek` (474) exception.

```
EPipeMsg = 'Failed to create pipe.'
```

Constant used in `EPipeCreation` (474) exception.

22.4 Procedures and functions

22.4.1 CreatePipeHandles

Synopsis: Function to create a set of pipe handles

Declaration: `function CreatePipeHandles(var InHandle: THandle; var OutHandle: THandle)
: Boolean`

Visibility: default

Description: `CreatePipeHandles` provides an OS-independent way to create a set of pipe filehandles. These handles are inheritable to child processes. The reading end of the pipe is returned in `InHandle`, the writing end in `OutHandle`.

Errors: On error, `False` is returned.

See also: `CreatePipeStreams` (474)

22.4.2 CreatePipeStreams

Synopsis: Create a pair of pipe stream.

Declaration: `procedure CreatePipeStreams(var InPipe: TInputPipeStream;
var OutPipe: TOutputPipeStream)`

Visibility: default

Description: `CreatePipeStreams` creates a set of pipe file descriptors with `CreatePipeHandles` (473), and if that call is successful, a pair of streams is created: `InPipe` and `OutPipe`.

Errors: If no pipe handles could be created, an `EPipeCreation` (474) exception is raised.

See also: `CreatePipeHandles` (473), `TInputPipeStream` (474), `TOutputPipeStream` (476)

22.5 EPipeCreation

22.5.1 Description

Exception raised when an error occurred during the creation of a pipe pair.

22.6 EPipeError

22.6.1 Description

Exception raised when an invalid operation is performed on a pipe stream.

22.7 EPipeSeek

22.7.1 Description

Exception raised when an invalid seek operation is attempted on a pipe.

22.8 TInputPipeStream

22.8.1 Description

`TInputPipeStream` is created by the `CreatePipeStreams` (474) call to represent the reading end of a pipe. It is a `TStream` (??) descendent which does not allow writing, and which mimics the seek operation.

22.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 476 | Read | Read data from the stream to a buffer. |
| 475 | Seek | Set the current position of the stream |
| 475 | Write | Write data to the stream. |

22.8.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------|--|
| 476 | NumBytesAvailable | r | Number of bytes available for reading. |

22.8.4 TInputPipeStream.Write

Synopsis: Write data to the stream.

Declaration: `function Write(const Buffer;Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Write` overrides the parent implementation of `Write`. On a `TInputPipeStream` will always raise an exception, as the pipe is read-only.

Errors: An `ENoWritePipe` ([473](#)) exception is raised when this function is called.

See also: `TInputPipeStream.Read` ([476](#)), `TInputPipeStream.Seek` ([475](#))

22.8.5 TInputPipeStream.Seek

Synopsis: Set the current position of the stream

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt;Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Seek` overrides the standard `Seek` implementation. Normally, pipe streams `stderr` are not seekable. The `TInputPipeStream` stream tries to provide seek capabilities for the following limited number of cases:

Origin=soFromBeginningIf `Offset` is larger than the current position, then the remaining bytes are skipped by reading them from the stream and discarding them.

Origin=soFromCurrentIf `Offset` is zero, the current position is returned. If it is positive, then `Offset` bytes are skipped by reading them from the stream and discarding them, if the stream is of type `iosInput`.

All other cases will result in a `EPipeSeek` exception.

Errors: An `EPipeSeek` ([474](#)) exception is raised if the stream does not allow the requested seek operation.

See also: `EPipeSeek` ([474](#)), `#rtl.classes.tstream.seek` (??)

22.8.6 TInputPipeStream.Read

Synopsis: Read data from the stream to a buffer.

Declaration: `function Read(var Buffer;Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: Read calls the inherited read and adjusts the internal position pointer of the stream.

Errors: None.

See also: `TInputPipeStream.Write` (475), `TInputPipeStream.Seek` (475)

22.8.7 TInputPipeStream.NumBytesAvailable

Synopsis: Number of bytes available for reading.

Declaration: `Property NumBytesAvailable : DWord`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `NumBytesAvailable` is the number of bytes available for reading. This is the number of bytes in the OS buffer for the pipe. It is not a number of bytes in an internal buffer.

If this number is nonzero, then reading `NumBytesAvailable` bytes from the stream will not block the process. Reading more than `NumBytesAvailable` bytes will block the process, while it waits for the requested number of bytes to become available.

See also: `TInputPipeStream.Read` (476)

22.9 TOutputPipeStream

22.9.1 Description

`TOutputPipeStream` is created by the `CreatePipeStreams` (474) call to represent the writing end of a pipe. It is a `TStream` (??) descendent which does not allow reading.

22.9.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 477 | Read | Read data from the stream. |
| 476 | Seek | Sets the position in the stream |

22.9.3 TOutputPipeStream.Seek

Synopsis: Sets the position in the stream

Declaration: `function Seek(Offset: LongInt;Origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Seek` is overridden in `TOutputPipeStream`. Calling this method will always raise an exception: an output pipe is not seekable.

Errors: An `EPipeSeek` (474) exception is raised if this method is called.

22.9.4 TOutputPipeStream.Read

Synopsis: Read data from the stream.

Declaration: `function Read(var Buffer;Count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Read` overrides the parent `Read` implementation. It always raises an exception, because a output pipe is write-only.

Errors: An `ENoReadPipe` ([473](#)) exception is raised when this function is called.

See also: `TOutputPipeStream.Seek` ([476](#))

Chapter 23

Reference for unit 'pooledmm'

23.1 Used units

Table 23.1: Used units by unit 'pooledmm'

| Name | Page |
|---------|------|
| Classes | ?? |

23.2 Overview

pooledmm is a memory manager class which uses pools of blocks. Since it is a higher-level implementation of a memory manager which works on top of the FPC memory manager, It also offers more debugging and analysis tools. It is used mainly in the LCL and Lazarus IDE.

23.3 Constants, types and variables

23.3.1 Types

```
PPooledMemManagerItem = ^TPooledMemManagerItem
```

PPooledMemManagerItem is a pointer type, pointing to a TPooledMemManagerItem (479) item, used in a linked list.

```
TEnumItemsMethod = procedure(Item: Pointer) of object
```

TEnumItemsMethod is a prototype for the callback used in the TNonFreePooledMemManager.EnumerateItems (480) call. The parameter Item will be set to each of the pointers in the item list of TNonFreePooledMemManager (479).

```
TPooledMemManagerItem = record  
  Next : PPooledMemManagerItem;  
end
```

`TPooledMemManagerItem` is used internally by the `TPooledMemManager` (481) class to maintain the free list block. It simply points to the next free block.

23.4 TNonFreePooledMemManager

23.4.1 Description

`TNonFreePooledMemManager` keeps a list of fixed-size memory blocks in memory. Each block has the same size, making it suitable for storing a lot of records of the same type. It does not free the items stored in it, except when the list is cleared as a whole.

It allocates memory for the blocks in an exponential way, i.e. each time a new block of memory must be allocated, its size is the double of the last block. The first block will contain 8 items.

23.4.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------------|--|
| 479 | Clear | Clears the memory |
| 479 | Create | Creates a new instance of <code>TNonFreePooledMemManager</code> |
| 480 | Destroy | Removes the <code>TNonFreePooledMemManager</code> instance from memory |
| 480 | EnumerateItems | Enumerate all items in the list |
| 480 | NewItem | Return a pointer to a new memory block |

23.4.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 480 | ItemSize | r | Size of an item in the list |

23.4.4 TNonFreePooledMemManager.Clear

Synopsis: Clears the memory

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Clear` clears all blocks from memory, freeing the allocated memory blocks. None of the pointers returned by `NewItem` (480) is valid after a call to `Clear`

See also: `TNonFreePooledMemManager.NewItem` (480)

23.4.5 TNonFreePooledMemManager.Create

Synopsis: Creates a new instance of `TNonFreePooledMemManager`

Declaration: `constructor Create(TheItemSize: Integer)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of `TNonFreePooledMemManager` and sets the item size to `TheItemSize`.

Errors: If not enough memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TNonFreePooledMemManager.ItemSize` (480)

23.4.6 TNonFreePooledMemManager.Destroy

Synopsis: Removes the `TNonFreePooledMemManager` instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` clears the list, clears the internal structures, and then calls the inherited `Destroy`. `Destroy` should never be called directly. Instead `Free` should be used, or `FreeAndNil`

See also: `TNonFreePooledMemManager.Create` (479), `TNonFreePooledMemManager.Clear` (479)

23.4.7 TNonFreePooledMemManager.NewItem

Synopsis: Return a pointer to a new memory block

Declaration: `function NewItem : Pointer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `NewItem` returns a pointer to an unused memory block of size `ItemSize` (480). It will allocate new memory on the heap if necessary.

Note that there is no way to mark the memory block as free, except by clearing the whole list.

Errors: If no more memory is available, an exception may be raised.

See also: `TNonFreePooledMemManager.Clear` (479)

23.4.8 TNonFreePooledMemManager.EnumerateItems

Synopsis: Enumerate all items in the list

Declaration: `procedure EnumerateItems(const Method: TEnumItemsMethod)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `EnumerateItems` will enumerate over all items in the list, passing the items to `Method`. This can be used to execute certain operations on all items in the list. (for example, simply list them)

23.4.9 TNonFreePooledMemManager.ItemSize

Synopsis: Size of an item in the list

Declaration: `Property ItemSize : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `ItemSize` is the size of a single block in the list. It's a fixed size determined when the list is created.

See also: `TNonFreePooledMemManager.Create` (479)

23.5 TPoolMemManager

23.5.1 Description

`TPoolMemManager` is a class which maintains a linked list of blocks, represented by the `TPoolMemManagerItem` (479) record. It should not be used directly, but should be descended from and the descendent should implement the actual memory manager.

23.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| 481 | Clear | Clears the list |
| 481 | Create | Creates a new instance of the <code>TPoolMemManager</code> class |
| 481 | Destroy | Removes an instance of <code>TPoolMemManager</code> class from memory |

23.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|--|
| 483 | AllocatedCount | r | Total number of allocated items in the list |
| 482 | Count | r | Number of items in the list |
| 483 | FreeCount | r | Number of free items in the list |
| 483 | FreedCount | r | Total number of freed items in the list. |
| 482 | MaximumFreeCountRatio | rw | Maximum ratio of free items over total items |
| 482 | MinimumFreeCount | rw | Minimum count of free items in the list |

23.5.4 TPoolMemManager.Clear

Synopsis: Clears the list

Declaration: `procedure Clear`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Clear` clears the list, it disposes all items in the list.

See also: `TPoolMemManager.FreedCount` ([483](#))

23.5.5 TPoolMemManager.Create

Synopsis: Creates a new instance of the `TPoolMemManager` class

Declaration: `constructor Create`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes all necessary properties and then calls the inherited `create`.

See also: `TPoolMemManager.Destroy` ([481](#))

23.5.6 TPoolMemManager.Destroy

Synopsis: Removes an instance of `TPoolMemManager` class from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` calls `Clear` (481) and then calls the inherited `destroy`.

`Destroy` should never be called directly. Instead `Free` should be used, or `FreeAndNil`

See also: `TPooledMemManager.Create` (481)

23.5.7 `TPooledMemManager.MinimumFreeCount`

Synopsis: Minimum count of free items in the list

Declaration: Property `MinimumFreeCount` : Integer

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MinimumFreeCount` is the minimum number of free items in the linked list. When disposing an item in the list, the number of items is checked, and only if the required number of free items is present, the item is actually freed.

The default value is 100000

See also: `TPooledMemManager.MaximumFreeCountRatio` (482)

23.5.8 `TPooledMemManager.MaximumFreeCountRatio`

Synopsis: Maximum ratio of free items over total items

Declaration: Property `MaximumFreeCountRatio` : Integer

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `MaximumFreeCountRatio` is the maximum ratio (divided by 8) of free elements over the total amount of elements: When disposing an item in the list, if the number of free items is higher than this ratio, the item is freed.

The default value is 8.

See also: `TPooledMemManager.MinimumFreeCount` (482)

23.5.9 `TPooledMemManager.Count`

Synopsis: Number of items in the list

Declaration: Property `Count` : Integer

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Count` is the total number of items allocated from the list.

See also: `TPooledMemManager.FreeCount` (483), `TPooledMemManager.AllocatedCount` (483), `TPooledMemManager.FreedCount` (483)

23.5.10 TPoolMemManager.FreeCount

Synopsis: Number of free items in the list

Declaration: `Property FreeCount : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `FreeCount` is the current total number of free items in the list.

See also: `TPoolMemManager.Count` (482), `TPoolMemManager.AllocatedCount` (483), `TPoolMemManager.FreedCount` (483)

23.5.11 TPoolMemManager.AllocatedCount

Synopsis: Total number of allocated items in the list

Declaration: `Property AllocatedCount : Int64`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `AllocatedCount` is the total number of newly allocated items on the list.

See also: `TPoolMemManager.Count` (482), `TPoolMemManager.FreeCount` (483), `TPoolMemManager.FreedCount` (483)

23.5.12 TPoolMemManager.FreedCount

Synopsis: Total number of freed items in the list.

Declaration: `Property FreedCount : Int64`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `FreedCount` is the total number of elements actually freed in the list.

See also: `TPoolMemManager.Count` (482), `TPoolMemManager.FreeCount` (483), `TPoolMemManager.AllocatedCount` (483)

Chapter 24

Reference for unit 'process'

24.1 Used units

Table 24.1: Used units by unit 'process'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| Pipes | 473 |
| sysutils | ?? |

24.2 Overview

The `Process` unit contains the code for the `TProcess` (486) component, a cross-platform component to start and control other programs, offering also access to standard input and output for these programs.

`TProcess` does not handle wildcard expansion, does not support complex pipelines as in Unix. If this behaviour is desired, the shell can be executed with the pipeline as the command it should execute.

24.3 Constants, types and variables

24.3.1 Types

```
TProcessOption = (poRunSuspended, poWaitOnExit, poUsePipes,  
                 poStderrToOutPut, poNoConsole, poNewConsole,  
                 poDefaultErrorMode, poNewProcessGroup, poDebugProcess,  
                 poDebugOnlyThisProcess)
```

When a new process is started using `TProcess.Execute` (488), these options control the way the process is started. Note that not all options are supported on all platforms.

```
TProcessOptions= Set of (poDebugOnlyThisProcess, poDebugProcess,  
                        poDefaultErrorMode, poNewConsole,
```

Table 24.2: Enumeration values for type TProcessOption

| Value | Explanation |
|------------------------|--|
| poDebugOnlyThisProcess | Do not follow processes started by this process (Win32 only) |
| poDebugProcess | Allow debugging of the process (Win32 only) |
| poDefaultErrorMode | Use default error handling. |
| poNewConsole | Start a new console window for the process (Win32 only) |
| poNewProcessGroup | Start the process in a new process group (Win32 only) |
| poNoConsole | Do not allow access to the console window for the process (Win32 only) |
| poRunSuspended | Start the process in suspended state. |
| poStderrToOutPut | Redirect standard error to the standard output stream. |
| poUsePipes | Use pipes to redirect standard input and output. |
| poWaitOnExit | Wait for the process to terminate before returning. |

poNewProcessGroup, poNoConsole, poRunSuspended,
poStderrToOutPut, poUsePipes, poWaitOnExit)

Set of TProcessOption (484).

TProcessPriority = (ppHigh, ppIdle, ppNormal, ppRealTime)

Table 24.3: Enumeration values for type TProcessPriority

| Value | Explanation |
|------------|---|
| ppHigh | The process runs at higher than normal priority. |
| ppIdle | The process only runs when the system is idle (i.e. has nothing else to do) |
| ppNormal | The process runs at normal priority. |
| ppRealTime | The process runs at real-time priority. |

This enumerated type determines the priority of the newly started process. It translates to default platform specific constants. If finer control is needed, then platform-dependent mechanism need to be used to set the priority.

