

TBarCode DLL

Barcode Library

Version 7.0.1

Developer Manual

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3 Introduction

3.1 What is TBarCode?

TBarCode is a set of professional tools for the generation of barcodes. More than 70 different symbologies (linear as well as 2D or stacked barcode variants) can be printed or exported as graphics file. All industry formats, in the highest possible resolution and quality, are generated.

TBarCode is available in several versions for different operating systems, applications and programming environments.

The following versions are included in this setup:

TBarCode OCX	A Microsoft [®] ActiveX [®] compliant barcode control. It can be used with Microsoft [®] Office applications as well as by software developers.
TBarCode .NET	A .NET barcode library for software developers. It includes barcode controls for Windows Forms and ASP.NET 2.0.
TBarCode DLL	A 32-bit DLL for Windows platforms for software developers. (A DLL for Windows CE/Windows Mobile is available on request. Please contact us with your platform details.)

Additionally the following versions are available as separate downloads:

TBarCode/X	TBarCode for UNIX and Linux operating systems.
------------	--

3.2 What is TBarCode DLL?

TBarCode DLL is a software library for barcode generation. It is a 32-bit dynamic link library (DLL) for Microsoft Windows platforms.

For Linux[®] and UNIX[®] TEC-IT provides **TBarCode/X**. **TBarCode/X** comes with a library which provides the identical functionality as **TBarCode DLL**. **TBarCode/X** is available as separate download.

3.3 Scope of this Document

This document explains how you can use **TBarCode DLL** in your own applications. The complete application programming interface (API) is described in the *TBarCode DLL Developer Reference*.

3.4 Restrictions of the Demo Version

In the demo version the barcodes will be drawn with a demo-hint. That means that the word "Demo" or the phrase "www.tec-it.com" is drawn partially over the barcode (see Figure). The demo-hint does not influence the readability of the barcode in a negative way.

When barcodes are generated in PostScript[®] or PCL[®] format, an additional horizontal bar is drawn across the barcode. Like the other demo-hint this bar usually does not influence the readability of the barcode. Its sole purpose is to indicate that the barcodes were generated with a demo version of TBarCode.



- In special cases (e.g. very small or high-resolution barcodes) you may want to test the product without restrictions. To obtain a temporary license key contact sales@tec-it.com.
- For enabling the full-featured version (without the demo hints) you can obtain a license key from TEC-IT (http://www.tec-it.com/order/).
- For more information on licensing TBarCode, please refer to chapter 9, "How to License TBarCode".



Installation 4

4.1 TBarCode for Windows

4.1.1 Requirements

The following operating systems are supported:

- Microsoft Windows 95
- Microsoft Windows 98
- Microsoft Windows 98 Second Edition
- Microsoft Windows ME
- Microsoft Windows 2000
- Microsoft Windows XP
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- Microsoft Windows Vista (RC1)

4.1.2 **Download and Setup**

Download TBarCode from http://www.tec-it.com/Download ► Software ► Barcode Tools for Microsoft Windows and execute the setup application. Depending on your selection one or more of the following components are installed – along with documentations and sample applications:

TBarCode OCX

A barcode ActiveX control for Microsoft Office users and for software developers. User manual and API reference are included in the setup.

TBarCode DLL

For software developers. Developer manual and API reference are included in the setup.

TBarCode .NET

For software developers. Developer manual and API reference are included in the setup.

- Administrative rights are required to install **TBarCode**.
- TBarCode OCX is an ActiveX control. ActiveX controls must be registered within the Microsoft Windows operating system before they can be used. This registration is executed automatically by the setup application. On demand you can register the OCX file manually with the command line tool "regsvr32.exe".

4.2 TBarCode/X for UNIX and Linux

Please refer to the "TBarCode/X User Documentation" for an in-depth description. The document is available on the TEC-IT web-site: http://www.tec-it.com ▶ Download ▶ Barcode Software for UNIX and Linux ► Manuals.



5 General

Please keep in mind that **TBarCode DLL** is a software component. It is not an executable by its own. Read this document and check out the accompanying sample applications to learn how to embed **TBarCode** into your own application.

