

Based on DataEase Technology

This phrase has caused no end of confusion since a number of people mistakenly believed that Ffenics was somehow "pirated" from DataEase. The fact is that the existence of Ffenics was known to and approved of by the owners of Sapphire.

Both Ffenics and DataEase are composed of two integrated parts, the user interface and the database processor (engine). It is the user interface that has changed the most over the years, starting with DataEase DOS and continuing through the various Windows versions (Express, DFW5, DE6, DE6.5, and DE7). The engine (PRISM) on the other hand, has changed far less dramatically.

As to exactly what the phrase means, here is an extract from the [Ffenics Forum](#) .

Question: What does 'based on DataEase technology' mean.

Pete Tabord: Essentially, we use PRISM as our database processor

Question: Does that mean that Ffenics is limited in it's future development, i.e. can it never be 'more' than DataEase.

Pete Tabord: The answer is that we have no limits, we can develop any way we like from that starting point. I'm not trying to keep our PRISM (renamed PRISMPSL) compatible with DataEase, and I have a quite different vision for the way our product range will develop.

We've already made significant alterations to PRISM, and it will no doubt diverge further. For the future I want to try and exploit its abilities as a distributed processing system rather than trying to pretend that it is client server like everyone else.

But on the other hand with Ffenics we are actually trying to simplify somewhat so that we can pursue the desktop market, specifically in small businesses and with executives in larger businesses that have outgrown Excel, can't get what they want from their MIS department, etc.

Plus of course we want all the people dissatisfied with current end user database offerings such as Access, Filemaker etc.

Question: Is Ffenics just a skinned/themed version of DFW?

Pete Tabord: Its not a version of DataEase at all, its a new product based on DataEase technology. It has already diverged from DataEase, and I expect the products to get further apart as time goes by.

As to its reliability, that of course is not for us to judge. We believe it to be a reliable product, based on the feedback we have received, or we wouldn't be releasing it.

As I mentioned, we have made substantial changes to PRISM and networking is one of those areas. The UI has also been changed substantially, I think every visual element that is not a standard Windows control has been changed, as well as a very large amount of other changes. And not least, a great deal of stuff that I didn't like or that is not needed in a new product has been removed.

The basic structure of course is similar - both products use PRISM which communicates with the UI in a particular way and has a predefined set of facilities (which we have already started to extend, BTW) and both products are standard Windows MDI applications. There is no skin on Ffenics.

I'm sure you are aware that 'file not found' and similar messages are not uncommon in network products that timeout, just as your browser is often unable to tell you why it can't load a given site, the two situations often being indistinguishable. Ffenics provides a number of tools for dealing with this situation, however.

In fairness to DataEase, the prime cause for 'file not found' on Windows networks is a known Microsoft problem with the prompt release of packets from server admin tasks (buffer flushing, for example) when multiple users have a file open in share mode. In this circumstance a file which you are happily reading becomes 'unavailable' - it isn't locked. This tends to hit the RDRR and relationships files in particular, which are in constant use. Correct setup according to the document I wrote when I was with Sapphire almost always disposes of this problem, the difficulty is that sometimes the MIS department won't allow the settings to be set!