TShowWindowOptions = (swoNone, swoHIDE, swoMaximize, swoMinimize,
swoRestore, swoShow, swoShowDefault,
swoShowMaximized, swoShowMinimized,
swoshowMinNOActive, swoShowNA, swoShowNoActivate,
swoShowNormal)

This type describes what the new process' main window should look like. Most of these have only effect on Windows. They are ignored on other systems.

TStartupOption = (suoUseShowWindow, suoUseSize, suoUsePosition,
suoUseCountChars, suoUseFillAttribute)

These options are mainly for Win32, and determine what should be done with the application once it's started.

Table 24.4: Enumeration values for type TShowWindowOptions

| Value | Explanation |
|--------------------|--|
| swoHIDE | The main window is hidden. |
| swoMaximize | The main window is maximized. |
| swoMinimize | The main window is minimized. |
| swoNone | Allow system to position the window. |
| swoRestore | Restore the previous position. |
| swoShow | Show the main window. |
| swoShowDefault | When showing Show the main window on |
| swoShowMaximized | The main window is shown maximized |
| swoShowMinimized | The main window is shown minimized |
| swoshowMinNOActive | The main window is shown minimized but not activated |
| swoShowNA | The main window is shown but not activated |
| swoShowNoActivate | The main window is shown but not activated |
| swoShowNormal | The main window is shown normally |

Table 24.5: Enumeration values for type TStartupOption

| Value | Explanation |
|---------------------|--|
| suoUseCountChars | Use the console character width as specified in TProcess (486). |
| suoUseFillAttribute | Use the console fill attribute as specified in TProcess (486). |
| suoUsePosition | Use the window sizes as specified in TProcess (486). |
| suoUseShowWindow | Use the Show Window options specified in TShowWindowOption (485) |
| suoUseSize | Use the window sizes as specified in TProcess (486) |

```
TStartupOptions= Set of (suoUseCountChars, suoUseFillAttribute,
                        suoUsePosition, suoUseShowWindow, suoUseSize)
```

Set of TStartUpOption (485).

24.4 EProcess

24.4.1 Description

Exception raised when an error occurs in a TProcess routine.

24.5 TProcess

24.5.1 Description

TProcess is a component that can be used to start and control other processes (programs/binaries). It contains a lot of options that control how the process is started. Many of these are Win32 specific, and have no effect on other platforms, so they should be used with care.

The simplest way to use this component is to create an instance, set the CommandLine (494) property to the full pathname of the program that should be executed, and call Execute (488). To determine whether the process is still running (i.e. has not stopped executing), the Running (498) property can be checked.

More advanced techniques can be used with the Options (496) settings.

24.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|-------------|---|
| 489 | CloseInput | Close the input stream of the process |
| 489 | CloseOutput | Close the output stream of the process |
| 489 | CloseStderr | Close the error stream of the process |
| 488 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TProcess</code> class. |
| 488 | Destroy | Destroy this instance of <code>TProcess</code> |
| 488 | Execute | Execute the program with the given options |
| 489 | Resume | Resume execution of a suspended process |
| 490 | Suspend | Suspend a running process |
| 490 | Terminate | Terminate a running process |
| 490 | WaitOnExit | Wait for the program to stop executing. |

24.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|------------------|--------|---|
| 494 | Active | rw | Start or stop the process. |
| 494 | ApplicationName | rw | Name of the application to start |
| 494 | CommandLine | rw | Command-line to execute |
| 495 | ConsoleTitle | rw | Title of the console window |
| 495 | CurrentDirectory | rw | Working directory of the process. |
| 495 | Desktop | rw | Desktop on which to start the process. |
| 496 | Environment | rw | Environment variables for the new process |
| 493 | ExitStatus | r | Exit status of the process. |
| 501 | FillAttribute | rw | Color attributes of the characters in the console window (Windows only) |
| 491 | Handle | r | Handle of the process |
| 494 | InheritHandles | rw | Should the created process inherit the open handles of the current process. |
| 492 | Input | r | Stream connected to standard input of the process. |
| 496 | Options | rw | Options to be used when starting the process. |
| 493 | Output | r | Stream connected to standard output of the process. |
| 497 | Priority | rw | Priority at which the process is running. |
| 491 | ProcessHandle | r | Alias for Handle (491) |
| 492 | ProcessID | r | ID of the process. |
| 498 | Running | r | Determines whether the process is still running. |
| 498 | ShowWindow | rw | Determines how the process main window is shown (Windows only) |
| 497 | StartupOptions | rw | Additional (Windows) startup options |
| 493 | Stderr | r | Stream connected to standard diagnostic output of the process. |
| 491 | ThreadHandle | r | Main process thread handle |
| 492 | ThreadID | r | ID of the main process thread |
| 499 | WindowColumns | rw | Number of columns in console window (windows only) |
| 499 | WindowHeight | rw | Height of the process main window |
| 499 | WindowLeft | rw | X-coordinate of the initial window (Windows only) |
| 491 | WindowRect | rw | Positions for the main program window. |
| 500 | WindowRows | rw | Number of rows in console window (Windows only) |
| 500 | WindowTop | rw | Y-coordinate of the initial window (Windows only) |
| 500 | WindowWidth | rw | Height of the process main window (Windows only) |

24.5.4 TProcess.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TProcess` class.

Declaration: constructor `Create(AOwner: TComponent);` `Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of the `TProcess` class. After calling the inherited constructor, it simply sets some default values.

24.5.5 TProcess.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroy this instance of `TProcess`

Declaration: destructor `Destroy;` `Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` cleans up this instance of `TProcess`. Prior to calling the inherited destructor, it cleans up any streams that may have been created. If a process was started and is still executed, it is *not* stopped, but the standard input/output/stderr streams are no longer available, because they have been destroyed.

Errors: None.

See also: `TProcess.Create` (488)

24.5.6 TProcess.Execute

Synopsis: Execute the program with the given options

Declaration: procedure `Execute;` `Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Execute` actually executes the program as specified in `CommandLine` (494), applying as much as of the specified options as supported on the current platform.

If the `poWaitOnExit` option is specified in `Options` (496), then the call will only return when the program has finished executing (or if an error occurred). If this option is not given, the call returns immediately, but the `WaitOnExit` (490) call can be used to wait for it to close, or the `Running` (498) call can be used to check whether it is still running.

The `TProcess.Terminate` (490) call can be used to terminate the program if it is still running, or the `Suspend` (490) call can be used to temporarily stop the program's execution.

The `ExitStatus` (493) function can be used to check the program's exit status, after it has stopped executing.

Errors: On error a `EProcess` (486) exception is raised.

See also: `TProcess.Running` (498), `TProcess.WaitOnExit` (490), `TProcess.Terminate` (490), `TProcess.Suspend` (490), `TProcess.Resume` (489), `TProcess.ExitStatus` (493)

24.5.7 TProcess.CloseInput

Synopsis: Close the input stream of the process

Declaration: `procedure CloseInput; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `CloseInput` closes the input file descriptor of the process, that is, it closes the handle of the pipe to standard input of the process.

See also: `TProcess.Input` (492), `TProcess.StdErr` (493), `TProcess.Output` (493), `TProcess.CloseOutput` (489), `TProcess.CloseStdErr` (489)

24.5.8 TProcess.CloseOutput

Synopsis: Close the output stream of the process

Declaration: `procedure CloseOutput; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `CloseOutput` closes the output file descriptor of the process, that is, it closes the handle of the pipe to standard output of the process.

See also: `TProcess.Output` (493), `TProcess.Input` (492), `TProcess.StdErr` (493), `TProcess.CloseInput` (489), `TProcess.CloseStdErr` (489)

24.5.9 TProcess.CloseStderr

Synopsis: Close the error stream of the process

Declaration: `procedure CloseStderr; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `CloseStdErr` closes the standard error file descriptor of the process, that is, it closes the handle of the pipe to standard error output of the process.

See also: `TProcess.Output` (493), `TProcess.Input` (492), `TProcess.StdErr` (493), `TProcess.CloseInput` (489), `TProcess.CloseStdErr` (489)

24.5.10 TProcess.Resume

Synopsis: Resume execution of a suspended process

Declaration: `function Resume : Integer; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Resume` should be used to let a suspended process resume its execution. It should be called in particular when the `poRunSuspended` flag is set in `Options` (496).

Errors: None.

See also: `TProcess.Suspend` (490), `TProcess.Options` (496), `TProcess.Execute` (488), `TProcess.Terminate` (490)

24.5.11 TProcess.Suspend

Synopsis: Suspend a running process

Declaration: `function Suspend : Integer; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Suspend` suspends a running process. If the call is successful, the process is suspended: it stops running, but can be made to execute again using the `Resume` (489) call.

`Suspend` is fundamentally different from `TProcess.Terminate` (490) which actually stops the process.

Errors: On error, a nonzero result is returned.

See also: `TProcess.Options` (496), `TProcess.Resume` (489), `TProcess.Terminate` (490), `TProcess.Execute` (488)

24.5.12 TProcess.Terminate

Synopsis: Terminate a running process

Declaration: `function Terminate(AExitCode: Integer) : Boolean; Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Terminate` stops the execution of the running program. It effectively stops the program.

On Windows, the program will report an exit code of `AExitCode`, on other systems, this value is ignored.

Errors: On error, a nonzero value is returned.

See also: `TProcess.ExitStatus` (493), `TProcess.Suspend` (490), `TProcess.Execute` (488), `TProcess.WaitOnExit` (490)

24.5.13 TProcess.WaitOnExit

Synopsis: Wait for the program to stop executing.

Declaration: `function WaitOnExit : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `WaitOnExit` waits for the running program to exit. It returns `True` if the wait was successful, or `False` if there was some error waiting for the program to exit.

Note that the return value of this function has changed. The old return value was a `DWord` with a platform dependent error code. To make things consistent and cross-platform, a boolean return type was used.

Errors: On error, `False` is returned. No extended error information is available, as it is highly system dependent.

See also: `TProcess.ExitStatus` (493), `TProcess.Terminate` (490), `TProcess.Running` (498)

24.5.14 TProcess.WindowRect

Synopsis: Positions for the main program window.

Declaration: `Property WindowRect : Trect`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `WindowRect` can be used to specify the position of

24.5.15 TProcess.Handle

Synopsis: Handle of the process

Declaration: `Property Handle : THandle`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Handle` identifies the process. In Unix systems, this is the process ID. On windows, this is the process handle. It can be used to signal the process.

The handle is only valid after `TProcess.Execute` (488) has been called. It is not reset after the process stopped.

See also: `TProcess.ThreadHandle` (491), `TProcess.ProcessID` (492), `TProcess.ThreadID` (492)

24.5.16 TProcess.ProcessHandle

Synopsis: Alias for `Handle` (491)

Declaration: `Property ProcessHandle : THandle`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `ProcessHandle` equals `Handle` (491) and is provided for completeness only.

See also: `TProcess.Handle` (491), `TProcess.ThreadHandle` (491), `TProcess.ProcessID` (492), `TProcess.ThreadID` (492)

24.5.17 TProcess.ThreadHandle

Synopsis: Main process thread handle

Declaration: `Property ThreadHandle : THandle`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `ThreadHandle` is the main process thread handle. On Unix, this is the same as the process ID, on Windows, this may be a different handle than the process handle.

The handle is only valid after `TProcess.Execute` (488) has been called. It is not reset after the process stopped.

See also: `TProcess.Handle` (491), `TProcess.ProcessID` (492), `TProcess.ThreadID` (492)

24.5.18 TProcess.ProcessID

Synopsis: ID of the process.

Declaration: `Property ProcessID : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `ProcessID` is the ID of the process. It is the same as the handle of the process on Unix systems, but on Windows it is different from the process `Handle`.

The ID is only valid after `TProcess.Execute` (488) has been called. It is not reset after the process stopped.

See also: `TProcess.Handle` (491), `TProcess.ThreadHandle` (491), `TProcess.ThreadID` (492)

24.5.19 TProcess.ThreadID

Synopsis: ID of the main process thread

Declaration: `Property ThreadID : Integer`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `ProcessID` is the ID of the main process thread. It is the same as the handle of the main process thread (or the process itself) on Unix systems, but on Windows it is different from the thread `Handle`.

The ID is only valid after `TProcess.Execute` (488) has been called. It is not reset after the process stopped.

See also: `TProcess.ProcessID` (492), `TProcess.Handle` (491), `TProcess.ThreadHandle` (491)

24.5.20 TProcess.Input

Synopsis: Stream connected to standard input of the process.

Declaration: `Property Input : TOutputPipeStream`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Input` is a stream which is connected to the process' standard input file handle. Anything written to this stream can be read by the process.

The `Input` stream is only instantiated when the `poUsePipes` flag is used in `Options` (496).

Note that writing to the stream may cause the calling process to be suspended when the created process is not reading from it's input, or to cause errors when the process has terminated.

See also: `TProcess.OutPut` (493), `TProcess.StdErr` (493), `TProcess.Options` (496), `TProcessOption` (484)

24.5.21 TProcess.Output

Synopsis: Stream connected to standard output of the process.

Declaration: `Property Output : TInputPipeStream`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Output` is a stream which is connected to the process' standard output file handle. Anything written to standard output by the created process can be read from this stream.

The `Output` stream is only instantiated when the `poUsePipes` flag is used in [Options \(496\)](#).

The `Output` stream also contains any data written to standard diagnostic output (`stderr`) when the `poStdErrToOutPut` flag is used in [Options \(496\)](#).

Note that reading from the stream may cause the calling process to be suspended when the created process is not writing anything to standard output, or to cause errors when the process has terminated.

See also: [TProcess.InPut \(492\)](#), [TProcess.StdErr \(493\)](#), [TProcess.Options \(496\)](#), [TProcessOption \(484\)](#)

24.5.22 TProcess.Stderr

Synopsis: Stream connected to standard diagnostic output of the process.

Declaration: `Property Stderr : TInputPipeStream`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `StdErr` is a stream which is connected to the process' standard diagnostic output file handle (`StdErr`). Anything written to standard diagnostic output by the created process can be read from this stream.

The `StdErr` stream is only instantiated when the `poUsePipes` flag is used in [Options \(496\)](#).

The `Output` stream equals the `Output` ([493](#)) when the `poStdErrToOutPut` flag is used in [Options \(496\)](#).

Note that reading from the stream may cause the calling process to be suspended when the created process is not writing anything to standard output, or to cause errors when the process has terminated.

See also: [TProcess.InPut \(492\)](#), [TProcess.Output \(493\)](#), [TProcess.Options \(496\)](#), [TProcessOption \(484\)](#)

24.5.23 TProcess.ExitStatus

Synopsis: Exit status of the process.

Declaration: `Property ExitStatus : Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `ExitStatus` contains the exit status as reported by the process when it stopped executing. The value of this property is only meaningful when the process is no longer running. If it is not running then the value is zero.

See also: [TProcess.Running \(498\)](#), [TProcess.Terminate \(490\)](#)

24.5.24 TProcess.InheritHandles

Synopsis: Should the created process inherit the open handles of the current process.

Declaration: `Property InheritHandles : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `InheritHandles` determines whether the created process inherits the open handles of the current process (value `True`) or not (`False`).

On Unix, setting this variable has no effect.

See also: `TProcess.InPut` (492), `TProcess.Output` (493), `TProcess.StdErr` (493)

24.5.25 TProcess.Active

Synopsis: Start or stop the process.

Declaration: `Property Active : Boolean`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `Active` starts the process if it is set to `True`, or terminates the process if set to `False`. It's mostly intended for use in an IDE.

