

Chapter 1

Introduction to Visual Programming

Introduction

Visual programming language (VPL) is a programming language that uses graphical elements and figures to develop a program. VPL employs techniques to design a software program in two or more dimensions, and includes graphical elements, text, symbols and icons within its programming context. Visual programming language is also known as executable graphics language. Visual programming language enables the development of software programs by eliminating textual software code with a series of visual graphics elements. VPL incorporates these graphical elements as the primary context of the language arranged in a systematic order. The graphics or icons included within a visual program serve as input, activities, connections and/or output of the program. Visual language has a few types, such as icon-based languages, diagramming languages and form-based language. Visual languages should not be confused with GUI-based programming language as they only provide graphical program authoring services. However, their code/context is completely textual. There are a lot of domain specific visual languages available to play with and check out. Over the years, we've been collecting a list of different environments that we feel, in one way or another could be viewed as visual programming languages. The VB is one of the Visual Programming languages and .Net as a Visual Development treatment. Hence Visual Basic 2010 is considered as a Visual Programming tool and Visual Basic as a Programming language to understand the concept of visual programming.

A Brief Description of Visual Basic 2010

Visual Basic 2010 is the latest version of Visual Basic launched by Microsoft in 2010. It is almost similar to Visual Basic 2008 but it has added many new features. Visual Basic has gone through many phases of development since the days of BASIC that was built for DOS. BASIC stands for **B**eginners' **A**ll-purpose **S**ymbolic **I**nstruction **C**ode. The program code in Visual Basic resembles the English language. Different software companies had produced many different versions of BASIC for DOS, such as Microsoft QBASIC, QUICKBASIC, GWBASIC, and IBM BASICA and more. Then, Microsoft launched the first graphical BASIC, Visual Basic Version 1 in 1991. It is GUI based and

especially developed for MS window. Since then Microsoft slowly phased out the DOS versions of BASIC and completely replaced them by Visual Basic.

Visual Basic was initially a functional or procedural programming language until the popular Visual Basic 6. Then, Microsoft transformed Visual Basic into a more powerful object oriented programming language by launching Visual Basic.Net, Visual Basic 2005, Visual Basic 2008 and the latest Visual Basic 2010. Visual Basic 2010 is a full-fledged Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) Language; it has caught up with other OOP languages such as C++, Java, C# and others. However, you do not have to know OOP to learn VB2010. In fact, if you are familiar with Visual Basic 6, you can learn VB2010 effortlessly because the syntax and interface are almost similar.

Programming languages today are not what they used to be. The language itself has not gotten less important; rather, the graphical interfaces to applications have gotten more important. A computer cannot understand any person's spoken language.

A spoken language, such as Italian or English, is simply too general and ambiguous for computers to understand. Therefore, we must adapt to the machine and learn a language that the computer can understand. VB's programming language is fairly simple and uses common English words and phrases for the most part. The language is not ambiguous, however. When you write a statement in the Visual Basic language, the statement never has multiple meanings within the same context.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Visual Programming

Visual Basic is a programming language offering general ease of use combined with ease of implementing a graphical user interface. It is relatively simplistic and therefore limited in function compared to more advanced, multiple-platform languages such as Java. However there is a rather large knowledge base available for new programmers looking to learn Visual Basic. A major positive of using Visual Basic is the speed at which applications can be developed for it. It is also quite useful as a front-end language for programming interactivity with databases. It has limited if any use for more complex applications such as computer games. The structure of the language itself is simple enough to be accessible to many newer programmers, though this is traded off with a more limited compatibility set compared to more open languages, of which there are many.

Another benefit of Visual Basic is that it does contain interoperability with other languages through Microsoft's Component Object Model, which allows functions to be written in other languages and integrated with Visual Basic.

Some of Advantages are listed below.

1. The structure of the Basic programming language is very simple, particularly as to the executable code.
2. VB is not only a language but primarily an integrated, interactive development environment ("IDE").
3. The VB-IDE has been highly optimized to support rapid application development ("RAD"). It is particularly easy to develop graphical user interfaces and to connect them to handler functions provided by the application.
4. The graphical user interface of the VB-IDE provides intuitively appealing views for the management of the program structure in the large and the various types of entities (classes, modules, procedures, forms, ...).
5. VB provides a comprehensive interactive and context-sensitive online help system.
6. When editing program texts the "IntelliSense" technology informs you in a little popup window about the types of constructs that may be entered at the current cursor location.
7. VB is a component integration language which is attuned to Microsoft's Component Object Model ("COM").
8. COM components can be written in different languages and then integrated using VB.
9. Interfaces of COM components can be easily called remotely via Distributed COM ("DCOM"), which makes it easy to construct distributed applications.
10. COM components can be embedded in / linked to your application's user interface and also in/to stored documents (Object Linking and Embedding "OLE", "Compound Documents").
11. There is a wealth of readily available COM components for many different purposes.
12. Visual Basic is built around the .NET environment used by all Microsoft Visual languages, so there is very little that can't be done in Visual Basic that can be done in other languages (such as C#).

Finally, a major disadvantage of using Visual Basic is that as a Microsoft proprietary language, its compatibility with non-Microsoft systems is limited. It is also limited in terms of Web-development applications.

1. Visual basic is a proprietary programming language written by Microsoft, so programs written in Visual basic cannot, easily, be transferred to other operating systems.
2. There are some, fairly minor disadvantages compared with C. C has better declaration of arrays – its possible to initialise an array of structures in C at declaration time; this is impossible in VB.

Event-Driven Programs

Lots can happen when a Windows program executes. For example, consider Figure 2.1's Microsoft Excel screen. What can happen next? What exactly will the user at the keyboard do? The user might click a toolbar button. The user might select a menu option. The user might press F1 to get help. The user might scroll the window. The user might enter additional numbers or formulas. The user might edit existing worksheet cells. The user might switch to another program. The user might.... Figure 2.1. A Windows program never knows what will happen next.

In the old days of programming, less than a decade ago, before windowed environments became so popular, the program dictated what the user could next do. The program might ask the user a question, and the user could answer the question and nothing else until the question was answered. The program might display a menu of options. Although the user had the choice of options, the user only had the choice of a menu selection. If the user wanted to move to another part of the program, he could not unless such a move was part of the currently displayed menu. The multitasking, multiuser windowed environments changed everything. Today's Windows program has no idea what might happen next. The program must offer a plethora of choices that range from menu options to various controls and data-entry locations, and the program just has to wait and see what happens.

An event is something that happens, usually but not always due to the user at the keyboard, during a program's operation. When the programs lost control, users gained. Users can now perform any one of many tasks. The problem for the programme is responding to users' actions when so many actions are possible. Fortunately, Microsoft designed Windows to be elegant not only for the user but for the programmer as well.

When virtually anything happens in the Windows environment, Windows generates an event. An event might be a key-press, an internal clock tick, a menu selection, a mouse click, a mouse movement, a task switch, or one of many hundreds of other possible events. Your program does not have to wait around for the user to do something specific. In text-based programming days, you would write one big program that guided the user through the execution of the code step-by-step. The program would take the user to a menu, ask the user questions, and offer only a limited set of choices. In many ways, a Visual Basic program is nothing more than a collection of small routines. These routines, called event procedures, handle individual events. If and only if an event occurs for which you've written an event procedure does that event procedure execute. You don't have to do anything special to execute the event procedure-just write the code. In other words, your program responds to events by supplying a matching event procedure and your program ignores events if you've not written an event procedure.

Control Events

Every control you place on a form supports one or more events. For example, if you place a text box in the centre of the Form window and run the program, you can click the text box, enter text in the text box, double-click the text box, and ignore the text box. The Text Box control happens to support events that can recognize when you've done anything to the control. If you've written an event procedure for that text box's event, your code's instructions will execute automatically as soon as the event occurs. Therefore, if you've written code to blank out the text box as soon as the user clicks the text box and you've written another event procedure for the double-click event that fills the text box with X's when the user double-clicks the text box, the text box fills with blanks or X's when you run the program and click or double-click the text box.

.Net Framework Introduction

The world of computing till date has been chaotic. We have had various languages struggling to interoperate with each other, developers undergoing huge learning curves to shift from one language to another or from one application type to another, non-standard ways of modelling applications and designing solutions and huge syntactic differences between languages. The list goes on....

Past years have seen some solace in the form of enterprise “glue” applications and standards like COM, which put-forth a binary standard of interoperability between application components. But in reality, this was not always true (VB COM found it very difficult to take on VC++ COM). Also, as applications increased in their reach, it was found that rather than re-inventing the wheel for a solution, it was better to take the “service” of another applications specialized for a piece of work.

Thus from a paradigm where applications replicated code to provide common services, we have moved to a paradigm where applications are built as “collaborative units” of components working together. This simple shift has led to the collapse of the current set of architectures and demanded a new programming model:

- A model where applications can be built as reusable components and are sharable over the internet.
- A model that encourages applications to be shared as a “service” (read web services).
- A model that enables true “interoperability” wherein the language used is only a matter of choice, thus enabling organizations to take advantage of existing skill sets.

The .NET Framework is a new computing platform developed by Microsoft that simplifies application development in the highly distributed environment of the internet. .NET is much more than just a platform for developing for the internet, but it is intended for this purpose predominantly, because here, others methods have failed in the past.

Overview of .NET

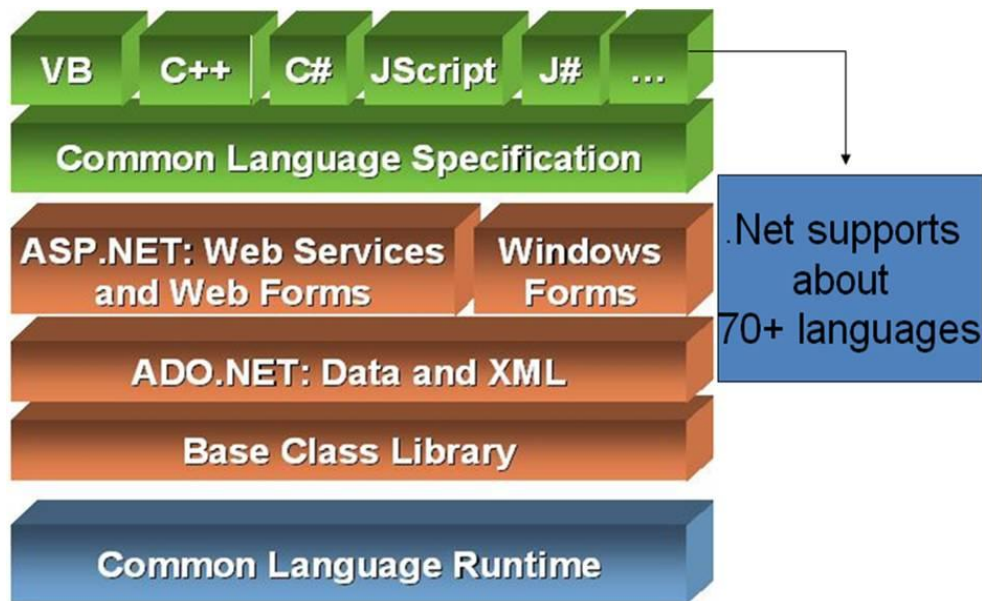
The .NET Framework has been developed to cater to the following objectives and requirements:

- To provide a consistent object-oriented environment to develop applications.
- To provide a code execution environment that simplifies deployment and versioning.
- To provide a code execution environment that guarantees the safety of the code that is executing. This includes both code developed internally by an organization or for code developed by 3rd party vendors.
- To provide a code execution environment that eliminates the issues faced by scripted environments with respect to performance.

- To provide a common programming model where the choice of a programming language becomes a matter of choice.

The .NET Framework is made up of two major components: the common language runtime (CLR) and the framework class library (FCL). The CLR is the foundation of the .NET Framework and provides various services that applications can use. The CLR also forms the environment that other applications run on. The FCL is a collection of over 7000+ types that cater to all the services, and data structures that applications will ever need.

The following diagram shows the .NET Framework, its hierarchy and the associated toolset. The diagram is so famous that you can spend some time memorizing its layout!!



Components of .Net Framework

At the base of the diagram, you see the operating system which can be (theoretically) any platform. The Common Language Runtime (CLR) is the substrate that abstracts the underlying operating system from your code. The minute it does this, it means that your code has to run using the services provided by the CLR and we get a new name called managed code. The CLR provides its services to applications by providing a standard set of library classes that abstract all the tasks that you will ever need. These classes are called as the Base Class Libraries. On top of this, other development platforms and applications are built (like ASP.NET, ADO.NET and so on). Language compilers that need to generate code for the CLR must adhere to a common set of specifications as laid down by the Common Language Specification (CLS). Above this, you have all the popular .NET languages.

Visual Studio .NET, then is the “glue” that helps your generate .NET applications and provides an IDE that is excellent for collaborative development.

Common Language Runtime

The CLR is the platform on which applications are hosted and executed. The CLR also provides a set of services that applications can use to access various resources (like arrays, collections, operating system folders etc). Since this runtime “manages” the execution of your code, code that works on the CLR is called as managed code. Any other code, you guessed it, is called unmanaged code.

Compilers and tools expose the CLR’s functionality and enable you to write code that benefits from this managed execution environment. To enable the runtime to provide services to managed code, language compilers must also emit metadata that describes the types that we develop in .NET. This metadata is stored along with the type file and makes it “self-describing”. Using this information, the runtime automatically handles object layout and manages references to objects, releasing them when they are no longer being used.

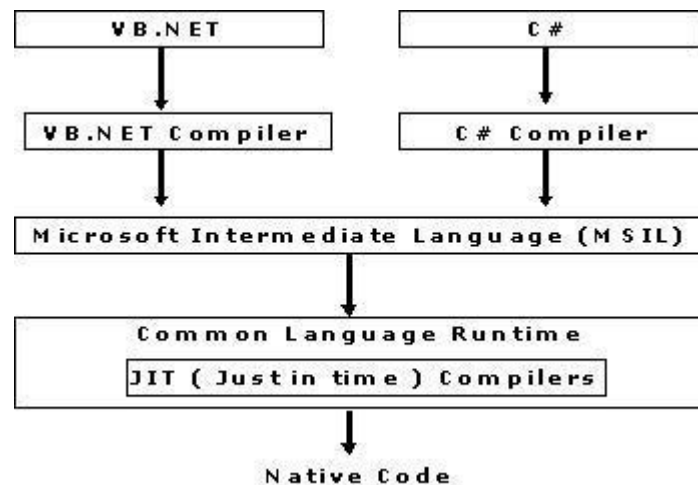
When compilers emit code to run on the CLR, they do not emit machine language code. Rather, an intermediate language code is used called Microsoft Intermediate Language (MSIL). MSIL is like an object-oriented version of assembly language and is platform independent. It has a rich set of instructions that enable efficient representation of the code. When a code starts to execute, a process known as Just in Time Compilation (JIT) converts the MSIL code into the native processor instructions of the platform, which is then executed. This is shown in the following diagram:

Note that this conversion happens only once. Subsequent calls to the code will execute the native version only. Once the application dies down and is started again, this process is repeated.

The following are some of the benefits of the CLR:

- Performance improvements.
- The ability to easily use components developed in other languages.
- Extensible types provided by a class library.
- New language features such as inheritance, interfaces, and overloading for object-oriented programming; support for explicit free threading that allows creation of

multithreaded, scalable applications; support for structured exception handling and custom attributes.



Common Language Specification

Language interoperability is the ability of code to interact with code that is written using a different programming language. Language interoperability can help maximize code reuse and, therefore, improve the efficiency of the development process. Because developers use a wide variety of tools and technologies, each of which might support different features and types, it has historically been difficult to ensure language interoperability. However, language compilers and tools that target the common language runtime benefit from the runtime's built-in support for language interoperability. To ensure that you can develop managed code that can be fully used by developers using any programming language, a set of language features and rules for using them called the Common Language Specification (CLS) has been defined. Components that follow these rules and expose only CLS features are considered CLS-compliant.

To fully interact with other objects regardless of the language they were implemented in, objects must expose to callers only those features that are common to all the languages they must interoperate with. If your component uses only CLS features in the API that it exposes to other code (including derived classes), the component is guaranteed to be accessible from any programming language that supports the CLS. Components that adhere to the CLS rules and use only the features included in the CLS are said to be CLS-compliant components.

Common Type System

The common type system defines how types are declared, used, and managed in the runtime, and is also an important part of the runtime's support for cross-language integration. The common type system performs the following functions:

- Establishes a framework that enables cross-language integration, type safety, and high performance code execution.
- Provides an object-oriented model that supports the complete implementation of many programming languages.
- Defines rules that languages must follow, which helps ensure that objects written in different languages can interact with each other. For example, if you have created a class in VB.NET, you can inherit from it in a C# program.

Framework Class Library

Windows programmers coding in C, tend to rely on the Windows API and functions in third-party DLLs to get their job done. C++ programmers often use class libraries of their own creation or standard class libraries such as MFC. Visual Basic programmers use the Visual Basic API, which is an abstraction of the underlying operating system API.

In the .NET Framework, all these anachronistic APIs are done away with. Rather a new set of functions branded as the framework class library are introduced which contain more than 7000 types.

To make learning and using the FCL more manageable, Microsoft has divided the FCL into hierarchical namespaces. The FCL has about 100 namespaces in all. Each namespace holds classes and other types that share a common purpose. For example, much of the window manager portion of the Windows API is encapsulated in the System.Windows.Forms namespace. In this namespace classes that represent windows, dialog boxes, menus, and other elements commonly used in GUI applications are present. A separate namespace called System.Collections holds classes representing hash tables, resizable arrays, and other data containers. Yet another namespace, System.IO, contains classes for doing file I/O.

Chapter 2

Exploring IDE

Navigating the Visual Basic 2010 Integrated Development Environment

The Start Page

When Visual Basic 2010 Express launch, you can see the start page of the Integrated Development Environment, as shown in Figure 1.1.

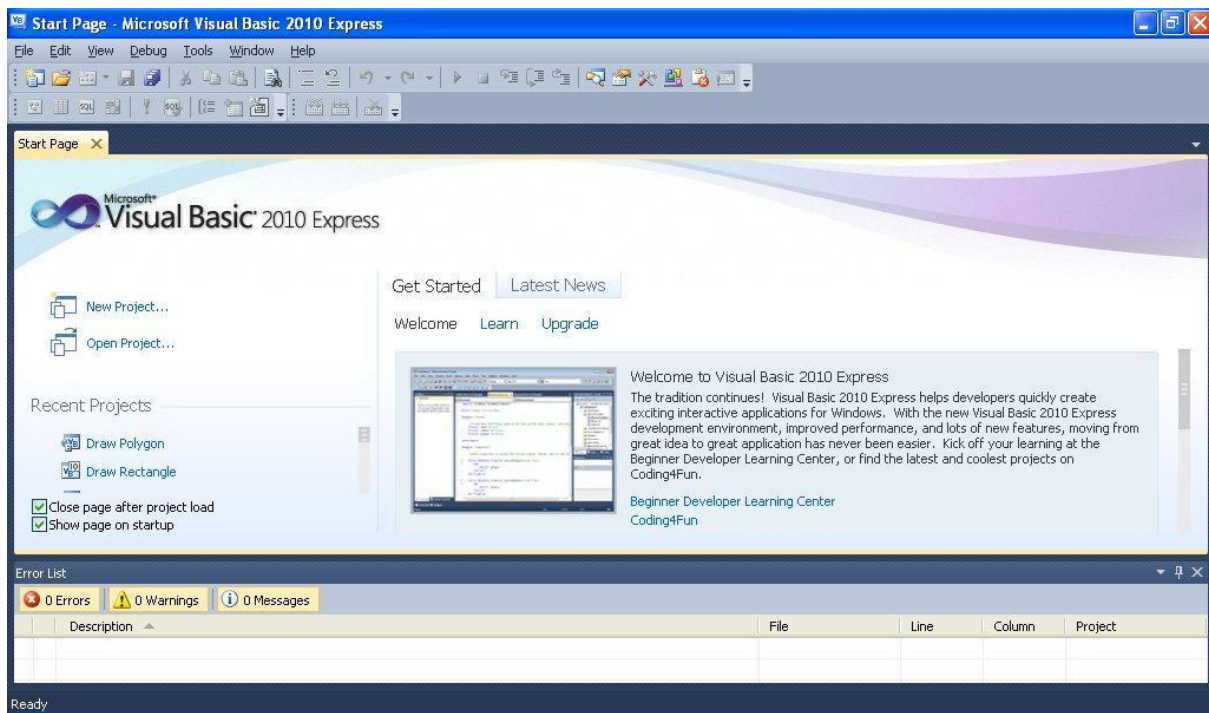


Figure 1.1: The VB2010 IDE Start Page

The IDE consists of a few panes, namely:

- ☐ The Recent Projects Pane- it shows the list of projects that you have created recently.
- ☐ The Get Started Pane- It provides some helpful tips so that you can quickly develop your new application.
- ☐ The Latest News pane- It provides latest online news about Visual Basic 2010 Express. It will announce new releases and updates.

Besides that, it also shows two icons, New Project and Open Project.

The New Project Dialog

When you click on the **New Project** icon, the Visual Basic 2010 New Project dialog will appear, as shown in Figure 1.2

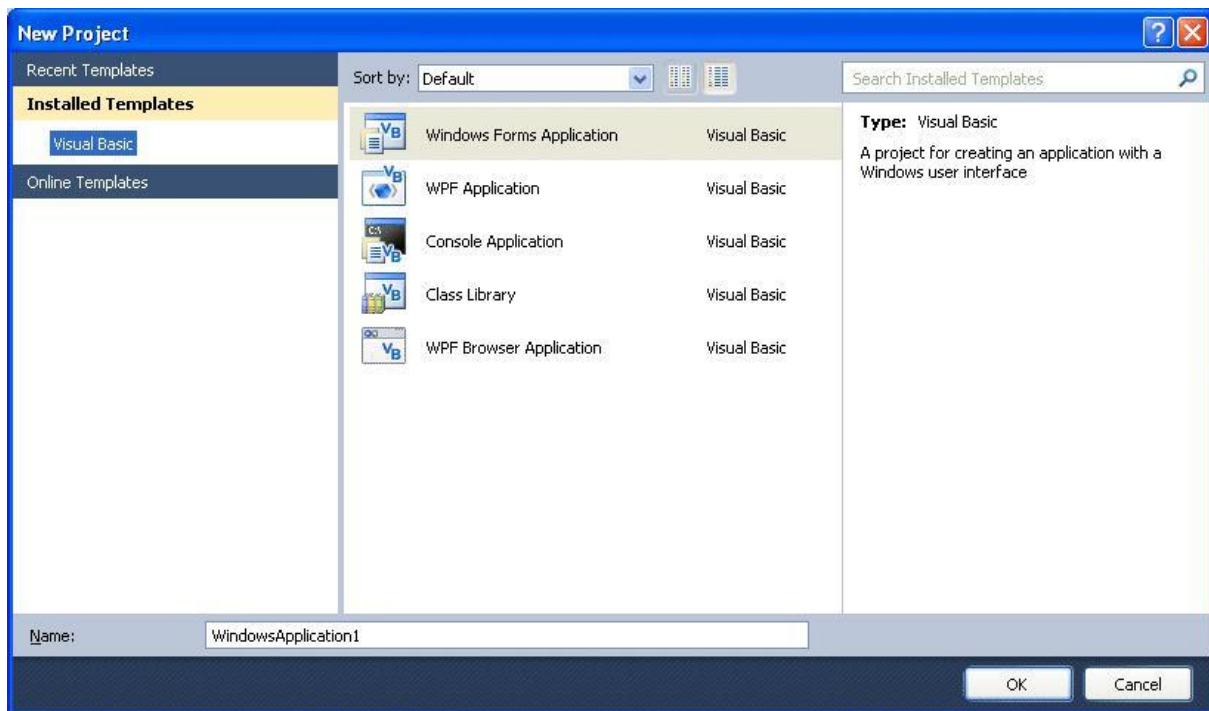


Figure 1.2: VB2010 New Project Dialog Box

The dialog box offers you five types of projects that you can create. They are Windows Form Application, WPF Application, Console Application, Class Library and WPF Browser Application. As we are going to create a standard Windows application, we will select Windows Forms Application. At the bottom of this dialog box, you can change the default project name **WindowsApplication1** to some other name you like, for example, **MyFirstApplication**. After you have renamed the project, click OK to go into the Designer interface.

The Designer Interface

The VB2010 IDE Designer interface is shown in Figure 1.3. The Designer consists of the **Menu bar**, the **Toolbars**, an empty **Form**, the **Solution Explorer** and the **Properties Window**.

The VB2010 Designer environment that appears on your PC or laptop might not be the same here, depending how you customize it. You can customize your interface by dragging the windows and dock them or let them float. You can also hide them. To dock a window, you drag its title bar and drag it to the side, top or bottom of the workspace or another window. In Figure 1.3, we have dragged the Solution Explorer and the Properties Window to the side and docked them. You can also resize the docked window by dragging the side of the window. To free up and float the docked window, you just drag its title bar and move it away from the edge of the workspace. If you do not see a particular window such as the properties window, you can click on the View menu and click the name of the window, that particular window will appear.

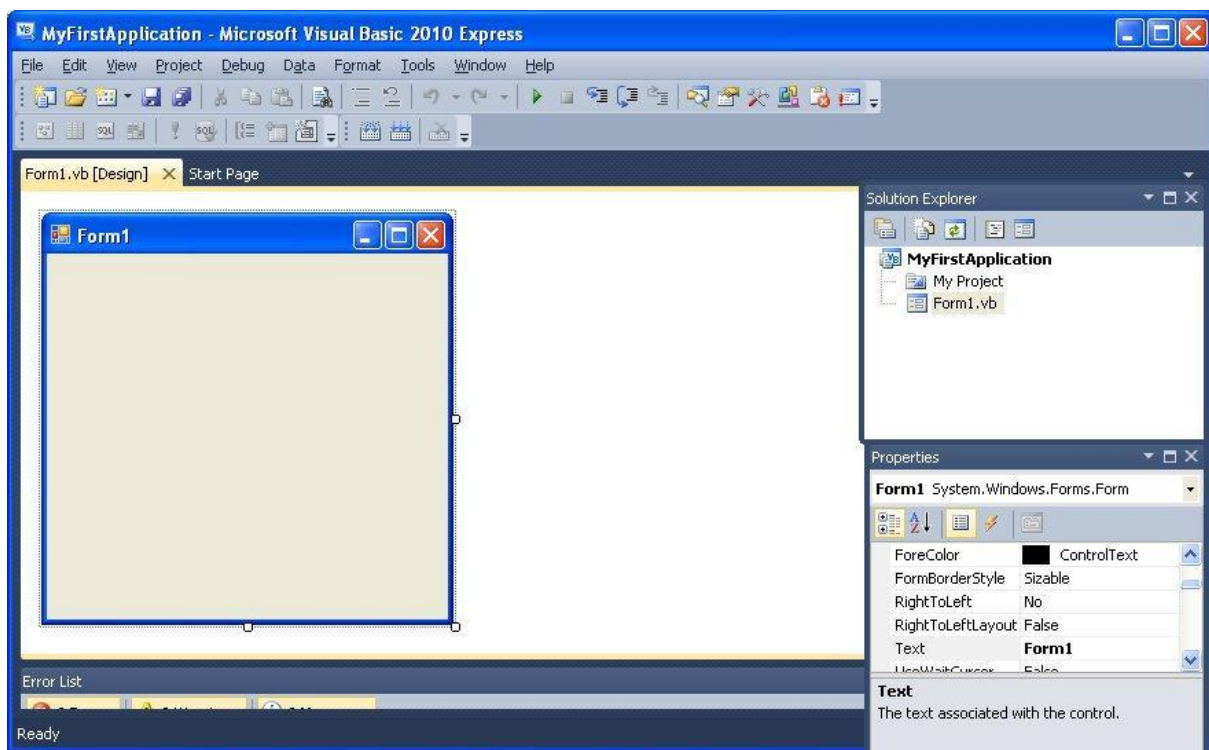


Figure 1.3: VB2010 IDE with A New Form

Form-The Form is the first place to build your application. It is the place to design the user interface.

Solution Explorer -The solution explorer displays a list of projects, files and other components that you can easily browse and access. For example, it displays My Project and Form1.vb in Figure 1.3

Properties Window- This is the place to set the properties of the objects in your application. The objects include the default form and the controls you place in the form. We will learn more about setting properties later.

Understanding the Concept of Object Oriented Programming

The main difference between VB2010 and Visual Basic 6 is that it is a full Object Oriented Programming Language while VB6 may have OOP capabilities, it is not fully object oriented. In order to qualify as a fully object oriented programming language, it must have three core technologies namely **encapsulation, inheritance** and **polymorphism**. Read more about the three terms in the box below:

Encapsulation refers to the creation of self-contained modules that bind processing functions to the data. These user-defined data types are called classes. Each class contains data as well as a set of methods, which manipulate the data. The data components of a class are called instance variables and one instance of a class is an object. For example, in a library system, a class could be member, and John and Sharon could be two instances (two objects) of the library class.