5.1 TBarCode DLL for Windows

The DLL is named *TBarCode7.dll* and can be found in the directory *Bin* of the installation directory (usually *C:\Program Files\TEC-IT\TBarCode7*).

- Make sure that the **TBarCode DLL** files are located in a path included in the "PATH" environment variable (or in the application path).
- ▶ If you are using image functions (*BCSaveImage*, *BCConvertToStream*...) you have to put tecitimg7.dll and zlib1.dll to the same path as TBarCode7.dll (or into a Windows system path).

5.1.1 C/C++ Header Files

The 32-bit DLL is delivered with C/C++ header files needed for embedding the DLL (the library) into your own application. These files are located in the folder C:\Program Files\TEC-IT\TBarCode7\Include (or in the folder you have chosen during setup).

Include the file *tbarcode.h* in your project in order to get full access to the DLL functions within C/C++:

#include "tbarcode.h"

Header files for miscellaneous programming environments (for example Delphi) are included in the appropriate source code samples. Several samples are installed with **TBarCode**; more samples are available on TEC-IT's web site http://www.tec-it.com.

5.1.2 Linking

TEC-IT provides the TBarCode7.lib file, which contains the entry points to the DLL Interface. Link your application using this file. This file is located in the folder C:\Program Files\TEC-IT\TBarCode7\Lib (or in the folder you have chosen during setup).

5.2 TBarCode/X for UNIX and Linux

Depending on the operating system **TBarCode/X** is delivered as tar-ball, RPM or another appropriate installation package.

Binaries are available for:

- Linux (x86 + IA64)
- FreeBSD (x86)
- AIX (PowerPC)
- HP-UX (PA-RISC 1.1/2.0 + IA64)
- Sun Solaris (x86 + Sparc)
- SCO OpenServer/UnixWare
- etc.



If there are no binaries available for your operating system please contact TEC-IT (support@tec-it.com). Most likely TEC-IT is able to compile a suitable binary.

5.2.1 C/C++ Header Files

TBarCode/X is delivered with the required header and library files.

Include the file *tbarcode.h* in your project in order to get full access to the shared LIB functions within C/C++:

#include <libtbarcode7/tbarcode.h>

The file is usually installed at the following location:

/usr/local/include/libtbarcode7/tbarcode.h

You will have to add the option

-I/usr/local/include

when calling the preprocessor/compiler, to ensure that the preprocessor/compiler finds the header files.

5.2.2 Linking

TBarCode/X is available as static library or as shared object. A shared object is comparable to a DLL under Windows. Per default it is installed in /usr/local/lib. You can link against **TBarCode/X** using the linker options

-L/usr/local/lib/ -ltbarcode7

The foregoing linker options prefer the usage of the shared library (in /usr/local/lib). If the shared library was not found the static library will be used.



6 Using TBarCode

6.1 Important Functions

The basic function calls to produce a barcode are as follows (in the appropriate order).

BCLicenseMe()

This function licenses **TBarCode** and removes the demo restrictions. Licensing must be performed before you draw a barcode (e.g. after **TBarCode** has been loaded to memory).

BCAlloc()

This function sets up and initializes the internal barcode structure. You receive a handle that is used for all other function calls (*pBarCode*). This function must be called before any other function expecting a **pBarCode** parameter.

BCSetBCType()

Sets the type of the barcode (symbology); e. g. Code39, Code128, UPC, EAN, 20F5, ...

BCSetText()

Sets the data to be encoded as barcode.

BCSetModWidth() (optional)

This function is used if an application requires a specific module width. Without this function the module width is computed automatically by **TBarCode**. It adapts to the barcode dimensions (specified via a bounding rectangle) and the current input data.

More optional barcode settings

Set the barcode properties according to your application; e.g. BCSet_PDF417_RowHeight(), BCSetCDMethod(), BCSetBearerBarWidth(), BCSetRatio(), BCSetTextDist(), BCSetLogFont(), ...

BCCheck() (optional)

This function checks if the data characters are valid for the selected barcode type. If invalid data was encountered it returns an error-code. If escape-sequences are used, they are not translated in this function. It must be called before *BCCalcCD()*.

Note: This function call is optional; BCCreate() calls this function in any case automatically.