See also: `TProcess.Execute` (488), `TProcess.Terminate` (490)

24.5.26 TProcess.ApplicationName

Synopsis: Name of the application to start

Declaration: `Property ApplicationName : String`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `ApplicationName` is an alias for `TProcess.CommandLine` (494). It's mostly for use in the Windows `CreateProcess` call. If `CommandLine` is not set, then `ApplicationName` will be used instead.

Note that either `CommandLine` or `ApplicationName` must be set prior to calling `Execute`.

See also: `TProcess.CommandLine` (494)

24.5.27 TProcess.CommandLine

Synopsis: Command-line to execute

Declaration: `Property CommandLine : String`

Visibility: `published`

Access: `Read,Write`

Description: `CommandLine` is the command-line to be executed: this is the name of the program to be executed, followed by any options it should be passed.

If the command to be executed or any of the arguments contains whitespace (space, tab character, linefeed character) it should be enclosed in single or double quotes.

If no absolute pathname is given for the command to be executed, it is searched for in the `PATH` environment variable. On Windows, the current directory always will be searched first. On other platforms, this is not so.

Note that either `CommandLine` or `ApplicationName` must be set prior to calling `Execute`.

See also: `TProcess.ApplicationName` ([494](#))

24.5.28 TProcess.ConsoleTitle

Synopsis: Title of the console window

Declaration: `Property ConsoleTitle : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ConsoleTitle` is used on Windows when executing a console application: it specifies the title caption of the console window. On other platforms, this property is currently ignored.

Changing this property after the process was started has no effect.

See also: `TProcess.WindowColumns` ([499](#)), `TProcess.WindowRows` ([500](#))

24.5.29 TProcess.CurrentDirectory

Synopsis: Working directory of the process.

Declaration: `Property CurrentDirectory : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `CurrentDirectory` specifies the working directory of the newly started process.

Changing this property after the process was started has no effect.

See also: `TProcess.Environment` ([496](#))

24.5.30 TProcess.Desktop

Synopsis: Desktop on which to start the process.

Declaration: `Property Desktop : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Desktop` is used on Windows to determine on which desktop the process' main window should be shown. Leaving this empty means the process is started on the same desktop as the currently running process.

Changing this property after the process was started has no effect.

On unix, this parameter is ignored.

See also: [TProcess.Input \(492\)](#), [TProcess.Output \(493\)](#), [TProcess.StdErr \(493\)](#)

24.5.31 TProcess.Environment

Synopsis: Environment variables for the new process

Declaration: `Property Environment : TStrings`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Environment` contains the environment for the new process; it's a list of `Name=Value` pairs, one per line.

If it is empty, the environment of the current process is passed on to the new process.

See also: [TProcess.Options \(496\)](#)

24.5.32 TProcess.Options

Synopsis: Options to be used when starting the process.

Declaration: `Property Options : TProcessOptions`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Options` determine how the process is started. They should be set before the `Execute (488)` call is made.

Table 24.6:

| option | Meaning |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <code>poRunSuspended</code> | Start the process in suspended state. |
| <code>poWaitOnExit</code> | Wait for the process to terminate before returning. |
| <code>poUsePipes</code> | Use pipes to redirect standard input and output. |
| <code>poStderrToOutPut</code> | Redirect standard error to the standard output stream. |
| <code>poNoConsole</code> | Do not allow access to the console window for the process (Win32 only) |
| <code>poNewConsole</code> | Start a new console window for the process (Win32 only) |
| <code>poDefaultErrorMode</code> | Use default error handling. |
| <code>poNewProcessGroup</code> | Start the process in a new process group (Win32 only) |
| <code>poDebugProcess</code> | Allow debugging of the process (Win32 only) |
| <code>poDebugOnlyThisProcess</code> | Do not follow processes started by this process (Win32 only) |

See also: [TProcessOption \(484\)](#), [TProcessOptions \(485\)](#), [TProcess.Priority \(497\)](#), [TProcess.StartupOptions \(497\)](#)

24.5.33 TProcess.Priority

Synopsis: Priority at which the process is running.

Declaration: `Property Priority : TProcessPriority`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Priority` determines the priority at which the process is running.

Table 24.7:

| Priority | Meaning |
|-------------------------|---|
| <code>ppHigh</code> | The process runs at higher than normal priority. |
| <code>ppIdle</code> | The process only runs when the system is idle (i.e. has nothing else to do) |
| <code>ppNormal</code> | The process runs at normal priority. |
| <code>ppRealTime</code> | The process runs at real-time priority. |

Note that not all priorities can be set by any user. Usually, only users with administrative rights (the root user on Unix) can set a higher process priority.

On unix, the process priority is mapped on `Nice` values as follows:

Table 24.8:

| Priority | Nice value |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <code>ppHigh</code> | 20 |
| <code>ppIdle</code> | 20 |
| <code>ppNormal</code> | 0 |
| <code>ppRealTime</code> | -20 |

See also: `TProcessPriority` (485)

24.5.34 TProcess.StartupOptions

Synopsis: Additional (Windows) startup options

Declaration: `Property StartupOptions : TStartupOptions`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `StartupOptions` contains additional startup options, used mostly on Windows system. They determine which other window layout properties are taken into account when starting the new process.

See also: `TProcess.ShowWindow` (498), `TProcess.WindowHeight` (499), `TProcess.WindowWidth` (500), `TProcess.WindowLeft` (499), `TProcess.WindowTop` (500), `TProcess.WindowColumns` (499), `TProcess.WindowRows` (500), `TProcess.FillAttribute` (501)

Table 24.9:

| Priority | Meaning |
|---------------------|--|
| suoUseShowWindow | Use the Show Window options specified in ShowWindow (498) |
| suoUseSize | Use the specified window sizes |
| suoUsePosition | Use the specified window sizes. |
| suoUseCountChars | Use the specified console character width. |
| suoUseFillAttribute | Use the console fill attribute specified in FillAttribute (501). |

24.5.35 TProcess.Running

Synopsis: Determines wheter the process is still running.

Declaration: Property Running : Boolean

Visibility: published

Access: Read

Description: Running can be read to determine whether the process is still running.

See also: TProcess.Terminate (490), TProcess.Active (494), TProcess.ExitStatus (493)

24.5.36 TProcess.ShowWindow

Synopsis: Determines how the process main window is shown (Windows only)

Declaration: Property ShowWindow : TShowWindowOptions

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: ShowWindow determines how the process' main window is shown. It is useful only on Windows.

Table 24.10:

| Option | Meaning |
|--------------------|---|
| swoNone | Allow system to position the window. |
| swoHIDE | The main window is hidden. |
| swoMaximize | The main window is maximized. |
| swoMinimize | The main window is minimized. |
| swoRestore | Restore the previous position. |
| swoShow | Show the main window. |
| swoShowDefault | When showing Show the main window on a default position |
| swoShowMaximized | The main window is shown maximized |
| swoShowMinimized | The main window is shown minimized |
| swoshowMinNOActive | The main window is shown minimized but not activated |
| swoShowNA | The main window is shown but not activated |
| swoShowNoActivate | The main window is shown but not activated |
| swoShowNormal | The main window is shown normally |

24.5.37 TProcess.WindowColumns

Synopsis: Number of columns in console window (windows only)

Declaration: `Property WindowColumns : Cardinal`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `WindowColumns` is the number of columns in the console window, used to run the command in. This property is only effective if `suoUseCountChars` is specified in `StartupOptions` (497)

See also: `TProcess.WindowHeight` (499), `TProcess.WindowWidth` (500), `TProcess.WindowLeft` (499), `TProcess.WindowTop` (500), `TProcess.WindowRows` (500), `TProcess.FillAttribute` (501), `TProcess.StartupOptions` (497)

24.5.38 TProcess.WindowHeight

Synopsis: Height of the process main window

Declaration: `Property WindowHeight : Cardinal`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `WindowHeight` is the initial height (in pixels) of the process' main window. This property is only effective if `suoUseSize` is specified in `StartupOptions` (497)

See also: `TProcess.WindowWidth` (500), `TProcess.WindowLeft` (499), `TProcess.WindowTop` (500), `TProcess.WindowColumns` (499), `TProcess.WindowRows` (500), `TProcess.FillAttribute` (501), `TProcess.StartupOptions` (497)

24.5.39 TProcess.WindowLeft

Synopsis: X-coordinate of the initial window (Windows only)

Declaration: `Property WindowLeft : Cardinal`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `WindowLeft` is the initial X coordinate (in pixels) of the process' main window, relative to the left border of the desktop. This property is only effective if `suoUsePosition` is specified in `StartupOptions` (497)

See also: `TProcess.WindowHeight` (499), `TProcess.WindowWidth` (500), `TProcess.WindowTop` (500), `TProcess.WindowColumns` (499), `TProcess.WindowRows` (500), `TProcess.FillAttribute` (501), `TProcess.StartupOptions` (497)

24.5.40 TProcess.WindowRows

Synopsis: Number of rows in console window (Windows only)

Declaration: Property WindowRows : Cardinal

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: WindowRows is the number of rows in the console window, used to run the command in. This property is only effective if suoUseCountChars is specified in StartupOptions (497)

See also: TProcess.WindowHeight (499), TProcess.WindowWidth (500), TProcess.WindowLeft (499), TProcess.WindowTop (500), TProcess.WindowColumns (499), TProcess.FillAttribute (501), TProcess.StartupOptions (497)

24.5.41 TProcess.WindowTop

Synopsis: Y-coordinate of the initial window (Windows only)

Declaration: Property WindowTop : Cardinal

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: WindowTop is the initial Y coordinate (in pixels) of the process' main window, relative to the top border of the desktop. This property is only effective if suoUsePosition is specified in StartupOptions (497)

See also: TProcess.WindowHeight (499), TProcess.WindowWidth (500), TProcess.WindowLeft (499), TProcess.WindowColumns (499), TProcess.WindowRows (500), TProcess.FillAttribute (501), TProcess.StartupOptions (497)

24.5.42 TProcess.WindowWidth

Synopsis: Height of the process main window (Windows only)

Declaration: Property WindowWidth : Cardinal

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: WindowWidth is the initial width (in pixels) of the process' main window. This property is only effective if suoUseSize is specified in StartupOptions (497)

See also: TProcess.WindowHeight (499), TProcess.WindowLeft (499), TProcess.WindowTop (500), TProcess.WindowColumns (499), TProcess.WindowRows (500), TProcess.FillAttribute (501), TProcess.StartupOptions (497)

24.5.43 TProcess.FillAttribute

Synopsis: Color attributes of the characters in the console window (Windows only)

Declaration: `Property FillAttribute : Cardinal`

Visibility: published

Access: Read, Write

Description: `FillAttribute` is a `WORD` value which specifies the background and foreground colors of the console window.

See also: `TProcess.WindowHeight` ([499](#)), `TProcess.WindowWidth` ([500](#)), `TProcess.WindowLeft` ([499](#)), `TProcess.WindowTop` ([500](#)), `TProcess.WindowColumns` ([499](#)), `TProcess.WindowRows` ([500](#)), `TProcess.StartupOptions` ([497](#))

Chapter 25

Reference for unit 'rttiutils'

25.1 Used units

Table 25.1: Used units by unit 'rttiutils'

| Name | Page |
|----------|---------------------|
| Classes | ?? |
| StrUtils | 502 |
| sysutils | ?? |
| typinfo | ?? |

25.2 Overview

The `rttiutils` unit is a unit providing simplified access to the RTTI information from published properties using the `TPropInfoList` ([504](#)) class. This access can be used when saving or restoring form properties at runtime, or for persisting other objects whose RTTI is available: the `TPropsStorage` ([507](#)) class can be used for this. The implementation is based on the `apputils` unit from `RXLib` by *AO ROSNO* and *Master-Bank*

25.3 Constants, types and variables

25.3.1 Constants

```
sPropNameDelimiter : String = '_'
```

Separator used when constructing section/key names

25.3.2 Types

```
TEraseSectEvent = procedure(const ASection: String) of object
```

`TEraseSectEvent` is used by `TPropsStorage` (507) to clear a storage section, in a .ini file like fashion: The call should remove all keys in the section `ASection`, and remove the section from storage.

```
TFindComponentEvent = function(const Name: String) : TComponent
```

`TFindComponentEvent` should return the component instance for the component with name path `Name`. The name path should be relative to the global list of loaded components.

```
TReadStrEvent = function(const ASection: String;const Item: String;
                        const Default: String) : String of object
```

`TReadStrEvent` is used by `TPropsStorage` (507) to read strings from a storage mechanism, in a .ini file like fashion: The call should read the string in `ASection` with key `Item`, and if it does not exist, `Default` should be returned.

```
TWriteStrEvent = procedure(const ASection: String;const Item: String;
                          const Value: String) of object
```

`TWriteStrEvent` is used by `TPropsStorage` (507) to write strings to a storage mechanism, in a .ini file like fashion: The call should write the string `Value` in `ASection` with key `Item`. The section and key should be created if they didn't exist yet.

25.3.3 Variables

```
FindGlobalComponentCallBack : TFindComponentEvent
```

`FindGlobalComponentCallBack` is called by `UpdateStoredList` (504) whenever it needs to resolve component references. It should be set to a routine that locates a loaded component in the global list of loaded components.

25.4 Procedures and functions

25.4.1 CreateStoredItem

Synopsis: Concatenates component and property name

Declaration: `function CreateStoredItem(const CompName: String;const PropName: String) : String`

Visibility: default

Description: `CreateStoredItem` concatenates `CompName` and `PropName` if they are both empty. The names are separated by a dot (.) character. If either of the names is empty, an empty string is returned.

This function can be used to create items for the list of properties such as used in `UpdateStoredList` (504), `TPropsStorage.StoreObjectsProps` (509) or `TPropsStorage.LoadObjectsProps` (508).

See also: `ParseStoredItem` (504), `UpdateStoredList` (504), `TPropsStorage.StoreObjectsProps` (509), `TPropsStorage.LoadObjectsProps` (508)

25.4.2 ParseStoredItem

Synopsis: Split a property reference to component reference and property name

Declaration: `function ParseStoredItem(const Item: String; var CompName: String; var PropName: String) : Boolean`

Visibility: default

Description: `ParseStoredItem` parses the property reference `Item` and splits it in a reference to a component (returned in `CompName`) and a name of a property (returned in `PropName`). This function basically does the opposite of `CreateStoredItem` (503). Note that both names should be non-empty, i.e., at least 1 dot character must appear in `Item`.

Errors: If an error occurred during parsing, `False` is returned.

See also: `CreateStoredItem` (503), `UpdateStoredList` (504), `TPropsStorage.StoreObjectsProps` (509), `TPropsStorage.LoadObjectsProps` (508)

25.4.3 UpdateStoredList

Synopsis: Update a stringlist with object references

Declaration: `procedure UpdateStoredList (AComponent: TComponent; AStoredList: TStrings; FromForm: Boolean)`

Visibility: default

Description: `UpdateStoredList` will parse the strings in `AStoredList` using `ParseStoredItem` (504) and will replace the `Objects` properties with the instance of the object whose name each property path in the list refers to. If `FromForm` is `True`, then all instances are searched relative to `AComponent`, i.e. they must be owned by `AComponent`. If `FromForm` is `False` the instances are searched in the global list of streamed components. (the `FindGlobalComponentCallBack` (503) callback must be set for the search to work correctly in this case)

If a component cannot be found, the reference string to the property is removed from the stringlist.

Errors: If `AComponent` is `Nil`, an exception may be raised.