Inheritance

Classes are created according to hierarchies, and inheritance allows the structure and methods in one class to be passed down the hierarchy. That means less programming is required when adding functions to complex systems. If a step is added at the bottom of a hierarchy, then only the processing and data associated with that unique step needs to be added. Everything else about that step is inherited. The ability to reuse existing objects is a major advantage of object technology.

Polymorphism

Object-oriented programming allows procedures about objects to be created whose exact type is not known until runtime. For example, a screen cursor may change its shape from an arrow to a line depending on the program mode. The routine to move the cursor on screen in response to mouse movement would be written for "cursor," and polymorphism allows that cursor to take on whatever shape is required at run time. It also allows new shapes to be integrated easily.

VB2010 is a fully Object Oriented Programming Language, just like other OOP such as C++ and Java. It is different from the earlier versions of VB because it focuses more on the data itself while the previous versions focus more on the actions. Previous versions of VB are **procedural** or **functional** programming language. Some other procedural programming languages are C, Pascal and Fortran.

VB2010 allows users to write programs that break down into modules. These modules represent the real-world objects; we also call them classes or types. An object can be created out of a class, it is an instance of the class. A class can also comprise subclass. For example, apple tree is a subclass of the plant class and the apple in your backyard is an instance of the apple tree class. Another example is student class is a subclass of the population class while a student with the name John is an instance of the student class. A class consists of data members as well as methods. In VB2010, the program structure to define a population class can be written as follows:

```
Public Class Population
```

```
'Data Members
```

```
Private Name As String
```

```
Private Birthdate As String
```

```
Private Gender As String
```

```
Private Age As Integer
```

```
'Methods
```

```
Overridable Sub ShowInfo( )
```

```
    MessageBox.Show(Name)
```

```
    MessageBox.Show(Birthdate)
```

```
    MessageBox.Show(Gender)
```

```
    MessageBox.Show(Age)
```

```
End Sub
```

```
End Class
```

After you have created the population class, you can create a subclass that inherits the attributes or data from the population class. For example, you can create a student

class that is a subclass of the population class. Under the student class, you do not have to define any data fields that were already defined under the population class; you only have to define the data fields that are different from an instance of the population class. For example, you may want to include StudentID and Address in the student class. The program code for the StudentClass is as follows:

```
Public Class Student
```

```
Inherits Population
```

```
Public StudentID as String
```

```
Public Address As String
```

```
Overrides Sub ShowInfo( )
```

```
    MessageBox.Show(Name)
```

```
    MessageBox.Show(StudentID)
```

```
    MessageBox.Show(Birthdate)
```

```
    MessageBox.Show(Gender)
```

```
    MessageBox.Show(Age)
```

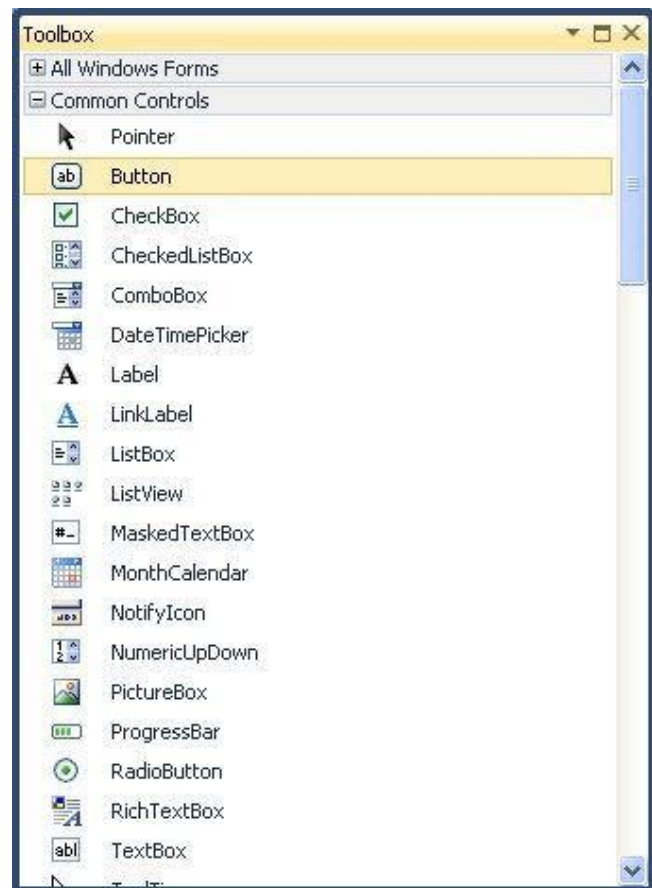
```
    MessageBox.Show(Address)
```

```
End Sub
```


Designing the Interface

Adding Controls to the Form

The first step in creating a new VB2010 project is to design the interface of the application. You design an interface by adding controls to the form and then set their properties. You can add controls from the Toolbox. To see the Toolbox window, you can use the short-cut keys Ctrl+Alt+X or click on the Toolbox icon on the toolbar on top of the designer environment. The Toolbox consists of many useful controls such as Button, TextBox, Label, ComboBox, CheckBox and more, as shown in Figure



The Visual Basic 2010 Control Toolbox consists of all the controls essential for developing a VISUAL BASIC 2010 application. Controls in VB2010 are useful tools that can perform various tasks. We categorized into Common Controls, Containers, Menus, Toolbars, Data, Components, Printings and Dialogs. Now, we will focus on the common controls. Some of the most used common controls are Button, Label, ComboBox, ListBox, PictureBox, TextBox and more. To add a control to the form, just drag the particular control and drop it into the form. After putting it into the form, you can change its size and position easily. You can add as many controls as you want, but avoid crowding the form.

Setting the Control Properties Using Properties Window

To customize the interface to the users, you need to set the properties of the controls, from the form itself to the controls you add to the form. You can set the properties of the controls in the properties window at design time or by using the code. We shall learn how to set the control properties using the properties window first.

To set the properties of an object, right click on the object and choose properties in the dialog that appears to view the properties window. In the properties window, you can change the values of the properties that appear in a dropdown list, as shown in Figure 2.2. It is a typical Properties window for a form. The default text of the Text property is Form1, its default name is also Form1. You can change the title of the text to whatever title you like by editing the text.

The properties of the object appear in a list in the left column while the items listed in the right column represent the states or values of the properties. You can set the properties by highlighting the items in the right column then change them by typing or by selecting options. For example, to change the form's title to any name that you like, simple click in the box on the right of the Text property and type in the new name. In the properties window, the item appears at the top part is the currently selected object.

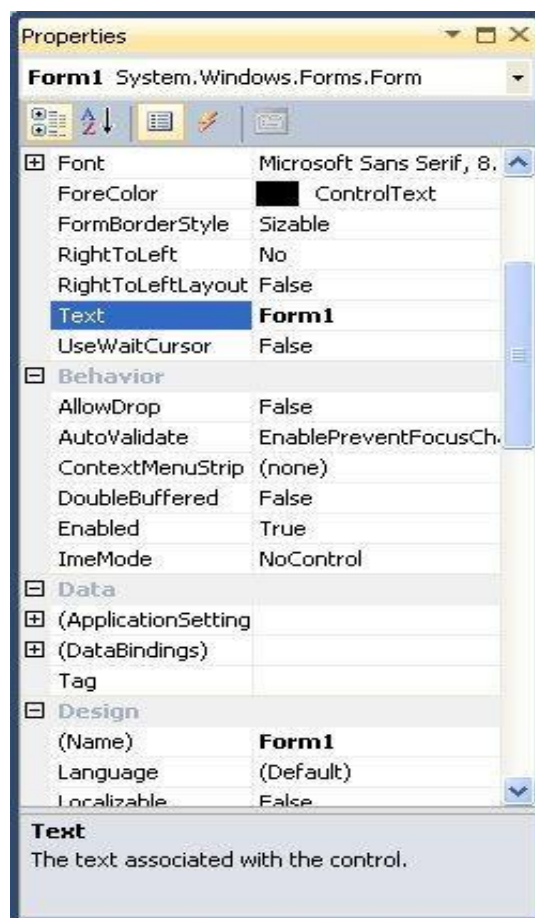


Figure 2.2 : The Properties Window

Example 2.1: Creating a Simple Program that display a welcoming message

In this example, we will create a simple program that will display a welcome message when you load the form. First, change the properties of the form as follows:

Property	Value
Name	WelcomeMsgFrm
BackColor	select a background color of your choice.
Font	Microsoft Sans Serif Size 10 and Bold
ForeColor	White (The color of the displayed text)
MaximizeBox	False (Cannot be maximized)
Text	Visual Basic 2010

Table 2.1 : Properties of the Form

Next, insert a label into the form and set its properties as follows:

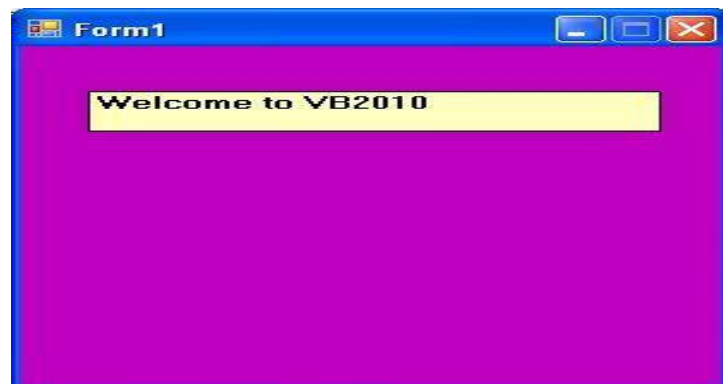
Property	Value
Autosize	False
Name	MsgLbl
BackColor	Click the drop-down arrow and select a background color of your choice.
BorderStyle	FixedSingle
Font	Microsoft Sans Serif Size 10 and Bold
ForeColor	Black
Size	239, 32
Text	Blank it

Table 2.2 : Properties of the Label

Next, click on the Form and enter the following code:

```
Private Sub WelcomeMsgFrm_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load
    MsgLbl.Text = "Welcome to VB2010 Programming"
End Sub
```

Now press F5 to run the program, you will see the message displayed on the label, as shown in Figure 2.3



Setting Control Properties using Code

You can also change the properties of the object using code. The syntax to manipulate the properties of an object is

```
Object.property=property_Value
```

For example,

```
TextBox1.Text="Welcome to VB2010"  
TextBox2.Text=100
```

The above code sets the text property of TextBox1 to display the text "Welcome to VB2010" and set the value of TextBox2 to 100.

Other properties you can change to give special effects at runtime are color, shape, animation effect and so on. For example, the following code will change the form color to yellow every time the form is loaded. VB2010 uses RGB (Red, Green, Blue) to determine the colors. The RGB code for yellow is 255, 255, 0. Me in the code refers to the current form and Backcolor is the property of the form's background color. The formula to assign the RGB color to the form is Color.FromArgb(RGB code). Now, click on the form to go into the code window. Next, enter the following code between the opening statement Private Sub and the closing statement End Sub, as shown below. You don't have to worry about the code and the code structure yet; we will explain that in chapter 3.

```
Public Class Form1  
  
Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load  
    Me.BackColor = Color.FromArgb(255, 255, 0)  
  
End Sub  
  
End Class
```

Now Press F5 and you will see a form appear with a yellow background, as shown in Figure 2.4

You may also use the following procedure to produce the same effect.

```
Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load  
    Me.BackColor = Color.Yellow  
End Sub
```

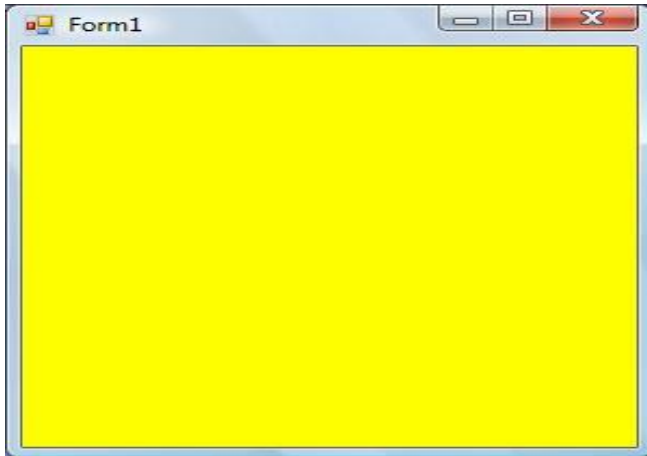


Figure 2.4: The form with yellow background

Here are some of the common colors and the corresponding RGB codes. You can always experiment with other combinations, but remember the maximum number for each color is 255 and the minimum number is 0. The table below shows some of the common colors with their corresponding codes.

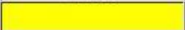






Color	RGB code	Color	RGB code	Color	RGB Code
	255,0,0		255, 255, 0		255, 165, 0
	0,255,0		0, 255, 255		0, 0, 0
	0, 0, 255		255, 0, 255		255, 255, 255

Table 2.5: Common colors and their corresponding RGB codes

The following is a program that allows the user to enter the RGB code into three different Textboxes and when he or she clicks the Display Color button, the background color of the form changes according to the RGB code.

The code

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click  
    Dim rgb1, rgb2, rgb3 As Integer  
    rgb1 = TextBox1.Text  
    rgb2 = TextBox2.Text  
    rgb3 = TextBox3.Text  
    Me.BackColor = Color.FromArgb(rgb1, rgb2, rgb3)  
End Sub
```

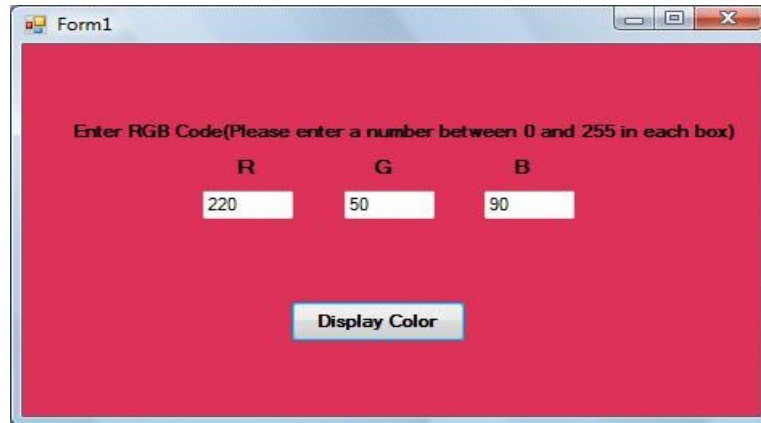


Figure 2.6: The RGB Program

Writing the Code

In the previous chapter, you have learned to design an interface, adding controls and setting control properties. You have also learned how to write some simple code without understanding the concepts behind. In this chapter, you will learn some basic concepts about VB2010 programming and the techniques in writing code. I will keep the theories short so that it would not be too taxing for beginners.

Understanding Event Driven Programming

VB2010 is an object oriented and event driven programming language. In fact, all windows applications are event driven. Event driven means the user decides what to do with the program, whether he or she wants to click the command button, enter text in a text box, or close the application and more. An event is related to an object, it is an incident that happens to the object due to the action of the user, such as a click or pressing a key on the keyboard. A class contains events as it creates an instance of a class or an object. When we start a windows application in VB2010 in previous chapters, we will see a default form with the Form1 appears in the IDE. Form1 is the Form1 Class that inherits from the Form class System.Windows.Forms.Form, as shown in Figure 3.1

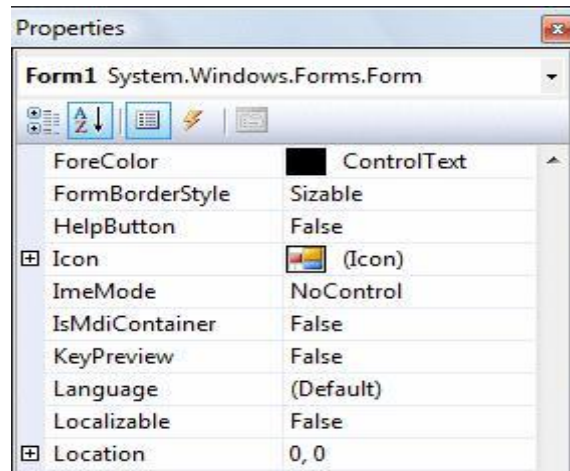


Figure 3.1: The Form1 Class

The other events associated with the Form1 class are click, DoubleClick, DragDrop, Enter and more, as shown in Figure 3.2 below (It appears when you click on the upper right pane of the code window)

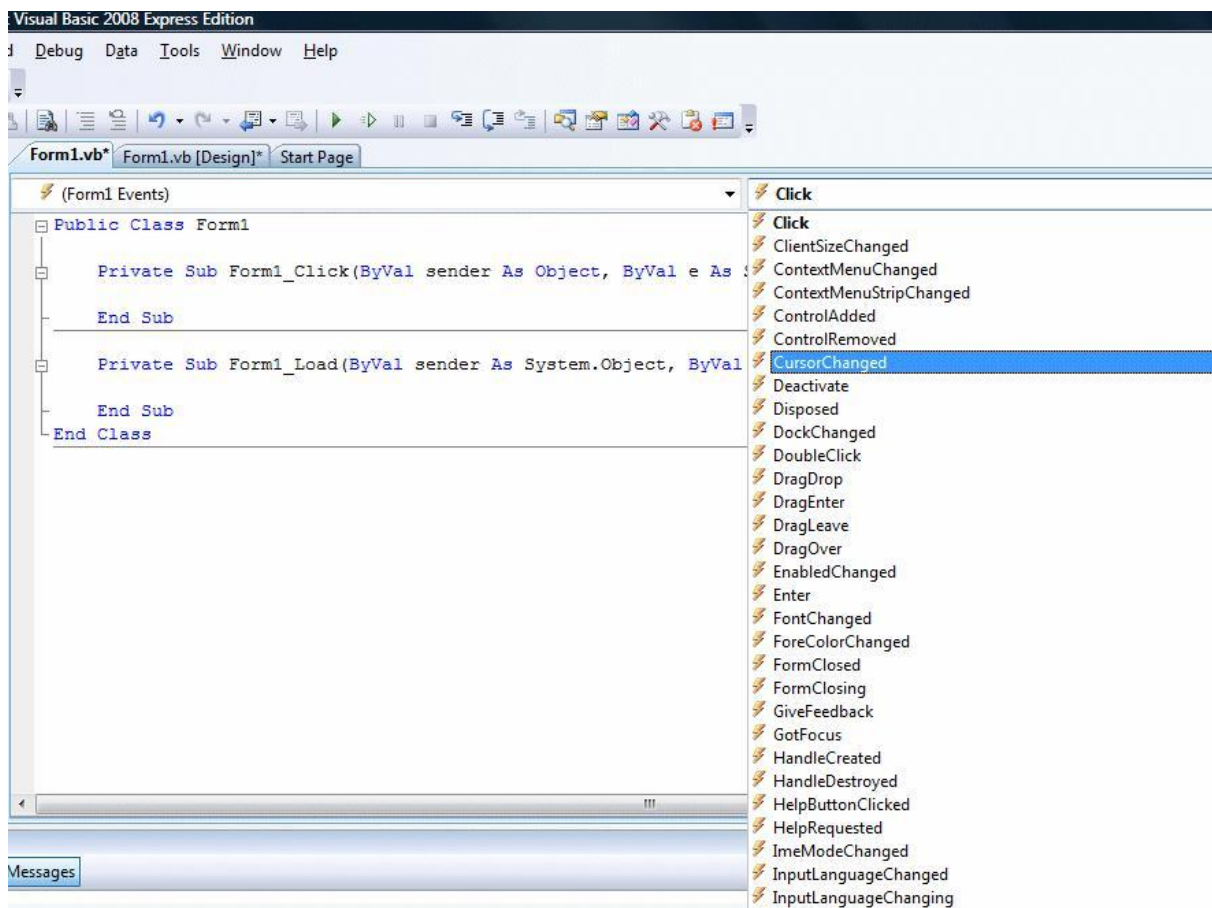


Figure 3.2

Understanding the Code Structure of an Event Procedure

Now you are ready to write the code for the event procedure so that it will do something more than loading a blank form. The structure of the code takes the following form:

Private Sub...

Statements

End Sub

You have to enter the code between Private Sub and End Sub.

Private Sub

Enter your code here

End Sub.

There are variations of the structure such as

i) Public Sub

Enter your code here

End Sub.

ii) Sub

Enter your code here

End Sub.

iii) Function

Enter your code here

End Function

Let us enter the following code:

Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load

Me.Text="My First VB2010 Program"

Me.ForeColor = Color.Yellow

Me.BackColor = Color.Blue

End Sub

When you press F5 to run the program, the output is shown in Figure 3.3 below:



Figure 3.3: The Output Window

The first line of the code will change the title of the form to “My First VB2010 Program” , the second line will change the foreground object to yellow(in this case, it is a label that you insert into the form and change its name to Foreground) and the last line changes the background to blue color. The equal sign in the code is to assign something to the object, like assigning yellow color to the foreground of the Form1 object (or an instance of Form1). **Me** is the name given to the Form1 class. We can also call those lines as Statements. Therefore, the actions of the program will depend on the statements entered by the programmer. Here is another example.

```
Private Sub Button1_Click_1(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
    Dim name1, name2, name3 As String  
    name1 = "John"  
    name2 = "Chan"  
    name3 = "Ali"  
    MsgBox(" The names are " & name1 & " , " & name2 & " and " & name3)
```

```
End Sub
```

In this example, you insert one command button into the form and rename its caption as Show Hidden Names. The keyword Dim is to declare variables name1, name2 and name3 as string, which means they can only handle text. The function MsgBox is to

display the names in a message box that are joined together by the "&" signs. The output is shown in Figure 3.4 below:

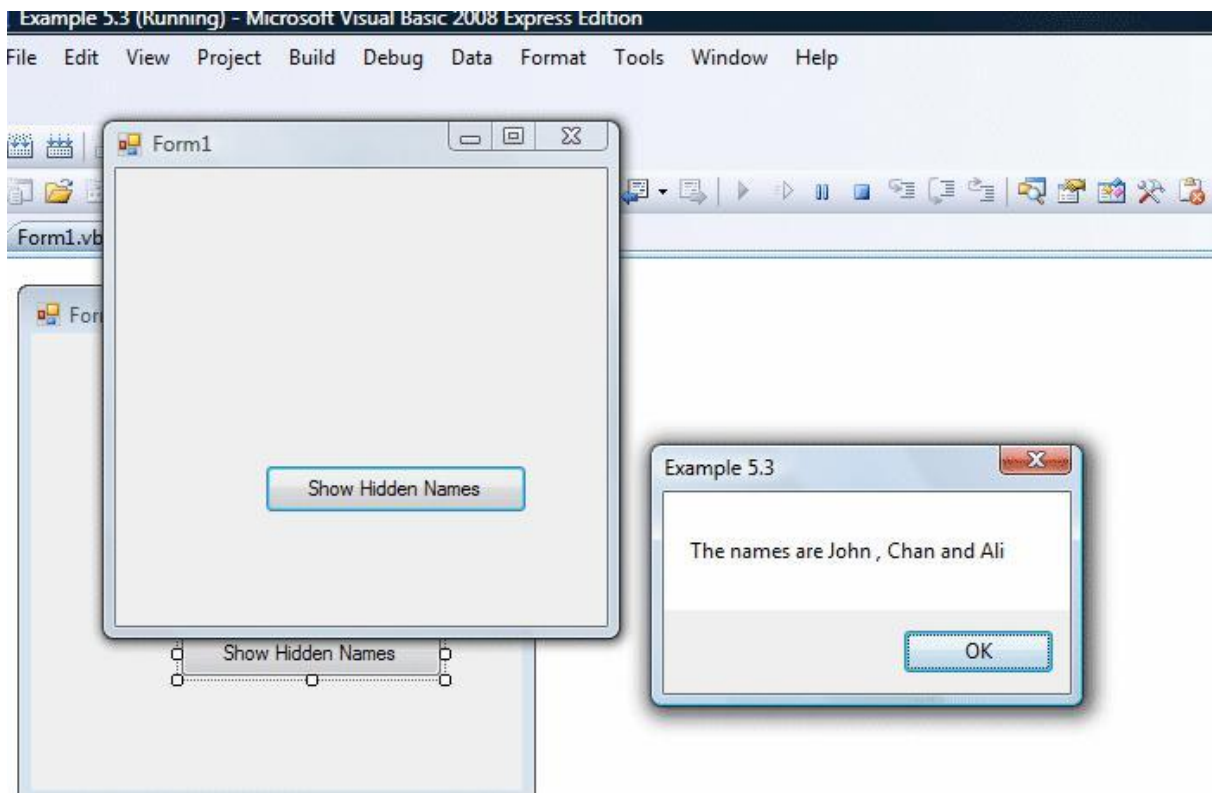


Figure 3.4: The Output Window for Displaying Names

Writing a Simple Multiplication Program

In this program, you insert two text boxes, three labels and one button. The text boxes are for the user to enter numbers, the label is to display the multiplication operator and the other label is to display the equal sign. The last label is to display the answer. The run time interface is shown in Figure 3.5

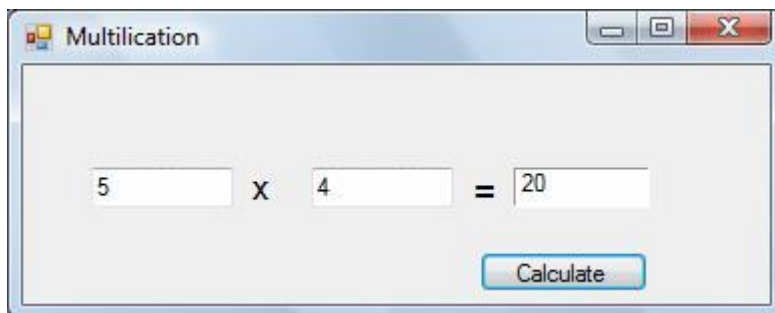


Figure 3.5: The Multiplication Program

The Code

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
Dim num1, num2, product As Single  
num1 = TextBox1.Text  
num2 = TextBox2.Text  
product = num1 * num2  
Label3.Text = product
```

```
End Sub
```

Writing a Program that Add Items to a List Box

This program will add one item at a time to a list box as the user enters an item into the text box and click the Add button. In this program, you insert a TextBox and a ListBox into the Form. The function of the TextBox is to let the user enter an item one at a time and add it to the Listbox. The method to add an item to the ListBox is Add. The output interface is shown in Figure 3.6.

