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BlackCat -- source code debugger for Catalina C



Version 1.35 corrects a sign extension bug when signed bit fields are displayed. It also adds the source filename to "watched" variables.

Version 1.34 adds the ability to write "watched" variables while the program is running. Strings and individual chars are fully supported. Now you can fully "instrument" your C program.

Version 1.33 adds a "watch" capability for Hub located global variables.

BlackCat is a Windows based source code debugger for use with Catalina C 2.4 and is particularly easy to use with ViewPort 4.3.2 (which adds C code editing and automatic invocation of the Catalina C compiler and the BlackCat debugger). BlackCat allows you to step through your code at the source level in a variety of ways, place breakpoints, examine and modify variables while at a breakpoint, trace calling path, etc. It supports the memory models LMM and XMM, both LARGE and SMALL, on a variety of commonly available hardware platforms such as MORPHEUS, TRIBLADEPROP, HYDRA, HYBRID, DEMO, etc.

Unfortunately, though we tried hard, BlackCat will not run under Linux. To serve that community, as well as those that prefer to use command line utilities, there is a command line version of BlackCat (called BlackBox) that Ross Higson built and is included with the Catalina 2.4 release. BlackBox strongly parallels BlackCat, so running BlackCat will give you a good feel for what BlackBox will provide.

To get you quickly familiar with the capabilities of BlackCat, I have included a demo that was compiled using Catalina 2.4.

The BlackCat1.34.zip file should be downloaded and unzipped in the C:\Program Files\Catalina\bin sub-directory. That is where ViewPort will look for it.

If you want a demo without the need for Catalina C or ViewPort:

Download BlackCatDemo.zip file located in Auxiliary files. Unzip this in any convenient location, including its sub-directories.

To run the demo, you will need a serial connection to a propeller chip.

In the BlackCatDemo directory, navigate to bin\Debug. There you should find three files named DemoProject with .binary, .dbg, and .lst extensions. Use the Propeller Tool to load DemoProject.binary to your propeller.

Then, open C:\Program Files\Catalina\bin\blackcat.exe.

On the Propeller Communications panel that opens up, select 115200 baud. Then click the COM port drop down box. It will be populated with available serial ports. Select the one that is connected to the propeller. Then click Open. You can close this dialog now. All settings are "sticky", and if you had been using ViewPort, all this would have been done for you.

On the BlackCat panel, click the menu item Open dbg file. Navigate to DemoProject.dbg and select it. You should be debugging now! Use the Help menu item to bring up on-line help. It's really a manual organized around the kind of questions a new user will have.

If you have ViewPort 4.3.2 or higher installed, you can use ViewPort to open the DemoProject.cbp file in the BlackCatDemo directory. Then with a single click on the Debug button, or a press of F5, the demo will be recompiled, loaded into the propeller, and BlackCat started and already at the first location in main().

Enjoy.

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Version:
1.35

Type:
Object

Attributes:

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Categories:
Tool

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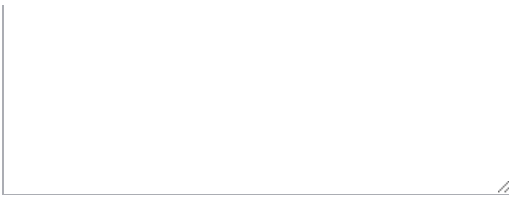
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■ Hanno Sander commented:
Bob has done a tremendous job with the BlackCat C code debugger. Coupled with the Catalina compiler and ViewPort IDE, developing Propeller applications in C is now just as easy as in spin code. This object contains good sample programs and documentation. Hanno
April 12, 2010 3:23 p.m.

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