See also: `ParseStoredItem` (504), `TPropsStorage.StoreObjectsProps` (509), `TPropsStorage.LoadObjectsProps` (508), `FindGlobalComponentCallBack` (503)

25.5 TPropInfoList

25.5.1 Description

`TPropInfoList` is a class which can be used to maintain a list with information about published properties of a class (or an instance). It is used internally by `TPropsStorage` (507)

25.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|-----------|--|
| 505 | Contains | Check whether a certain property is included |
| 505 | Create | Create a new instance of <code>TPropInfoList</code> |
| 506 | Delete | Delete property information from the list |
| 505 | Destroy | Remove the <code>TPropInfoList</code> instance from memory |
| 505 | Find | Retrieve property information based on name |
| 506 | Intersect | Intersect 2 property lists |

25.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|--|
| 506 | Count | r | Number of items in the list |
| 506 | Items | r | Indexed access to the property type pointers |

25.5.4 TPropInfoList.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TPropInfoList`

Declaration: constructor `Create(AObject: TObject; Filter: TTypeKinds)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` allocates and initializes a new instance of `TPropInfoList` on the heap. It retrieves a list of published properties from `AObject`: if `Filter` is empty, then all properties are retrieved. If it is not empty, then only properties of the kind specified in the set are retrieved. Instance should not be `Nil`

See also: `TPropInfoList.Destroy` ([505](#))

25.5.5 TPropInfoList.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove the `TPropInfoList` instance from memory

Declaration: destructor `Destroy`; `Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the internal structures maintained by `TPropInfoList` and then calls the inherited `Destroy`.

See also: `TPropInfoList.Create` ([505](#))

25.5.6 TPropInfoList.Contains

Synopsis: Check whether a certain property is included

Declaration: function `Contains(P: PPropInfo) : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Description: `Contains` checks whether `P` is included in the list of properties, and returns `True` if it does. If `P` cannot be found, `False` is returned.

See also: `TPropInfoList.Find` ([505](#)), `TPropInfoList.Intersect` ([506](#))

25.5.7 TPropInfoList.Find

Synopsis: Retrieve property information based on name

Declaration: function `Find(const AName: String) : PPropInfo`

Visibility: public

Description: `Find` returns a pointer to the type information of the property `AName`. If no such information is available, the function returns `Nil`. The search is performed case insensitive.

See also: `TPropInfoList.Intersect` ([506](#)), `TPropInfoList.Contains` ([505](#))

25.5.8 TPropInfoList.Delete

Synopsis: Delete property information from the list

Declaration: procedure Delete(Index: Integer)

Visibility: public

Description: Delete deletes the property information at position Index from the list. It's mainly of use in the Intersect (506) call.

Errors: No checking on the validity of Index is performed.

See also: TPropInfoList.Intersect (506)

25.5.9 TPropInfoList.Intersect

Synopsis: Intersect 2 property lists

Declaration: procedure Intersect(List: TPropInfoList)

Visibility: public

Description: Intersect reduces the list of properties to the ones also contained in List, i.e. all properties which are not also present in List are removed.

See also: TPropInfoList.Delete (506), TPropInfoList.Contains (505)

25.5.10 TPropInfoList.Count

Synopsis: Number of items in the list

Declaration: Property Count : Integer

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: Count is the number of property type pointers in the list.

See also: TPropInfoList.Items (506)

25.5.11 TPropInfoList.Items

Synopsis: Indexed access to the property type pointers

Declaration: Property Items[Index: Integer]: PPropInfo; default

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: Items provides access to the property type pointers stored in the list. Index runs from 0 to Count-1.

See also: TPropInfoList.Count (506)

25.6 TPropsStorage

25.6.1 Description

TPropsStorage provides a mechanism to store properties from any class which has published properties (usually a TPersistent descendent) in a storage mechanism.

TPropsStorage does not handle the storage by itself, instead, the storage is handled through a series of callbacks to read and/or write strings. Conversion of property types to string is handled by TPropsStorage itself: all that needs to be done is set the 3 handlers. The storage mechanism is assumed to have the structure of an .ini file : sections with key/value pairs. The three callbacks should take this into account, but they do not need to create an actual .ini file.

25.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 507 | LoadAnyProperty | Load a property value |
| 508 | LoadObjectsProps | Load a list of component properties |
| 508 | LoadProperties | Load a list of properties |
| 507 | StoreAnyProperty | Store a property value |
| 509 | StoreObjectsProps | Store a list of component properties |
| 508 | StoreProperties | Store a list of properties |

25.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------|--------|---|
| 510 | AObject | rw | Object to load or store properties from |
| 511 | OnEraseSection | rw | Erase a section in storage |
| 510 | OnReadString | rw | Read a string value from storage |
| 511 | OnWriteString | rw | Write a string value to storage |
| 510 | Prefix | rw | Prefix to use in storage |
| 510 | Section | rw | Section name for storage |

25.6.4 TPropsStorage.StoreAnyProperty

Synopsis: Store a property value

Declaration: procedure StoreAnyProperty(PropInfo: PPropInfo)

Visibility: public

Description: StoreAnyProperty stores the property with information specified in PropInfo in the storage mechanism. The property value is retrieved from the object instance specified in the AObject ([510](#)) property of TPropsStorage.

Errors: If the property pointer is invalid or AObject is invalid, an exception will be raised.

See also: TPropsStorage.AObject ([510](#)), TPropsStorage.LoadAnyProperty ([507](#)), TPropsStorage.LoadProperties ([508](#)), TPropsStorage.StoreProperties ([508](#))

25.6.5 TPropsStorage.LoadAnyProperty

Synopsis: Load a property value

Declaration: procedure LoadAnyProperty(PropInfo: PPropInfo)

Visibility: public

Description: `LoadAnyProperty` loads the property with information specified in `PropInfo` from the storage mechanism. The value is then applied to the object instance specified in the `AObject` (510) property of `TPropsStorage`.

Errors: If the property pointer is invalid or `AObject` is invalid, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TPropsStorage.AObject` (510), `TPropsStorage.StoreAnyProperty` (507), `TPropsStorage.LoadProperties` (508), `TPropsStorage.StoreProperties` (508)

25.6.6 TPropsStorage.StoreProperties

Synopsis: Store a list of properties

Declaration: `procedure StoreProperties(PropList: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `StoreProperties` stores the values of all properties in `PropList` in the storage mechanism. The list should contain names of published properties of the `AObject` (510) object.

Errors: If an invalid property name is specified, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TPropsStorage.AObject` (510), `TPropsStorage.StoreAnyProperty` (507), `TPropsStorage.LoadProperties` (508), `TPropsStorage.LoadAnyProperty` (507)

25.6.7 TPropsStorage.LoadProperties

Synopsis: Load a list of properties

Declaration: `procedure LoadProperties(PropList: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `LoadProperties` loads the values of all properties in `PropList` from the storage mechanism. The list should contain names of published properties of the `AObject` (510) object.

Errors: If an invalid property name is specified, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TPropsStorage.AObject` (510), `TPropsStorage.StoreAnyProperty` (507), `TPropsStorage.StoreProperties` (508), `TPropsStorage.LoadAnyProperty` (507)

25.6.8 TPropsStorage.LoadObjectsProps

Synopsis: Load a list of component properties

Declaration: `procedure LoadObjectsProps(AComponent: TComponent; StoredList: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `LoadObjectsProps` loads a list of component properties, relative to `AComponent`: the names of the component properties to load are specified as follows:

```
ComponentName1.PropertyName
ComponentName2.Subcomponent1.PropertyName
```

The component instances will be located relative to `AComponent`, and must therefore be names of components owned by `AComponent`, followed by a valid property of these components. If the `componentname` is missing, the property name will be assumed to be a property of `AComponent` itself.

The `Objects` property of the stringlist should be filled with the instances of the components the property references refer to: they can be filled with the `UpdateStoredList` (504) call.

For example, to load the checked state of a checkbox named 'CBCheckMe' and the caption of a button named 'BPressMe', both owned by a form, the following strings should be passed:

```
CBCheckMe.Checked
BPressMe.Caption
```

and the `AComponent` should be the form component that owns the button and checkbox.

Note that this call removes the value of the `AObject` (510) property.

Errors: If an invalid component is specified, an exception will be raised.

See also: `UpdateStoredList` (504), `TPropsStorage.StoreObjectsProps` (509), `TPropsStorage.LoadProperties` (508), `TPropsStorage.LoadAnyProperty` (507)

25.6.9 TPropsStorage.StoreObjectsProps

Synopsis: Store a list of component properties

Declaration: `procedure StoreObjectsProps(AComponent: TComponent; StoredList: TStrings)`

Visibility: public

Description: `StoreObjectsProps` stores a list of component properties, relative to `AComponent`: the names of the component properties to store are specified as follows:

```
ComponentName1.PropertyName
ComponentName2.Subcomponent1.PropertyName
```

The component instances will be located relative to `AComponent`, and must therefore be names of components owned by `AComponent`, followed by a valid property of these components. If the `componentname` is missing, the property name will be assumed to be a property of `AComponent` itself.

The `Objects` property of the stringlist should be filled with the instances of the components the property references refer to: they can be filled with the `UpdateStoredList` (504) call.

For example, to store the checked state of a checkbox named 'CBCheckMe' and the caption of a button named 'BPressMe', both owned by a form, the following strings should be passed:

```
CBCheckMe.Checked
BPressMe.Caption
```

and the `AComponent` should be the form component that owns the button and checkbox.

Note that this call removes the value of the `AObject` (510) property.

See also: `UpdateStoredList` (504), `TPropsStorage.LoadObjectsProps` (508), `TPropsStorage.LoadProperties` (508), `TPropsStorage.LoadAnyProperty` (507)

25.6.10 TPropsStorage.AObject

Synopsis: Object to load or store properties from

Declaration: `Property AObject : TObject`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `AObject` is the object instance whose properties will be loaded or stored with any of the methods in the `TPropsStorage` class. Note that a call to `StoreObjectProps` (509) or `LoadObjectProps` (508) will destroy any value that this property might have.

See also: `TPropsStorage.LoadProperties` (508), `TPropsStorage.LoadAnyProperty` (507), `TPropsStorage.StoreProperties` (508), `TPropsStorage.StoreAnyProperty` (507), `TPropsStorage.StoreObjectsProps` (509), `TPropsStorage.LoadObjectsProps` (508)

25.6.11 TPropsStorage.Prefix

Synopsis: Prefix to use in storage

Declaration: `Property Prefix : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Prefix` is prepended to all property names to form the key name when writing a property to storage, or when reading a value from storage. This is useful when storing properties of multiple forms in a single section.

See also: `TPropsStorage.Section` (510)

25.6.12 TPropsStorage.Section

Synopsis: Section name for storage

Declaration: `Property Section : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Section` is used as the section name when writing values to storage. Note that when writing properties of subcomponents, their names will be appended to the value specified here.

See also: `TPropsStorage.Section` (510)

25.6.13 TPropsStorage.OnReadString

Synopsis: Read a string value from storage

Declaration: `Property OnReadString : TReadStrEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnReadString` is the event handler called whenever `TPropsStorage` needs to read a string from storage. It should be set whenever properties need to be loaded, or an exception will be raised.

See also: `TPropsStorage.OnWriteString` (511), `TPropsStorage.OnEraseSection` (511), `TReadStrEvent` (503)

25.6.14 `TPropsStorage.OnWriteString`

Synopsis: Write a string value to storage

Declaration: `Property OnWriteString : TWriteStrEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnWriteString` is the event handler called whenever `TPropsStorage` needs to write a string to storage. It should be set whenever properties need to be stored, or an exception will be raised.

See also: `TPropsStorage.OnReadString` (510), `TPropsStorage.OnEraseSection` (511), `TWriteStrEvent` (503)

25.6.15 `TPropsStorage.OnEraseSection`

Synopsis: Erase a section in storage

Declaration: `Property OnEraseSection : TEraseSectEvent`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnEraseSection` is the event handler called whenever `TPropsStorage` needs to clear a complete storage section. It should be set whenever stringlist properties need to be stored, or an exception will be raised.

See also: `TPropsStorage.OnReadString` (510), `TPropsStorage.OnWriteString` (511), `TEraseSectEvent` (502)

Chapter 26

Reference for unit 'simpleipc'

26.1 Used units

Table 26.1: Used units by unit 'simpleipc'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

26.2 Overview

The SimpleIPC unit provides classes to implement a simple, one-way IPC mechanism using string messages. It provides a TSimpleIPCServer (522) component for the server, and a TSimpleIPCClient (519) component for the client. The components are cross-platform, and should work both on Windows and unix-like systems.

26.3 Constants, types and variables

26.3.1 Resource strings

```
SErrActive = 'This operation is illegal when the server is active.'
```

Error message if client/server is active.

```
SErrInactive = 'This operation is illegal when the server is inactive.'
```

Error message if client/server is not active.

```
SErrServerNotActive = 'Server with ID %s is not active.'
```

Error message if server is not active

26.3.2 Constants

```
MsgVersion = 1
```

Current version of the messaging protocol

```
mtString = 1
```

String message type

```
mtUnknown = 0
```

Unknown message type

26.3.3 Types

```
TIPCCliantCommClass = Class of TIPCCliantComm
```

`TIPCCliantCommClass` is used by `TSimpleIPCClient` (519) to decide which kind of communication channel to set up.

```
TIPCServerCommClass = Class of TIPCServerComm
```

`TIPCServerCommClass` is used by `TSimpleIPCServer` (522) to decide which kind of communication channel to set up.

```
TMessageType = LongInt
```

`TMessageType` is provided for backward compatibility with earlier versions of the `simpleipc` unit.

```
TMsgHeader = packed record
```

```
  Version : Byte;
  MsgType : TMessageType;
  MsgLen  : Integer;
end
```

`TMsgHeader` is used internally by the IPC client and server components to transmit data. The `Version` field denotes the protocol version. The `MsgType` field denotes the type of data (`mtString` for string messages), and `MsgLen` is the length of the message which will follow.

26.3.4 Variables

```
DefaultIPCCliantClass : TIPCCliantCommClass = nil
```

`DefaultIPCCliantClass` is filled with a class pointer indicating which kind of communication protocol class should be instantiated by the `TSimpleIPCClient` (519) class. It is set to a default value by the default implementation in the `SimpleIPC` unit, but can be set to another class if another method of transport is desired. (it should match the communication protocol used by the server, obviously).

```
DefaultIPCServerClass : TIPCServerCommClass = nil
```

`DefaultIPCServerClass` is filled with a class pointer indicating which kind of communication protocol class should be instantiated by the `TSimpleIPCServer` (522) class. It is set to a default value by the default implementation in the `SimpleIPC` unit, but can be set to another class if another method of transport is desired.

26.4 EIPCErrror

26.4.1 Description

`EIPCErrror` is the exception used by the various classes in the `SimpleIPC` unit to report errors.

26.5 TIPCCliientComm

26.5.1 Description

`TIPCCliientComm` is an abstract component which implements the client-side communication protocol. The behaviour expected of this class must be implemented in a platform-dependent descendent class.

The `TSimpleIPCClient` (519) class does not implement the messaging protocol by itself. Instead, it creates an instance of a (platform dependent) descendent of `TIPCCliientComm` which handles the internals of the commnication protocol.

The server side of the messaging protocol is handled by the `TIPCServerComm` (516) component. The descenent components must always be implemented in pairs.

26.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|---------------|---|
| 514 | Connect | Connect to the server |
| 514 | Create | Create a new instance of the <code>TIPCCliientComm</code> |
| 515 | Disconnect | Disconnect from the server |
| 515 | SendMessage | Send a message |
| 515 | ServerRunning | Check if the server is running. |

26.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|---|
| 516 | Owner | r | <code>TSimpleIPCClient</code> instance for which communication must be handled. |

26.5.4 TIPCCliientComm.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the `TIPCCliientComm`

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TSimpleIPCClient); Virtual`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` instantiates a new instance of the `TIPCCliientComm` class, and stores the `AOwner` reference to the `TSimpleIPCClient` (519) instance for which it will handle communication. It can be retrieved later using the `Owner` (516) property.