The Code

```
Class Frm1
```

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
    Dim item As String  
    item = TextBox1.Text
```

```
    'To add items to a listbox  
    ListBox1.Items.Add(item)
```

```
End Sub
```

```
End Class
```

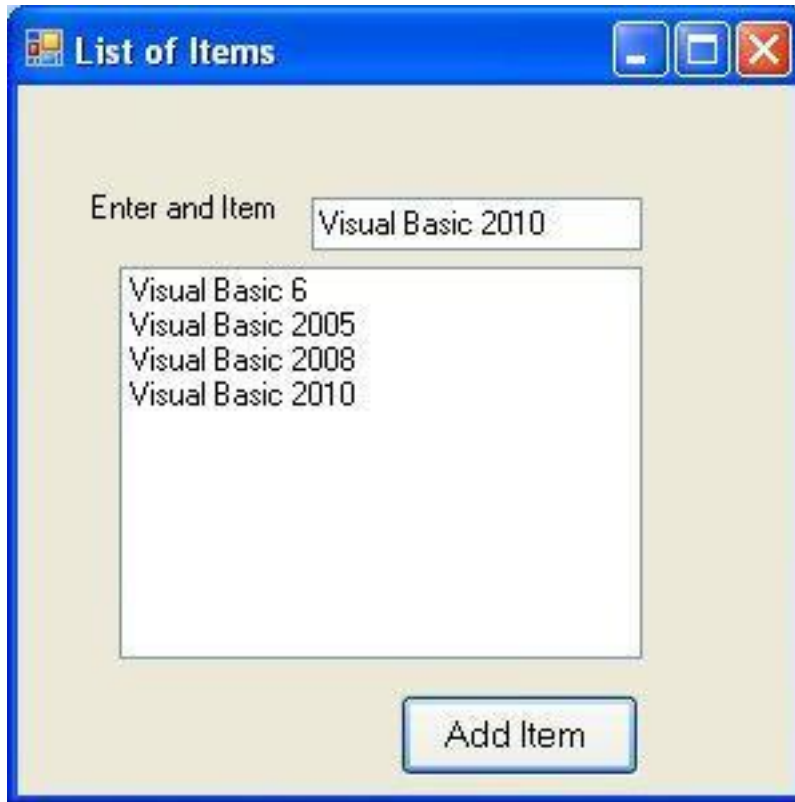


Figure 3.6: The Add Items Program

VB.NET Data Type

In our daily life we come across many types of data. For example, we need to handle data such as names, addresses, money, dates, stock quotes, statistics and more everyday. Similarly, in Visual Basic 2010, we have to deal with all sorts of data; some are numeric in nature while some are in the form of text or other forms. VB2010 divides data into different types so that it is easier to manage when we need to write the code involving those data.

Visual Basic 2010 Data Types

Visual Basic classifies the information mentioned above into two major data types; namely the numeric data types and the non-numeric data types.

Numeric Data Types

Numeric data types are types of data that consist of numbers, which you can compute them mathematically with various standard operators such as add, minus, multiply, divide and so on. Examples of numeric data types are your examination marks, your height and your weight, the number of students in a class, share values, price of goods,

monthly bills, fees and more. In Visual Basic 2010, we divide numeric data into seven types, depending on the range of values they can store. Calculations that only involve round figures or data that do not need precision can use Integer or Long integer in the computation. Programs that require high precision calculation need to use Single and Double decision data types, we also call them floating-point numbers. For currency calculation, you can use the currency data types. Lastly, if even more precision is requires which involve many decimal points, we can use the decimal data types. We summarized the data types in Table 4.1

Type	Storage	Range of Values
Byte	1 byte	0 to 255
Integer	2 bytes	-32,768 to 32,767
Long	4 bytes	-2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,648
Single	4 bytes	-3.402823E+38 to -1.401298E-45 for negative values 1.401298E-45 to 3.402823E+38 for positive values.
Double	8 bytes	-1.79769313486232e+308 to -4.94065645841247E-324 for negative values 4.94065645841247E-324 to 1.79769313486232e+308 for positive values.
Currency	8 bytes	-922,337,203,685,477.5808 to 922,337,203,685,477.5807
Decimal	12 bytes	+/- 79,228,162,514,264,337,593,543,950,335 if no decimal is use +/- 7.9228162514264337593543950335 (28 decimal places).

Table 4.1: Numeric Data Types

Non-numeric Data Types

Nonnumeric data types are data that cannot be manipulated mathematically using standard arithmetic operators. The non-numeric data comprises text or string data types, the Date data types, the Boolean data types that store only two values (true or false), Object data type and Variant data type .We summarized them in Table 6.2

Data Type	Storage	Range
String(fixed length)	Length of string	1 to 65,400 characters
String(variable length)	Length + 10 bytes	0 to 2 billion characters
Date	8 bytes	January 1, 100 to December 31, 9999
Boolean	2 bytes	True or False
Object	4 bytes	Any embedded object
Variant(numeric)	16 bytes	Any value as large as Double
Variant(text)	Length+22 bytes	Same as variable-length string

Table 4.2: Nonnumeric Data Types

Suffixes for Literals

Literals are values that you assign to a data. In some cases, we need to add a suffix behind a literal so that VB2010 can handle the calculation more accurately. For example, we can use num=1.3089# for a Double type data. Some of the suffixes are displayed in Table 4.3.

Suffix	Data Type
&	Long
!	Single
#	Double
@	Currency

Table 4.3

In addition, we need to enclose string literals within two quotations and date and time literals within two # sign. Strings can contain any characters, including numbers. The following are few examples:

memberName="Turban, John."

TelNumber="1800-900-888-777"

LastDay=#31-Dec-00#

ExpTime=#12:00 am#

Managing Variables

Variables are like mail boxes in the post office. The contents of the variables changes every now and then, just like the mail boxes. In term of VB2010, variables are areas allocated by the computer memory to hold data. Like the mail boxes, each variable must be given a name. To name a variable in Visual Basic 2010, you have to follow a set of rules.

Variable Names

The following are the rules when naming the variables in Visual Basic 2010

It must be less than 255 characters

No spacing is allowed

It must not begin with a number

Period is not permitted

Examples of valid and invalid variable names are displayed in Table 4.4

Valid Name	Invalid Name
My_Car	My.Car
ThisYear	1NewBoy
Long_Name_Can_beUSE	He&HisFather *& is not acceptable

Table 4.4: Valid and Invalid Names

Declaring Variables

In Visual Basic 2010, one needs to declare the variables before using them by assigning names and data types. If you fail to do so, the program will show an error. They are normally declared in the general section of the codes' windows using the Dim statement.

The format is as follows:

```
Dim Variable Name As Data Type
```

Example 4.1

```
Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load
```

```
    Dim password As String
```

```
    Dim yourName As String
```

```
    Dim firstnum As Integer
```

```
    Dim secondnum As Integer
```

```
    Dim total As Integer
```

```
    Dim doDate As Date
```

```
End Sub
```

You may also combine them in one line, separating each variable with a comma, as follows:

```
Dim password As String, yourName As String, firstnum As Integer,.....
```

For string declaration, there are two possible formats, one for the variable-length string and another for the fixed-length string. For the variable-length string, just use the same format as example 4.1 above. However, for the fixed-length string, you have to use the format as shown below:

Dim VariableName as String * n, where n defines the number of characters the string can hold.

Example 4.2:

```
Dim yourName as String * 10
```

yourName can holds no more than 10 Characters.

Assigning Values to Variables

After declaring various variables using the Dim statements, we can assign values to those variables. The general format of an assignment is

Variable=Expression

The variable can be a declared variable or a control property value. The expression could be a mathematical expression, a number, a string, a Boolean value (true or false) and more. The following are some examples:

```
firstNumber=100
```

```
secondNumber=firstNumber-99
```

```
userName="John Lyan"
```

```
userpass.Text = password
```

```
Label1.Visible = True
```

```
Command1.Visible = false
```

```
Label4.Caption = textbox1.Text
```

```
ThirdNumber = Val(usernum1.Text)
```

```
total = firstNumber + secondNumber+ThirdNumber
```


Constants

Constants are different from variables in the sense that their values do not change during the running of the program.

Declaring a Constant

The format to declare a constant is

```
Const Constant Name As Data Type = Value
```

Example 4.3

```
Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load
```

```
    Const Pi As Single=3.142
```

```
    Const Temp As Single=37
```

```
    Const Score As Single=100
```

```
End Sub
```

Performing Mathematical Operations

Computers can perform mathematical calculations much faster than human beings. However, the computer itself will not be able to perform any mathematical calculations without receiving instructions from the programmer. In VB2010, we can write code to instruct the computer to perform mathematical calculations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and other kinds of arithmetic operations. In order for VB2010 to carry out arithmetic calculations, we need to write code that involves the use of various arithmetic operators. The VB2010 arithmetic operators are very similar to the normal arithmetic operators, only with slight variations. The plus and minus operators are the same while the multiplication operator use the * symbol and the division operator use the / symbol. The list of VB2010 arithmetic operators are shown in table 5.1 below:

Operator	Mathematical function	Example
+	Addition	$1+2=3$
-	Subtraction	$4-1=3$
^	Exponential	$2^4=16$
*	Multiplication	$4*3=12$, $(5*6))2=60$
/	Division	$12/4=3$
Mod	Modulus (return the remainder from an integer division)	$15 \text{ Mod } 4=3$ $255 \text{ mod } 10=5$
\	Integer Division (discards the decimal places)	$19\backslash 4=4$

Example 5.1

In this program, you need to insert two Textboxes, four labels and one button. Click the button and enter the code as shown below. When you run the program, it will perform the four basic arithmetic operations and display the results on the four labels.

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
    Dim num1, num2, difference, product, quotient As Single
```

```
    num1 = TextBox1.Text
```

```
    num2 = TextBox2.Text
```

```
    sum=num1+num2
```

```
    difference=num1-num2
```

```
    product = num1 * num2
```

```
    quotient=num1/num2
```

```
    Label1.Text=sum
```

```
    Label2.Text=difference
```

```
    Label3.Text = product
```

```
    Label4.Text = quotient
```

```
End Sub
```

Example 5.2

The program can use Pythagoras Theorem to calculate the length of hypotenuse c given the length of the adjacent side a and the opposite side b. In case you have forgotten the formula for the Pythagoras Theorem, We are showing it below:

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
Dim a, b, c As Single
```

```
a = TextBox1.Text
```

```
b = TextBox2.Text
```

```
c=(a^2+b^2)^(1/2)
```

```
Label3.Text=c
```

```
End Sub
```

Example 5.3: BMI Calculator

Many people are obese now and it could affect their health seriously. Obesity has proven by the medical experts to be a one of the main factors that brings many adverse medical problems, including the heart disease. If your BMI is more than 30, you are considered obese. You can refer to the following range of BMI values for your weight status:

Underweight = <18.5

Normal weight = 18.5-24.9

Overweight = 25-29.9

Obesity = BMI of 30 or greater

In order to calculate your BMI, you do not have to consult your doctor, you could just use a calculator or a homemade computer program, and this is exactly what I am showing you here. The BMI calculator is a Visual Basic program that can calculate the body mass index, or BMI of a person based on the body weight in kilogram and the

body height in meter. BMI is calculated based on the formula $\text{weight} / (\text{height})^2$, where weight is measured in kg and height in meter. If you only know your weight and height in lb and feet, then you need to convert them to the metric system (you could indeed write a VB program for the conversion).

```
Private Sub Button1_Click (ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim height, weight, bmi As  
Single  
height = TextBox1.Text  
weight = TextBox2.Text  
bmi = (weight) / (height ^ 2)  
Label4.Text = bmi  
End Sub
```

The output is shown in the Figure 7-1 below. In this example, your height is 1.80m (about 5 foot 11), your weight is 78 kg(about 170 lb), and your BMI is about 23.5. The reading suggests that you are healthy. (Note; 1 foot=0.3048, 1 lb=.45359237 kilogram)

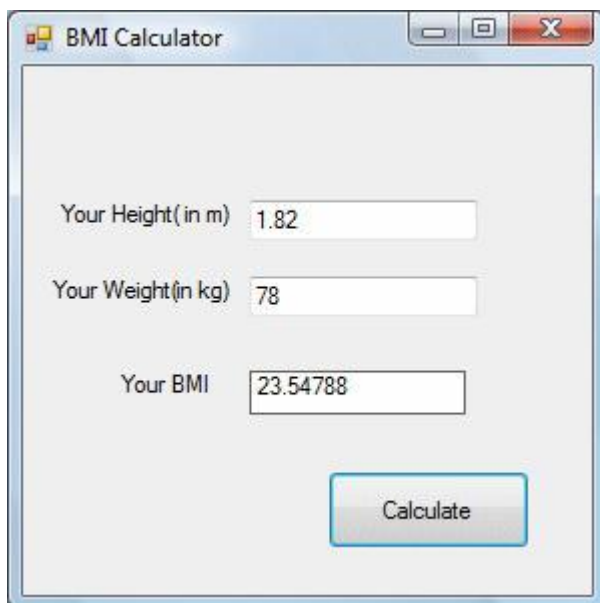


Figure 5.1: BMI Calculator

String Manipulation

String manipulation is an important part of programming because it helps to process data that come in the form of non-numeric types such as name, address, city, book title and etc.

String Manipulation Using + and & signs.

Strings can be manipulated using the & sign and the + sign, both perform the string concatenation which means combining two or more smaller strings into a larger string. For example, we can join "Visual" and "Basic" into "Visual Basic" using "Visual"&"Basic" or "Visual "+"Basic", as shown in the example below

Example 6.1

```
Public Class Form1
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim text1, text2, text3 As String
text1 = "Visual"
text2 = "Basic"
text3 = text1 + text2
Label1.Text = text3
End Sub
End Class
```

The line text3=text1+ text2 can be replaced by text3=text1 & text2 and produced the same output. However, if one of the variables is declared as numeric data type, you cannot use the + sign, you can only use the & sign.

Example 6.2

```
Dim text1, text3 as string
Dim Text2 As Integer
text1 = "Visual"
text2=22
text3=text1+text2
Label1.Text = text3
```

This code will produce an error because of data mismatch. However, using & instead of + will be all right.

Example 6.3

```
Dim text1, text3 as string
```

```
Dim Text2 As Integer
```

```
text1 = "Visual"
```

```
text2=22
```

```
text3=text1 & text2
```

```
Label1.Text = text3
```

You can combine more than two strings to form a larger string, like the following example:

Example 6.4

```
Public Class Form1
```

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
Dim text1, text2, text3, text4, text5, text6 As String
```

```
text1 = "Welcome"
```

```
text2 = "to"
```

```
text3 = "Visual"
```

```
text4 = "Basic"
```

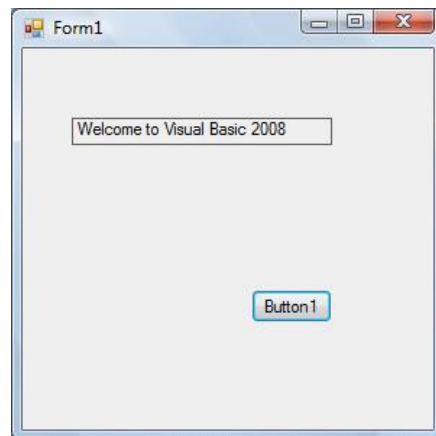
```
text5 = "2010"
```

```
text6 = text1 + text2 + text3
```

```
Label1.Text = text4
```

```
End Sub
```

```
End Class
```



Running the above program will produce the screen shot.

String Manipulation Using VB2010 Built-in Functions

A function is similar to a normal procedure but the main purpose of the function is to accept a certain input and return a value, which is passed on to the main program to finish the execution. VB2010 has numerous built-in string manipulation functions but we will only discuss a few here. You will learn more about these functions in later Chapters.

(a) the Len Function

The length function returns an integer value that is the length of a phrase or a sentence, including the empty spaces. The format is

Len ("Phrase")

For example,

Len (Visual Basic) = 12 and

Len (welcome to VB tutorial) = 22

Example 6.5

```
Public Class Form1
```

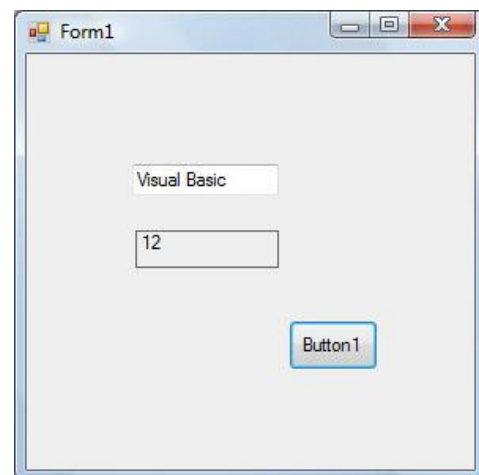
```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e  
As System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
Label1.Text = Len(TextBox1.Text)
```

```
End Sub
```

```
End Class
```

The output:



the Right Function

The Right function extracts the right portion of a phrase. The format for Visual Basic 6 is

Right ("Phrase", n)

Where n is the starting position from the right of the phrase where the portion of the phrase is going to be extracted. For example,

Right("Visual Basic", 4) = asic

However, this format is not applicable in VB2010. In VB2010, we need to use the following format

Microsoft.VisualBasic.Right("Phrase",n)

Example 6.6

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim text1 As String
```

```
text1 = TextBox1.Text  
Label1.Text = Microsoft.VisualBasic.Right(text1, 4)  
End Sub
```

The above program will return four right most characters of the phrase entered into the textbox, as shown in Figure 6.3

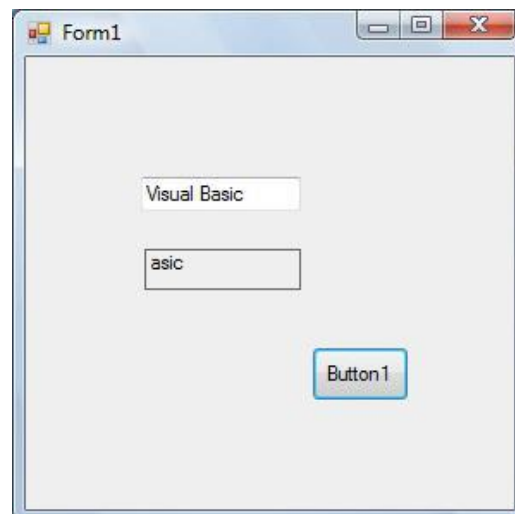


Figure 6.3

*The reason of using the full reference is because many objects have the Right properties so using Right on its own will make it ambiguous to VB2010.

the Left Function

The Left function extract the left portion of a phrase. The format is

```
Microsoft.VisualBasic.Left("Phrase",n)
```

Where n is the starting position from the left of the phase where the portion of the phrase is going to be extracted. For example,

```
Microsoft.VisualBasic.Left ("Visual Basic", 4) = Visu .
```

Chapter 3

Control Structures

In the previous Chapters, we have learned how to write code that accepts input from the user and displays the output without controlling the program flow. In this chapter, you will learn how to write VB2010 code that can make decision when it processes input from the user, and controls the program flow in the process. Decision making process is an important part of programming because it will help solve practical problems intelligently so that it can provide useful output or feedback to the user. For example, we can write a VB2010 program that can ask the computer to perform certain task until a certain condition is met, or a program that will reject non-numeric data. In order to control the program flow and to make decisions, we need to use the conditional operators and the logical operators together with the If control structure.

Conditional Operators

The conditional operators are powerful tools that can compare values and then decide what actions to take, whether to execute a program or terminate the program and more. They are also known as numerical comparison operators. Normally we use them to compare two values to see whether they are equal or one value is greater or less than the other value. The comparison will return true or false result. These operators are shown in Table 7.1

Operator	Meaning
=	Equal to
>	More than
<	Less Than
>=	More than and equal
<=	Less than and equal
<>	Not Equal to

Table 7.1: Conditional Operators

Logical Operators

Sometimes we might need to make more than one comparison before a decision can be made and an action taken. In this case, using numerical comparison operators alone is not sufficient, we need to use additional operators, and they are the logical operators. The logical operators are shown in Table 7.2.

Operator	Meaning
And	Both sides must be true
Or	One side or other must be true
Xor	One side or other must be true but not both
Not	Negates truth

Table 7.2: Logical Operators

* Normally the above operators are use to compare numerical data. However, you can also compare strings with the above operators. In making strings comparison, there are certain rules to follows: Upper case letters are less than lowercase letters, "A"<"B"<"C"<"D"...<"Z" and number are less than letters.

Using the If control structure with the Comparison Operators

To effectively control the VB program flow, we shall use the **If** control structured together with the conditional operators and logical operators. There are three types of **If** control structure, namely **If...Then** statement, **If...Then... Else** statement and **If...Then...ElseIf** statement.

(a) If...Then Statement

This is the simplest control structure which ask the computer to perform a certain action specified by the VB expression if the condition is true. However, when the condition is false, no action will be performed. The general format for the if...then... statement is

If condition Then

VB expression

End If

Example 7.1

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
    Dim myNumber As Integer  
    myNumber = TextBox1.Text  
    If myNumber > 100 Then  
        Label2.Text = " You win a lucky prize"  
    End If
```

```
End Sub
```

When you run the program and enter a number that is greater than 100, you will see the "You win a lucky prize" statement. On the other hand, if the number entered is less than or equal to 100, you do not see any display.

(b) If...Then...Else Statement

Using just If...Then statement is not very useful in programming and it does not provides choices for the users. In order to provide a choice, we can use the If...Then...Else Statement. This control structure will ask the computer to perform a certain action specified by the VB expression if the condition is true. When the condition is false, an alternative action will be executed. The general format for if...then... Else statement is

```
If condition Then
```

```
    VB expression
```

```
Else
```

```
    VB expression
```

```
End If
```

Example 7.2

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
    Dim myNumber As Integer  
    myNumber = TextBox1.Text  
    If myNumber > 100 Then  
        Label2.Text = "Congratulation! You win a lucky prize!"  
    Else  
        Label2.Text = "Sorry, You did not win any prize"  
    End If
```

```
End Sub
```

When you run the program and enter a number that is greater than 100, it displays a message "Congratulation! You win a lucky prize!" On the other hand, if the number entered is less than or equal to 100, you will see the "Sorry, You did not win any prize" message.

Example 7.3

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
    Dim myNumber, MyAge As Integer  
    myNumber = TextBox1.Text  
    MyAge = TextBox2.Text  
  
    If myNumber > 100 And myAge > 60 Then  
        Label2.Text = " Congratulation! You win a lucky prize"  
    Else  
        Label2.Text = " Sorry, You did not win any prize"  
    End If
```

```
End Sub
```

This program use the logical **And** operator beside the conditional operators. This means that for the statement to be true, both conditions must be fulfilled in order; otherwise, the second block of code will be executed. In this example, the number entered must be more than 100 and the age must be more than 60 in order to win a

lucky prize, any one of the above conditions not fulfilled will disqualify the user from winning a prize.

(c) If...Then...Elseif Statement

If there are more than two alternatives, using just If...Then...Else statement will not be enough. In order to provide more choices, we can use the If...Then...Elseif Statement. The general format for the if...then... Else statement is

```
If condition Then
    VB expression
Elseif condition Then
    VB expression
Elseif condition Then
    VB expression
Else
    VB expression
End If
```

Example 7.4

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim Mark As Integer
```

```
Dim Grade as String
Mark = TextBox1.Text
If myNumber >=80 Then
Grade="A"
Elseif Mark>=60 and Mark<80 then
Grade="B"
Elseif Mark>=40 and Mark<60 then
Grade="C"
Else
Grade="D"
End If
End Sub
```

Select Case Control Structure

Using select case, you will learn another way to control the program flow, that is, the Select Case control structure. However, the Select Case control structure is slightly different from the If...Elseif control structure. The difference is that the Select Case control structure basically only make decision on one expression or dimension (for example the examination grade) while the If...Elseif statement control structure may evaluate only one expression, each If...Elseif statement may also compute entirely different dimensions. Select Case is preferred when there exist many different conditions because using If...Then...Elseif statements might become too messy.

The Select Case ...End Select control structure is shown below:

Select Case test expression

Case expression list 1

Block of one or more VB statements

Case expression list 2

Block of one or more VB Statements

Case expression list 3

Block of one or more VB statements

Case expression list 4

Block of one or more VB statements

Case Else

Block of one or more VB Statements

End Select

Example 8.1

Based on Example 7.4, you can rewrite the code using Select Case...End Select, as shown below.

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click  
'Examination Marks
```

```

Dim mark As Single
mark = mrk.Text
Select Case mark

Case 0 to 49
    Label1.Text = "Need to work harder"

Case 50 to 59
    Label2.Text = "Average"

Case 60 to 69
    Label3.Text= "Above Average"

Case 70 to 84
    Label4.Text = "Good"

Case Else
    Label5.Text= "Excellence"

End Select

End Sub

```

Example 8.2

In this example, you can use the keyword **Is** together with the comparison operators.

```

Private Sub Button1_Click (ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click

```

'Examination Marks

```

Dim mark As Single
mark = mrk.Text

```

```

Select Case mark

```

```

Case Is >= 85

```

```

    Label1.Text= "Excellence"

```

```

Case Is >= 70

```

```

    Label2.Text= "Good"

```



```

Case Is >= 60
    Label3.Text = "Above Average"

Case Is >= 50
    Label4.Text= "Average"

Case Else
    Label5.Text = "Need to work harder"
End Select

End Sub

```

Example 8.3

You also can rewrite Example 8.2 by omitting the keyword IS, as shown here:

```

Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click

```

'Examination Marks

```

Dim mark As Single

mark = mrk.Text

Select Case mark
    Case 0 to 49
        Label1.Text = "Need to work harder"
    Case 50 to 59
        Label2.Text = "Average"
    Case 60 to 69
        Label3.Text= "Above Average"
    Case 70 to 84
        Label4.Text = "Good"
    Case Else
        Label5.Text= "Excellence"
End Select

End Sub

```

Looping

Visual Basic 2010 allows a procedure to repeat many times as long as the processor could support. We call this looping. Looping is required when we need to process something repetitively until a certain condition is met. For example, we can design a program that adds a series of numbers until it exceeds a certain value, or a program that asks the user to enter data repeatedly until he or she keys in the word 'Finish'. In Visual Basic 2010, we have three types of Loops, they are the **For...Next** loop, the **Do loop** and the **While...End while** loop

For...Next Loop

The format is:

For counter=startNumber to endNumber (Step increment)

One or more VB statements

Next

Sometimes the user might want to get out from the loop before the whole repetitive process is completed. The command to use is **Exit For**. To exit a For....Next Loop, you can place the Exit For statement within the loop; and it is normally used together with the If.....Then... statement. For its application, you can refer to Example 9.1 d.

Example 9.1 a

Dim counter as Integer

For counter=1 to 10

ListBox1.Items.Add (counter)

Next

* The program will enter number 1 to 10 into the Listbox.

Example 9.1b

```
Dim counter , sum As Integer
```

```
For counter=1 to 100 step 10
```

```
sum+=counter
```

```
ListBox1.Items.Add (sum)
```

```
Next
```

* The program will calculate the sum of the numbers as follows: $sum=0+10+20+30+40+.....$

Example 9.1c

```
Dim counter, sum As Integer
```

```
sum = 1000
```

```
For counter = 100 To 5 Step -5
```

```
sum - = counter
```

```
ListBox1.Items.Add(sum)
```

```
Next
```

*Notice that increment can be negative.

The program will compute the subtraction as follows:

$1000-100-95-90-.....$

Example 9.1d

```
Dim n as Integer
```

```
For n=1 to 10
```

```
If n>6 then
```

```
Exit For
```

```
End If
```

```
Else
```

```
ListBox1.Items.Add ( n)
```

```
Next
```

```
End If
```

```
Next
```

The process will stop when n is greater than 6.

Do Loop

The formats are

- a) Do While condition
 Block of one or more VB statements
 Loop
- b) Do
 Block of one or more VB statements
 Loop While condition
- c) Do Until condition
 Block of one or more VB statements
 Loop
- d) Do
 Block of one or more VB statements
 Loop Until condition

* Exiting the Loop

Sometime we need exit to exit a loop prematurely because of a certain condition is fulfilled. The syntax we use is Exit Do. Let us examine the following example

Example 9.2(a)

```
Do while counter <=1000
    TextBox1.Text=counter
    counter +=1
Loop
```

* The above example will keep on adding until counter >1000.

The above example can be rewritten as

```
Do
    TextBox1.Text=counter
    counter+=1
Loop until counter>1000
```

Example 9.2(b)

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim sum, n As Integer
```

```
Do  
n += 1  
sum += n  
ListBox1.Items.Add(n & vbTab & sum)  
If n = 100 Then  
Exit Do  
End If  
Loop Sub
```

In the above Example, we find the summation of 1+2+3+4+.....+100. In the design stage, you need to insert a ListBox into the form for displaying the output, named List1. The program uses the **AddItem** method to populate the ListBox. The statement `ListBox1.Items.Add (n & vbTab & sum)` will display the headings in the ListBox, where it uses the `vbTab` function to create a space between the headings `n` and `sum`.

While ...End While Loop

The structure of a While....End While is very similar to the Do Loop. It takes the following format:

```
While condition  
    Statements  
End While
```

Example 9.3

```
Dim sum, n As Integer  
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim sum, n As Integer
```

```
While n <> 100  
n += 1  
sum = sum + n  
ListBox1.Items.Add(n & vbTab & sum)  
End While  
End Sub
```

Chapter 4

Functions

A function is similar to a normal procedure but the main purpose of the function is to accept a certain input and return a value, which is passed on to the main program to finish the execution. There are two types of functions, the built-in functions (or internal functions) and the functions created by the programmers.

The general format of a function is

FunctionName (arguments)

The arguments are values that are passed on to the function.

In this Chapter, we are going to learn two very basic but useful internal functions of Visual Basic, i.e. the MsgBox() and InputBox () functions.

MsgBox () Function

The objective of MsgBox is to produce a pop-up message box and prompt the user to click on a command button before he /she can continues. This format is as follows:

yourMsg=MsgBox(Prompt, Style Value, Title)

The first argument, Prompt, displays the message in the message box. The Style Value determines the type of command buttons appear on the message box, as shown in Table 10.1. The Title argument will display the title of the message board.

Style Value	Named Constant	Buttons Displayed
0	vbOkOnly	Ok button
1	vbOkCancel	Ok and Cancel buttons
2	vbAbortRetryIgnore	Abort, Retry and Ignore buttons.
3	vbYesNoCancel	Yes, No and Cancel buttons
4	vbYesNo	Yes and No buttons
5	vbRetryCancel	Retry and Cancel buttons

We can use named constant in place of integers for the second argument to make the programs more readable. In fact, VB6 will automatically shows up a list of names constant where you can select one of them. For example,

```
yourMsg=MsgBox( "Click OK to Proceed", 1, "Startup Menu")
```

and

```
yourMsg=Msg("Click OK to Proceed". vbOkCancel,"Startup Menu")
```

are the same.

yourMsg is a variable that holds values that are returned by the MsgBox () function. The type of buttons being clicked by the users determines the values. It has to be declared as Integer data type in the procedure or in the general declaration section. Table 10.2 shows the values, the corresponding named constant and buttons.

Value	Named Constant	Button Clicked
1	vbOk	Ok button
2	vbCancel	Cancel button
3	vbAbort	Abort button
4	vbRetry	Retry button
5	vbIgnore	Ignore button
6	vbYes	Yes button
7	vbNo	No button

Table 10.2: Return Values and Command Buttons

A function is similar to a normal procedure but the main purpose of the function is to accept a certain input and return a value, which is passed on to the main program to finish the execution. There are two types of functions, the built-in functions (or internal functions) and the functions created by the programmers. The general format of a function is

FunctionName (arguments)

The arguments are values that are passed on to the function.

Example 10.1

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim testmsg As Integer  
testmsg = MsgBox("Click to test", 1, "Test message")  
If testmsg = 1 Then  
    MessageBox.Show("You have clicked the OK button")  
Else  
    MessageBox.Show("You have clicked the Cancel button")  
End If  
End Sub
```

To make the message box looks more sophisticated, you can add an icon besides the message. There are four types of icons available in VB2010 as shown in Table 10.3





Value	Named Constant	Icon
16	vbCritical	
32	vbQuestion	
48	vbExclamation	
64	vbInformation	

Table 10.3: Named Constants and Icons

Example 10.2

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim testMsg As Integer  
testMsg = MsgBox("Click to Test", vbYesNoCancel + vbExclamation, "Test  
Message")
```



```
If testMsg = 6 Then
    MsgBox.Show("You have clicked the yes button")
ElseIf testMsg = 7 Then
    MsgBox.Show("You have clicked the NO button")
Else
    MsgBox.Show("You have clicked the Cancel button")
End If
End Sub
```

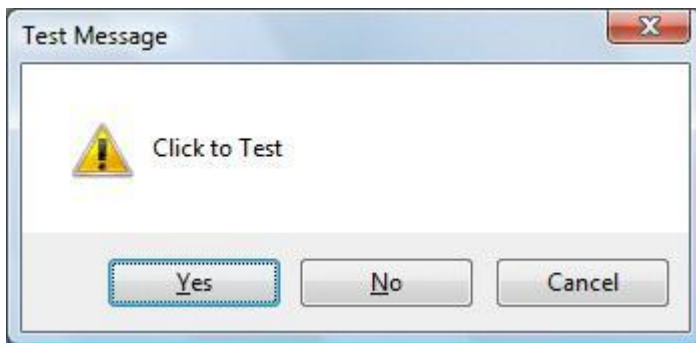


Figure 10.1

The InputBox() Function

An InputBox() function allows the user to enter a value or a message in a text box.