BCCalcCD() (optional)

This function computes the check-digit(s) for the given input data and the selected check-digit method. The check digits are added to the barcode data automatically. On demand you can retrieve the check digits with <code>BCGetCheckDigits()</code>. Please consider that symbology internal check digits (like <code>Modulo 103</code> of Code-128) are not calculated with this function – they are always part of the created barcode.

Note: This function call is optional; BCCreate() calls this function in any case automatically.

BCCreate()

This function prepares the barcode structure (pattern) to be drawn with *BCDraw()*. It returns *ErrOk* if everything is ok. If not, it returns an error code (of type *ERRCODE*) that specifies the error in more detail. After *BCCreate()* all parameters of the resulting barcode are available (e.g. number of modules, dimensions, check-digits, meta-description).

Get Dimensions (optional)

After BCCreate() you can call the methods BCGetBarcodeHeight(), BCGetBarcodeWidth(),

...



BCDraw()

This function draws the barcode into the given device context. The barcode dimensions are set through passing the coordinates of a bounding rectangle. No special mapping is

Note: Only available in TBarCode DLL for Windows!

BCPostscriptToFile(), BCPCLToFile()

These function save the barcode in PostScript or PCL output format.

BCFree()

This function de-initializes the barcode info-structure and frees allocated memory. It must be called as last function.

If any of the BCxxxx functions in the above described order returns an error code not equal to zero then DO NOT call subsequent BCxxxx functions (except of BCFree()). An error code <> 0 indicates an error condition - subsequent calls (except of BCFree()) may fail and produce unexpected results.



7 C/C++ Sample Code

Below are the steps to create a barcode image in C/C++ (only for demonstrative purposes, not all variables declared).

▶ Also check out the fully functional samples provided with the setup – or available as separate download.

7.1 C/C++ Sample Code for Windows

Include the header-file:

```
#include "tbarcode.h"
```

Sample code for barcode generation (excerpt):

```
// Initialize library
// nothing to do for Windows (except when using TBarCode as static library)
// License the product
BCLicenseMe("LicenseeName", eLicKindDeveloper, 1, "LicenseKey", eLicProd2D);
// Allocate memory and retrieve barcode handle (pointer)
t_BarCode* pBC;
BCAlloc(&pBC);
// Adjust symbology
BCSetBCType(pBC, eBC_Code128);
// Set barcode data
char* demo = "12345678";
BCSetText(pBC, demo, strlen(demo));
// Set font height for the human readable text
LOGFONTA* pLF = BCGetLogFont(pBC);
pLF->lfHeight = 14;
// Find out wrong characters (check if data can be encoded) (optional)
eCode = BCCheck(pBC)
if (eCode != ErrOk)
{
    // your error handling
// Calculate check-digits (optional)
BCCalcCD(pBC);
// Create barcode pattern (bars, spaces)
BCCreate(pBC);
// Set barcode size
// Below we use Hi-Metric [0.01 mm] for hDC
// Draw to device context
// Hi-Metric [0.01 mm] for hDC
SetMapMode(hPrinterDC, MM_HIMETRIC);
                                 // position
OffsetRect(&rect, Xpos, Ypos);
BCDraw(pBC, hPrinterDC, &rect);
// Save to Postscript file
// Unit is [0.001 mm] for Vector-EPS format
BCSaveImage(pBC, "barcode.eps", eIMPsVector, 50000, 30000, 0, 0);
```



```
// Save barcode image to buffer
 // Unit is [Pixel] for JPG format
nWidthPx = 2 * BCGetCountModules (pBC);
 BCSaveImageToBuffer(pBC, &lpszBuffer, eIMJpg, nWidthPx, 100, 96, 96);
 // Release memory / free barcode structure
BCFree(pBC);
 // Clean up
// nothing to do for Windows (except when using TBarCode as static library)
```