See also: `TIPCCliientComm.Owner` (516), `TSimpleIPCClient` (519)

26.5.5 TIPCCliientComm.Connect

Synopsis: Connect to the server

Declaration: procedure Connect; Virtual; Abstract

Visibility: public

Description: Connect must establish a communication channel with the server. The server endpoint must be constructed from the ServerID (519) and ServerInstance (522) properties of the owning TSimpleIPCClient (519) instance.

Connect is called by the TSimpleIPCClient.Connect (520) call or when the Active (519) property is set to True

Messages can be sent only after Connect was called successfully.

Errors: If the connection setup fails, or the connection was already set up, then an exception may be raised.

See also: TSimpleIPCClient.Connect (520), TSimpleIPC.Active (519), TIPCCClientComm.Disconnect (515)

26.5.6 TIPCCClientComm.Disconnect

Synopsis: Disconnect from the server

Declaration: procedure Disconnect; Virtual; Abstract

Visibility: public

Description: Disconnect closes the communication channel with the server. Any calls to SendMessage are invalid after Disconnect was called.

Disconnect is called by the TSimpleIPCClient.Disconnect (521) call or when the Active (519) property is set to False.

Messages can no longer be sent after Disconnect was called.

Errors: If the connection shutdown fails, or the connection was already shut down, then an exception may be raised.

See also: TSimpleIPCClient.Disconnect (521), TSimpleIPC.Active (519), TIPCCClientComm.Connect (514)

26.5.7 TIPCCClientComm.ServerRunning

Synopsis: Check if the server is running.

Declaration: function ServerRunning : Boolean; Virtual; Abstract

Visibility: public

Description: ServerRunning returns True if the server endpoint of the communication channel can be found, or False if not. The server endpoint should be obtained from the ServerID and InstanceID properties of the owning TSimpleIPCClient (519) component.

See also: TSimpleIPCClient.InstanceID (519), TSimpleIPCClient.ServerID (519)

26.5.8 TIPCCClientComm.SendMessage

Synopsis: Send a message

Declaration: procedure SendMessage (MsgType: TMessageType; Stream: TStream); Virtual
; Abstract

Visibility: public

Description: `SendMessage` should deliver the message with type `MsgType` and data in `Stream` to the server. It should not return until the message was delivered.

Errors: If the delivery of the message fails, an exception will be raised.

26.5.9 TIPCCliientComm.Owner

Synopsis: `TSimpleIPCCliient` instance for which communication must be handled.

Declaration: `Property Owner : TSimpleIPCCliient`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `Owner` is the `TSimpleIPCCliient` (519) instance for which the communication must be handled. It cannot be changed, and must be specified when the `TIPCCliientComm` instance is created.

See also: `TSimpleIPCCliient` (519), `TIPCCliientComm.Create` (514)

26.6 TIPCServerComm

26.6.1 Description

`TIPCServerComm` is an abstract component which implements the server-side communication protocol. The behaviour expected of this class must be implemented in a platform-dependent descendent class.

The `TSimpleIPCServer` (522) class does not implement the messaging protocol by itself. Instead, it creates an instance of a (platform dependent) descendent of `TIPCServerComm` which handles the internals of the communication protocol.

The client side of the messaging protocol is handled by the `TIPCCliientComm` (514) component. The descendent components must always be implemented in pairs.

26.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|--------------------------|--|
| 516 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of the communication handler |
| 517 | <code>PeekMessage</code> | See if a message is available. |
| 518 | <code>ReadMessage</code> | Read message from the channel. |
| 517 | <code>StartServer</code> | Start the server-side of the communication channel |
| 517 | <code>StopServer</code> | Stop the server side of the communication channel. |

26.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|-------------------------|----------------|--|
| 518 | <code>InstanceID</code> | <code>r</code> | Unique identifier for the communication channel. |
| 518 | <code>Owner</code> | <code>r</code> | <code>TSimpleIPCServer</code> instance for which to handle transport |

26.6.4 TIPCServerComm.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the communication handler

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TSimpleIPCServer); Virtual`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` initializes a new instance of the communication handler. It simply saves the `AOwner` parameter in the `Owner` (518) property.

See also: `TIPCServerComm.Owner` (518)

26.6.5 `TIPCServerComm.StartServer`

Synopsis: Start the server-side of the communication channel

Declaration: `procedure StartServer; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `StartServer` sets up the server-side of the communication channel. After `StartServer` was called, a client can connect to the communication channel, and send messages to the server.

It is called when the `TSimpleIPC.Active` (519) property of the `TSimpleIPCServer` (522) instance is set to `True`.

Errors: In case of an error, an `EIPCError` (514) exception is raised.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer` (522), `TSimpleIPC.Active` (519)

26.6.6 `TIPCServerComm.StopServer`

Synopsis: Stop the server side of the communication channel.

Declaration: `procedure StopServer; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `StartServer` closes down the server-side of the communication channel. After `StartServer` was called, a client can no longer connect to the communication channel, or even send messages to the server if it was previously connected (i.e. it will be disconnected).

It is called when the `TSimpleIPC.Active` (519) property of the `TSimpleIPCServer` (522) instance is set to `False`.

Errors: In case of an error, an `EIPCError` (514) exception is raised.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer` (522), `TSimpleIPC.Active` (519)

26.6.7 `TIPCServerComm.PeekMessage`

Synopsis: See if a message is available.

Declaration: `function PeekMessage(TimeOut: Integer) : Boolean; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `PeekMessage` can be used to see if a message is available: it returns `True` if a message is available. It will wait maximum `TimeOut` milliseconds for a message to arrive. If no message was available after this time, it will return `False`.

If a message was available, it can be read with the `ReadMessage` (518) call.

See also: `TIPCServerComm.ReadMessage` (518)

26.6.8 TIPServerComm.ReadMessage

Synopsis: Read message from the channel.

Declaration: `procedure ReadMessage; Virtual; Abstract`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadMessage` reads the message for the channel, and stores the information in the data structures in the `Owner` class.

`ReadMessage` is a blocking call: if no message is available, the program will wait till a message arrives. Use `PeekMessage` (517) to see if a message is available.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer` (522)

26.6.9 TIPServerComm.Owner

Synopsis: `TSimpleIPCServer` instance for which to handle transport

Declaration: `Property Owner : TSimpleIPCServer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Owner` refers to the `TSimpleIPCServer` (522) instance for which this instance of `TSimpleIPCServer` handles the transport. It is specified when the `TIPServerComm` is created.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer` (522)

26.6.10 TIPServerComm.InstanceID

Synopsis: Unique identifier for the communication channel.

Declaration: `Property InstanceID : String`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `InstanceID` returns a textual representation which uniquely identifies the communication channel on the server. The value is system dependent, and should be usable by the client-side to establish a communication channel with this instance.

26.7 TSimpleIPC

26.7.1 Description

`TSimpleIPC` is the common ancestor for the `TSimpleIPCServer` (522) and `TSimpleIPCClient` (519) classes. It implements some common properties between client and server.

26.7.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|----------|--------|------------------------------|
| 519 | Active | rw | Communication channel active |
| 519 | ServerID | rw | Unique server identification |

26.7.3 TSimpleIPC.Active

Synopsis: Communication channel active

Declaration: `Property Active : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Active` can be set to `True` to set up the client or server end of the communication channel. For the server this means that the server end is set up, for the client it means that the client tries to connect to the server with `ServerID` (519) identification.

See also: `TSimpleIPC.ServerID` (519)

26.7.4 TSimpleIPC.ServerID

Synopsis: Unique server identification

Declaration: `Property ServerID : String`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `ServerID` is the unique server identification: on the server, it determines how the server channel is set up, on the client it determines the server with which to connect.

See also: `TSimpleIPC.Active` (519)

26.8 TSimpleIPCClient

26.8.1 Description

`TSimpleIPCClient` is the client side of the simple IPC communication protocol. The client program should create a `TSimpleIPCClient` instance, set its `ServerID` (519) property to the unique name for the server it wants to send messages to, and then set the `Active` (519) property to `True` (or call `Connect` (519)).

After the connection with the server was established, messages can be sent to the server with the `SendMessage` (521) or `SendStringMessage` (521) calls.

26.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 520 | <code>Connect</code> | Connect to the server |
| 520 | <code>Create</code> | Create a new instance of <code>TSimpleIPCClient</code> |
| 520 | <code>Destroy</code> | Remove the <code>TSimpleIPCClient</code> instance from memory |
| 521 | <code>Disconnect</code> | Disconnect from the server |
| 521 | <code>SendMessage</code> | Send a message to the server |
| 521 | <code>SendStringMessage</code> | Send a string message to the server |
| 522 | <code>SendStringMessageFmt</code> | Send a formatted string message |
| 521 | <code>ServerRunning</code> | Check if the server is running. |

26.8.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 522 | ServerInstance | rw | Server instance identification |

26.8.4 TSimpleIPCClient.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TSimpleIPCClient`

Declaration: constructor `Create(AOwner: TComponent);` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` instantiates a new instance of the `TSimpleIPCClient` class. It initializes the data structures needed to handle the client side of the communication.

See also: `TSimpleIPCClient.Destroy` ([520](#))

26.8.5 TSimpleIPCClient.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove the `TSimpleIPCClient` instance from memory

Declaration: destructor `Destroy;` Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` disconnects the client from the server if need be, and cleans up the internal data structures maintained by `TSimpleIPCClient` and then calls the inherited `Destroy`, which will remove the instance from memory.

Never call `Destroy` directly, use the `Free` method instead or the `FreeAndNil` procedure in `SysUtils`.

See also: `TSimpleIPCClient.Create` ([520](#))

26.8.6 TSimpleIPCClient.Connect

Synopsis: Connect to the server

Declaration: procedure `Connect`

Visibility: public

Description: `Connect` connects to the server indicated in the `ServerID` ([519](#)) and `InstanceID` ([519](#)) properties. `Connect` is called automatically if the `Active` ([519](#)) property is set to `True`.

After a successful call to `Connect`, messages can be sent to the server using `SendMessage` ([521](#)) or `SendStringMessage` ([521](#)).

Calling `Connect` if the connection is already open has no effect.

Errors: If creating the connection fails, an `EIPCError` ([514](#)) exception may be raised.

See also: `TSimpleIPC.ServerID` ([519](#)), `TSimpleIPCClient.InstanceID` ([519](#)), `TSimpleIPC.Active` ([519](#)), `TSimpleIPCClient.SendMessage` ([521](#)), `TSimpleIPCClient.SendStringMessage` ([521](#)), `TSimpleIPCClient.Disconnect` ([521](#))

26.8.7 TSimpleIPCClient.Disconnect

Synopsis: Disconnect from the server

Declaration: `procedure Disconnect`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Disconnect` shuts down the connection with the server as previously set up with `Connect` (520). `Disconnect` is called automatically if the `Active` (519) property is set to `False`.

After a successful call to `Disconnect`, messages can no longer be sent to the server. Attempting to do so will result in an exception.

Calling `Disconnect` if there is no connection has no effect.

Errors: If creating the connection fails, an `EIPCError` (514) exception may be raised.

See also: `TSimpleIPC.Active` (519), `TSimpleIPCClient.Connect` (520)

26.8.8 TSimpleIPCClient.ServerRunning

Synopsis: Check if the server is running.

Declaration: `function ServerRunning : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `ServerRunning` verifies if the server indicated in the `ServerID` (519) and `InstanceID` (519) properties is running. It returns `True` if the server communication endpoint can be reached, `False` otherwise. This function can be called before a connection is made.

See also: `TSimpleIPCClient.Connect` (520)

26.8.9 TSimpleIPCClient.SendMessage

Synopsis: Send a message to the server

Declaration: `procedure SendMessage (MsgType: TMessageType; Stream: TStream)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `SendMessage` sends a message of type `MsgType` and data from `stream` to the server. The client must be connected for this call to work.

Errors: In case an error occurs, or there is no connection to the server, an `EIPCError` (514) exception is raised.

See also: `TSimpleIPCClient.Connect` (520), `TSimpleIPCClient.SendStringMessage` (521)

26.8.10 TSimpleIPCClient.SendStringMessage

Synopsis: Send a string message to the server

Declaration: `procedure SendStringMessage (const Msg: String)`
`procedure SendStringMessage (MsgType: TMessageType; const Msg: String)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `SendStringMessage` sends a string message with type `MsgTyp` and data `Msg` to the server. This is a convenience function: a small wrapper around the `SendMessage` (521) method

Errors: Same as for `SendMessage`.

See also: `TSimpleIPCClient.SendMessage` (521), `TSimpleIPCClient.Connect` (520), `TSimpleIPCClient.SendStringMessageFmt` (522)

26.8.11 TSimpleIPCClient.SendStringMessageFmt

Synopsis: Send a formatted string message

Declaration:

```
procedure SendStringMessageFmt(const Msg: String; Args: Array of const)
procedure SendStringMessageFmt(MsgType: TMessageType; const Msg: String;
    Args: Array of const)
```

Visibility: public

Description: `SendStringMessageFmt` sends a string message with type `MsgTyp` and message formatted from `Msg` and `Args` to the server. This is a convenience function: a small wrapper around the `SendStringMessage` (521) method

Errors: Same as for `SendMessage`.

See also: `TSimpleIPCClient.SendMessage` (521), `TSimpleIPCClient.Connect` (520), `TSimpleIPCClient.SendStringMessage` (521)

26.8.12 TSimpleIPCClient.ServerInstance

Synopsis: Server instance identification

Declaration:

```
Property ServerInstance : String
```

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `ServerInstance` should be used in case a particular instance of the server identified with `ServerID` should be contacted. This must be used if the server has its `Global` (526) property set to `False`, and should match the server's `InstanceID` (525) property.

See also: `TSimpleIPC.ServerID` (519), `TSimpleIPCServer.Global` (526), `TSimpleIPCServer.InstanceID` (525)

26.9 TSimpleIPCServer

26.9.1 Description

`TSimpleIPCServer` is the server side of the simple IPC communication protocol. The server program should create a `TSimpleIPCServer` instance, set its `ServerID` (519) property to a unique name for the system, and then set the `Active` (519) property to `True` (or call `StartServer` (523)).

After the server was started, it can check for availability of messages with the `PeekMessage` (524) call, and read the message with `ReadMessage` (522).

26.9.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| 523 | Create | Create a new instance of <code>TSimpleIPCServer</code> |
| 523 | Destroy | Remove the <code>TSimpleIPCServer</code> instance from memory |
| 524 | GetMessageData | Read the data of the last message in a stream |
| 524 | PeekMessage | Check if a client message is available. |
| 523 | StartServer | Start the server |
| 524 | StopServer | Stop the server |

26.9.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|---|
| 526 | Global | rw | Is the server reachable to all users or not |
| 525 | InstanceID | r | Instance ID |
| 525 | MsgData | r | Last message data |
| 525 | MsgType | r | Last message type |
| 526 | OnMessage | rw | Event triggered when a message arrives |
| 525 | StringMessage | r | Last message as a string. |

26.9.4 TSimpleIPCServer.Create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TSimpleIPCServer`

Declaration: `constructor Create(AOwner: TComponent); Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` instantiates a new instance of the `TSimpleIPCServer` class. It initializes the data structures needed to handle the server side of the communication.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.Destroy` ([523](#))

26.9.5 TSimpleIPCServer.Destroy

Synopsis: Remove the `TSimpleIPCServer` instance from memory

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` stops the server, cleans up the internal data structures maintained by `TSimpleIPCServer` and then calls the inherited `Destroy`, which will remove the instance from memory.