```
userMsg =Microsoft.VisualBasic.InputBox(Prompt, Title, default_text, x-position, y-position)
```

userMsg is a variant data type but typically it is declared as string, which accepts the message input by the user. The arguments are explained as follows:

- Prompt - The message displayed normally as a question asked.
- Title - The title of the Input Box.
- default-text - The default text that appears in the input field where the user may change the message according to his or her wish..
- x-position and y-position - the position or the coordinates of the input box.

Example 10.3

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim userMsg As String  
userMsg = Microsoft.VisualBasic.InputBox("What is your message?", "Message  
Entry Form", "Enter your messge here", 500, 700) If userMsg <> "" Then  
MessageBox.Show(userMsg)  
Else  
MessageBox.Show("No Message")  
End If  
End Sub
```

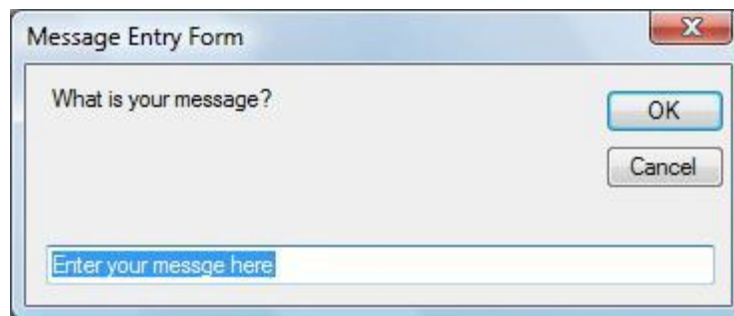


Figure 10.2

String Functions

We have learned about the basic concept of function as well as the MsgBox and InputBox functions in Chapter 10. I. In fact, I have already shown you a few string manipulation functions in Chapter 6; they are the Len function, the Left function and the Right Function. In this Chapter, we will learn other string manipulation functions.

The Mid Function

The Mid function is to retrieve a part of text from a given phrase. The format of the Mid Function is

Mid(phrase, position,n)

Where

phrase is the string from which a part of text is to be retrieved.

position is the starting position of the phrase from which the retrieving process begins.

n is the number of characters to retrieve.

Example 11.1

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim myPhrase As String  
myPhrase = Microsoft.VisualBasic.InputBox("Enter your phrase")  
Label1.Text = Mid(myPhrase, 2, 6)  
End Sub
```

In this example, when the user clicks the command button, an input box will pop up asking the user to input a phrase. After a phrase is entered and the OK button is pressed, the label will show the extracted text starting from position 2 of the phrase and the number of characters extracted is 6, as shown in Figure 11.1 and Figure 11.2

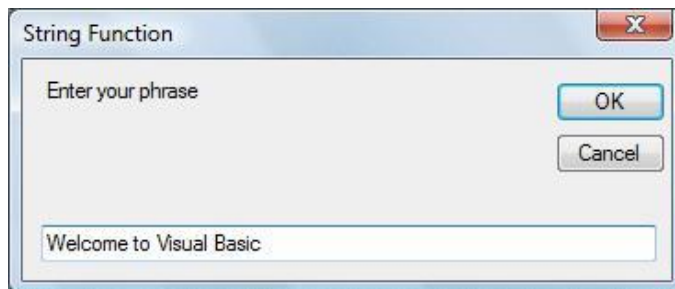


Figure 11.1:

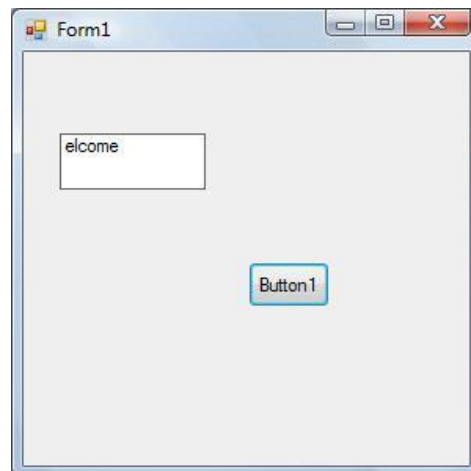


Figure 11.2:

The Right Function

The Right function extracts the right portion of a phrase. The format is

Microsoft.VisualBasic.Right ("Phrase", n)

Where n is the starting position from the right of the phrase where the portion of the phrase is to be extracted. For example:

Microsoft.VisualBasic.Right ("Visual Basic", 4) = asic

For example, you can write the following code to extract the right portion any phrase entered by the user.

```
Private Sub Button1_Click (ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e
As System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
    Dim myword As String
    myword = TextBox1.Text
    Label1.Text = Microsoft.VisualBasic.Right (myword, 4)
End Sub
```

The output is shown in Figure 11.3

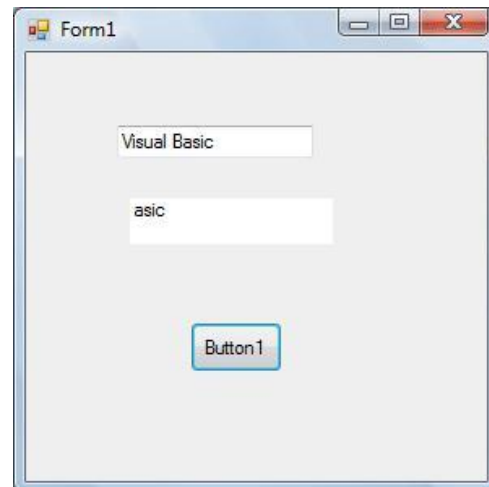


Figure 11.3

The Left Function

The Left function extracts the Left portion of a phrase. The format is

Microsoft.VisualBasic.Left ("Phrase", n)

Where n is the starting position from the right of the phrase where the portion of the phrase is going to be extracted. For example:

Microsoft.VisualBasic.Left ("Visual Basic", 4) = Visu

For example, you can write the following code to extract the left portion any phrase entered by the user.

```
Private Sub Button1_Click (ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e  
As System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click  
    Dim myword As String  
    myword = TextBox1.Text  
    Label1.Text = Microsoft.VisualBasic.Left (myword, 4)  
End Sub
```

The output is shown in Figure 11.4

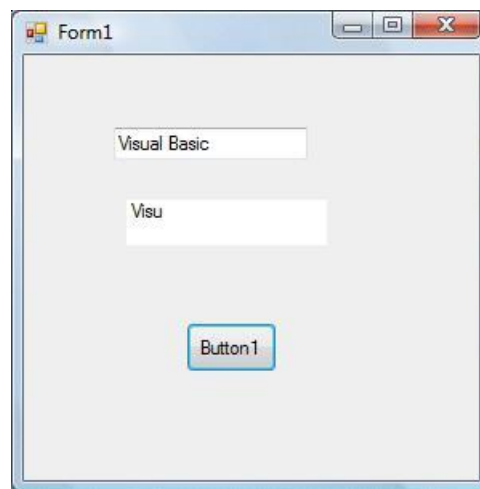


Figure 11.4:

The Trim Function

The Trim function trims the empty spaces on both side of the phrase. The format is Trim("Phrase")

.For example,

Trim (" Visual Basic ") = Visual basic

Example 11.2

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim myPhrase As String  
myPhrase = Microsoft.VisualBasic.InputBox("Enter your phrase")  
Label1.Text = Trim(myPhrase)  
End Sub
```

The Ltrim Function

The Ltrim function trims the empty spaces of the left portion of the phrase. The format is

Ltrim("Phrase")

.For example,

Ltrim (" Visual Basic")= Visual basic

The Rtrim Function

The Rtrim function trims the empty spaces of the right portion of the phrase. The format is

Rtrim("Phrase")

.For example,

Rtrim ("Visual Basic ") = Visual Basic

The InStr function

The InStr function looks for a phrase that is embedded within the original phrase and returns the starting position of the embedded phrase. The format is

Instr (n, original phase, embedded phrase)

Where n is the position where the Instr function will begin to look for the embedded phrase.

For example

Instr(1, "Visual Basic", " Basic")=8

The function returns a numeric value.

You can write a program code as shown below:

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Label1.Text = Instr(1, "Visual  
Basic", "Basic") End Sub
```

The Ucase and the Lcase Functions

The Ucase function converts all the characters of a string to capital letters. On the other hand, the Lcase function converts all the characters of a string to small letters. The format is

Microsoft.VisualBasic.UCase(Phrase)

Microsoft.VisualBasic.LCase(Phrase)

For example,

Microsoft.VisualBasic.Ucase ("Visual Basic") =VISUAL BASIC

Microsoft.VisualBasic.Lcase ("Visual Basic") =visual basic

The Chr and the Asc functions

The Chr function returns the string that corresponds to an ASCII code while the Asc function converts an ASCII character or symbol to the corresponding ASCII code. ASCII stands for "American Standard Code for Information Interchange". Altogether there are 255 ASCII codes and as many ASCII characters. Some of the characters may not be displayed as they may represent some actions such as the pressing of a key or produce a beep sound. The format of the Chr function is

Chr(charcode)

and the format of the Asc function is

Asc(Character)

The following are some examples:

Chr(65)=A, Chr(122)=z, Chr(37)=% ,

Asc("B")=66, Asc("&")=38

* For the complete set of ASCII , please refer to Appendix I

Mathematical Functions

We have learned how to write code to perform mathematical calculations using standard mathematical operators. However, we need to use the built-in Math functions in VB2010 to handle complex mathematical calculations. Math functions are methods that belong to the Math Class of the .Net framework. They are similar to the math

functions in Visual Basic 6. The Math functions in VB2010 are Abs, Exp, Fix, Int, Log, Rnd(), Round and the trigonometric functions.

The Abs function

The Abs returns the absolute value of a given number.

The syntax is

Math. Abs (number)

The **Math** keyword here indicates that the Abs function belongs to the Math class. However, not all mathematical functions belong to the Math class.

The Exp function

The Exp of a number x is the exponential value of x, i.e. e^x .

For example, Exp(1)=e=2.71828182

The syntax is

Math.Exp (number)

Example 12.2

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
```

```
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
Dim num1, num2 As Single
```

```
num1 = TextBox1.Text
```

```
num2 = Math.Exp(num1)
```

```
Label1.Text = num2
```

```
End Sub
```

The Fix Function

The Fix function truncates the decimal part of a positive number and returns the largest integer smaller than the number. However, when the number is negative, it will return smallest integer larger than the number. For example, Fix (9.2)=9 but Fix(-9.4)=-9

Example 12.3

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
```

```
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```



```
Dim num1, num2 As Single  
num1 = TextBox1.Text  
num2 = Fix(num1)  
Label1.Text = num2  
End Sub
```

The Int Function

The Int is a function that converts a number into an integer by truncating its decimal part and the resulting integer is the largest integer that is smaller than the number. For example

Int(2.4)=2, Int(6.9)=6 , Int(-5.7)=-6, Int(-99.8)=-100

The Log Function

The Log function is the function that returns the natural logarithm of a number. For example, Log(10)=2.302585

Example 12.4

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click  
Dim num1, num2 As Single  
num1 = TextBox1.Text  
num2 = Math.Log(num1)  
Label1.Text = num2  
End Sub
```

The Rnd() Function

The Rnd is very useful when we deal with the concept of chance and probability. The Rnd function returns a random value between 0 and 1. Random numbers in their original form are not very useful in programming until we convert them to integers. For example, if we need to obtain a random output of 6 integers ranging from 1 to 6, which makes the program behave like a virtual dice, we need to convert the random numbers to integers using the formula $\text{Int}(\text{Rnd} * 6) + 1$.

Example 12.5

```
Private Sub Button1_Click (ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim num as integer
```

```
Randomize ( )
```

```
Num=Int(Rnd()*6)+1
```

```
Label1.Text=Num
```

```
End Sub
```

In this example, `Int(Rnd*6)` will generate a random integer between 0 and 5 because the function **Int** truncates the decimal part of the random number and returns an integer. After adding 1, you will get a random number between 1 and 6 every time you click the command button. For example, let say the random number generated is 0.98, after multiplying it by 6, it becomes 5.88, and using the integer function `Int(5.88)` will convert the number to 5; and after adding 1 you will get 6.

The Round Function

The **Round** function rounds up a number to a certain number of decimal places. The Format is `Round (n, m)` which means to round a number n to m decimal places. For example, `Math.Round (7.2567, 2) =7.26`

Example 12.6

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
```

```
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Dim num1, num2 As Single
```

```
num1 = TextBox1.Text
```

```
num2 = Math.Round(num1, 2)
```

```
Label1.Text = num2
```

```
End Sub
```

The Sqrt Function

The Sqrt function returns the square root of a number. For example, Sqrt(400) will return a value of 20. You can use this function to solve problems related to Pythagoras theorem. For exam, you may want to find the length of the hypotenuse given the length of the adjacent side and the length of the opposite side of a triangle. The code in VB2010 is:

```
c=Math.Sqrt(a^2+b^2)
```

*As Sqrt is a function that belongs to the Math class, we need to use the Math keyword.

The following code computes the hypotenuse c given the length of adjacent side and the length of the opposite side of triangle.

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
    Dim a, b, c As Single
```

```
    a = Val(TxtA.Text)
```

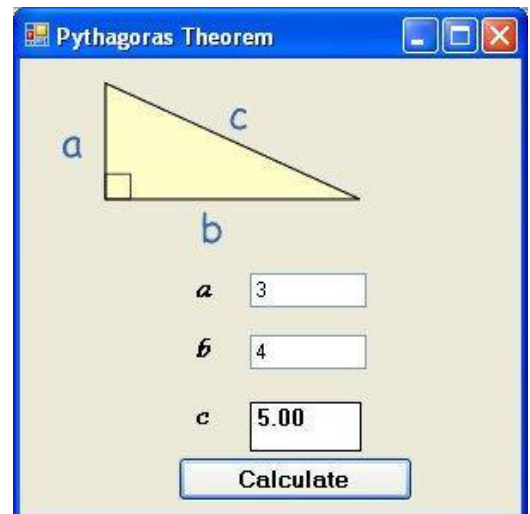
```
    b = Val(TxtB.Text)
```

```
    c = Math.Sqrt(a ^ 2 + b ^ 2)
```

```
    LblC.Text = c.ToString("F")
```

```
End Sub
```

The above project requires two text boxes and five label controls. One of the label controls is for displaying the results of the calculation. The output image looks something like in Figure 12.1



Trigonometric Functions

Trigonometric functions handle problems involving angles. The basic trigonometric functions in Visual Basic 2010 are Sin, Cos, Tan and Atan. Sin is the function that returns the value of sine of an angle in radian, Cos returns the value of cosine of an angle in radian and Tan returns the value of tangent of an angle in radian. Atan returns the value of Arc tangent, which represents the value of the angle in radian given the value of tangent of this angle. Arc tangent is expressed as $\tan^{-1}(x) = y$, which means $\tan(y) = x$. For example, $\tan^{-1}(1) = \frac{\pi}{4}$.

If you wish to accept input in degree from the user, you need to convert degree to radian using the following formula:

$$1 \text{ degree} = \frac{\pi}{180}$$

The first code you should write before you can values of trigonometric functions is the function to compute the value of π , or Pi. We use the fact that $\tan^{-1}(1) = \frac{\pi}{4}$, which is

$\text{Atan}(1) = \frac{\pi}{4}$ in VB language to obtain the formula $\pi = 4 \times \text{Atan}(1)$. Therefore, the code

to get value of Pi is as follows:

```
Public Function Pi( ) As Double
    Return 4.0 * Math.Atan(1.0)
End Function
```

We use the keyword Public as we wish to use the value of Pi throughout the module.

In the following example, we will show you how to obtain the values of Sine, Cosine and Tangent of an angle.

Example 12.7

In this example, the program allows the user to enter an angle in degree and calculate the values of sine, cosine and tangent of this angle. Start a new project and name it Trigo Functions. Next, insert one text box into the form and name it as TxtAngle. The

purpose of the text box is allowing the user to enter an angle in degree. You also add three labels and name them as LblSin, LblCos and LblTan to display the values of sine, cosine and tangent of the angle. Insert four other labels for labeling purpose. Lastly, add one button and name it as BtnCal.

First, under the statement Public Class Form1 enter the code to compute the value of Pi as follows:

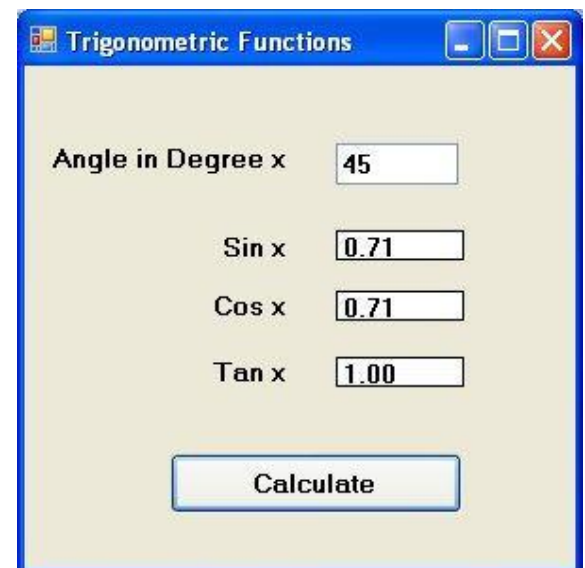
```
Public Function Pi() As Double
    ' Calculate the value of pi.
    Return 4.0 * Math.Atan(1.0)
End Function
```

Next, click on the button and enter the following code:

```
Private Sub BtnCal_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles BtnCal.Click
    Dim degree As Single, angle As Double
    degree = TxtAngle.Text
    angle = degree * (Pi() / 180)
    LblSin.Text = Math.Sin(angle).ToString("F")
    LblCos.Text = Math.Cos(angle).ToString("F")
    LblTan.Text = Math.Tan(angle).ToString("F")

End Sub
```

The output interface is shown in Figure 12.2



Example 12.8

This example computes the area and circumference of a circle. The formula of area of circle is πr^2 and the formula of circumference is $2\pi r$. In this program, you insert a text box to allow the user to enter the value of radius of the circle. Add two labels to display the value of Area and the value of circumference. Use the ToString method to specify number of decimal places with the F specifier. F3 means three decimal places and F alone means two decimal places.

```
Public Function Pi() As Double
```

```
    Return 4.0 * Math.Atan(1.0)
```

```
End Function
```

```
Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
```

```
System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load
```

```
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub TxtRadius_TextChanged (ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
```

```
System.EventArgs) Handles TxtRadius.TextChanged
```

```
    Dim r, l, Area As Double
```

```
    r = Val(TxtRadius.Text)
```

```
    l = 2 * Pi() * r
```

```
    Area = Pi() * r ^ 2
```

```
    lblCirCumF.Text = l.ToString("F")
```

```
    lblArea.Text = Area.ToString("F3")
```

```
End Sub
```

The runtime interface is shown in Figure 12.3

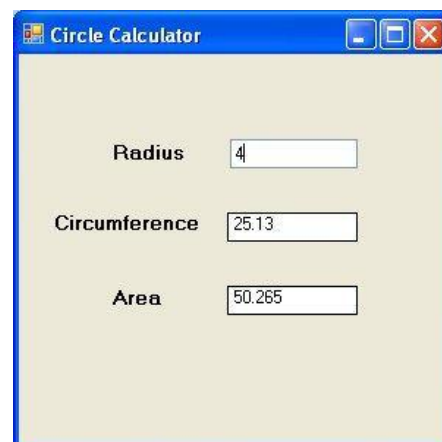


Figure 12.2

Formatting Functions

Format Function

The **Format** function is a very powerful formatting function that can display the numeric values in various forms. There are two types of Format function, one of them is the built-in or predefined format, and the user can define another one.

(i) The format of the predefined Format function is

Format (n, “style argument”)

Where n is a number and the list of style arguments is given in Table 13.1

Style argument	Explanation	Example
General Number	Displays the number without having separators between thousands	Format(8972.234, “General Number”)=8972.234
Fixed	Displays the number without having separators between thousands and rounds it up to two decimal places.	Format(8972.2, “Fixed”)=8972.23
Standard	Displays the number with separators or separators between thousands and rounds it up to two decimal places.	Format(6648972.265, “Standard”)= 6,648,972.27
Currency	To display the number with the dollar sign in front has separators between thousands as well as rounding it up to two decimal places.	Format(6648972.265, “Currency”)= \$6,648,972.27
Percent	Converts the number to the percentage form, displays a % sign, and rounds it up to two decimal places.	Format(0.56324, “Percent”)=56.32 %

Table 13.1: The Format Function

Example 13.1

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click, Button5.Click, Button4.Click,  
Button3.Click  
Label1.Text = Format(8972.234, "General Number")  
Label2.Text = Format(8972.2, "Fixed")  
Label3.Text = Format(6648972.265, "Standard")  
Label4.Text = Format(6648972.265, "Currency")  
Label5.Text = Format(0.56324, "Percent")  
End Sub
```

The Output window is shown below:

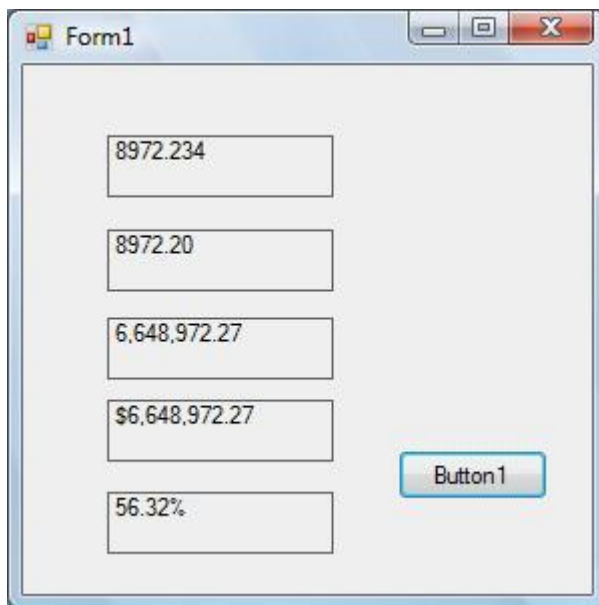


Figure 13.1

(ii) The format of the user-defined Format function is

Format (n, "user's format")

Although it is known as user-defined format, we still need to follow certain formatting styles. Examples of user-defined formatting style are listed in Table 13.2

Example	Explanation	Output
Format(781234.57,"0")	Rounds to whole number without separators between thousands	781235
Format(781234.57,"0.0")	Rounds to one decimal place without separators between thousands	781234.6
Format(781234.576,"0.00")	Rounds to two decimal places without separators between thousands	781234.58
Format(781234.576,"#,##0.00")	Rounds to two decimal places with separators between thousands	781,234.58
Format(781234.576,"\$#,##0.00")	Shows dollar sign and rounds to 2 decimal places with separators between thousands	\$781,234.58
Format(0.576,"0%")	Converts to percentage form without decimal places.	58%
Format(0.5768,"0.00%")	Converts to percentage form with 2 decimal places	57.68%

Table 13.2: User's Defined Functions

Example 13.2

```

Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click, Button5.Click, Button4.Click,
Button3.Click
Label1.Text = Format(8972.234, "0.0")
Label2.Text = Format(8972.2345, "0.00")
Label3.Text = Format(6648972.265, "#,##0.00")
Label4.Text = Format(6648972.265, "$#,##0.00")
Label5.Text = Format(0.56324, "0%")
End Sub

```

The Output window is shown below:

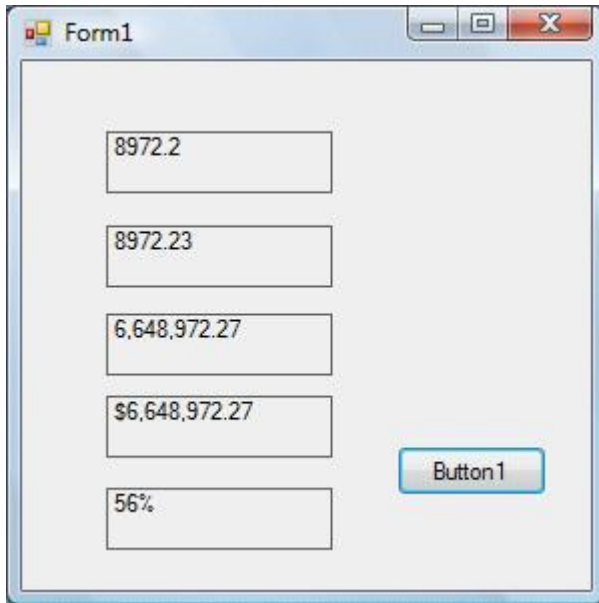


Figure 13.2: User's Defined Functions

Formatting Using ToString Method

Other than using the Format function, VB.Net has introduced the ToString method to format output. It is used together with the standard numeric format specifiers such as "c" which stand for currency. Some of the most common numeric specifiers are listed in the table below:

Format specifier	Explanation	Examples
"C"	<p>i) Displays a currency value. The default is the US currency \$ and in two decimal places.</p> <p>ii) To display other currency, add a culture code that specifies a country. For example, for Great Britain, you add en-GB using the keyword "CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture"</p>	<p>Dim myNum as Single =2011.123456</p> <p>myNum.ToString("C")= \$2011.12</p> <p>myNum.ToString("C4")= \$2011.1234</p> <p>myNum.ToString("C3", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("en-GB"))= £2011.123</p>

	iii) Displays number of decimal digits by placing the digit after C, for example, C4 for decimal places.	
"D" or "d"	Express a Number with in integer form with specified number of digits. For example, D4 means four-digit integer.	Dim myNumber As Integer = 2012.2344 myNumber.ToString("D4")=2012
"E" or "e"	Express a number in exponential form with specified number of decimal places	Dim myNumber As Double = 2012.2344 myNumber.ToString("e3")= 2.012e+003
"P" or "p"	Mutiply a number by 100 and displayed with a percentage symbol % .	Dim myNumber As Double = 0.23456 myNumber.ToString("P2")= 23.46%
"F" or "f"	Specifies number of decimal points	Dim myNumber As Double=0.23456 myNumber.ToString("F")=0.23 myNumber.ToString("F3")=0.235

Table 13.3: Standard numeric format specifiers

*** More on ToString Method**

The ToString method together with the currency specifier "C" displays the output with the currency sign \$ and in two decimal places. The default currency is the currency used by your computer system; in this case, it is the US currency. If you are not sure of what default currency your computer uses, you can add the keyword "CultureInfo.CurrentCulture" to the ToString method as shown in the example below:

```
FutureValue = FV.ToString("C", CultureInfo.CurrentCulture)
```

If you wish to display the output in different currencies, you can use the keyword “CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture together with the culture identifiers. For example, if you want to display the output in Japanese currency, you can use the ja-JP culture identifier, as shown in the example below:

```
FutureValue = FV.ToString("C", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("ja-JP"))
```

The output is in Japanese currency sign ¥ instead of the \$ sign.

