Just a note on VCL. It stands for Visual Components Library (or something similar) and it was developed a visual components library (), and as such other features where introduced to support the visual stuff. You can't expect it to be a general purpose library. But as the version number increased, the library got a good deal of non-visual features. But you still needed a good systems interaction library if you didn't want to use windows API. And under Delphi, not BCB, using it felt more integrated. I couldn't shake the feeling when working in BCB that VCL for C was more of an afterthought than a real alternative. An BCB 1.0 was extremely buggy.