Never call `Destroy` directly, use the `Free` method instead or the `FreeAndNil` procedure in `SysUtils`.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.Create` ([523](#))

26.9.6 TSimpleIPCServer.StartServer

Synopsis: Start the server

Declaration: `procedure StartServer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `StartServer` starts the server side of the communication channel. It is called automatically when the `Active` property is set to `True`. It creates the internal communication object (a `TIPCServerComm` (516) descendent) and activates the communication channel.

After this method was called, clients can connect and send messages.

Prior to calling this method, the `ServerID` (519) property must be set.

Errors: If an error occurs a `EIPCError` (514) exception may be raised.

See also: `TIPCServerComm` (516), `TSimpleIPC.Active` (519), `TSimpleIPC.ServerID` (519), `TSimpleIPCServer.StopServer` (524)

26.9.7 TSimpleIPCServer.StopServer

Synopsis: Stop the server

Declaration: `procedure StopServer`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `StopServer` stops the server side of the communication channel. It is called automatically when the `Active` property is set to `False`. It deactivates the communication channel and frees the internal communication object (a `TIPCServerComm` (516) descendent).

See also: `TIPCServerComm` (516), `TSimpleIPC.Active` (519), `TSimpleIPC.ServerID` (519), `TSimpleIPCServer.StartServer` (523)

26.9.8 TSimpleIPCServer.PeekMessage

Synopsis: Check if a client message is available.

Declaration: `function PeekMessage (TimeOut: Integer; DoReadMessage: Boolean) : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `PeekMessage` checks if a message from a client is available. It will return `True` if a message is available. The call will wait for `TimeOut` milliseconds for a message to arrive: if after `TimeOut` milliseconds, no message is available, the function will return `False`.

If `DoReadMessage` is `True` then `PeekMessage` will read the message. If it is `False`, it does not read the message. The message should then be read manually with `ReadMessage` (522).

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.ReadMessage` (522)

26.9.9 TSimpleIPCServer.GetMessageData

Synopsis: Read the data of the last message in a stream

Declaration: `procedure GetMessageData (Stream: TStream)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `GetMessageData` reads the data of the last message from `TSimpleIPCServer.MsgData` (525) and stores it in stream `Stream`. If no data was available, the stream will be cleared.

This function will return valid data only after a succesful call to `ReadMessage` (522). It will also not clear the data buffer.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.StringMessage` (525), `TSimpleIPCServer.MsgData` (525), `TSimpleIPCServer.MsgType` (525)

26.9.10 TSimpleIPCServer.StringMessage

Synopsis: Last message as a string.

Declaration: Property `StringMessage` : `String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `StringMessage` is the content of the last message as a string.

This property will contain valid data only after a successful call to `ReadMessage` (522).

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.GetMessageData` (524)

26.9.11 TSimpleIPCServer.MsgType

Synopsis: Last message type

Declaration: Property `MsgType` : `TMessageType`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `MsgType` contains the message type of the last message.

This property will contain valid data only after a successful call to `ReadMessage` (522).

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.ReadMessage` (522)

26.9.12 TSimpleIPCServer.MsgData

Synopsis: Last message data

Declaration: Property `MsgData` : `TStream`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `MsgData` contains the actual data from the last read message. If the data is a string, then `StringMessage` (525) is better suited to read the data.

This property will contain valid data only after a successful call to `ReadMessage` (522).

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.StringMessage` (525), `TSimpleIPCServer.ReadMessage` (522)

26.9.13 TSimpleIPCServer.InstanceID

Synopsis: Instance ID

Declaration: Property `InstanceID` : `String`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: `InstanceID` is the unique identifier for this server communication channel endpoint, and will be appended to the `ServerID` (522) property to form the unique server endpoint which a client should use.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.ServerID` (522), `TSimpleIPCServer.GlobalID` (522)

26.9.14 TSimpleIPCServer.Global

Synopsis: Is the server reachable to all users or not

Declaration: `Property Global : Boolean`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Global` indicates whether the server is reachable to all users (`True`) or if it is private to the current process (`False`). In the latter case, the unique channel endpoint identification may change: a unique identification of the current process is appended to the `ServerID` name.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.ServerID` (522), `TSimpleIPCServer.InstanceID` (525)

26.9.15 TSimpleIPCServer.OnMessage

Synopsis: Event triggered when a message arrives

Declaration: `Property OnMessage : TNotifyEvent`

Visibility: published

Access: Read,Write

Description: `OnMessage` is called by `ReadMessage` (522) when a message has been read. The actual message data can be retrieved with one of the `StringMessage` (525), `MsgData` (525) or `MsgType` (525) properties.

See also: `TSimpleIPCServer.StringMessage` (525), `TSimpleIPCServer.MsgData` (525), `TSimpleIPCServer.MsgType` (525)

Chapter 27

Reference for unit 'streamcoll'

27.1 Used units

Table 27.1: Used units by unit 'streamcoll'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

27.2 Overview

The `streamcoll` unit contains the implementation of a collection (and corresponding collection item) which implements routines for saving or loading the collection to/from a stream. The collection item should implement 2 routines to implement the streaming; the streaming itself is not performed by the `TStreamCollection` (530) collection item.

The streaming performed here is not compatible with the streaming implemented in the `Classes` unit for components. It is independent of the latter and can be used without a component to hold the collection.

The collection item introduces mostly protected methods, and the unit contains a lot of auxiliary routines which aid in streaming.

27.3 Procedures and functions

27.3.1 ColReadBoolean

Synopsis: Read a boolean value from a stream

Declaration: `function ColReadBoolean(S: TStream) : Boolean`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColReadBoolean` reads a boolean from the stream `S` as it was written by `ColWriteBoolean` (529) and returns the read value. The value cannot be read and written across systems that have different endian values.

See also: [ColReadDateTime \(528\)](#), [ColWriteBoolean \(529\)](#), [ColReadString \(529\)](#), [ColReadInteger \(528\)](#), [ColReadFloat \(528\)](#), [ColReadCurrency \(528\)](#)

27.3.2 ColReadCurrency

Synopsis: Read a currency value from the stream

Declaration: `function ColReadCurrency(S: TStream) : Currency`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColReadCurrency` reads a currency value from the stream `S` as it was written by `ColWriteCurrency (529)` and returns the read value. The value cannot be read and written across systems that have different endian values.

See also: [ColReadDateTime \(528\)](#), [ColReadBoolean \(527\)](#), [ColReadString \(529\)](#), [ColReadInteger \(528\)](#), [ColReadFloat \(528\)](#), [ColWriteCurrency \(529\)](#)

27.3.3 ColReadDateTime

Synopsis: Read a `TDateTime` value from a stream

Declaration: `function ColReadDateTime(S: TStream) : TDateTime`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColReadDateTime` reads a currency value from the stream `S` as it was written by `ColWriteDateTime (529)` and returns the read value. The value cannot be read and written across systems that have different endian values.

See also: [ColWriteDateTime \(529\)](#), [ColReadBoolean \(527\)](#), [ColReadString \(529\)](#), [ColReadInteger \(528\)](#), [ColReadFloat \(528\)](#), [ColReadCurrency \(528\)](#)

27.3.4 ColReadFloat

Synopsis: Read a floating point value from a stream

Declaration: `function ColReadFloat(S: TStream) : Double`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColReadFloat` reads a double value from the stream `S` as it was written by `ColWriteFloat (530)` and returns the read value. The value cannot be read and written across systems that have different endian values.

See also: [ColReadDateTime \(528\)](#), [ColReadBoolean \(527\)](#), [ColReadString \(529\)](#), [ColReadInteger \(528\)](#), [ColWriteFloat \(530\)](#), [ColReadCurrency \(528\)](#)

27.3.5 ColReadInteger

Synopsis: Read a 32-bit integer from a stream.

Declaration: `function ColReadInteger(S: TStream) : Integer`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColReadInteger` reads a 32-bit integer from the stream `S` as it was written by `ColWriteInteger` (530) and returns the read value. The value cannot be read and written across systems that have different endian values.

See also: `ColReadDateTime` (528), `ColReadBoolean` (527), `ColReadString` (529), `ColWriteInteger` (530), `ColReadFloat` (528), `ColReadCurrency` (528)

27.3.6 ColReadString

Synopsis: Read a string from a stream

Declaration: `function ColReadString(S: TStream) : String`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColReadStream` reads a string value from the stream `S` as it was written by `ColWriteString` (530) and returns the read value. The value cannot be read and written across systems that have different endian values.

See also: `ColReadDateTime` (528), `ColReadBoolean` (527), `ColWriteString` (530), `ColReadInteger` (528), `ColReadFloat` (528), `ColReadCurrency` (528)

27.3.7 ColWriteBoolean

Synopsis: Write a boolean to a stream

Declaration: `procedure ColWriteBoolean(S: TStream; AValue: Boolean)`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColWriteBoolean` writes the boolean `AValue` to the stream. `S`.

See also: `ColReadBoolean` (527), `ColWriteString` (530), `ColWriteInteger` (530), `ColWriteCurrency` (529), `ColWriteDateTime` (529), `ColWriteFloat` (530)

27.3.8 ColWriteCurrency

Synopsis: Write a currency value to stream

Declaration: `procedure ColWriteCurrency(S: TStream; AValue: Currency)`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColWriteCurrency` writes the currency `AValue` to the stream `S`.

See also: `ColWriteBoolean` (529), `ColWriteString` (530), `ColWriteInteger` (530), `ColWriteDateTime` (529), `ColWriteFloat` (530), `ColReadCurrency` (528)

27.3.9 ColWriteDateTime

Synopsis: Write a `TDateTime` value to stream

Declaration: `procedure ColWriteDateTime(S: TStream; AValue: TDateTime)`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColWriteDateTime` writes the `TDateTime` `AValue` to the stream `S`.

See also: `ColReadDateTime` (528), `ColWriteBoolean` (529), `ColWriteString` (530), `ColWriteInteger` (530), `ColWriteFloat` (530), `ColWriteCurrency` (529)

27.3.10 ColWriteFloat

Synopsis: Write floating point value to stream

Declaration: `procedure ColWriteFloat (S: TStream; AValue: Double)`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColWriteFloat` writes the double `AValue` to the stream `S`.

See also: `ColWriteDateTime` (529), `ColWriteBoolean` (529), `ColWriteString` (530), `ColWriteInteger` (530), `ColReadFloat` (528), `ColWriteCurrency` (529)

27.3.11 ColWriteInteger

Synopsis: Write a 32-bit integer to a stream

Declaration: `procedure ColWriteInteger (S: TStream; AValue: Integer)`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColWriteInteger` writes the 32-bit integer `AValue` to the stream `S`. No endianness is observed.

See also: `ColWriteBoolean` (529), `ColWriteString` (530), `ColReadInteger` (528), `ColWriteCurrency` (529), `ColWriteDateTime` (529)

27.3.12 ColWriteString

Synopsis: Write a string value to the stream

Declaration: `procedure ColWriteString (S: TStream; AValue: String)`

Visibility: default

Description: `ColWriteString` writes the string value `AValue` to the stream `S`.

See also: `ColWriteBoolean` (529), `ColReadStream` (529), `ColWriteInteger` (530), `ColWriteCurrency` (529), `ColWriteDateTime` (529), `ColWriteFloat` (530)

27.4 EStreamColl

27.4.1 Description

Exception raised when an error occurs when streaming the collection.

27.5 TStreamCollection

27.5.1 Description

`TStreamCollection` is a `TCollection` (??) descendent which implements 2 calls `LoadFromStream` (531) and `SaveToStream` (531) which load and save the contents of the collection to a stream.

The collection items must be descendents of the `TStreamCollectionItem` (532) class for the streaming to work correctly.

Note that the stream must be used to load collections of the same type.

27.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 531 | LoadFromStream | Load the collection from a stream |
| 531 | SaveToStream | Load the collection from the stream. |

27.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|---|
| 531 | Streaming | r | Indicates whether the collection is currently being written to stream |

27.5.4 TStreamCollection.LoadFromStream

Synopsis: Load the collection from a stream

Declaration: `procedure LoadFromStream(S: TStream)`

Visibility: public

Description: `LoadFromStream` loads the collection from the stream `S`, if the collection was saved using `SaveToStream` ([531](#)). It reads the number of items in the collection, and then creates and loads the items one by one from the stream.

Errors: An exception may be raised if the stream contains invalid data.

See also: `TStreamCollection.SaveToStream` ([531](#))

27.5.5 TStreamCollection.SaveToStream

Synopsis: Load the collection from the stream.

Declaration: `procedure SaveToStream(S: TStream)`

Visibility: public

Description: `SaveToStream` saves the collection to the stream `S` so it can be read from the stream with `LoadFromStream` ([531](#)). It does this by writing the number of collection items to the stream, and then streaming all items in the collection by calling their `SaveToStream` method.

Errors: None.

See also: `TStreamCollection.LoadFromStream` ([531](#))

27.5.6 TStreamCollection.Streaming

Synopsis: Indicates whether the collection is currently being written to stream

Declaration: `Property Streaming : Boolean`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Streaming` is set to `True` if the collection is written to or loaded from stream, and is set again to `False` if the streaming process is finished.

See also: `TStreamCollection.LoadFromStream` ([531](#)), `TStreamCollection.SaveToStream` ([531](#))

27.6 TStreamCollectionItem

27.6.1 Description

TStreamCollectionItem is a TCollectionItem (??) descendent which implements 2 abstract routines: LoadFromStream and SaveToStream which must be overridden in a descendent class.

These 2 routines will be called by the TStreamCollection (530) to save or load the item from the stream.

Chapter 28

Reference for unit 'streamex'

28.1 Used units

Table 28.1: Used units by unit 'streamex'

| Name | Page |
|---------|------|
| Classes | ?? |

28.2 Overview

streamex implements some extensions to be used together with streams from the classes unit.

28.3 TBidirBinaryObjectReader

28.3.1 Description

TBidirBinaryObjectReader is a class descendent from TBinaryObjectReader (??), which implements the necessary support for BiDi data: the position in the stream (not available in the standard streaming) is emulated.

28.3.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|------------------------|
| 533 | Position | rw | Position in the stream |

28.3.3 TBidirBinaryObjectReader.Position

Synopsis: Position in the stream

Declaration: `Property Position : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Position` exposes the position of the stream in the reader for use in the `TDelphiReader` (534) class.

See also: `TDelphiReader` (534)

28.4 TBidirBinaryObjectWriter

28.4.1 Description

`TBidirBinaryObjectReader` is a class descendent from `TBinaryObjectWriter` (??), which implements the necessary support for BiDi data.

28.4.2 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|-----------------------|--------|------------------------|
| 534 | <code>Position</code> | rw | Position in the stream |

28.4.3 TBidirBinaryObjectWriter.Position

Synopsis: Position in the stream

Declaration: `Property Position : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: `Position` exposes the position of the stream in the writer for use in the `TDelphiWriter` (535) class.

See also: `TDelphiWriter` (535)

28.5 TDelphiReader

28.5.1 Description

`TDelphiReader` is a descendent of `TReader` which has support for BiDi Streaming. It overrides the stream reading methods for strings, and makes sure the stream can be positioned in the case of strings. For this purpose, it makes use of the `TBidirBinaryObjectReader` (533) driver class.

28.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|------------------------|--|
| 535 | <code>GetDriver</code> | Return the driver class as a <code>TBidirBinaryObjectReader</code> (533) class |
| 535 | <code>Read</code> | Read data from stream |
| 535 | <code>ReadStr</code> | Overrides the standard <code>ReadStr</code> method |

28.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|------|-----------------------|--------|------------------------|
| 535 | <code>Position</code> | rw | Position in the stream |

28.5.4 TDelphiReader.GetDriver

Synopsis: Return the driver class as a `TBidirBinaryObjectReader` (533) class

Declaration: `function GetDriver : TBidirBinaryObjectReader`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetDriver` simply returns the used driver and typecasts it as `TBidirBinaryObjectReader` (533) class.