7.2 C/C++ Sample Code for Unix/Linux

Include the header file:

```
#include <libtbarcode7/tbarcode.h>
```

Sample code for barcode generation (excerpt):

```
// Initialize library
BCInitLibrary("/usr/local/share/tbarcode7");
// License the product
BCLicenseMe("LicenseeName", eLicKindDeveloper, 1, "MyKey", eLicProd2D);
// Allocate memory and retrieve barcode handle (pointer)
t_BarCode* pBC;
BCAlloc(&pBC);
// Adjust symbology
BCSetBCType(pBC, eBC_Code128);
// Set barcode data
char* demo = "12345678";
BCSetText(pBC, demo, strlen(demo));
// (Optional:) Set font type and height for the human readable text
BCSetFontName(pBC, "Helvetica");
BCSetFontHeight(pBC, 10);
                                     // 10 points
// Find out wrong characters (check if data can be encoded)
eCode = BCCheck(pBC)
if (eCode != ErrOk)
{
    // your error handling
// Calculate check-digits
BCCalcCD(pBC);
// Create barcode pattern (bars, spaces)
BCCreate(pBC);
// Set barcode size (PostScript bounding rectangle)
// Units are [0.001 mm]
rect.left = 0;  // 0 mm
rect.bottom = 0;  // 0 mm
rect.right = 50000;  // 50 mm
rect.top = 30000;  // 30 mm
// Draw to device context
// not supported in Linux/UNIX, because only the Windows GDI uses a "device context"
// Save to Postscript file
BCPostscriptToFile(pBCode, (void *) "barcode.eps", &rect);
// Save barcode image to buffer
// Unit is [0.001mm] for Postscript and PCL
void* pPSBuffer = malloc(0xffff);
BCPostscriptToMemory(pBC, pPSBuffer, 0xffff, &rect);
```



```
if (pPSBuffer)
   free(pPSBuffer); // Release allocated memory after use
// Release memory for barcode structure
BCFree(pBC);
// Clean up
BCDeInitLibrary();
```



8 Custom Drawing Functions for Special Devices

8.1 Why Custom Drawing Functions?

TBarCode DLL offers the possibility to implement custom drawing functions. This is useful whenever you control a device which is not supported by any standard-driver functionality. Good examples are laser marking devices, OS-400 specific printers, ...

A custom drawing routine is called by **TBarCode** as call-back function. **TBarCode DLL** offers you the possibility to register call-back functions for your own drawing routines.

► NOTE: custom drawing routines will NOT WORK if no valid **TBarCode**-license is available! Please contact <u>support@tec-it.com</u> for temporary license keys.

8.2 The General Concept

TBarCode computes a barcode using a so-called meta-description. This meta-description defines in a complete device independent way where bars and where spaces are to be drawn.

Such a meta-description consists of upper- and lowercase letters:

- Uppercase letters are placeholders for bars (or dots)
- Lowercase letters are placeholders for spaces
- The letter itself (A or B or C or ...) defines the width of the bar (space) to be drawn.

8.3 Linear Barcodes & PDF417

For barcodes which are using multiple widths for the bars (or spaces) multiple uppercase (or lowercase) letters are passed to the call-back function:

Uppercase letters = bars:

- A ... bar (actual width = 1 * module width X)
- B ... bar (actual width = 2 * module width X)
- C ... bar (actual width = 3 * module width X)
- D ... bar (actual width = 4 * module width X)
- E ... and so on

The factors for the module width depend on the current print-ratio. In this example the print-ratio for the bars is 1:2:3:4

Lowercase letters = spaces:

- a ... space (actual width = 1 * module width X)
- b ... space (actual width = 2 * module width X)
- c ... space (actual width = 3 * module width X)
- d ... space (actual width = 4 * module width X)
- e ... and so on

The factor for the module widths depend on the current print-ratio. In this example the print-ratio for the bars is 1:2:3:4



X represents the module width. All actual widths of bars or spaces are usually multiples of the module width.

Each barcode symbology uses a pre-defined print-ratio (and this ratio can be adjusted by the user). For example Code39 uses the following print-ratio: 1:3:1:3

- A ... 1 X
- B ... 3 X
- a ... 1 X
- b ... 3 X

It is possible to query the used print-ratio for a specific barcode symbology – please check out the relevant functions *BCGetRatioString*, *BCGetRatioHint*, *BCGetCountBars*, *BCGetCountSpaces*.

8.4 Data Matrix & QR-Code

Data Matrix and QR-Code consist of several rows. For each row, the corresponding row pattern will be transmitted to a user-defined call-back function (for drawing a row of the symbol).

