



HarPB Overview

HarPB¹ is a specialized utility for checking PowerBuilder source Objects in and out of Computer Associate's AllFusion Harvest. It handles the special requirements of checking Objects out to PowerBuilder Libraries (PBL's) and checking Objects in from PBL's. These operations are non-standard to most source control systems, because the PBL is a proprietary binary format of PowerBuilder. HarPB supports Harvest V5.02 and later.

Special Challenges to Controlling Source for PB Development

Controlling source for PowerBuilder development presents some special challenges. The most significant challenge is the PowerBuilder Library (PBL), which is where all development takes place.

During development, a PB Application consists of a set of PBL's (the "Library List") that contain PB "Objects". PB Objects represent classes of software like Windows, Menus, and Functions that are assembled into the Application. PB deliverables consist of an executable (exe) and a set of PBD's (PowerBuilder Dynamic libraries) that are derived from the PBL's.

The PBL is not a file that should be controlled with source control, because it does not have a simple text format and includes many Objects that may be modified independently. What should be controlled are the individual Objects that make up a PB application. The developer can check out one or more Objects to a PBL where development will be done, make modifications with PB, and then check them back in.

The source control interface must be aware of the PBL structure so that Objects can be imported into a PBL when they are checked out and exported from a PBL to a flat text file before they are checked in.

HarPB Operation

HarPB performs all the steps required in checking PB Objects in and out of Harvest. The steps are hidden so that to the user the Object is checked out of Harvest and appears in the PBL, available for modifications and similarly for checking in the Object. The user doesn't need to know that the Object exists as a text file and is imported or exported when checking out and checking in.

HarPB presents only a view of the PB application, not of the file system. When you check out an Object with HarPB you indicate which PBL you want the Object checked out to. HarPB checks the Object out of Harvest to a file in a subdirectory of the directory where the PBL resides. From there, HarPB imports it into the specified PBL.

Similarly, when you check an Object in, HarPB exports the Object to a file in a subdirectory to the directory where the PBL is located. From there the text file is checked in to Harvest.

¹ HarPB is a product of E.Crane Computing. Polaris is an authorized reseller and implementation partner of E.Crane Computing products.