See also: `TBidirBinaryObjectReader` (533)

28.5.5 TDelphiReader.ReadStr

Synopsis: Overrides the standard `ReadStr` method

Declaration: `function ReadStr : String`

Visibility: public

Description: `ReadStr` makes sure the `TBidirBinaryObjectReader` (533) methods are used, to store additional information about the stream position when reading the strings.

See also: `TBidirBinaryObjectReader` (533)

28.5.6 TDelphiReader.Read

Synopsis: Read data from stream

Declaration: `procedure Read(var Buf;Count: LongInt); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Read` reads raw data from the stream. It reads `Count` bytes from the stream and places them in `Buf`. It forces the use of the `TBidirBinaryObjectReader` (533) class when reading.

See also: `TBidirBinaryObjectReader` (533), `TDelphiReader.Position` (535)

28.5.7 TDelphiReader.Position

Synopsis: Position in the stream

Declaration: `Property Position : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read,Write

Description: Position in the stream.

See also: `TDelphiReader.Read` (535)

28.6 TDelphiWriter

28.6.1 Description

`TDelphiWriter` is a descendent of `TWriter` which has support for BiDi Streaming. It overrides the stream writing methods for strings, and makes sure the stream can be positioned in the case of strings. For this purpose, it makes use of the `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` (534) driver class.

28.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|-------------|--|
| 536 | FlushBuffer | Flushes the stream buffer |
| 536 | GetDriver | Return the driver class as a <code>TBidirBinaryObjectWriter</code> (534) class |
| 536 | Write | Write raw data to the stream |
| 536 | WriteStr | Write a string to the stream |
| 537 | WriteValue | Write value type |

28.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--------|------------------------|
| 537 | Position | rw | Position in the stream |

28.6.4 TDelphiWriter.GetDriver

Synopsis: Return the driver class as a `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` ([534](#)) class

Declaration: `function GetDriver : TBidirBinaryObjectWriter`

Visibility: public

Description: `GetDriver` simply returns the used driver and typecasts it as `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` ([534](#)) class.

See also: `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` ([534](#))

28.6.5 TDelphiWriter.FlushBuffer

Synopsis: Flushes the stream buffer

Declaration: `procedure FlushBuffer`

Visibility: public

Description: `FlushBuffer` flushes the internal buffer of the writer. It simply calls the `FlushBuffer` method of the driver class.

28.6.6 TDelphiWriter.Write

Synopsis: Write raw data to the stream

Declaration: `procedure Write(const Buf; Count: LongInt); Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Write` writes `Count` bytes from `Buf` to the buffer, updating the position as needed.

28.6.7 TDelphiWriter.WriteStr

Synopsis: Write a string to the stream

Declaration: `procedure WriteStr(const Value: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteStr` writes a string to the stream, forcing the use of the `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` (534) class methods, which update the position of the stream.

See also: `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` (534)

28.6.8 `TDelphiWriter.WriteValue`

Synopsis: Write value type

Declaration: `procedure WriteValue(Value: TValueType)`

Visibility: public

Description: `WriteValue` overrides the same method in `TWriter` to force the use of the `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` (534) methods, which update the position of the stream.

See also: `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` (534)

28.6.9 `TDelphiWriter.Position`

Synopsis: Position in the stream

Declaration: `Property Position : LongInt`

Visibility: public

Access: Read, Write

Description: `Position` exposes the position in the stream as exposed by the `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` (534) instance used when streaming.

See also: `TBidirBinaryObjectWriter` (534)

Chapter 29

Reference for unit 'StreamIO'

29.1 Used units

Table 29.1: Used units by unit 'StreamIO'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| Classes | ?? |
| sysutils | ?? |

29.2 Overview

The `StreamIO` unit implements a call to reroute the input or output of a text file to a descendent of `TStream` (??).

This allows to use the standard pascal `Read` (??) and `Write` (??) functions (with all their possibilities), on streams.

29.3 Procedures and functions

29.3.1 AssignStream

Synopsis: Assign a text file to a stream.

Declaration: `procedure AssignStream(var F: Textfile; Stream: TStream)`

Visibility: default

Description: `AssignStream` assigns the stream `Stream` to file `F`. The file can subsequently be used to write to the stream, using the standard `Write` (??) calls.

Before writing, call `Rewrite` (??) on the stream. Before reading, call `Reset` (??).

Errors: if `Stream` is `Nil`, an exception will be raised.

See also: `#rtl.classes.TStream` (??), `GetStream` (539)

29.3.2 GetStream

Synopsis: Return the stream, associated with a file.

Declaration: `function GetStream(var F: TTextRec) : TStream`

Visibility: default

Description: `GetStream` returns the instance of the stream that was associated with the file `F` using `AssignStream` (538).

Errors: An invalid class reference will be returned if the file was not associated with a stream.

See also: `AssignStream` (538), `#rtl.classes.TStream` (??)

Chapter 30

Reference for unit 'syncobjs'

30.1 Used units

Table 30.1: Used units by unit 'syncobjs'

| Name | Page |
|----------|------|
| sysutils | ?? |

30.2 Overview

The `syncobjs` unit implements some classes which can be used when synchronizing threads in routines or classes that are used in multiple threads at once. The `TCriticalSection` (541) class is a wrapper around low-level critical section routines (semaphores or mutexes). The `TEventObject` (543) class can be used to send messages between threads (also known as conditional variables in Posix threads).

30.3 Constants, types and variables

30.3.1 Constants

```
INFINITE = Cardinal ( - 1 )
```

Constant denoting an infinite timeout.

30.3.2 Types

```
PSecurityAttributes = Pointer
```

`PSecurityAttributes` is a dummy type used in non-windows implementations, so the calls remain Delphi compatible.

```
TEvent = TEventObject
```

`TEvent` is a simple alias for the `TEventObject` (543) class.

```
TEventHandle = Pointer
```

TEventHandle is an opaque type and should not be used in user code.

```
TWaitResult = (wrSignaled, wrTimeout, wrAbandoned, wrError)
```

Table 30.2: Enumeration values for type TWaitResult

| Value | Explanation |
|-------------|--|
| wrAbandoned | Wait operation was abandoned. |
| wrError | An error occurred during the wait operation. |
| wrSignaled | Event was signaled (triggered) |
| wrTimeout | Time-out period expired |

TWaitResult is used to report the result of a wait operation.

30.4 TCriticalSection

30.4.1 Description

TCriticalSection is a class wrapper around the low-level TRTLCriticalSection routines. It simply calls the RTL routines in the system unit for critical section support.

A critical section is a resource which can be owned by only 1 caller: it can be used to make sure that in a multithreaded application only 1 thread enters pieces of code protected by the critical section.

Typical usage is to protect a piece of code with the following code (MySection is a TCriticalSection instance):

```
// Previous code
MySection.Acquire;
Try
  // Protected code
Finally
  MySection.Release;
end;
// Other code.
```

The protected code can be executed by only 1 thread at a time. This is useful for instance for list operations in multithreaded environments.

30.4.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 542 | Acquire | Enter the critical section |
| 543 | Create | Create a new critical section. |
| 543 | Destroy | Destroy the criticalsection instance |
| 542 | Enter | Alias for Acquire |
| 543 | Leave | Alias for Release |
| 542 | Release | Leave the critical section |
| 542 | TryEnter | Try and obtain the critical section |

30.4.3 TCriticalSection.Acquire

Synopsis: Enter the critical section

Declaration: `procedure Acquire; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Acquire` attempts to enter the critical section. It will suspend the calling thread if the critical section is in use by another thread, and will resume as soon as the other thread has released the critical section.

See also: `TCriticalSection.Release` (542)

30.4.4 TCriticalSection.Release

Synopsis: Leave the critical section

Declaration: `procedure Release; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Release` leaves the critical section. It will free the critical section so another thread waiting to enter the critical section will be awakened, and will enter the critical section. This call always returns immediately.

See also: `TCriticalSection.Acquire` (542)

30.4.5 TCriticalSection.Enter

Synopsis: Alias for `Acquire`

Declaration: `procedure Enter`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Enter` just calls `Acquire` (542).

See also: `TCriticalSection.Leave` (543), `TCriticalSection.Acquire` (542)

30.4.6 TCriticalSection.TryEnter

Synopsis: Try and obtain the critical section

Declaration: `function TryEnter : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `TryEnter` tries to enter the critical section: it returns at once and does not wait if the critical section is owned by another thread; if the current thread owns the critical section or the critical section was obtained successfully, `true` is returned. If the critical section is currently owned by another thread, `False` is returned.

Errors: None.

See also: `TCriticalSection.Enter` (542)

30.4.7 TCriticalSection.Leave

Synopsis: Alias for `Release`

Declaration: `procedure Leave`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Leave` just calls `Release` (542)

See also: `TCriticalSection.Release` (542), `TCriticalSection.Enter` (542)

30.4.8 TCriticalSection.Create

Synopsis: Create a new critical section.

Declaration: `constructor Create`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` initializes a new critical section, and initializes the system objects for the critical section. It should be created only once for all threads, all threads should use the same critical section instance.

See also: `TCriticalSection.Destroy` (543)

30.4.9 TCriticalSection.Destroy

Synopsis: Destroy the criticalsection instance

Declaration: `destructor Destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` releases the system critical section resources, and removes the `TCriticalSection` instance from memory.

Errors: Any threads trying to enter the critical section when it is destroyed, will start running with an error (an exception should be raised).

See also: `TCriticalSection.Create` (543), `TCriticalSection.Acquire` (542)

30.5 TEventObject

30.5.1 Description

`TEventObject` encapsulates the `BasicEvent` implementation of the system unit in a class. The event can be used to notify other threads of a change in conditions. (in POSIX terms, this is a conditional variable). A thread that wishes to notify other threads creates an instance of `TEventObject` with a certain name, and posts events to it. Other threads that wish to be notified of these events should create their own instances of `TEventObject` with the same name, and wait for events to arrive.

30.5.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|------------|--|
| 544 | Create | Create a new event object |
| 544 | destroy | Clean up the event and release from memory |
| 544 | ResetEvent | Reset the event |
| 545 | SetEvent | Set the event |
| 545 | WaitFor | Wait for the event to be set. |

30.5.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| 545 | ManualReset | r | Should the event be reset manually |

30.5.4 TEventObject.Create

Synopsis: Create a new event object

Declaration: constructor `Create(EventAttributes: PSecurityAttributes; AManualReset: Boolean; InitialState: Boolean; const Name: String)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new event object with unique name `AName`. The object will be created security attributes `EventAttributes` (windows only).

The `AManualReset` indicates whether the event must be reset manually (if it is `False`, the event is reset immediatly after the first thread waiting for it is notified). `InitialState` determines whether the event is initially set or not.

See also: `TEventObject.ManualReset` ([545](#)), `TEventObject.ResetEvent` ([544](#))

30.5.5 TEventObject.destroy

Synopsis: Clean up the event and release from memory

Declaration: destructor `destroy`; Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the low-level resources allocated for this event and releases the event instance from memory.

See also: `TEventObject.Create` ([544](#))

30.5.6 TEventObject.ResetEvent

Synopsis: Reset the event

Declaration: procedure `ResetEvent`

Visibility: public

Description: `ResetEvent` turns off the event. Any `WaitFor` ([545](#)) operation will suspend the calling thread.

See also: `TEventObject.SetEvent` ([545](#)), `TEventObject.WaitFor` ([545](#))

30.5.7 TEventObject.SetEvent

Synopsis: Set the event

Declaration: `procedure SetEvent`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `SetEvent` sets the event. If the `ManualReset` (545) is `True` any thread that was waiting for the event to be set (using `WaitFor` (545)) will resume it's operation. After the event was set, any thread that executes `WaitFor` will return at once. If `ManualReset` is `False`, only one thread will be notified that the event was set, and the event will be immediatly reset after that.

See also: `TEventObject.WaitFor` (545), `TEventObject.ManualReset` (545)

30.5.8 TEventObject.WaitFor

Synopsis: Wait for the event to be set.

Declaration: `function WaitFor(Timeout: Cardinal) : TWaitResult`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `WaitFor` should be used in threads that should be notified when the event is set. When `WaitFor` is called, and the event is not set, the thread will be suspended. As soon as the event is set by some other thread (using `SetEvent` (545)) or the timeout period (`TimeOut`) has expired, the `WaitFor` function returns. The return value depends on the condition that caused the `WaitFor` function to return.

The calling thread will wait indefinitely when the constant `INFINITE` is specified for the `TimeOut` parameter.

See also: `TEventObject.SetEvent` (545)

30.5.9 TEventObject.ManualReset

Synopsis: Should the event be reset manually

Declaration: `Property ManualReset : Boolean`

Visibility: `public`

Access: `Read`

Description: Should the event be reset manually

30.6 THandleObject

30.6.1 Description

`THandleObject` is a parent class for synchronization classes that need to store an operating system handle. It introduces a property `Handle` (546) which can be used to store the operating system handle. The handle is in no way manipulated by `THandleObject`, only storage is provided.

30.6.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 546 | <code>destroy</code> | Free the instance |

30.6.3 Property overview

| Page | Property | Access | Description |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 546 | Handle | r | Handle for this object |
| 546 | LastError | r | Last operating system error |

30.6.4 THandleObject.destroy

Synopsis: Free the instance

Declaration: destructor `destroy`; Override

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` does nothing in the Free Pascal implementation of `THandleObject`.

30.6.5 THandleObject.Handle

Synopsis: Handle for this object

Declaration: Property `Handle` : `TEventHandle`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `Handle` provides read-only access to the operating system handle of this instance. The public access is read-only, descendent classes should set the handle by accessing it's protected field `FHandle` directly.

30.6.6 THandleObject.LastError

Synopsis: Last operating system error

Declaration: Property `LastError` : `Integer`

Visibility: public

Access: Read

Description: `LastError` provides read-only access to the last operating system error code for operations on `Handle` ([546](#)).

See also: `THandleObject.Handle` ([546](#))

30.7 TSimpleEvent

30.7.1 Description

`TSimpleEvent` is a simple descendent of the `TEventObject` ([543](#)) class. It creates an event with no name, which must be reset manually, and which is initially not set.

30.7.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 547 | Create | Creates a new <code>TSimpleEvent</code> instance |

30.7.3 TSimpleEvent.Create

Synopsis: Creates a new `TSimpleEvent` instance

Declaration: `constructor Create`

Visibility: `default`

Description: `Create` instantiates a new `TSimpleEvent` instance. It simply calls the inherited `Create` (544) with `Nil` for the security attributes, an empty name, `AManualReset` set to `True`, and `InitialState` to `False`.

See also: `TEventObject.Create` (544)

30.8 TSynchroObject

30.8.1 Description

`TSynchroObject` is an abstract synchronization resource object. It implements 2 virtual methods `Acquire` (547) which can be used to acquire the resource, and `Release` (547) to release the resource.

30.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| 547 | <code>Acquire</code> | Acquire synchronization resource |
| 547 | <code>Release</code> | Release previously acquired synchronization resource |

30.8.3 TSynchroObject.Acquire

Synopsis: Acquire synchronization resource

Declaration: `procedure Acquire; Virtual`

Visibility: `default`

Description: `Acquire` does nothing in `TSynchroObject`. Descendent classes must override this method to acquire the resource they manage.

See also: `TSynchroObject.Release` (547)

30.8.4 TSynchroObject.Release

Synopsis: Release previously acquired synchronization resource

Declaration: `procedure Release; Virtual`

Visibility: `default`

Description: `Release` does nothing in `TSynchroObject`. Descendent classes must override this method to release the resource they acquired through the `Acquire` (547) call.