The row-pattern is built by uppercase and lowercase letters. Uppercase letters are place-holders for black bars (or squares) – lowercase letters are placeholders for spaces (white squares):

Uppercase "A" - black dot/bar, Lowercase "a" - white dot/space

Figure 1: Custom Barcode Drawing

The example above shows Data Matrix, but QR-Code works the same.

8.4.1 About Drawing

The pattern itself contains no absolute sizes. The matrix dots (A and a) have the same width and height X. This is called the module width. By adjusting the module width to the size of the device dots (pixels) you can minimize the printing tolerances.



9 How to License TBarCode

In order to enable the full-featured version, you need a valid license key from TEC-IT. A description of the available license-types as well as all necessary information for ordering can be found at http://www.tec-it.com/prices.

If you don't know the license type according to your application, please ask our sales team (sales@tec-it.com).

For placing an online order check out http://www.tec-it.com/order/.

For testing the call-back API or other evaluation purposes you can request a time-limited license key from support@tec-it.com.

9.1 Demo Limitations

Whenever **TBarCode** is not licensed with a valid license key, an additional text "Demo" or an additional horizontal bar is drawn across the barcode. In addition all call-back functions (for custom barcode drawing functions) are disabled.

To remove the demo limitations call *BCLicenseMe()* with valid a license key.



Sample Data 012345
Figure 2: Barcodes rendered without valid license.



Sample Data 012345



Figure 3: Barcode rendered with valid license.



10 Redistributing TBarCode

This chapter explains what is important when redistributing a custom application that uses the TBarCode DLL.

Please note that in most cases you need a developer license for re-distribution of TBarCode DLL (except for in-house applications which are bound to one or more sites).

10.1 Redistributing TBarCode DLL for Windows

10.1.1 Dependencies

An application that uses TBarCode requires the following files:

- TBarCode7.dll
 - This is a native Win32 library that performs barcode generation. This file is mandatory.
- tecitimg7.dll
 - This library is used for saving bitmap images. This file is optional. It is only required, if barcodes need to be stored in a bitmap file format, such as BMP, GIF, PNG, etc.
- zlib1.dll
 - This is a 3rd-party library that performs data compression. This file is optional. It is only required, when data compression in barcodes is enabled.

These files are located in the folder *C:\Program Files\TEC-IT\TBarCode7\Bin* (or in the folder you have chosen during setup).

TBarCode DLL requires also the **Microsoft VC80 Common Runtime DLLs**. See next section how to distribute them with your application.

10.1.2 Redistribution

When redistributing a custom application the files described above need to be redistributed together with the application. The DLLs should be located in the same folder as the executable.

Other files than those listed above must not be redistributed.

You may have to redistribute the **Visual C++ 2005 runtime components** (MS CRT8.0 DLLs) with your application and ensure they are installed on the target computer.

There are two options to install them:

- You can install these components with the Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Redistributable Package (x86) available at http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=65127&clcid=0x409.
 The package installs all required runtime DLLs.
- If you use a setup tool and your installer supports merge modules (*.msm files) you can add the required msm packages to your setup:
 - Microsoft_VC80_CRT_x86.msm
 - o policy_8_0_Microsoft_VC80_CRT_x86.msm

Please contact TEC-IT Support if you need help.

10.2 Redistributing TBarCode for UNIX

As a developer you can choose whether you link TBarCode as static library or as shared object.



10.2.1 TBarCode as Static Library

The static library can be found at the following location:

```
/usr/local/lib/libtbarcode7.a
```

When you link against the static library, then you do not have to redistribute anything else, except your own application.

10.2.2 TBarCode as Shared Library

The shared library consists of the following files:

```
/usr/local/lib/libtbarcode7.so
/usr/local/lib/libtbarcode7.so.0
/usr/local/lib/libtbarcode7.so.0.0
```

libtbarcode7.so and *libtbarcode7.so.0* are symbolic links to *libtbarcode7.so.0.0.0*. The version numbers might be different on your system – depending on the type of operating system and the actual version of **TBarCode**. You can find the right files by running

```
ls -l /usr/local/lib/libtbarcode7.so*
```

When you link you application against the shared library, then you will have to redistribute these files (including the symbolic links) with your application.



11 Contact and Support Information

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