Formatting Date and Time

Formatting Date and Time Using Predefined Formats

Very often, we need to format date and time in a Vb2010 program. You can format date and time using predefined formats and user-defined formats. The predefined formats of date and time are shown in Table 14.1

Format	Explanation
Format (Now, “General date”)	Formats the current date and time
Format (Now, “Long Date”)	Displays the current date in long format
Format (Now, “Short date”)	Displays current date in short format
Format (Now, “Long Time”)	Display the current time in long format
Format (Now, “Short Time”)	Display the current time in short format

* Instead of "General date", you can also use the abbreviated format "G" , i.e. Format (Now, "G"). And for "Long Time", you can use the abbreviated format "T". As for "Short Time", you may use the abbreviated format "t"

Example 14.1

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click  
Label1.Text = Format(Now, "General Date")  
Label2.Text = Format(Now, "Long Date")  
Label3.Text = Format(Now, "short Date")  
Label4.Text = Format(Now, "Long Time")  
Label5.Text = Format(Now, "Short Time")  
End Sub
```

The output is shown in the Figure 14.1 below:

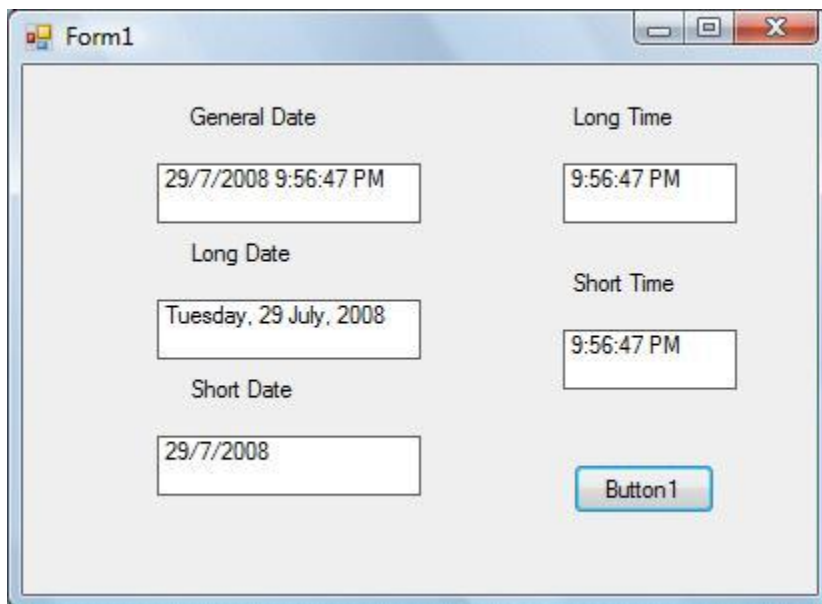


Figure 14.1: Time in different Format

Formatting Date and Time Using User-Defined formats

Besides using the predefined formats, you can also use the user-defined formatting functions. The general format of a user-defined for date/time is

Format (expression, style)

Format	Explanation
Format (Now, "M")	Displays current month and date
Format (Now, "MM")	Displays current month in double digits
Format (Now, "MMM")	Displays abbreviated name of the current month
Format (Now, "MMMM")	Displays full name of the current month.
Format (Now, "dd/MM/yyyy")	Displays current date in the day/month/year format
Format (Now, "MMM,d,yyyy")	Displays current date in the Month, Day, Year Format
Format (Now, "h:mm:ss tt")	Displays current time in hour:minute:second format and show am/pm
Format (Now, "MM/dd/yyyy h:mm:ss")	Displays current date and time in hour:minute:second format

Table 14.2: some of the user-defined format functions for date and time

Example 14.2

Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click, Button2.Click, Button3.Click

Label1.Text = Format(Now, "M")

Label2.Text = Format(Now, "MM")

Label3.Text = Format(Now, "MMM")

Label4.Text = Format(Now, "MMMM")

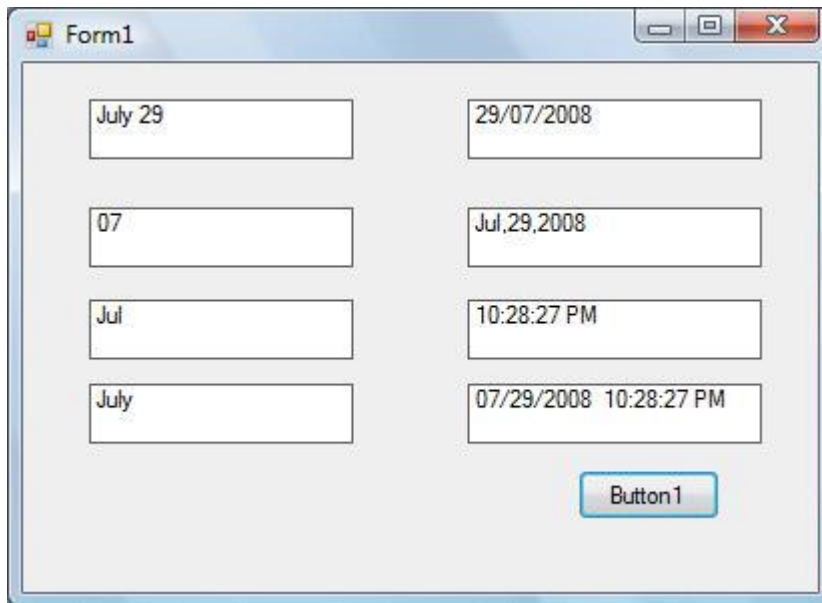
Label5.Text = Format(Now, "dd/MM/yyyy")

Label6.Text = Format(Now, "MMM,d,yyyy")

Label7.Text = Format(Now, "h:mm:ss tt")

Label8.Text = Format(Now, "MM/dd/yyyy h:mm:ss tt")

End Sub



The screenshot shows a Windows application window titled "Form1". Inside the window, there are eight text boxes arranged in two columns. The left column contains the following text: "July 29", "07", "Jul", and "July". The right column contains the following text: "29/07/2008", "Jul,29,2008", "10:28:27 PM", and "07/29/2008 10:28:27 PM". At the bottom center of the form is a button labeled "Button1".

Figure 14.1: Date and Time in different formats

Formatting Time Using ToString Method

Another way to format date and time is to use the ToString method. ToString is used together with the standard date and time format specifiers.

For example, to format present date of the current culture in the computer that by default is using the US system, we can use the syntax

```
Now.ToString("d")
```

It displays the date as short date in the form of **mm/dd/yy**

For other culture, you have to include the culture code. You can refer to the culture code in Appendix II. For example, Malaysia culture code is ms-MY, the time format is **dd/mm/yy**, similar to the French culture code. The syntax to include the culture code is as follows:

```
Now.ToString("d", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("ms-MY"))
```

Some of the standard date and time format specifiers

Format specifier	Description	Examples
"d"	Displays date in the short date pattern such as mm/dd/yy.	<p>Now.ToString("d") displays the date in the mm/dd/yy format.</p> <p>Now.ToString("d", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date in dd/mm/yy format</p>
"D"	Displays date in the Long date pattern.	<p>Now.ToString("D") displays the date as Monday, November 07, 2011</p> <p>Now.ToString("D", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date as</p>

		mardi 7 novembre 2011
"f"	Displays full date/time pattern (short time). .	Now.ToString("f") displays the date/time as Tuesday, November 07, 2011 12:08 Now.ToString("f", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) Displays the date time as mardi 7 novembre 2011 00:08
"F"	Displays full date/time pattern (long time).	Now.ToString("F") displays the date/time as Tuesday, November 8, 2011 12:08:30 AM Now.ToString("F", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date time as mardi 8 novembre 2011 00:15:31
"g"	Displays general date /time pattern (short time).	Now.ToString("g") displays the date/time as 11/08/2011 12:08 AM Now.ToString("g", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date time as 08/11/2011 00:08
"G"	Displays general date /time pattern (long time). .	Now.ToString("G") displays date/time as 11/08/2011 12:08:30 AM Now.ToString("G", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays the date time as 08/11/2011 00:08:30
"M", "m"	Displays month /day pattern.	Now.ToString ("M") displays month/day as November 08

		<p>Now.ToString("M", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays month/day as</p> <p>8 novembre</p>
"t"	<p>Display short time pattern.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Now.ToString ("t") displays time as</p> <p>12.08AM</p> <p>Now.ToString("t", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays time as</p> <p>00.08</p>
"T"	<p>Displays long time pattern.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Now.ToString ("T") displays time as</p> <p>12.08:30 AM</p> <p>Now.ToString("T", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays time as</p> <p>00.08:30</p>
"Y", "y"	<p>Displays year / month pattern.</p>	<p>Now.ToString ("Y") displays year/month as</p> <p>November, 2011</p> <p>Now.ToString("Y", CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("fr-FR")) displays year/month as</p> <p>novembre 2011</p>

Creating User-Defined Functions

Function is a method that returns a value to the calling procedure. You can create user-defined function to perform certain calculations and some other tasks.

The general format of a function is as follows:

Public Function **functionName** (param As dataType,.....) As dataType

or

Private Function **functionName** (param As dataType,.....) As dataType

- * Public indicates that the function is applicable to the whole project and
- * Private indicates that the function is only applicable to a certain module or procedure.
- * param is the argument or parameter of the function that can store a value. You can specify more than one parameter, separated by commas.

Example 15.1: Cube Root Calculator

In this example, we will create a program that calculates the cube root of a number. The function code is

```
Public Function cubeRoot(ByVal myNumber As Single) As Single
    Return myNumber ^ (1 / 3)
End Function
```

The keyword *Return* is to compute the cube root and return the value to the calling procedure.

Place the function procedure in the general section of the module.

Next, design an interface and create a procedure that call the function and display the value to user.

To create the interface, place three label controls and one textbox into the form.
Rename the label and use it to display the cube root to be LblCubeRoot.
Now click on the textbox and enter the following code:

```
Private Sub TextBox1_TextChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles TextBox1.TextChanged
```

```
    LblCubeRoot.Text = cubeRoot(Val(TextBox1.Text))
```

```
End Sub
```

Press F5 to run the program and you should get the following output:

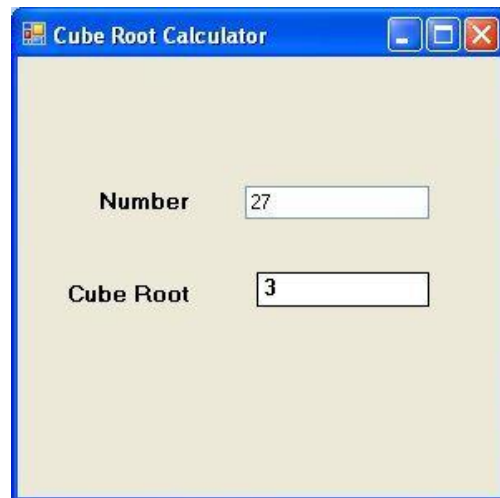


Figure 15.1: Cube Root Calculator

Example 15.2

In this example, we create a function that can convert mark to grade, a handy function to manage college examinations or tests processing. In this function, we use the Select case control structure to convert marks of different range to different grades.

```
Public Function grade(ByVal mark As Single) As String
```

```
    Select Case mark
```

```
        Case Is > 100
```

```
            Return "Invalid mark"
```

```
        Case Is >= 80
```

```

Return "A"

Case Is >= 70

Return "B"

Case Is >= 60

Return "C"

Case Is >= 50

Return "D"

Case Is >= 40

Return "E"

Case Is >= 0

Return "F"

Case Is < 0

Return "Invalid mark"

End Select

End Function

```

We need to design an interface for the user to enter the marks and we also need to write a procedure to call the function and display the grade on a label. To achieve the purpose, we will insert the following controls and set their properties as follows:

Control	Properties
Label1	Text: Mark ; font bold
Label2	Text:Grade ; font bold
TextBox1	Name: TxtMark
Lable3	LblGrade

We also need to write a procedure to call the function. Click on Textbox1 and enter the following code:

```
Private Sub TxtMark_TextChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles TxtMark.TextChanged
```

```
    If TxtMark.Text = "" Then  
        Lbl_Grade.Text = "Enter Mark"  
    Else  
        Lbl_Grade.Text = grade(Val(TxtMark.Text))  
    End If
```

```
End Sub
```

The procedure will compute the value entered in the textbox by the user by calling the grade () function and display the result on the label Lbl_Grade.

The output is shown in Figure 15.2:

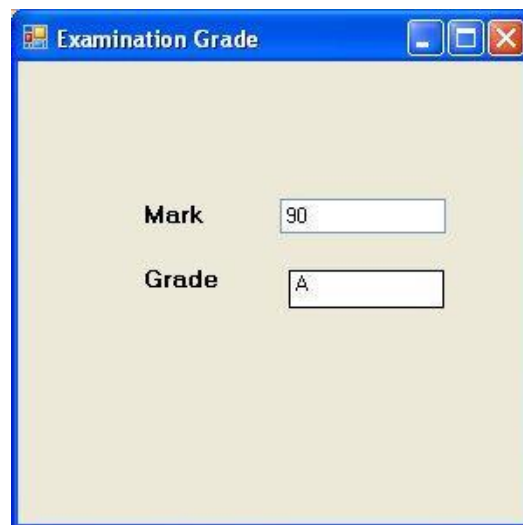


Figure 15.2

Example 15.3: BMI calculator

Many people are obese now and it could affect their health seriously. If your BMI is more than 30, you are obese. You can refer to the following range of BMI values for your weight status.

Underweight = <18.5

Normal weight = 18.5-24.9

Overweight = 25-29.9

Obesity = BMI of 30 or greater

Now we shall create a calculator in Vb2010 that can calculate the body mass index, or BMI of a person based on the body weight in kilogram and the body height in meter.

BMI can be calculated using the formula $\text{weight} / (\text{height})^2$, where weight is measured in kg and height in meter. If you only know your weight and height in lb and feet, then you need to convert them to the metric system. To build the calculator, we need to create a function that contains two parameters, namely height and weight, as follows:

```
Public Function BMI (ByVal height, ByVal weight)
```

```
Return Val ((weight) / (height ^ 2))
```

```
End Function
```

Next, design an interface that includes four labels, three of them is used for labeling height, weight and BMI and the last one is to display the value of BMI. We also inserted two text boxes to accept input of height and weight from the user. Lastly, insert a button for the user to click on in order to start the calculation process. Set the properties as follows:

Control	Properties
Label1	Text : Height (in meter) Font : Microsoft Sans Serif, 10 pt, style=Bold
Label2	Text : Weight (in kg) Font : Microsoft Sans Serif, 10 pt, style=Bold
Label3	Text : BMI Font : Microsoft Sans Serif, 10 pt, style=Bold
Label4	Name: LblBMI Text : Blank Font : Microsoft Sans Serif, 10 pt, style=Bold
Textbox1	Name; TxtH Text : Blank Font : Microsoft Sans Serif, 10 pt, style=Bold
Textbox2	Name; TxtW Text : Blank Font : Microsoft Sans Serif, 10 pt, style=Bold

Now, click on the button and enter the following code:

```
LblBMI.Text = Format (BMI(TxtH.Text, TxtW.Text), "0.00")
```

We use the format function to configure the output value to two decimal places. This procedure will call the function BMI to perform calculation based on the values input by the user using the formula defined in the function.

The output is shown in Figure 15.3

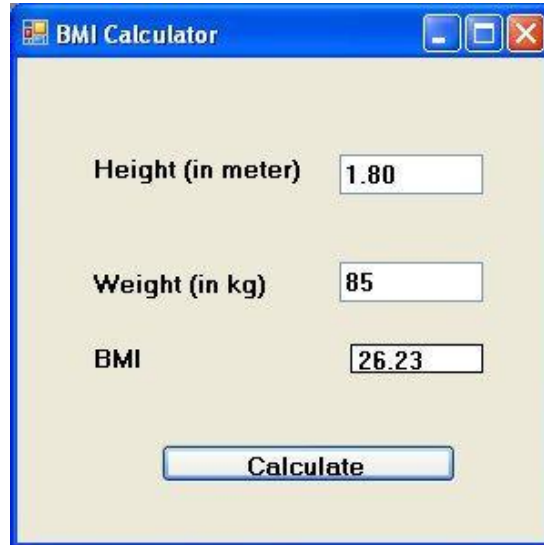
The image shows a Windows-style application window titled "BMI Calculator". Inside the window, there are three rows of labels and text boxes. The first row is "Height (in meter)" followed by a text box containing "1.80". The second row is "Weight (in kg)" followed by a text box containing "85". The third row is "BMI" followed by a text box containing "26.23". At the bottom center of the window is a button labeled "Calculate". The window has a blue title bar and standard minimize, maximize, and close buttons.

Figure 15.3

Example 15.4: Future Value Calculator

In this example, the user can calculate the future value of a certain amount of money he has today based on the interest rate and the number of years from now, supposing he or she will invest this amount of money somewhere. The calculation is based on the compound interest rate. This reflects the time value of money.

Future value is calculated based on the following formula:

$$PV = FV \cdot 1 + \frac{i \cdot n}{100}$$

The function to calculate the future value involves three parameters namely the present value (PV), the interest rate (i) and the length of period (n). The function code is shown below:

```
Public Function FV(ByVal PV As Single, ByVal i As Single, ByVal n As Integer) As Double
```

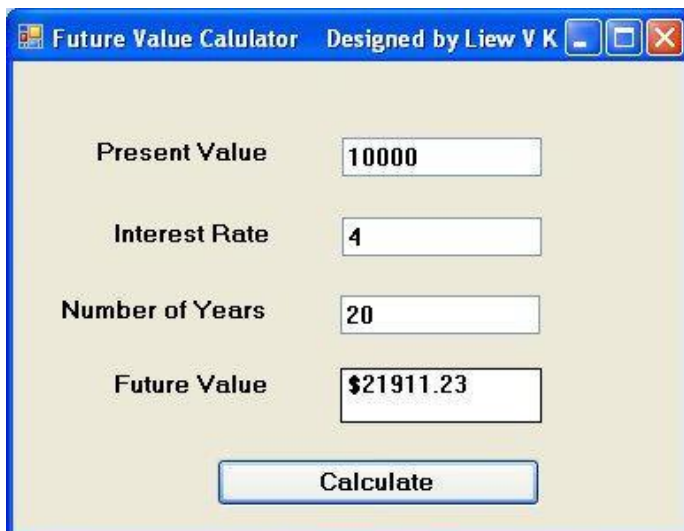
```
    Return PV * (1 + i / 100) ^ n
```

```
End Function
```

The code to display the Future Value is

```
Private Sub BtnCal_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles BtnCal.Click  
    LblFV.Text = FV(TxtPV.Text, TxtI.Text, TxtYear.Text).ToString("C")
```

```
End Sub
```



The screenshot shows a Windows application window titled "Future Value Calculator" with a subtitle "Designed by Liew V K". The window has a light beige background and a blue border. It contains four input fields with labels to their left: "Present Value" with the value "10000", "Interest Rate" with the value "4", "Number of Years" with the value "20", and "Future Value" with the value "\$21911.23". Below these fields is a "Calculate" button. The window also features standard Windows window controls (minimize, maximize, close) in the top right corner.

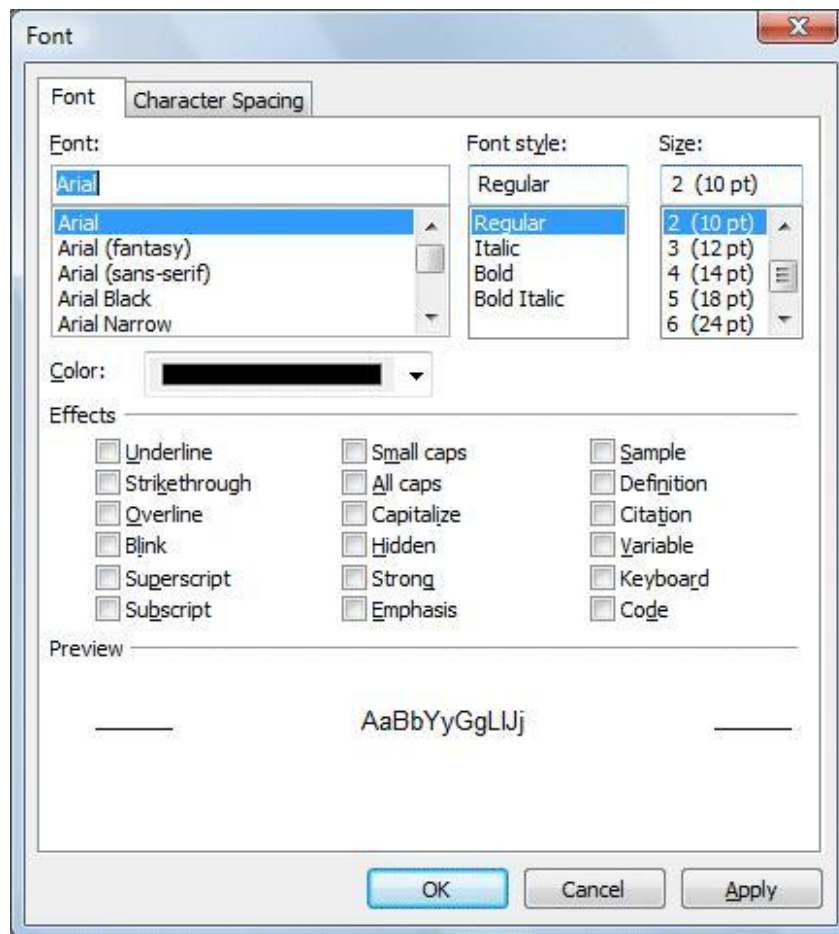
Figure 15.4: The Future Value Calculator

Chapter 5

Advanced Controls

The Check Box

The Check box is a very useful control in Visual Basic 2010. It allows the user to select one or more items by checking the checkbox or checkboxes concerned. For example, in the Font dialog box of any Microsoft Text editor like FrontPage, there are many checkboxes under the Effects section such as that shown in the diagram below. The user can choose underline, subscript, small caps, superscript, blink and more.



In Visual Basic 2010, you may create a shopping cart that allows the user to click on checkboxes that correspond to the items they intend to purchase, and calculates the total payment at the same time. The code is shown in Example 16.1 below.

Example 16.1: Shopping Cart

```
Private Sub BtnCalculate_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles BtnCalculate.Click Const LX As Integer = 100

Const BN As Integer = 500
Const SD As Integer = 200
Const HD As Integer = 80
Const HM As Integer = 300
Const AM As Integer = 160
Dim sum As Integer
If CheckBox1.Checked = True Then
sum += LX
End If
If CheckBox2.Checked = True Then
sum += BN
End If
If CheckBox3.Checked = True Then
sum += SD
End If
If CheckBox4.Checked = True Then
sum += HD
End If
If CheckBox5.Checked = True Then
sum += HM
End If
```

```

If CheckBox6.Checked = True Then
sum += AM
End If
Label5.Text = sum.ToString("c")

```

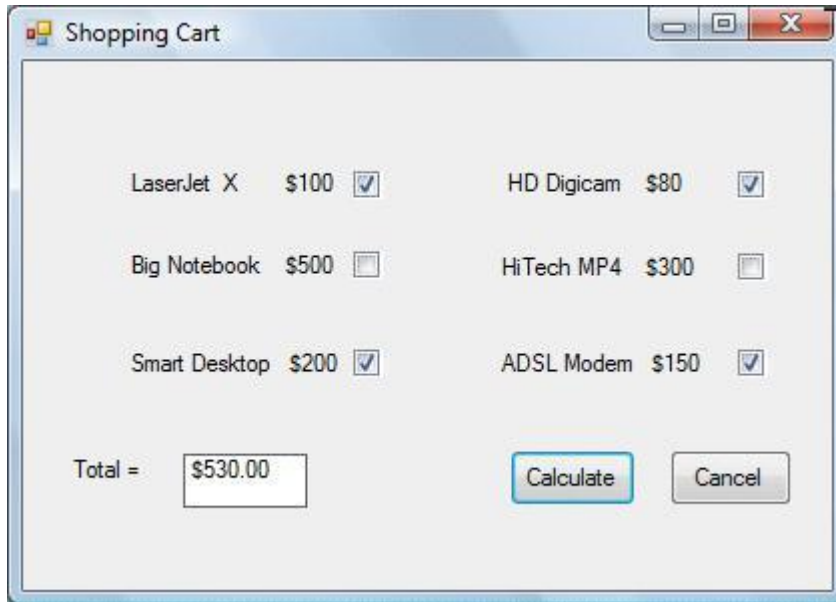


Figure 16.2: The Shopping Cart

Here is another example

Example 16.2

```

Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
Const large As Integer = 10.0
Const medium As Integer = 8
Const small As Integer = 5
Dim sum As Integer
If CheckBox1.Checked = True Then
sum += large
End If
If CheckBox2.Checked = True Then

```

```
sum += medium
```

```
End If
```

```
If CheckBox3.Checked = True Then
```

```
sum += small
```

```
End If
```

```
Label5.Text = sum.ToString("c")
```

Example 16.3

In this example, the user can enter text into a textbox and format the font using the three checkboxes that represent bold, italic and underline.

The code is as follow:

```
Private Sub CheckBox1_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e  
As System.EventArgs) Handles CheckBox1.CheckedChanged
```

```
If CheckBox1.Checked Then
```

```
TextBox1.Font = New Font(TextBox1.Font, TextBox1.Font.Style Or FontStyle.Bold)
```

```
Else
```

```
TextBox1.Font = New Font(TextBox1.Font, TextBox1.Font.Style And Not  
FontStyle.Bold)
```

```
End If
```

```
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub CheckBox2_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e  
As System.EventArgs) Handles CheckBox2.CheckedChanged If CheckBox2.Checked  
Then
```

```
TextBox1.Font = New Font(TextBox1.Font, TextBox1.Font.Style Or  
FontStyle.Italic)
```

```
Else
```

```
TextBox1.Font = New Font(TextBox1.Font, TextBox1.Font.Style And Not
```

FontStyle.Italic)

End If

End Sub

```
Private Sub CheckBox3_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e  
As System.EventArgs) Handles CheckBox3.CheckedChanged If CheckBox3.Checked  
Then
```

```
    TextBox1.Font = New Font(TextBox1.Font, TextBox1.Font.Style Or  
    FontStyle.Underline)
```

```
Else
```

```
    TextBox1.Font = New Font(TextBox1.Font, TextBox1.Font.Style And Not  
    FontStyle.Underline)
```

```
End If
```

```
End Sub
```



Figure 16.3

* The above program uses the CheckChanged event to respond to the user selection by checking a particular checkbox; it is similar to the click event. The statement

```
TextBox1.Font = New Font(TextBox1.Font, TextBox1.Font.Style Or  
FontStyle.Italic)
```

will retain the original font type but change it to italic font style.