See also: `TSynchroObject.Acquire` (547)

Chapter 31

Reference for unit 'URIParser'

31.1 Overview

The `URIParser` unit contains a basic type (`TURI` (548)) and some routines for the parsing (`ParseURI` (549)) and construction (`EncodeURI` (548)) of Uniform Resource Indicators, commonly referred to as URL: Uniform Resource Location. It is used in various other units, and in itself contains no classes. It supports all protocols, username/password/port specification, query parameters and bookmarks etc..

31.2 Constants, types and variables

31.2.1 Types

```
TURI = record
  Protocol : String;
  Username : String;
  Password : String;
  Host : String;
  Port : Word;
  Path : String;
  Document : String;
  Params : String;
  Bookmark : String;
  HasAuthority : Boolean;
end
```

`TURI` is the basic record that can be filled by the `ParseURI` (549) call. It contains the contents of a URI, parsed out in it's various pieces.

31.3 Procedures and functions

31.3.1 EncodeURI

Synopsis: Form a string representation of the URI

Declaration: `function EncodeURI(const URI: TURI) : String`

Visibility: default

Description: `EncodeURI` will return a valid text representation of the URI in the URI record.

See also: `ParseURI` (549)

31.3.2 FilenameToURI

Synopsis: Construct a URI from a filename

Declaration: `function FilenameToURI(const Filename: String) : String`

Visibility: default

Description: `FilenameToURI` takes `Filename` and constructs a `file: protocol` URI from it.

Errors: None.

See also: `URIToFilename` (550)

31.3.3 IsAbsoluteURI

Synopsis: Check whether a URI is absolute.

Declaration: `function IsAbsoluteURI(const UriReference: String) : Boolean`

Visibility: default

Description: `IsAbsoluteURI` returns `True` if the URI in `UriReference` is absolute, i.e. contains a protocol part.

Errors: None.

See also: `FilenameToURI` (549), `URIToFileName` (550)

31.3.4 ParseURI

Synopsis: Parse a URI and split it into its constituent parts

Declaration: `function ParseURI(const URI: String) : TURI; Overload`
`function ParseURI(const URI: String;const DefaultProtocol: String;`
`DefaultPort: Word) : TURI; Overload`

Visibility: default

Description: `ParseURI` decodes URI and returns the various parts of the URI in the result record.

The function accepts the most general URI scheme:

```
proto://user:pwd@host:port/path/document?params#bookmark
```

Missing (optional) parts in the URI will be left blank in the result record. If a default protocol and port are specified, they will be used in the record if the corresponding part is not present in the URI.

See also: `EncodeURI` (548)

31.3.5 ResolveRelativeURI

Synopsis: Return a relative link

```

Declaration: function ResolveRelativeURI(const BaseUri: WideString;
                                       const RelUri: WideString;
                                       out ResultUri: WideString) : Boolean
                                       ; Overload
function ResolveRelativeURI(const BaseUri: UTF8String;
                           const RelUri: UTF8String;
                           out ResultUri: UTF8String) : Boolean
                           ; Overload

```

Visibility: default

Description: `ResolveRelativeURI` returns in `ResultUri` an absolute link constructed from a base URI `BaseURI` and a relative link `RelURI`. One of the two URI names must have a protocol specified. If the `RelURI` argument contains a protocol, it is considered a complete (absolute) URI and is returned as the result.

The function returns `True` if a link was successfully returned.

Errors: If no protocols are specified, the function returns `False`

31.3.6 URIToFilename

Synopsis: Convert a URI to a filename

```

Declaration: function URIToFilename(const URI: String;out Filename: String) : Boolean

```

Visibility: default

Description: `URIToFilename` returns a filename (using the correct Path Delimiter character) from URI. The URI must be of protocol `File` or have no protocol.

Errors: If the URI contains an unsupported protocol, `False` is returned.

See also: `ResolveRelativeURI` (550), `FilenameToURI` (549)

Chapter 32

Reference for unit 'zstream'

32.1 Used units

Table 32.1: Used units by unit 'zstream'

| Name | Page |
|---------|---------------------|
| Classes | ?? |
| gzio | 551 |
| zbase | 551 |

32.2 Overview

The `ZStream` unit implements a `TStream` (??) descendent (`TCompressionStream` ([552](#))) which uses the deflate algorithm to compress everything that is written to it. The compressed data is written to the output stream, which is specified when the compressor class is created.

Likewise, a `TStream` descendent is implemented which reads data from an input stream (`TDecompressionStream` ([555](#))) and decompresses it with the inflate algorithm.

32.3 Constants, types and variables

32.3.1 Types

```
Tcompressionlevel = (clnone, clfastest, cldefault, clmax)
```

Compression level for the deflate algorithm

```
Tgzopenmode = (gzopenread, gzopenwrite)
```

Open mode for gzip file.

Table 32.2: Enumeration values for type `Tcompressionlevel`

| Value | Explanation |
|------------------------|---|
| <code>cldefault</code> | Use default compression |
| <code>clfastest</code> | Use fast (but less) compression. |
| <code>clmax</code> | Use maximum compression |
| <code>clnone</code> | Do not use compression, just copy data. |

Table 32.3: Enumeration values for type `Tgzopenmode`

| Value | Explanation |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <code>gzopenread</code> | Open file for reading |
| <code>gzopenwrite</code> | Open file for writing |

32.4 Ecompressionerror

32.4.1 Description

`ECompressionError` is the exception class used by the `TCompressionStream` (552) class.

32.5 Edecompressionerror

32.5.1 Description

`EDecompressionError` is the exception class used by the `TDeCompressionStream` (555) class.

32.6 Egzfileerror

32.6.1 Description

`Egzfileerror` is the exception class used to report errors by the `Tgzfilestream` (557) class.

32.7 Ezliberror

32.7.1 Description

Errors which occur in the `zstream` unit are signaled by raising an `EZLibError` exception descendant.

32.8 Tcompressionstream

32.8.1 Description

`TCompressionStream`

32.8.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| 553 | create | Create a new instance of the compression stream. |
| 553 | destroy | Flushe data to the output stream and destroys the compression stream. |
| 554 | flush | Flush remaining data to the target stream |
| 554 | get_compressionrate | Get the current compression rate |
| 553 | write | Write data to the stream |

32.8.3 Tcompressionstream.create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of the compression stream.

Declaration: `constructor create(level: Tcompressionlevel; dest: TStream; Askipheader: Boolean)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of the compression stream. It merely calls the inherited constructor with the destination stream `Dest` and stores the compression level.

If `ASkipHeader` is set to `True`, the method will not write the block header to the stream. This is required for deflated data in a zip file.

Note that the compressed data is only completely written after the compression stream is destroyed.

See also: `TCompressionStream.Destroy` ([553](#))

32.8.4 Tcompressionstream.destroy

Synopsis: Flushe data to the output stream and destroys the compression stream.

Declaration: `destructor destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` flushes the output stream: any compressed data not yet written to the output stream are written, and the deflate structures are cleaned up.

Errors: None.

See also: `TCompressionStream.Create` ([553](#))

32.8.5 Tcompressionstream.write

Synopsis: Write data to the stream

Declaration: `function write(const buffer; count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Write` takes `Count` bytes from `Buffer` and compresseses (deflates) them. The compressed result is written to the output stream.

Errors: If an error occurs, an `ECompressionError` ([552](#)) exception is raised.

See also: `TCompressionStream.Read` ([552](#)), `TCompressionStream.Seek` ([552](#))

32.8.6 Tcompressionstream.flush

Synopsis: Flush remaining data to the target stream

Declaration: `procedure flush`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `flush` writes any remaining data in the memory buffers to the target stream, and clears the memory buffer.

32.8.7 Tcompressionstream.get_compressionrate

Synopsis: Get the current compression rate

Declaration: `function get_compressionrate : single`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `get_compressionrate` returns the percentage of the number of written compressed bytes relative to the number of written bytes.

Errors: If no bytes were written, an exception is raised.

32.9 Tcustomzlibstream

32.9.1 Description

`TCustomZlibStream` serves as the ancestor class for the `TCompressionStream` (552) and `TDecompressionStream` (555) classes.

It introduces support for a progress handler, and stores the input or output stream.

32.9.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| 554 | <code>create</code> | Create a new instance of <code>TCustomZlibStream</code> |
| 555 | <code>destroy</code> | Clear up instance |

32.9.3 Tcustomzlibstream.create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TCustomZlibStream`

Declaration: `constructor create(stream: TStream)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of `TCustomZlibStream`. It stores a reference to the input/output stream, and initializes the deflate compression mechanism so they can be used by the descendents.

See also: `TCompressionStream` (552), `TDecompressionStream` (555)

32.9.4 Tcustomzlibstream.destroy

Synopsis: Clear up instance

Declaration: `destructor destroy; Override`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the internal memory buffer and calls the inherited `destroy`.

See also: `Tcustomzlibstream.create` (554)

32.10 Tdecompressionstream

32.10.1 Description

`TDecompressionStream` performs the inverse operation of `TCompressionStream` (552). A read operation reads data from an input stream and decompresses (inflates) the data as it goes along.

The decompression stream reads its compressed data from a stream with deflated data. This data can be created e.g. with a `TCompressionStream` (552) compression stream.

32.10.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 555 | <code>create</code> | Creates a new instance of the <code>TDecompressionStream</code> stream |
| 555 | <code>destroy</code> | Destroys the <code>TDecompressionStream</code> instance |
| 557 | <code>get_compressionrate</code> | Get the current compression rate |
| 556 | <code>read</code> | Read data from the compressed stream |
| 556 | <code>seek</code> | Move stream position to a certain location in the stream. |

32.10.3 Tdecompressionstream.create

Synopsis: Creates a new instance of the `TDecompressionStream` stream

Declaration: `constructor create (Asource: TStream; Askipheader: Boolean)`

Visibility: `public`

Description: `Create` creates and initializes a new instance of the `TDecompressionStream` class. It calls the inherited `Create` and passes it the `Source` stream. The source stream is the stream from which the compressed (deflated) data is read.

If `ASkipHeader` is true, then the `gzip` data header is skipped, allowing `TDecompressionStream` to read deflated data in a `.zip` file. (this data does not have the `gzip` header record prepended to it).

Note that the source stream is by default not owned by the decompression stream, and is not freed when the decompression stream is destroyed.

See also: `TDecompressionStream.Destroy` (555)

32.10.4 Tdecompressionstream.destroy

Synopsis: Destroys the `TDecompressionStream` instance

Declaration: `destructor destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` cleans up the inflate structure, and then simply calls the inherited `destroy`.

By default the source stream is not freed when calling `Destroy`.

See also: `TDecompressionStream.Create` (555)

32.10.5 `Tdecompressionstream.read`

Synopsis: Read data from the compressed stream

Declaration: `function read(var buffer;count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Read` will read data from the compressed stream until the decompressed data size is `Count` or there is no more compressed data available. The decompressed data is written in `Buffer`. The function returns the number of bytes written in the buffer.

Errors: If an error occurs, an `EDeCompressionError` (552) exception is raised.

See also: `TCompressionStream.Write` (553)

32.10.6 `Tdecompressionstream.seek`

Synopsis: Move stream position to a certain location in the stream.

Declaration: `function seek(offset: LongInt;origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Seek` overrides the standard `Seek` implementation. There are a few differences between the implementation of `Seek` in Free Pascal compared to Delphi:

- In Free Pascal, you can perform any seek. In case of a forward seek, the Free Pascal implementation will read some bytes until the desired position is reached, in case of a backward seek it will seek the source stream backwards to the position it had at the creation time of the `TDecompressionStream` and then again read some bytes until the desired position has been reached.
- In Free Pascal, a seek with `soFromBeginning` will reset the source stream to the position it had when the `TDecompressionStream` was created. In Delphi, the source stream is reset to position 0. This means that at creation time the source stream must always be at the start of the `zstream`, you cannot use `TDecompressionStream.Seek` to reset the source stream to the begin of the file.

Errors: An `EDeCompressionError` (552) exception is raised if the stream does not allow the requested seek operation.

See also: `TDecompressionStream.Read` (556)

32.10.7 Tdecompressionstream.get_compressionrate

Synopsis: Get the current compression rate

Declaration: `function get_compressionrate : single`

Visibility: public

Description: `get_compressionrate` returns the percentage of the number of read compressed bytes relative to the total number of read bytes.

Errors: If no bytes were written, an exception is raised.

32.11 TGZFileStream

32.11.1 Description

`TGZFileStream` can be used to read data from a gzip file, or to write data to a gzip file.

32.11.2 Method overview

| Page | Property | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| 557 | <code>create</code> | Create a new instance of <code>TGZFileStream</code> |
| 558 | <code>destroy</code> | Removes <code>TGZFileStream</code> instance |
| 557 | <code>read</code> | Read data from the compressed file |
| 558 | <code>seek</code> | Set the position in the compressed stream. |
| 558 | <code>write</code> | Write data to be compressed |

32.11.3 TGZFileStream.create

Synopsis: Create a new instance of `TGZFileStream`

Declaration: `constructor create(filename: ansistring; filemode: Tgzopenmode)`

Visibility: public

Description: `Create` creates a new instance of the `TGZFileStream` class. It opens `FileName` for reading or writing, depending on the `FileMode` parameter. It is not possible to open the file read-write. If the file is opened for reading, it must exist.

If the file is opened for reading, the `TGZFileStream.Read` ([557](#)) method can be used for reading the data in uncompressed form.

If the file is opened for writing, any data written using the `TGZFileStream.Write` ([558](#)) method will be stored in the file in compressed (deflated) form.

Errors: If the file is not found, an `EZlibError` ([552](#)) exception is raised.

See also: `TGZFileStream.Destroy` ([558](#)), `TGZOpenMode` ([551](#))

32.11.4 TGZFileStream.read

Synopsis: Read data from the compressed file

Declaration: `function read(var buffer; count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Read` overrides the `Read` method of `TStream` to read the data from the compressed file. The `Buffer` parameter indicates where the read data should be stored. The `Count` parameter specifies the number of bytes (*uncompressed*) that should be read from the compressed file. Note that it is not possible to read from the stream if it was opened in write mode.

The function returns the number of uncompressed bytes actually read.

Errors: If `Buffer` points to an invalid location, or does not have enough room for `Count` bytes, an exception will be raised.

See also: `TGZFileStream.Create` (557), `TGZFileStream.Write` (558), `TGZFileStream.Seek` (558)

32.11.5 TGZFileStream.write

Synopsis: Write data to be compressed

Declaration: `function write(const buffer;count: LongInt) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Write` writes `Count` bytes from `Buffer` to the compressed file. The data is compressed as it is written, so ideally, less than `Count` bytes end up in the compressed file. Note that it is not possible to write to the stream if it was opened in read mode.

The function returns the number of (uncompressed) bytes that were actually written.

Errors: In case of an error, an `EZlibError` (552) exception is raised.

See also: `TGZFileStream.Create` (557), `TGZFileStream.Read` (557), `TGZFileStream.Seek` (558)

32.11.6 TGZFileStream.seek

Synopsis: Set the position in the compressed stream.

Declaration: `function seek(offset: LongInt;origin: Word) : LongInt; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Seek` sets the position to `Offset` bytes, starting from `Origin`. Not all combinations are possible, see `TDecompressionStream.Seek` (556) for a list of possibilities.

Errors: In case an impossible combination is asked, an `EZlibError` (552) exception is raised.

See also: `TDecompressionStream.Seek` (556)

32.11.7 TGZFileStream.destroy

Synopsis: Removes `TGZFileStream` instance

Declaration: `destructor destroy; Override`

Visibility: public

Description: `Destroy` closes the file and releases the `TGZFileStream` instance from memory.

See also: `TGZFileStream.Create` (557)