```
TextBox1.Font = New Font(TextBox1.Font, TextBox1.Font.Style And Not  
FontStyle.Italic)
```

will also retain the original font type but change it to regular font style. (The other statements employ the same logic)

The Radio Button

The radio button is also a very useful control in Visual Basic 2010. However, it operates differently from the check boxes. While the checkboxes work independently and allows the user to select one or more items, radio buttons are mutually exclusive, which means the user can only choose one item only out of a number of choices. Here is an example that allows the users to select one color only.

Example 16.4

The Code:

```
Dim strColor As String
```

```
Private Sub RadioButton8_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object,  
ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles RadioButton8.CheckedChanged  
strColor = "Red"  
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub RadioButton7_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object,  
ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles RadioButton7.CheckedChanged  
strColor = "Green"  
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub RadioYellow_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e  
As System.EventArgs) Handles RadioYellow.CheckedChanged strColor = "Yellow"  
  
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Label2.Text = strColor
```

End Sub

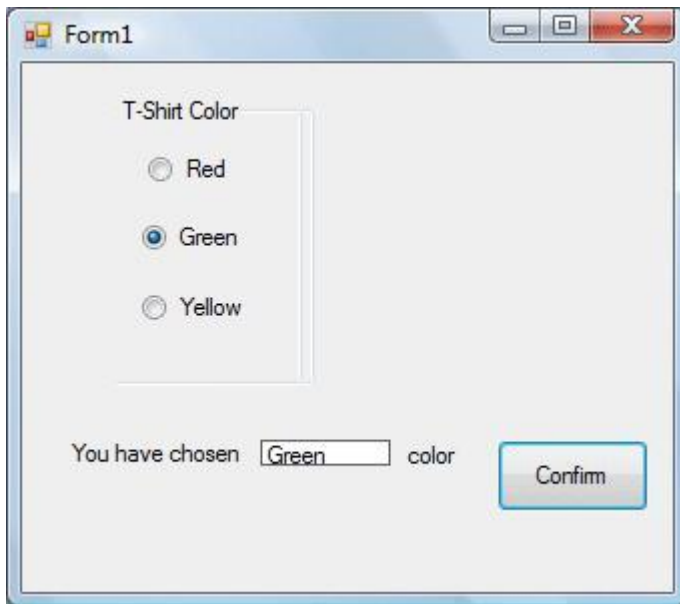


Figure 16.4: Color Selection

Although the user may only select one item at a time, he may make more than one selection if those items belong to different categories. For example, the user wish to choose T-shirt size and color, he needs to select one color and one size, which means one selection in each category. This is easily done in VB2010 by using the Groupbox control under the containers categories. After inserting the Groupbox into the form, you can proceed to insert the radio buttons into the Groupbox. Only the radio buttons inside the Groupbox are mutually exclusive, they are not mutually exclusive with the radio buttons outside the Groupbox. In Example 16.2, the users can select one color and one size of the T-shirt.

Example 16.5

```
Dim strColor As String  
Dim strSize As String
```

```
Private Sub RadioButton8_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object,  
ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles RadioButton8.CheckedChanged
```

```
strColor = "Red"
```

```
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub RadioButton7_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object,
ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles RadioButton7.CheckedChanged
    strColor = "Green"
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub RadioYellow_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e
As System.EventArgs) Handles RadioYellow.CheckedChanged strColor = "Yellow"

End Sub
```

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click Label2.Text = strColor

Label4.Text = strSize
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub RadioXL_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e
As System.EventArgs) Handles RadioXL.CheckedChanged strSize = "XL"

End Sub
```

```
Private Sub RadioL_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles RadioL.CheckedChanged strSize = "L"

End Sub
```

```
Private Sub RadioM_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles RadioM.CheckedChanged strSize = "M"

End Sub
```

```
Private Sub RadioS_CheckedChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles RadioS.CheckedChanged

strSize = "S"

End Sub
```

The screenshot shows a Windows Form titled "Form1" with a light blue border. Inside the form, there are two columns of radio buttons. The left column is titled "T-Shirt Color" and has three radio buttons: "Red" (which is selected, indicated by a blue dot), "Green", and "Yellow". The right column is titled "T-Shirt Size" and has four radio buttons: "XL", "L", "M" (which is selected, indicated by a blue dot), and "S". Below these columns, there are two text boxes. The first text box is preceded by the text "You have chosen" and contains the word "Red"; to its right is the label "color". The second text box is preceded by the text "and size" and contains the letter "M". To the right of these text boxes is a button labeled "Confirm".

The List Box

A list box is an object that displays a list of items. You can populate the list box with items at design time or at runtime. You can also remove the items from the list box. You can also clear an item from the list box based on its index, starting from 0.

To demonstrate the usage of the List Box, start a new project and name it as myListBox. Change the Form1 text to Name List. Insert a list box into the form and change its name to myNameList in the properties window. Next, add two buttons to Form1, name the first one as BtnAdd and change the text to Add Name. Name the second one as BtnRemove and change its text to Remove Name.

Adding Items to the List Box at Design Time

To add items to a list box, go to the properties window of the ListBox and scroll to find the Items property. On the left of the Items property, you can see the word **Collection** with a three-dot button on the right as shown in Figure 16.6



Now click on the three-dot button to go into the String Collection Editor. In the String Collection Editor, you can add items to the list, one item per line. Here, we add a list of ten names, as shown in Figure 16.7.



Press F5 to run the program and you can see the list of names entered earlier by clicking the drop-down arrow of the combo box, as shown in Figure 16.8



Adding Items to the List Box at Run Time

To add an item to the List Box at runtime, use the following code:

```
Listbox.Items.Add("Name")
```

In our example, you can add the name Wigan using the following statement.

```
myNameList.Items.Add("Wigan")
```

When you run the program and click the add name button, the name Wigan will be added to the end of the list.

You can also let the user add items to the combo box via an input box. Place the following code under the BtnAdd_Click procedure.

```
Dim userMsg As String  
userMsg = Microsoft.VisualBasic.InputBox("Enter a name and Click OK",  
"Names Entry Form", "Enter name here", 100, 200)  
myNameList.Items.Add(userMsg)
```

When you run the program and click the Add Name button, the input box as shown in Figure 16.9 will pop out. You can then enter a name and click the OK button, the name Hugo will be added to the list.



To return the index of a particular item, you can use the keyword `IndexOf`. Referring to our previous example, if you wish to find out the index of a certain name such as "Dion", you can use the syntax as shown below:

```
myNameList.Items.IndexOf("Dion")
```

It will return a value of 3 as it is the fourth item.

To get the index of the selected item, you can use the following syntax:

```
myNameList.SelectedIndex
```

Removing and Clearing Items from the List Box

To remove items from the list in the combo box, we use the **Remove ()** method

The syntax using our example is:

```
ListBox.Items.Remove("ItemName")
```

Referring to our example, you can remove the name Dion using the following statement:

```
myNameList.Items.Remove("Dion")
```

To remove an item according to its index, we need to use the **RemoveAt()** method.

The Syntax is:

```
ListBox.Items.RemoveAt("Index")
```

Referring to our previous example, we can remove the second name using the following syntax:

```
myNameList.Items.RemoveAt(1)
```

To remove a selected item, we can use the following syntax:

```
If NameList.SelectedIndex <> -1 Then
```

```
myNameList.Items.RemoveAt(NameList.SelectedIndex)
```

```
End if
```

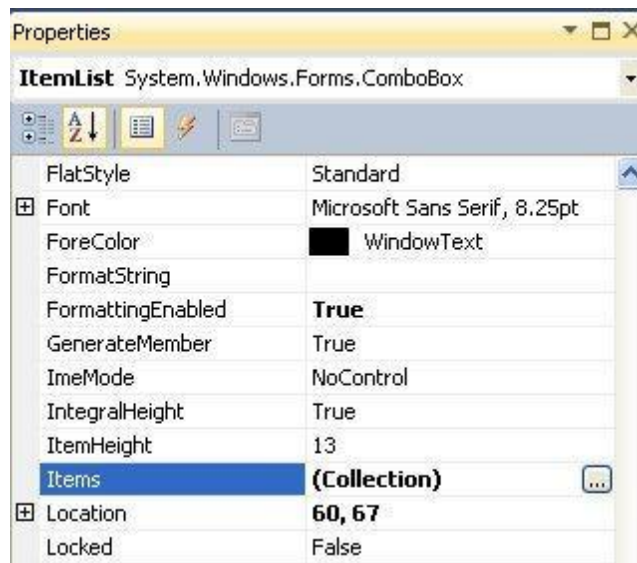
The Combo Box

Combo box is a kind of list box but it does not display all the items at one time. Instead, it displays one item at a time and provides a drop-down list where the user can click and view the other items. The advantage of using a combo box is that it saves space. As in the list box, you can add or remove items in the combo box at design time or at run time. You can also clear all the items from the combo box. Every item in a list box is identified by an index, starting from 0.

Adding Items to the Combo Box at Design Time

To demonstrate adding items at design time, start a project and name it MyComboBox. Change the caption of Form1 to A Collection of Names. Now, add a combo box by dragging the ComboBox control to the form. Change the name of the ComboBox to NameList . Next, add two buttons to the form name the first one as BtnAdd and change the text to Add Name. Name the second one as BtnRemove and change its text to Remove Name.

Now, go to the properties window of the ComboBox and scroll to find the Items property. On the left of the Items property, you can see the word **Collection** with a three-dot button on the right as shown in Figure 16.10

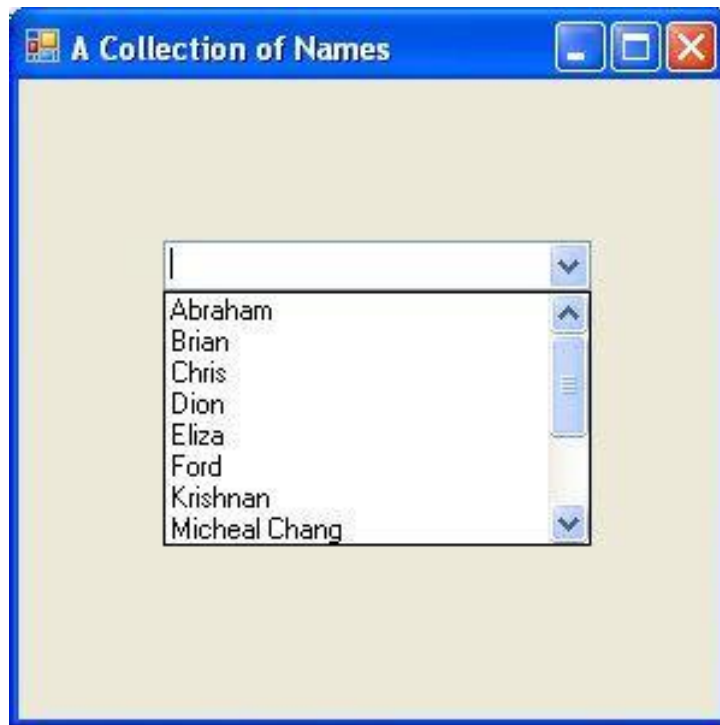


Now click on the three-dot button to go into the String Collection Editor. In the String Collection Editor, you can add items to the list, one item per line. Here, we add a list of ten names, as shown in Figure 16.11



Figure 16.11

Press F5 to run the program and you can see the list of names entered earlier by clicking the drop-down arrow of the combo box, as shown in Figure 16.12



Adding Items to the Combo Box at Runtime

To add item to the combo box at runtime, we use the following syntax:

```
ComboBox1. Items.Add(ItemName)
```

In our example, the code to add names to the list is:

```
NameList.Items.Add(name)
```

For example, we can add the name **Robert** using the following code

```
NameList.Items.Add("Robert")
```

You can also let the user add items to the combo box via an input box. The code is shown below:

```
Private Sub BtnAdd_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles BtnAdd.Click
```

```
Dim userMsg As String
```

```
userMsg = Microsoft.VisualBasic.InputBox("Enter a name and Click  
OK", "Names Entry Form", "Enter name here", 100, 200)
```

```
NameList.Items.Add(userMsg)
```

```
End Sub
```

When the user clicks the Add Name button, a dialog with an empty box will appear so that he or she can fill in the name, as shown below. Once he or she enter a name and click OK, the name will appear in the combo box list.



To return the index of a particular item, you can use the keyword `IndexOf`. Referring to our previous example, if you wish to find out the index of a certain name such as “Dion”, you can use the syntax as shown below:

```
NameList.Items.IndexOf("Dion")
```

It will return a value of 3 as it is the fourth item.

To get the index of the selected item, you can use the following syntax:

```
NameList.SelectedIndex
```

Removing Items from the list in the Combo Box

To remove items from the list in the combo box, we use the **Remove ()** method

The syntax using our example is:

```
ComboBox.Items.Remove("ItemName")
```

Referring to our example, you can remove the name Dion using the following statement:

```
Namelist.Items.Remove("Dion")
```

To remove an item according to its index, we need to use the `RemoveAt()` method.

The Syntax is:

```
ComboBox.Items.RemoveAt("Index")
```

Referring to our previous example, we can remove the second name using the following syntax:

```
Namelist.Items.RemoveAt(1)
```

To remove a selected item, we can use the following syntax:

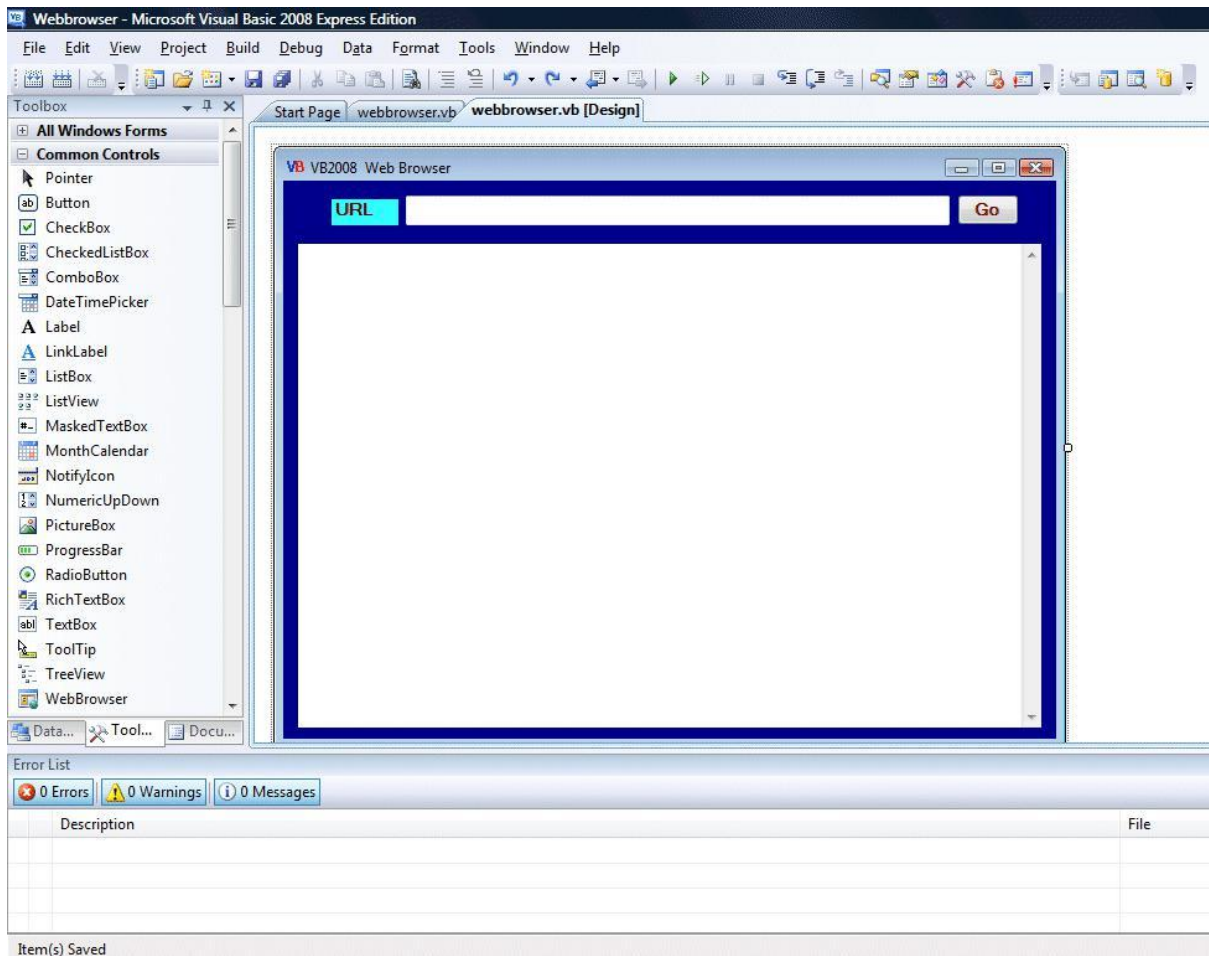
```
If NameList.SelectedIndex <> -1 Then  
    NameList.Items.RemoveAt(NameList.SelectedIndex)  
End If
```

Creating a Simple Web Browser

Since the advent of the Internet and the World Wide Web, almost everyone is surfing the Internet for information. In addition, when we are talking Internet surfing, it refers to using a program to browse the World Wide Web; this type of program is known as a browser. At the beginning of the Internet age, we have the primitive Internet browsing program called Gopher where you can only see text contents. However, the then famous Netscape Navigator soon replaced it. Moreover, Microsoft created the Internet explorer, a default browser that shipped with newer versions of Windows.

Today, basically everyone navigates the Internet using commercially produced web browsers such the Internet Explorer produced by Microsoft or those open source browsers designed by the experts such Mozilla FireFox , Opera and the latest Chrome created by Google. However, is it cool if we can create our very own web browser that we can customize to our own taste and design? Yes, you can do that in VB2010, and rather easy too. In this chapter, we will show you how to create a simple web browser and get it running in a few minutes.

First, start a new project in VB2010 and name it with any name that you like. Here I am just using the name webbrowser. Change the name of Form1 to webbrowser and the text property to My First Web Browser and set its size property to 640,480. Next, you need to add a control so that your web browser can connect to the Internet, and this very engine is called the WebBrowser control, located in the Toolbox on the left side, set its size property to 600,400. Next, drag a text box and place it at the bottom of the WebBrowser control, this will be the address bar where the user can enter the URL. Lastly, place a command button beside the text box and label it as Go. The design interface is shown in Figure 17.1 below:



The Code

The code for the web browser is surprisingly simple; it is only a single line code! Double click on the Go button and key in the following code:

Public Class

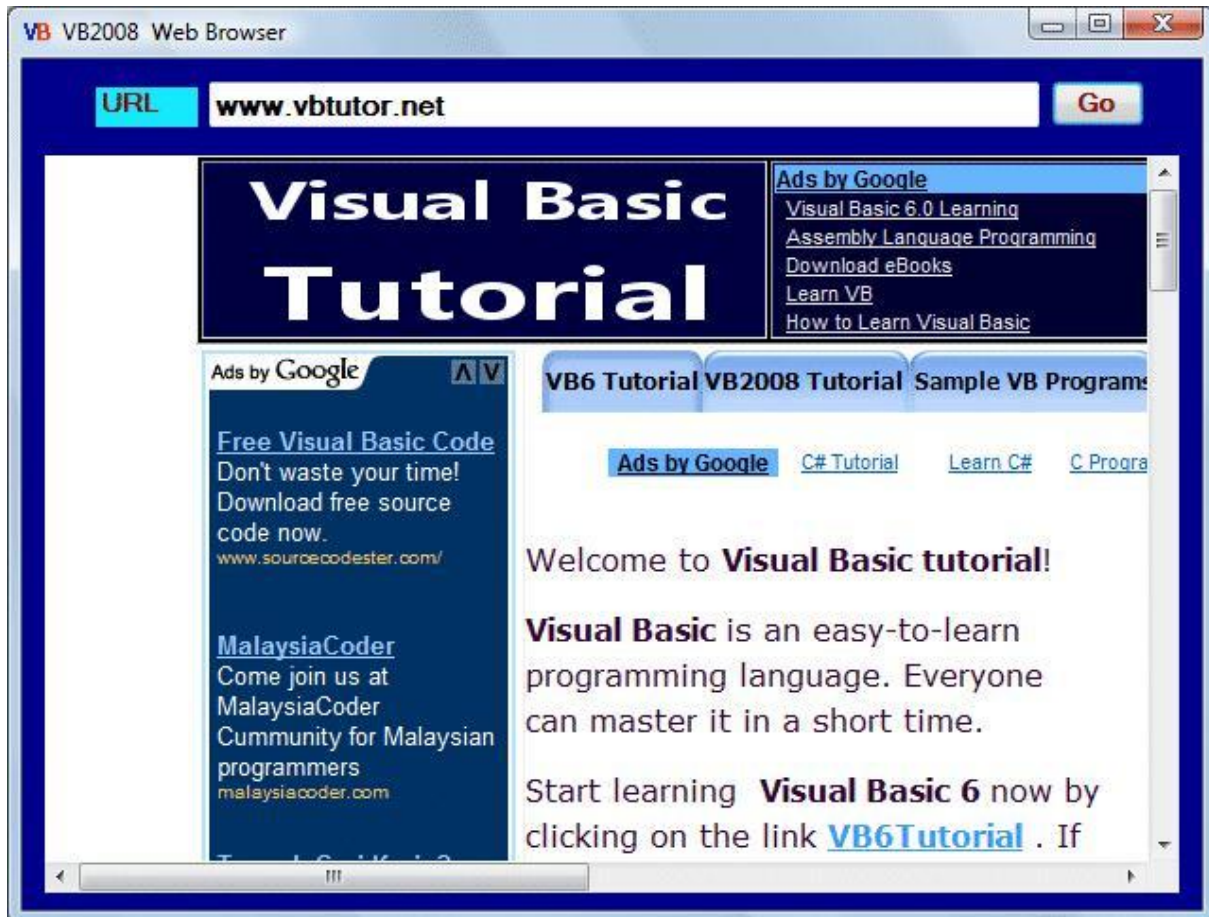
```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
myWebBrowser.Navigate (TextBox1.Text)
```

```
End Sub
```

```
End Class
```

Now run the program, type in any URL and click the Go button. You will be able to browse any web page you want.



Errors Handling

Error handling is an essential procedure in Visual Basic 2010 programming because it can help make the program error-free. An error-free program can run smoothly and efficiently, and the user does not have to face all sorts of problems such as program crash or system hang.

Errors often occur due to incorrect input from the user. For example, the user might make the mistake of attempting to enter a text (string) to a box that is designed to handle only numeric values such as the weight of a person, the computer will not be able to perform arithmetic calculation for text therefore will create an error. We call these errors synchronous errors.

Therefore, a good programmer should be more alert to the parts of program that could trigger errors and should write errors handling code to help the user in managing the errors. Writing errors handling code is a good practice for Visual Basic programmers, so do not try to finish a program fast by omitting the errors handling code. However, there should not be too many errors handling code in the program as it create problems for the programmer to maintain and troubleshoot the program later.

VB2010 has improved a lot in built-in errors handling compared to Visual Basic 6. For example, when the user attempts to divide a number by zero, Vb2010 will not return an error message but gives the 'infinity' as the answer (although this is mathematically incorrect, because it should be undefined)

Using On Error GoTo Syntax

Visual Basic 2010 still supports the VB6 errors handling syntax that is the On Error GoTo program_label structure. Although it has a more advanced error handling method,

we shall deal with that later. We shall now learn how to write errors handling code in VB2010. The syntax for errors handling is

```
On Error GoTo program_label
```

Where **program_label** is the section of code that is designed by the programmer to handle the error committed by the user. Once the program detects an error, the program will jump to the program_label section for error handling.

Example 18.1: Division by Zero

In this example, we will deal with the error of entering non-numeric data into the textboxes that suppose to hold numeric values. The program_label here is error_handler. When the user enter a non-numeric values into the textboxes, the error message will display the text "One of the entries is not a number! Try again!" If no error occurs, it will display the correct answer. Try it out yourself.

The Code

```
Public Class Form1
```

```
Private Sub CmdCalculate_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles CmdCalculate.Click
```

```
Lbl_ErrorMsg.Visible = False
```

```
Dim firstNum, secondNum As Double
```

```
On Error GoTo error_handler
```

```
firstNum = Txt_FirstNumber.Text
```

```
secondNum = Txt_SecondNumber.Text
```

```
Lbl_Answer.Text = firstNum / secondNum
```

```
Exit Sub 'To prevent error handling even the inputs are valid
```

```
error_handler:
```

```
Lbl_Answer.Text = "Error"
```

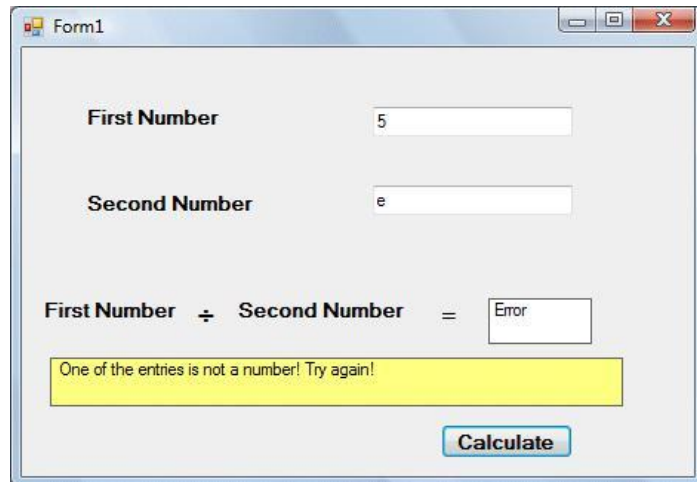
```
Lbl_ErrorMsg.Visible = True
```

```
Lbl_ErrorMsg.Text = " One of the entries is not a number! Try again!"
```

```
End Sub
```

```
End Class
```

The Output

A screenshot of a Windows Form titled "Form1". The form has a light gray background. It contains two input fields: "First Number" with the value "5" and "Second Number" with the value "e". Below these is a calculation display showing "First Number ÷ Second Number =" followed by a text box containing the word "Error". At the bottom, there is a yellow rectangular area containing the message "One of the entries is not a number! Try again!". A blue "Calculate" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Errors Handling using Try...Catch...End Try Structure

VB2010 has adopted a new approach in handling errors, or rather exceptions handling. It is supposed to be more efficient than the old On Error Goto method, where it can handles various types of errors within the Try...Catch...End Try structure.

The structure looks like this

```
Try
```

```
statements
```

```
Catch exception_variable as Exception
```

```
statements to deal with exceptions
```

```
End Try
```

Example 18.2

This is a modification of Example 18.1. Instead of using On Error GoTo method, we use the Try...Catch...End Try method. In this example, the Catch statement will catch the exception when the user enters a non-numeric data and return the error message. If

there is no exception, there will not any action from the Catch statement and the program returns the correct answer.

The code

```
Public Class Form1
```

```
Private Sub CmdCalculate_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles CmdCalculate.Click
```

```
Lbl_ErrorMsg.Visible = False
```

```
Dim firstNum, secondNum, answer As Double
```

```
Try
```

```
firstNum = Txt_FirstNumber.Text
```

```
secondNum = Txt_SecondNumber.Text
```

```
answer = firstNum / secondNum
```

```
Lbl_Answer.Text = answer
```

```
Catch ex As Exception
```

```
Lbl_Answer.Text = "Error"
```

```
Lbl_ErrorMsg.Visible = True
```

```
Lbl_ErrorMsg.Text = " One of the entries is not a number! Try again!"
```

```
End Try
```

```
End Sub
```

```
End Class
```

The output is shown in Figure 18.2

The screenshot shows a Windows application window titled "Form1". Inside the window, there are two text boxes for input. The first is labeled "First Number" and contains the value "6". The second is labeled "Second Number" and contains the value "w". Below these input fields, there is a line of text showing a calculation: "First Number ÷ Second Number = Error". At the bottom of the window, there is a yellow rectangular area containing the text "One of the entries is not a number! Try again!". To the right of this area is a button labeled "Calculate".

Reading and Writing Files

To be able to open a file and read the data from storage unit of a computer, such as a hard drive as well as able to save the data into the storage unit are important functions of a computer program. In fact, the ability to store, retrieve and modify data makes a computer a powerful tool in database management.

In this Chapter, we will learn how to manage data that is stored as a text file. Using text file is an easy way to manage data, although it is not as sophisticated as full-fledged database management software such as SQL Server, Microsoft Access and Oracle. Visual Basic 2010 allows the user to create a text file, save the text file as well as read the text file. It is relatively easy to write code for the above purposes in VB2010.

Reading and writing to a text file in VB2010 required the use of the StreamReader class and the StreamWriter class respectively. StreamReader is a tool that enables the streaming of data by moving it from one location to another so that the user can read it. For example, it allows the user to read a text file that is stored in a hard drive. On the other hand, the StreamWriter class is a tool that can write data input by the user to a storage device such as the hard drive.

Reading a Text File

In order to read a file from the hard disk or any storage device, we need to use the StreamReader class. To achieve that, first we need to include the following statement in the program code:

```
Imports System.IO
```

This line has to precede the whole program code as it is higher in hierarchy than the StreamReader Class. In Fact, this is the concept of object oriented programming where StreamReader is part of the namespace System.IO. You have to put it on top of the whole program (i.e. above the Public Class Form 1 statement). The word import means we import the namespace System.IO into the program. Once we have done that, we can declare a variable of the StreamReader data type with the following statement:

```
Dim FileReader As StreamReader
```

If we don't include the Imports System.IO, we have to use the statement

```
Dim FileReader As IO.StreamReader
```

each time we want to use the StreamReader class.

Now, start a new project and name it in whatever name you wish, we named it TxtEditor here. Now, insert the OpenFileDialog control into the form because we will use it to read the file from the storage device. The default name of the OpenFileDialog control is OpenFileDialog1, you can use this name or you can rename it with a more meaningful name. The OpenFileDialog control will return a DialogResult value that can determine whether the user clicks the OK button or Cancel button. We will also insert a command button and change its displayed text to 'Open'. The user can use it to open and read a certain text file. The following statement will accomplish the task above.

```
Dim results As DialogResult
results = OpenFileDialog1.ShowDialog
If results = DialogResult.OK Then
'Code to be executed if OK button was clicked
Else
'Code to be executed if Cancel button was clicked
End If
```

Next, we insert a textbox ,name it TxtEditor and set its Multiline property to true. It is used for displaying the text from a text file. We also insert a button and name it BtnOpen. In order to read the text file, we need to create a new instant of the StreamReader and connect it to a text file with the following statement:

```
FileReader = New StreamReader(OpenFileDialog1.FileName)
```

In addition, we need to use the ReadToEnd method to read the entire text of a text file and display it in the text box. The syntax is:

```
TxtEditor.Text = FileReader.ReadToEnd( )
```

Lastly, we need to close the file by using the Close() method. The entire code is shown in the box below:

The Code

```
Imports System.IO

Public Class Form1

    Private Sub BtnOpen_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
    System.EventArgs) Handles BtnOpen.Click Dim FileReader As
    StreamReader

    Dim results As DialogResult

    results = OpenFileDialog1.ShowDialog

    If results = DialogResult.OK Then

    FileReader = New StreamReader(OpenFileDialog1.FileName)

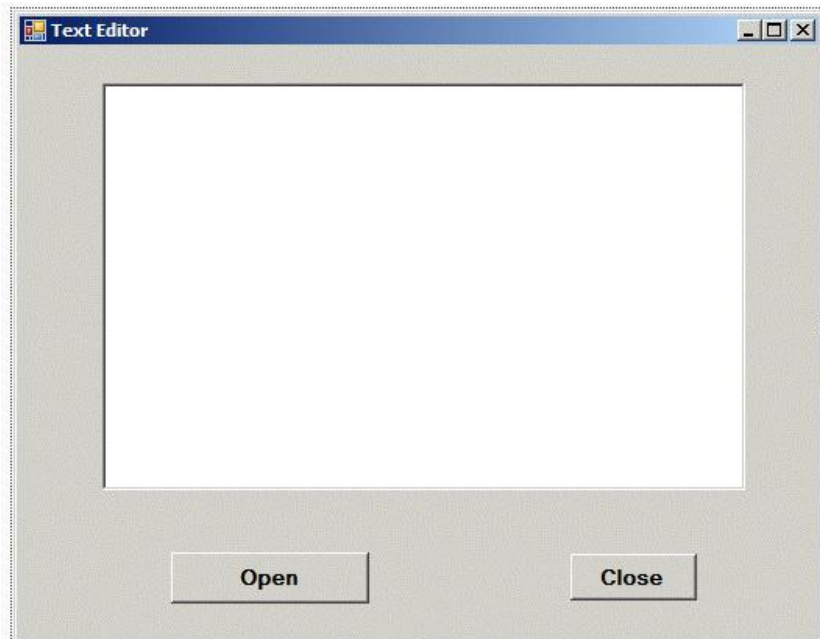
    TxtEditor.Text = FileReader.ReadToEnd()

    FileReader.Close()

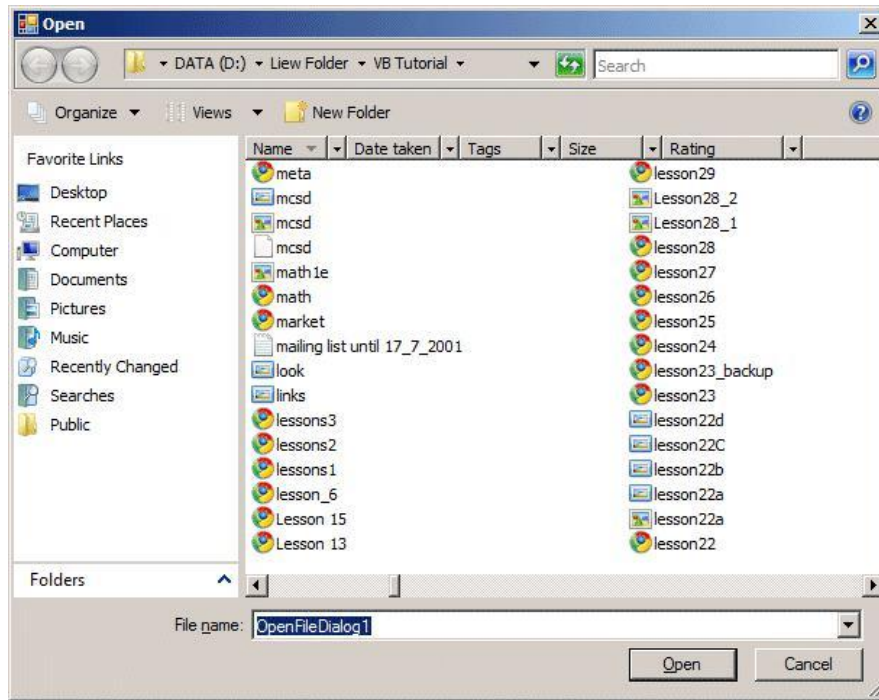
    End If

    End Sub
```

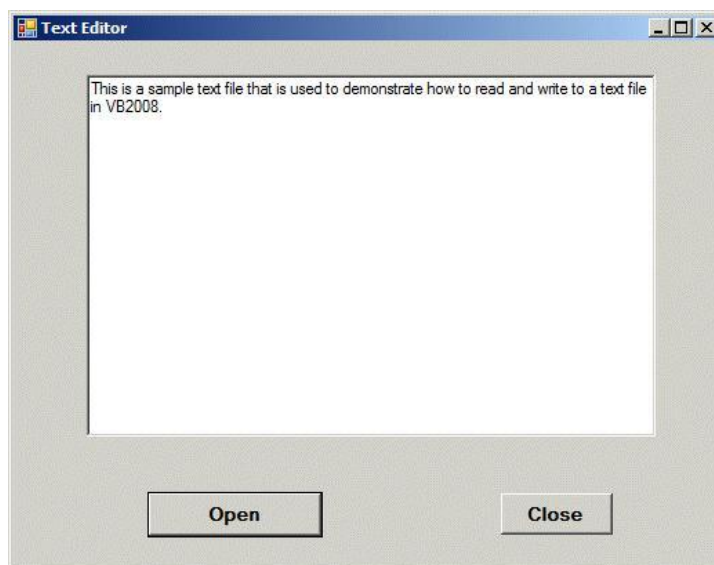
The Design Interface is shown in Figure 19.1



The Open Dialog box is shown in Figure 19.2



The Output Interface is shown in Figure 19.3



Writing to a Text File

Writing a text file means storing the text entered by the user via the textbox into a storage device such as a hard drive. It also means saving the file. To accomplish this task, we need to deploy the StreamWriter Class. You also need to insert the SaveFileDialog control into the form as it is used to save the data into the storage unit like a hard drive. The default name for the SaveFileDialog control is SaveFileDialog1. We also insert another button and name it as BtnSave. The Code is the same as the

code for reading the file, you just change the StreamReader to StreamWriter, and the method from ReadToEnd to Write. The code is shown overleaf.

The code

```
Imports System.IO

Public Class Form1

    Private Sub BtnSave_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs)

        Dim FileWriter As StreamWriter

        Dim results As DialogResult

        results = SaveFileDialog1.ShowDialog

        If results = DialogResult.OK Then

            FileWriter = New StreamWriter(SaveFileDialog1.FileName, False)

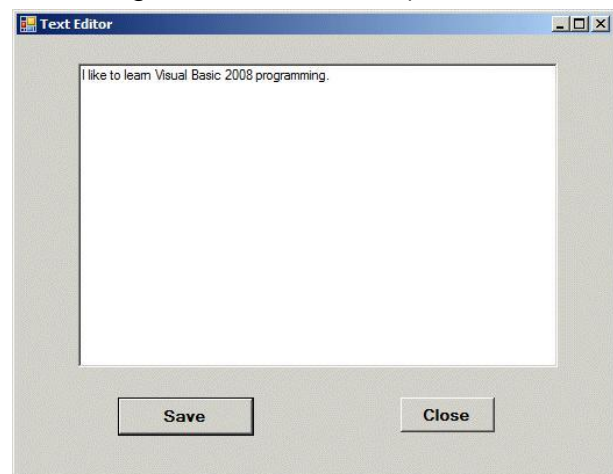
            FileWriter.Write(TxtEditor.Text)

            FileWriter.Close()

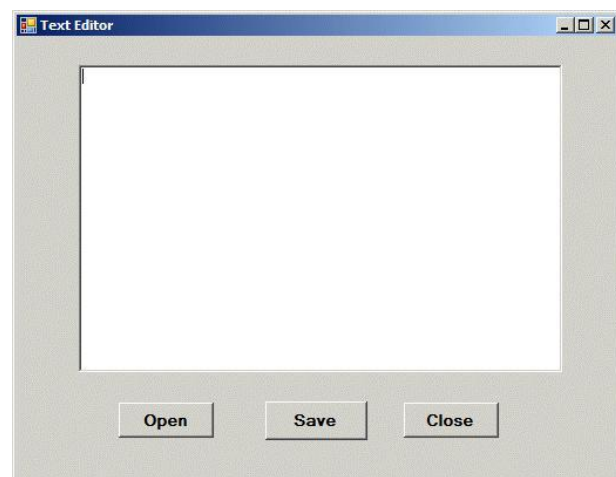
        End If

    End Sub

    The Output Interface
```



When you click the save button, the program will prompt you to key in a file name and the text will be save as a text file. Finally, you can combine the two programs together and create a text editor that can read and write text file, as shown in the Figure 19.5 below.



Creating and Managing Graphics

Creating and managing graphics is easy in earlier versions of Visual Basic as they have built-in drawing tools. For example, In Visual Basic 6, the drawing tools are included in the toolbox where the programmer just need to drag the shape controls into the form to create rectangle, square, ellipse, circle and more. However, its simplicity has the shortcomings; you do not have many choices in creating customized drawings.

Since Visual Basic evolved into a fully OOP language under the VB.net framework, shape controls are no longer available. Now the programmer needs to write code to create various shapes and drawings. Even though the learning curve is steeper, the programmer can write powerful code to create all kinds of graphics. You can even design your own controls

VB2010 offers various graphics capabilities that enable programmers to write code that can draw all kinds of shapes and even fonts. In this Chapter, you will learn how to write code to draw lines and shapes on the VB interface.

Creating the Graphics Object

Before you can draw anything on a form, you need to create the Graphics object in vb2008. A graphics object is created using a CreateGraphics() method. You can create a graphics object that draw to the form itself or a control. For example, if you wish to draw to the form, you can use the following statement:

```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = me.CreateGraphics
```

If you want the graphics object to draw to a picturebox, you can write the following statement:

```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = PictureBox1.CreateGraphics
```

You can also use the textbox as a drawing surface, the statement is:

```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = TextBox1.CreateGraphics
```

The Graphics object that is created does not draw anything on the screen until you call the methods of the Graphics object. In addition, you need to create the **Pen** object as the drawing tool. We will examine the code that can create a pen in the following section.

Creating the Pen object

The **Pen** object can be created using the following code:

```
myPen = New Pen(Brushes.DarkMagenta, 10)
```

In the code, myPen is a Pen variable. You can use any variable name instead of myPen. The first argument of the pen object defines the color of the drawing line and the second argument defines the width of the drawing line.

You can also create a Pen using the following statement:

```
Dim myPen As Pen  
myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5)
```

Where the first argument defines the color (*here is blue, you can change that to red or whatever color you want*) and the second argument defines the width of the drawing line.

Having created the Graphics and the Pen object, you are now ready to draw graphics on the screen, which we will show you in the following section.

Drawing a Line

In this section, we will show you how to draw a straight line on the Form. First, launch Visual basic 2008 Express. In the startup page, drag a button into the form. Double click on the button and key in the following code.

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click  
  
    Dim myGraphics As Graphics = me.CreateGraphics  
  
    Dim myPen As Pen  
  
    myPen = New Pen(Brushes.DarkMagenta, 10)  
  
    myGraphics.DrawLine(myPen, 10, 10, 100, 10)  
  
End Sub
```

The second line created the Graphics object and the third and fourth line create the Pen object. The fifth line draws a line on the Form using the DrawLine method. The first argument uses the Pen object created by you, the second argument and the third arguments define the coordinate of the starting point of the line, the fourth and the last arguments define the ending coordinate of the line. The general syntax to draw line is `object.DrawLine(Pen, x1, y1, x2, y2)`

Run the program and you can see a purple line appear on the screen, as shown in Figure 20.1.



Creating a Rectangle

To draw a rectangle on the screen in VB2010, there are two ways:

(i) The first way is to draw a rectangle directly using the **DrawRectangle** method by specifying its upper-left corner's coordinates and its width and height. You also need to create a Graphics and a Pen object to handle the actual drawing. The method to draw the rectangle is **DrawRectangle**.

The syntax is:

```
myGraphics.DrawRectangle (myPen, X, Y, width, height)
```

Where myGraphics is the variable name of the Graphics object and myPen is the variable name of the Pen object created by you. You can use any valid and meaningful variable names. X, Y is the coordinate of the upper left corner of the rectangle while width and height are self-explanatory, i.e., the width and height of the rectangle.

The sample code is shown below:

```
Dim myPen As Pen
```

```
myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5)
```

```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics
```

```
myGraphics.DrawRectangle (myPen, 0, 0, 100, 50)
```

(ii) The second way is to create a rectangle object first and then draw this triangle using the **DrawRectangle** method. The syntax is as shown below:

```
myGraphics.DrawRectangle (myPen, myRectangle)
```

Where **myRectangle** is the rectangle object created by you, the user.

The code to create a rectangle object is as shown below:

```
Dim myRectangle As New Rectangle
```

```
myRect.X = 10
```

```
myRect.Y = 10
```

```
myRect.Width = 100
```

```
myRect.Height = 50
```

You can also create a rectangle object using a one-line code as follows:

```
Dim myRectangle As New Rectangle(X, Y, width, height)
```

The code to draw the above rectangle is

```
myGraphics.DrawRectangle (myPen, myRectangle)
```

The sample code is shown below:

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
Dim myRect As New Rectangle
```

```
myRect.X = 10
```

```
myRect.Y = 10
```

```
myRect.Width = 100
```

```
myRect.Height = 50
```

```
Dim myPen As Pen
```

```
myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5)
```

```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics
```

```
myGraphics.DrawRectangle(myPen, myRect)
```

```
End Sub
```

Customizing Line Style of the Pen Object

The shapes we draw so far were drawn with solid line, we can customize the line style of the Pen object so that we have dotted line, line consisting of dashes and more. For example, the syntax to draw with dotted line is shown below:

```
myPen.DashStyle=Drawing.Drawing2D.DashStyle.Dot
```

The last argument, Dot, specifies a particular line DashStyle value, a line that makes up of dots. The following code draws a rectangle with red dotted line.

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
Dim myPen As Pen
```

```
myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Red, 5)
```

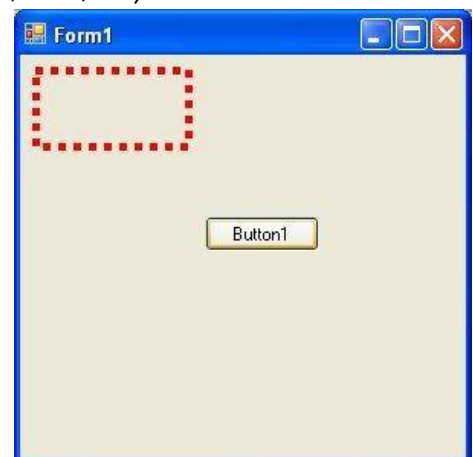
```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics
```

```
myPen.DashStyle = Drawing.Drawing2D.DashStyle.Dot
```

```
myGraphics.DrawRectangle(myPen, 10, 10, 100, 50)
```

```
End Sub
```

Run the program and you can see a dotted-line rectangle appears on the screen, as shown in Figure



Drawing an Ellipse

First, we need to understand the principal behind drawing an ellipse. The basic structure of any shape is a rectangle. Ellipse is an oval shape that is bounded by a rectangle, as shown in Figure 20.3 below:

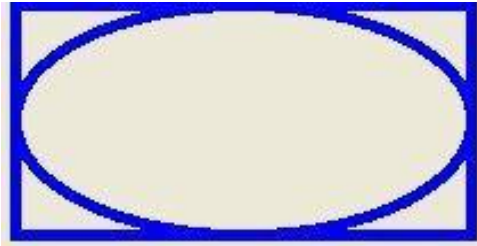


Figure 20.3

Therefore, you need to create a Rectangle object before you can draw an ellipse. This rectangle serves as a bounding rectangle for the ellipse. On the other hand, you can still draw an ellipse with the **DrawEllipse** method without first creating a rectangle. We will show you both ways.

In the first method, let say you have created a rectangle object known as myRectangle and a pen object as myPen, then you can draw an ellipse using the following statement:

```
myGraphics.DrawEllipse (myPen, myRectangle)
```

* Assume you have also already created the Graphics object myGraphics.

The following is an example of the full code.

```
Dim myPen As Pen
myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5)
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics
Dim myRectangle As New Rectangle
myRectangle.X = 10
myRectangle.Y = 10
myRectangle.Width = 200
myRectangle.Height = 100
myGraphics.DrawEllipse (myPen, myRectangle)
```

Run the program and you see the ellipse appears on the screen, as shown in Figure 20.4.

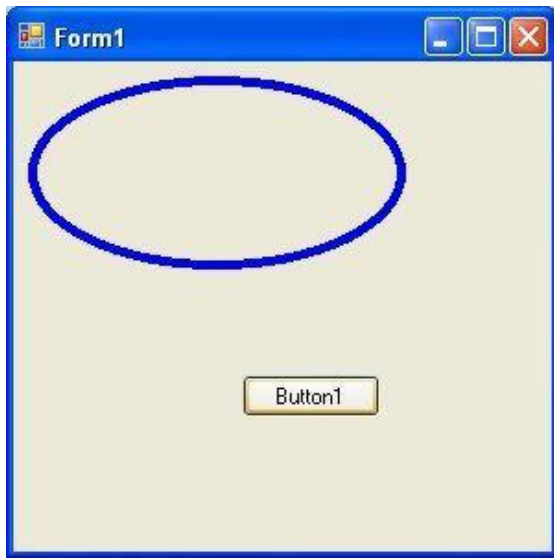


Figure 20.4

The second method is using the DrawEllipse method without creating a rectangle object. Of course, you still have to create the Graphics and the Pen objects. The syntax is:

```
myGraphics.DrawEllipse(myPen, X,Y, Width, Height)
```

Where (X, Y) are the coordinates of the upper left corner of the bounding rectangle, width is the width of the ellipse and height is the height of the ellipse.

The following is an example of the full code:

```
Dim myPen As Pen
```

```
myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5)
```

```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics
```

```
myGraphics.DrawEllipse (myPen, 10, 10, 200, 100)
```

Drawing a Circle

After you have learned how to draw an ellipse, drawing a circle becomes very simple. We use exactly the same methods used in the preceding section but modify the width and height so that they are of the same values.

The following examples draw the same circle.

Example (a)

```
Dim myPen As Pen

myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5)

Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics

Dim myRectangle As New Rectangle

myRectangle.X = 10

myRectangle.Y = 10

myRectangle.Width = 100

myRectangle.Height = 100

myGraphics.DrawEllipse(myPen, myRectangle)
```

Example (b)

```
Dim myPen As Pen

myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5)

Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics

myGraphics.DrawEllipse(myPen, 10, 10, 100, 100)
```

Run the program and you can see a circle appears on the screen, as shown in Figure 20.5

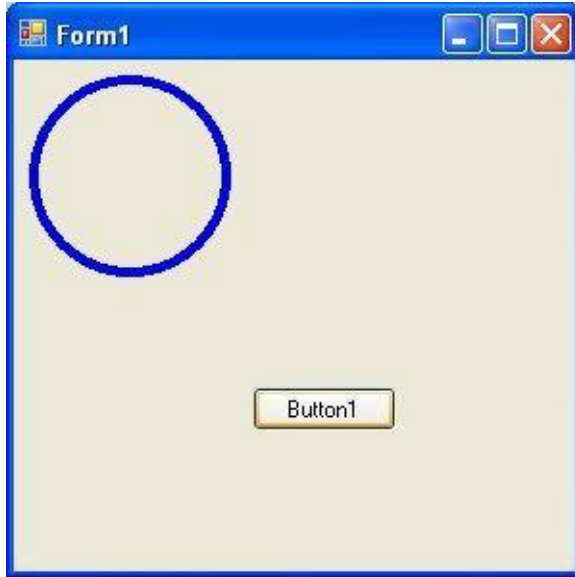


Figure 20.5

Drawing Text

In order to draw text on the screen, we can use the DrawString method. The format is as follows:

```
myGraphics.DrawString (myText, myFont, mybrush, X , Y)
```

Where myGraphics is the Graphics object, myText is the text you wish to display on the screen, myFont is the font object created by you, myBrush is the brush style created by you and X, Y are the coordinates of upper left corner of the Text.

You can create your **Font object** using the following statement:

```
myFont = New System.Drawing.Font("Verdana", 20)
```

Where the first argument of the font is the font typeface and the second argument is the font size. You can add a third argument as font style, either bold, italic, underline.

Here are some examples:

```
myFont = New System.Drawing.Font("Verdana", 20, FontStyle.Bold)
```

```
myFont = New System.Drawing.Font("Verdana", 20, FontStyle.Underline)
```

```
myFont = New System.Drawing.Font("Verdana", 20, FontStyle.Italic)
myFont = New System.Drawing.Font("Verdana", 20, FontStyle.Regular)
```

To create the **Brush** object, you can use the following statement:

```
Dim myBrush As Brush
myBrush = New Drawing.SolidBrush(Color.BrushColor)
```

Besides the seven colors, some of the common Brush Colors are AliceBlue, AquaMarine Beige, DarkMagenta, DrarkOliveGreen, SkyBlue and more. You do not have to remember the names of all the colors, the intelliSense will let you browse through the colors in a drop-down menu once you type the dot after the word Color.

Now we shall proceed to draw the font using the sample code below:

```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics
Dim myFont As Font
Dim myBrush As Brush
myBrush = New Drawing.SolidBrush(Color.DarkOrchid)
myFont = New System.Drawing.Font("Verdana", 20, FontStyle.Underline)
myGraphics.DrawString("Visual Basic 2010", myFont, myBrush, 10, 10)
```

Run the program above and you can see the text “Visual Basic 2010 “appears on the screen, as shown in Figure 20.6.

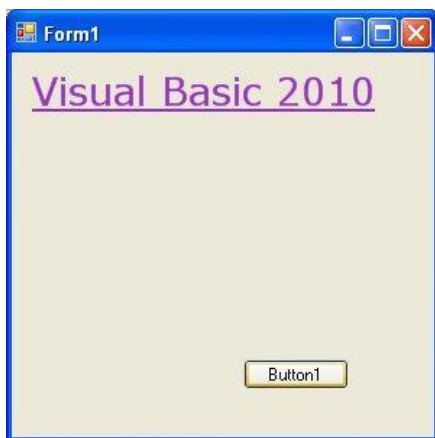


Figure 20.6

You can modify the preceding code if you do not want to create the Font and the Brush objects. You can use the font of an existing object such as the Form and the System Colors. Replace the last line in the preceding example with this line.

```
myGraphics.DrawString("Visual Basic 2010", me.Font,  
System.Drawing.Brushes.DarkOrchid, 10, 10)
```

You can also add an InputBox, which let the user enter his or her message then displays the message on the screen.

This is the sample code is as follows:

```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics  
Dim myFont As Font  
Dim myBrush As Brush  
Dim userMsg As String  
UserMsg = InputBox("What is your message?", "Message Entry Form",  
"Enter your message here", 100, 200)  
myBrush = New Drawing.SolidBrush(Color.DarkOrchid)  
myFont = New System.Drawing.Font("Verdana", 20, FontStyle.Underline)  
myGraphics.DrawString (userMsg, myFont, myBrush, 10, 10)
```

Drawing and Filling an Ellipse

The syntax to fill an ellipse with the color defined by the brush object is:

```
myGraphics.FillEllipse (myBrush, 0, 0, 150, 150)
```

The complete code is shown in the example below:

```
Dim myPen As Pen  
  
Dim myBrush As Brush  
  
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics  
  
myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5) myBrush  
= New SolidBrush(Color.Coral)
```

```
myGraphics.DrawEllipse(myPen, 0, 0, 150, 150)
```

```
myGraphics.Ellipse(myBrush, 0, 0, 150, 150)
```

Run the program and you can see a coral color ellipse appears on the screen, as shown in Figure 20.11

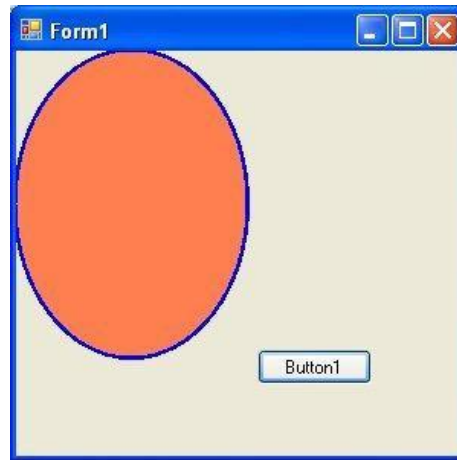


Figure 20.11

Drawing and Filling a Polygon

The syntax to fill a polygon with the color defined by the brush object is:

```
myGraphics.FillPolygon (myBrush, myPoints)
```

The complete code is shown in the example below:

```
Dim myPen As Pen
Dim myBrush As Brush
Dim A As New Point(10, 10)
Dim B As New Point(100, 50)
Dim C As New Point(120, 150)
Dim D As New Point(60, 200)
Dim myPoints As Point() = {A, B, C, D}
myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5)
myBrush = New SolidBrush(Color.Coral)
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics
myGraphics.DrawPolygon(myPen, myPoints)
myGraphics.FillPolygon(myBrush, myPoints)
```

Running the code produces the image as shown in Figure 20.12.

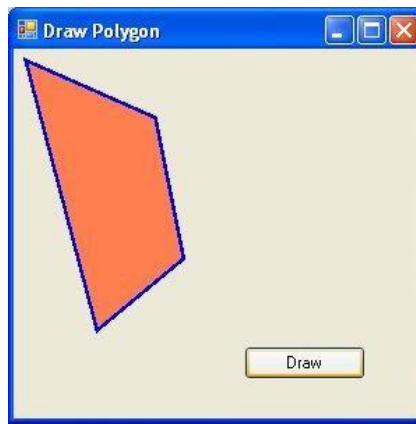


Figure 20.12

Drawing and Filling a Pie

The syntax to fill a pie with the color defined by the brush object is:

```
myGraphics.FillPie(myBrush, X, Y, width, height, StartAngle, SweepAngle)
```

The complete code is shown in the example below:

```
Dim myPen As Pen
```

```
Dim myBrush As Brush
```

```
myPen = New Pen(Drawing.Color.Blue, 5)
```

```
myBrush = New SolidBrush(Color.Coral)
```

```
Dim myGraphics As Graphics = Me.CreateGraphics
```

```
myGraphics.DrawPie(myPen, 30, 40, 150, 150, 0, 60)
```

```
myGraphics.FillPie(myBrush, 30, 40, 150, 150, 0, 60)
```

Run the program and you can see a coral color pie appears on the screen, as shown in Figure 20.13.

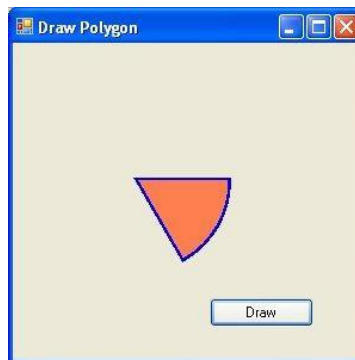


Figure 20.13

Working with Arrays

By definition, an array is a list of variables with the same data type and name. When we work with a single item, we only need to use one variable. However, if we have a list of items, which are of similar type to deal with, we need to declare an array of variables instead of using a variable for each item

For example, if we need to enter one hundred names, it is difficult to declare 100 different names; this is a waste of time and efforts. Therefore, instead of declaring one hundred different variables, we need to declare only one array. We differentiate each item in the array by using subscript, the index value of each item, for example name(0), name(1), name(2)etc. , which will make declaring variables streamline and much systematic.

Dimension of an Array

An array can be one dimensional or multidimensional. One-dimensional array is like a list of items or a table that consists of one row of items or one column of items. Table 21.1 shows a one-dimensional array.

Student Name	Name(0)	Name(1)	Name(2)	Name(3)	Name(4)	Name(5)
--------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

Table 21.1 One-dimensional Array

A two dimensional array is a table of items that make up of rows and columns. The format for a one-dimensional array is ArrayName(x), the format for a two dimensional array is ArrayName(x, y) and a three dimensional array is ArrayName(x, y, z). Normally it is sufficient to use one-dimensional and two-dimensional arrays; you only need to use higher dimensional arrays if you need to deal with problems that are more complex.

Declaring an Array

We can use Public or Dim statement to declare an array just as the way we declare a single variable. The Public statement declares an array so that it can be used throughout the entire application while the Dim statement declares an array that can be used only in a local procedure.

Declaring One Dimensional Array

The general format to declare a one-dimensional array is as follow:

```
Dim arrayName(subs) as dataType
```

The argument subs indicates the last subscript in the array.

Example 21.1

```
Dim CusName(9) as String
```

declare an array that consists of 10 elements starting from CusName(0) to CusName(9).

Example 21.2

```
Dim Count (100 to 500) as Integer
```

The statement above declares an array that consists of the first element starting from Count (100) and ends at Count (500)

Creating a Name List

In this program, we want let the user create a name list by entering name into a list box. At runtime, the user will be prompted to enter ten student names. The names entered will appear in a list box. First, start a new project and name it Student Data. Next, insert a list box and a button into the form. Change properties of the controls as follows:

Control	Properties
Form1	Name: StudentList Text: Student List
ListBox	Name: NameList
Control1	Name: BtnAdd Text: Add Name

Table 21.3

Next, click the button and key in the following code:

```
Private Sub BtnAdd_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As  
System.EventArgs) Handles BtnAdd.Click  
  
    Dim studentName(9) As String  
  
    Dim num As Integer  
  
    For num = 0 To 9  
  
        studentName(num) = Microsoft.VisualBasic.InputBox("Enter a name and  
Click OK", "Names Entry Form", "Enter name here", 100, 200)  
  
        NameList.Items.Add(studentName(num))  
  
    Next  
  
End Sub
```

When you press F5 and run the program, you will see a popup dialog box where you can enter a name. After you have entered the name and click Ok, the same dialog box will appear again for you to enter the second student name. The process will repeat ten times. The dialog box is as shown in Figure 21.1

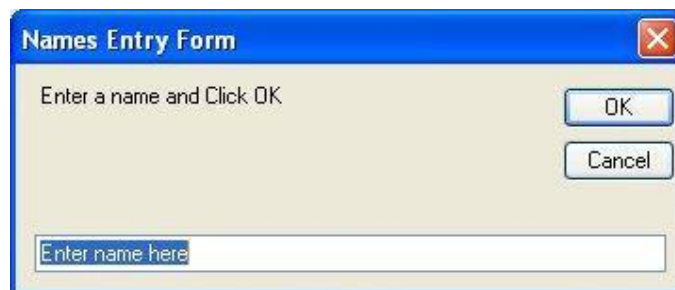


Figure 21.1

After entering ten names, you can see the ten names appear on the list box, as shown in Figure 21.2



Declaring Two Dimensional Array

The general format to declare a two dimensional array is as follow:

Dim ArrayName(Sub1,Sub2) as dataType

Total number of elements will be (sub1+1)x(sub2+1). For example,

Dim Score(2,3) will produce an array that comprises 3x4=12 elements, as shown in Table 21.2

Score(0,0)	Score(0,1)	Score(0,2)	Score(0,3)
Score(1,0)	Score(1,1)	Score(1,2)	Score(1,3)
Score(2,0)	Score(2,1)	Score(2,2)	Score(2,3)

Table 21.2 Two Dimensional Array

Example 21.4: Managing Students' Examination Scores

In this example, we want to key in the examination marks for five students and four subjects. Since we are handling two variables here, i.e. name and subject, we need to declare a two dimensional array, as follows:

Dim score (4, 3) as String

The first dimension represents student names and the second dimension represents the subjects. Combining both produces the scores for each student for each subject. For example, the score for the first student for the first subject will be score (0, 0). We can design a program to let the user enter the student names, subject titles as well as the scores. We need to use two nested loops involving the For...Next structure. The first loop gets the students' names and the second loop gets the students' scores for the four subjects. To achieve the purpose, we introduce a one dimensional array StudentName(4) to store the names of the five students. We also introduce a one dimensional array mark(3) to store the mark of every subject for every student .After entering the name of the first student and his scores, we get something like this:

Adam	45	60	56	80
------	----	----	----	----

The scores of students in array form are shown in Table 21.3

studentName(0)=Adam	Score(0,0)=45	Score(0,1)=60	Score(0,2)=56	Score(0,3)=80
---------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Table 21.3; Scores for first students

The variable mark are assigned the values of the scores as shown in table 21.4

studentName(0)=Adam	mark(0)=45	mark(1)=60	mark(2)=56	mark(3)=80
---------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Table 21.4: Score in terms of mark

The process repeats until the user has entered all the data. The completed data appear as a two-dimensional array, as shown in terms of scores in Table 21.5 and in terms of marks in Table 21.6.

studentName(0)=Adam	score(0,0)=45	score(0,1)=56	score(0,2)=78	score(0,3)=68
studentName(1)=Brian	score(1,0)=64	score(1,1)=76	score(1,2)=80	score(1,3)=90
studentName(2)=Florence	score(2,0)=87	score(2,1)=80	score(2,2)=90	score(2,3)=100
studentName(3)=Gloria	score(3,0)=45	score(3,1)=54	score(3,2)=34	score(3,3)=48
studentName(4)=Mandy	score(4,0)=56	score(4,1)=87	score(4,2)=68	score(4,3)=66

Table 21.5

studentName(0)=Adam	mark(0)=45	mark(1)=56	mark(2)=78	mark(3)=68
studentName(1)=Brian	mark(0)=64	mark(1)=76	mark(2)=80	mark(3)=90
studentName(2)=Florence	mark(0)=87	mark(1)=80	mark(2)=90	mark(3)=100
studentName(3)=Gloria	mark(0)=45	mark(1)=54	mark(2)=34	mark(3)=48
studentName(4)=Mandy	mark(0)=56	mark(1)=87	mark(2)=68	mark(3)=66

Table 21.6

In this program, we insert a list box and name it NameList. We also introduce a button and name it BtnAdd. Change the form title from Form1 to “Examination Scores”

Now click the button and enter the code. In the code, we declare studentName (4) and mark(3) as one-dimensional array

The code

```
Private Sub BtnAdd_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles BtnAdd.Click

    Dim studentName(4) As String

    Dim score(4, 3) As String

    Dim mark(3) As String

    Dim num1, num2 As Integer

    For num1 = 0 To 4

        studentName(num1) = Microsoft.VisualBasic.InputBox("Enter a name and
Click OK", "Names Entry Form", "Enter name here", 100, 200)

    For num2 = 0 To 3

        score(num1, num2) = Microsoft.VisualBasic.InputBox("Enter score and
Click OK", "Scores Entry Form", "Enter Score here", 100, 200)

        mark(num2) = score(num1, num2)

    Next

    NameList.Items.Add(studentName(num1) & vbTab & mark(0) & vbTab &
mark(1) & vbTab & mark(2) & vbTab & mark(3))

Next

End Sub

Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs)
Handles Me.Load

    'To Label the the subjects' titles at the top of the list NameList.Items.Add("" &
vbTab & "English" & vbTab & "Science" & vbTab &
```

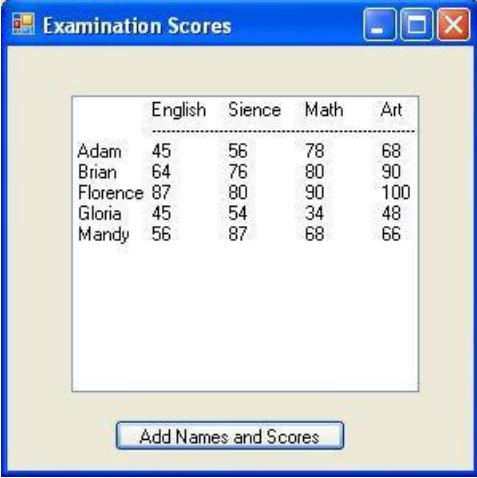
"Math" & vbCrLf & "Art")

'To draw a separation line between the subjects' titles and the scores

NameList.Items.Add("'" & vbCrLf & "-----")

End Sub

The output is shown in Figure 21.3



	English	Science	Math	Art
Adam	45	56	78	68
Brian	64	76	80	90
Florence	87	80	90	100
Gloria	45	54	34	48
Mandy	56	87	68	66

Figure 21.3

The above example has demonstrated the practical usage of arrays. If you wish to add more features to the program, you can modify the code easily, like writing the code to obtain the total mark and average mark.

Working with Menus and Toolbar

Menus and toolbars remain as the standard features of all windows applications despite the development of more sophisticated GUI. The menu bar contains menus, which contain groups of menu items that the user can use to execute certain commands to perform certain tasks like opening a file, saving a file, printing a page, formatting a page and more. On the other hand, a standard toolbar displays icons that can be used to open a file, save a file, viewing a document, printing a document and more.

In this chapter, we will show you how to add Menus and icons to the toolbar of your applications. We will use the text editor from the chapter 19 but now we shall execute the commands using the menus and the toolbar icons. We shall also make this program more powerful by enabling it to format the text as well as to print out the text from the text file.

In this project, we will add MenuStrip1, ToolStrip1, SaveFileDialog1, OpenFileDialog1, PrintDialog1 and FontDialog1 controls to the form.

Adding Menus

Open the text editor file from the chapter 19, but now we will clear the buttons and add menus instead. First, drag the Menu Strip and position it at the top part of the form. Add the first top-level menu by typing it in the textbox that appears with a blurred text “Type Here”. The first menu you will add is File, but you type it with the ampersand sign in front, like this, &File. The reason is the ampersand sign will underline the letter F, File at runtime so that the user can use the keyboard short-cut keys to execute a command. The second top-level menu that we shall add is Format, which we type it as &Format.

The next step is to add menu items to the File and the Format Menu. The three menu items that we are going to add to the File menu are Open, Save, Print and Exit, type them as &Open, &Save, &Print and E&xit. The menu items that we will add to the Format menu are Font (type it as Fo&nt), Font Color (type it as Font &Color) and Background Color (type it as &Background Color). The menu items can be moved upward or downward easily by dragging them. They can be deleted easily by pressing the right mouse button and then click deleted in the pop-up dialog.

When we run the finished design, we shall see a window application that comprises menus and menu items, as shown in Figure 241. Notice the underlined characters of the menu items.



Figure 241

Writing Code for the Menu Items

The application in the preceding section is not able to do anything yet until we write code for the menu items.

The menu item **Open** should execute a command that will allow the user to choose a file from a storage source and open it via a pop-up dialog. The code is the same as the

code to read text file in the previous chapter. It involves the use of the OpenFileDialog control. Now, double click on the Open menu item and enter the code as follows:

```
Private Sub OpenToolStripMenuItem_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal  
e As System.EventArgs) Handles OpenToolStripMenuItem.Click
```

```
    Dim FileReader As StreamReader
```

```
    Dim results As DialogResult
```

```
    results = OpenFileDialog1.ShowDialog
```

```
    If results = DialogResult.OK Then
```

```
        FileReader = New StreamReader(OpenFileDialog1.FileName)
```

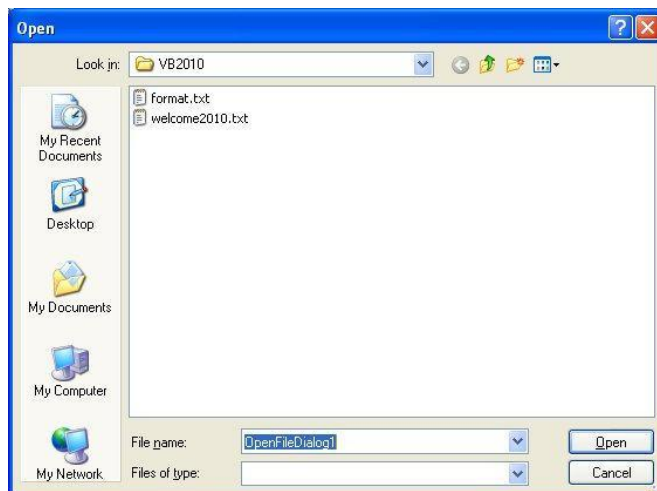
```
        TxtEditor.Text = FileReader.ReadToEnd( )
```

```
        FileReader.Close( )
```

```
    End If
```

```
End Sub
```

Remember place the statement `Imports System.IO` before `Public Class Form1` so that the program is able to read the file. The open dialog is shown in Figure 24.2



Menu item **Save** executes command that writes file to the computer storage unit. The code is the same as the code for writing file in the previous chapter. Click on the Save menu item and enter the following code:

```
Private Sub SaveToolStripMenuItem_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal  
e As System.EventArgs) Handles SaveToolStripMenuItem.Click  
    Dim FileWriter As StreamWriter  
    Dim results As DialogResult  
    results = SaveFileDialog1.ShowDialog  
    If results = DialogResult.OK Then  
        FileWriter = New StreamWriter(SaveFileDialog1.FileName, False)  
        FileWriter.Write(TxtEditor.Text)  
        FileWriter.Close()  
    End If  
End Sub
```

Writing code for the Print command requires the use of the PrintDialog control. It comprises two parts, the first part is to presents a print dialog for the user to set the options to print and second part is to print the document. Click on the print menu item and enter the following code:

i) The code to presents a print dialog

```
Private Sub PrintToolStripMenuItem_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal  
e As System.EventArgs) Handles PrintToolStripMenuItem.Click  
    'Let the user to choose the page range to print.  
    PrintDialog1.AllowSomePages = True  
    'Display the help button.  
    PrintDialog1.ShowHelp = True  
    PrintDialog1.Document = docToPrint
```

```

Dim result As DialogResult = PrintDialog1.ShowDialog()

If (result = DialogResult.OK) Then
    docToPrint.Print()
End If
End Sub

```

ii) The code to print the document

```

Private Sub document_PrintPage(ByVal sender As Object, _
    ByVal e As System.Drawing.Printing.PrintPageEventArgs) _
    Handles docToPrint.PrintPage

Dim mytext As String
mytext = TxtEditor.Text

Dim printFont As New System.Drawing.Font _
    ("Arial", 12, System.Drawing.FontStyle.Regular)

' Format and print the text
e.Graphics.DrawString(mytext, printFont, _
    System.Drawing.Brushes.Black, 10, 10)
End Sub

```

Adding Toolbar Icons

Still using the same file, we shall now add some toolbar items in form of icons. You can lookup for some free icons sites in Google to download the icons you intend to place on your toolbar. In our example, we need six icons namely the Open icon, the Save icon, the Print icon, the Font Style and Formatting icon, the Font Color icon and the Background Color icon.

To add items to the toolbar, click on the small icon on the leftmost corner of the toolbar and choose button from the dropdown list, as shown in Figure 25.3

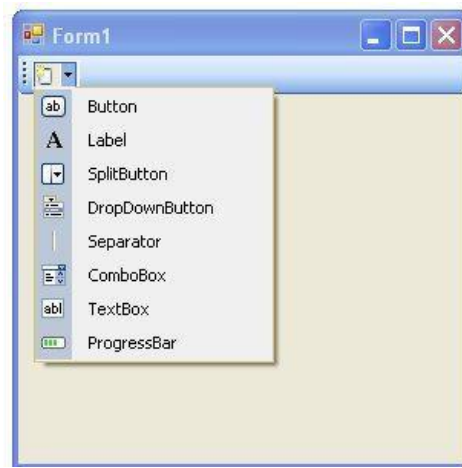


Figure 24.3

Right click on the button and choose properties window from the dropdown list, then proceed to change the default image by clicking the three-dot button on the right of the image property. Choose an icon or image file from your hard drive that you wish to load, as shown in Figure 24.4 and Figure 24.5

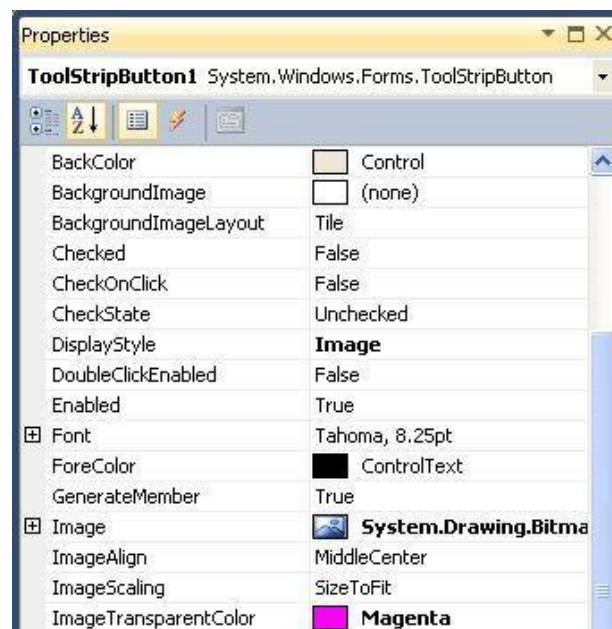


Figure 24.4: Properties window of the ToolStrip Button

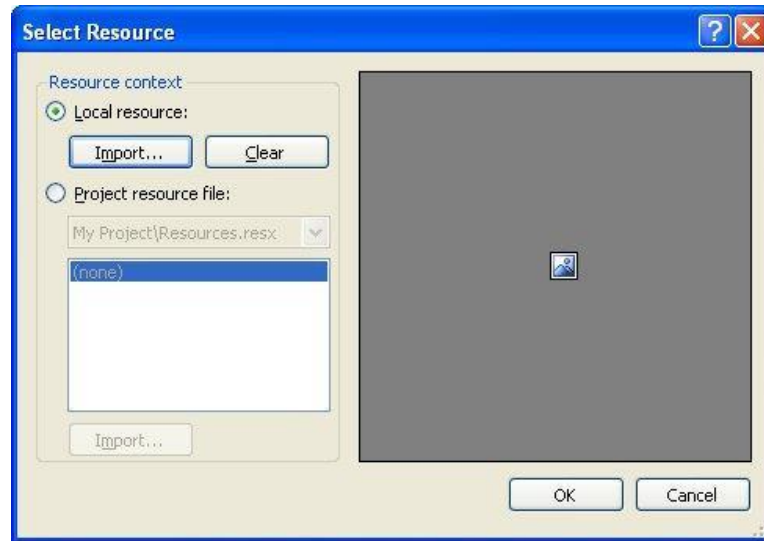


Figure 24.5: Dialog to select image file

Using the aforementioned method, we have added the following toolbar items and set their properties as shown in Table 24.1. The ToolTipText is to display text when the user places his or her mouse over the toolbar icon. The purpose is to provide information about the action that can be executed by clicking the icon.







Toolbar Item	Name	ToolTipText
	ToolOpen	Open
	ToolSave	Save
	ToolPrint	Print
	ToolFontStyle	Font Style and Formatting
	ToolFontColor	Font Color
	ToolBkColor	Background Color

Table 24.1

The finished interface is shown in Figure 24.6

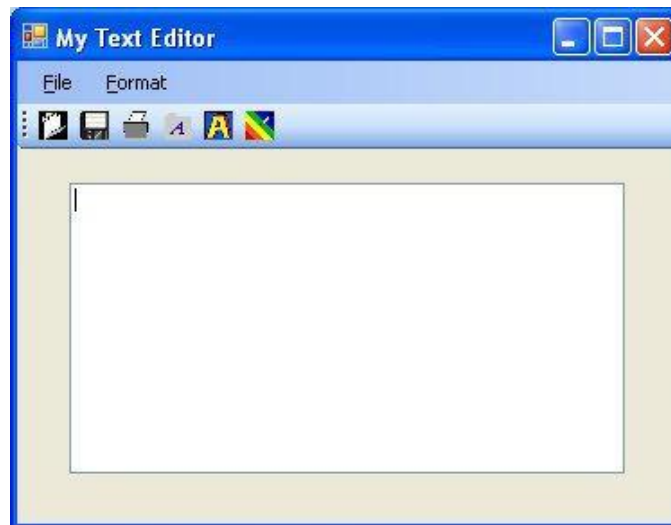



Figure 24.6

Next, we shall write code for every item on the tool bar. The codes are the same as the codes we programmed for the menu items.

Open Folder	
The Code: <pre>Private Sub ToolOpen_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles ToolOpen.Click Dim FileReader As StreamReader Dim results As DialogResult results = OpenFileDialog1.ShowDialog If results = DialogResult.OK Then FileReader = New StreamReader(OpenFileDialog1.FileName) TxtEditor.Text = FileReader.ReadToEnd() FileReader.Close() End If End Sub</pre>	

Save File



The Code:

```
Private Sub ToolSave_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles ToolSave.Click
    Dim FileWriter As StreamWriter

    Dim results As DialogResult

    results = SaveFileDialog1.ShowDialog

    If results = DialogResult.OK Then

        FileWriter = New StreamWriter(SaveFileDialog1.FileName, False)

        FileWriter.Write(TxtEditor.Text)

        FileWriter.Close()

    End If

End Sub
```

Print



The Code

```
Private Sub ToolPrint_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles ToolPrint.Click

    PrintDialog1.AllowSomePages = True

    PrintDialog1.ShowHelp = True

    PrintDialog1.Document = docToPrint

    Dim result As DialogResult = PrintDialog1.ShowDialog()

    If (result = DialogResult.OK) Then
        docToPrint.Print()
    End If

End Sub
```

Format Font Style



The Code

```
Private Sub ToolFontStyle_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles ToolFontStyle.Click
    FontDialog1.ShowColor = True

    FontDialog1.Font = TxtEditor.Font

    FontDialog1.Color = TxtEditor.ForeColor

    If FontDialog1.ShowDialog() <> DialogResult.Cancel Then

        TxtEditor.Font = FontDialog1.Font TxtEditor.ForeColor
        = FontDialog1.Color

    End If

End Sub
```

Font Color



The Code

```
Private Sub ToolFontColor_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles ToolFontColor.Click

    Dim MyDialog As New ColorDialog()

    MyDialog.AllowFullOpen = False

    MyDialog.ShowHelp = True


    MyDialog.Color = TxtEditor.ForeColor

    If (MyDialog.ShowDialog() = Windows.Forms.DialogResult.OK) Then

        TxtEditor.ForeColor = MyDialog.Color

    End If

End Sub
```


Background Color	
<p>The Code</p> <pre> Private Sub ToolBkColor_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles ToolBkColor.Click Dim MyDialog As New ColorDialog() MyDialog.AllowFullOpen = False MyDialog.ShowHelp = True MyDialog.Color = TxtEditor.BackColor If (MyDialog.ShowDialog() = Windows.Forms.DialogResult.OK) Then TxtEditor.BackColor = MyDialog.Color End If End Sub </pre>	

To test the program, press F5 to run it. Enter the Text “Welcome to Visual Basic 2010 programming” into the text editor, then use the menu items or the toolbar icons to change the font size to 14 ,font color to yellow and the background color to blue. Run the program and you will see the menus and toolbar icons appear on top of the text editor, as shown in Figure 24.7

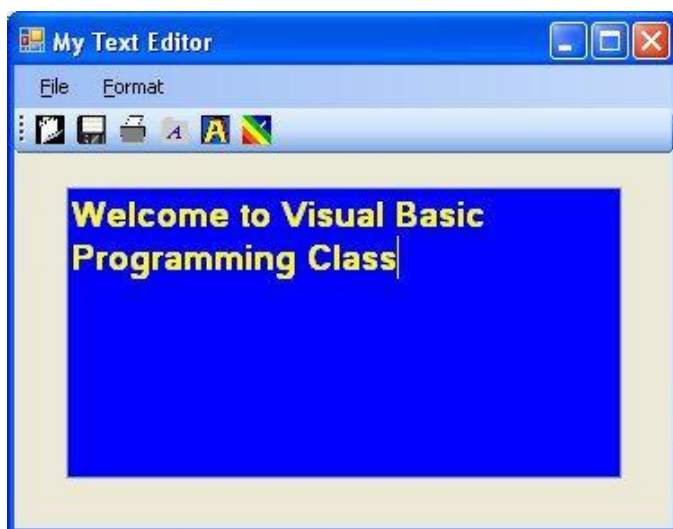


Figure 24.7

Appendix I

The ASCII Table

1	☺	31		61	=	91	[	121	y	151	—	181	μ	211	Ó	241	ñ
2	☹	32		62	>	92	\	122	z	152	~	182	¶	212	Ô	242	ò
3	♥♥	33	!	63	?	93	]	123	{	153	™	183	·	213	Õ	243	ó
4		34	"	64	@	94	^	124	|	154	š	184	„	214	Ö	244	ô
5		35	#	65	A	95	_	125	}	155	›	185	¹	215	×	245	õ
6		36	\$	66	B	96	`	126	~	156	œ	186	º	216	Ø	246	ö
7	□	37	%	67	C	97	a	127	⌋	157		187	»	217	Ù	247	÷
8		38	&	68	D	98	b	128	€	158	ž	188	¼	218	Ú	248	ø
9	♣	39	'	69	E	99	c	129		159	ÿ	189	½	219	Û	249	ù
10		40	(	70	F	100	d	130	,	160		190	¾	220	Ü	250	ú
11		41	)	71	G	101	e	131	f	161	ı	191	¿	221	Ý	251	û
12	♂	42	*	72	H	102	f	132	„	162	¢	192	À	222	Þ	252	ü
13	♀	43	+	73	I	103	g	133	...	163	£	193	Á	223	ß	253	ý
14	♪♪	44	,	74	J	104	h	134	†	164	¤	194	Â	224	à	254	þ
15		45	-	75	K	105	i	135	‡	165	¥	195	Ã	225	á	255	ÿ
16		46	.	76	L	106	j	136	^	166	ı	196	Ä	226	â		
17		47	/	77	M	107	k	137	‰	167	§	197	Å	227	ã		
18		48	0	78	N	108	l	138	Š	168	¨	198	Æ	228	ä		
19		49	1	79	O	109	m	139	‹	169	©	199	Ç	229	å		
20		50	2	80	P	110	n	140	Œ	170	ª	200	È	230	æ		
21		51	3	81	Q	111	o	141		171	«	201	É	231	ç		
22		52	4	82	R	112	p	142	Ž	172	¬	202	Ê	232	è		
23		53	5	83	S	113	q	143		173		203	Ë	233	é		
24		54	6	84	T	114	r	144		174	®	204	Ì	234	ê		
25		55	7	85	U	115	s	145	‘	175	¯	205	Í	235	ë		
26		56	8	86	V	116	t	146	’	176	°	206	Î	236	ì		
27		57	9	87	W	117	u	147	“	177	±	207	Ï	237	í		
28		58	:	88	X	118	v	148	”	178	²	208	Ð	238	î		
29		59	;	89	Y	119	w	149	•	179	³	209	Ñ	239	ï		
30		60	<	90	Z	120	x	150	–	180	´	210	Ò	240	ð		

Chapter 6

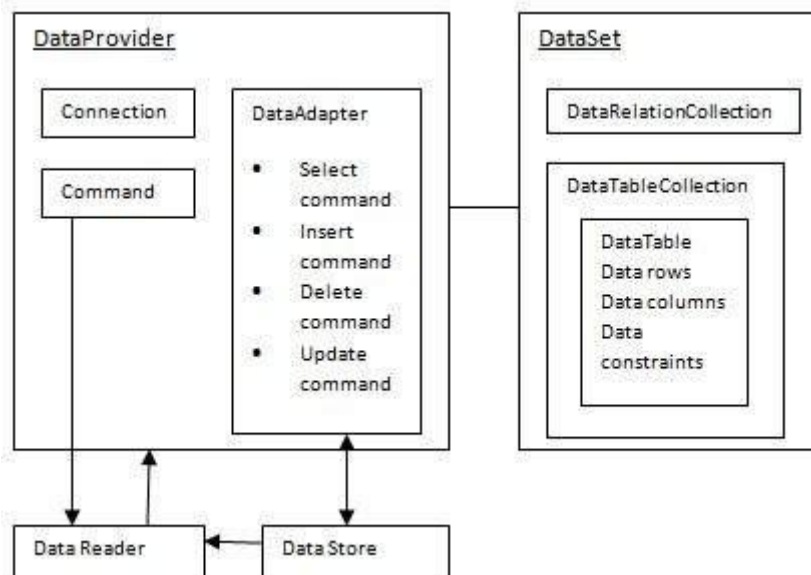
Database Access

Applications communicate with a database, firstly, to retrieve the data stored there and present it in a user-friendly way, and secondly, to update the database by inserting, modifying and deleting data.

Microsoft ActiveX Data Objects.Net (ADO.Net) is a model, a part of the .Net framework that is used by the .Net applications for retrieving, accessing and updating data.

ADO.Net Object Model

ADO.Net object model is nothing but the structured process flow through various components. The object model can be pictorially described as:



The data residing in a data store or database is retrieved through the data provider. Various components of the data provider retrieve data for the application and update data.

An application accesses data either through a dataset or a data reader.

- Datasets store data in a disconnected cache and the application retrieves data from it.
- Data readers provide data to the application in a read-only and forward-only mode.

Data Provider

A data provider is used for connecting to a database, executing commands and retrieving data, storing it in a dataset, reading the retrieved data and updating the database.

The data provider in ADO.Net consists of the following four objects:

S.N	Objects & Description
1	Connection This component is used to set up a connection with a data source.
2	Command A command is a SQL statement or a stored procedure used to retrieve, insert, delete or modify data in a data source.
3	DataReader Data reader is used to retrieve data from a data source in a read-only and forward-only mode.
4	DataAdapter This is integral to the working of ADO.Net since data is transferred to and from a database through a data adapter. It retrieves data from a database into a dataset and updates the database. When changes are made to the dataset, the changes in the database are actually done by the data adapter.

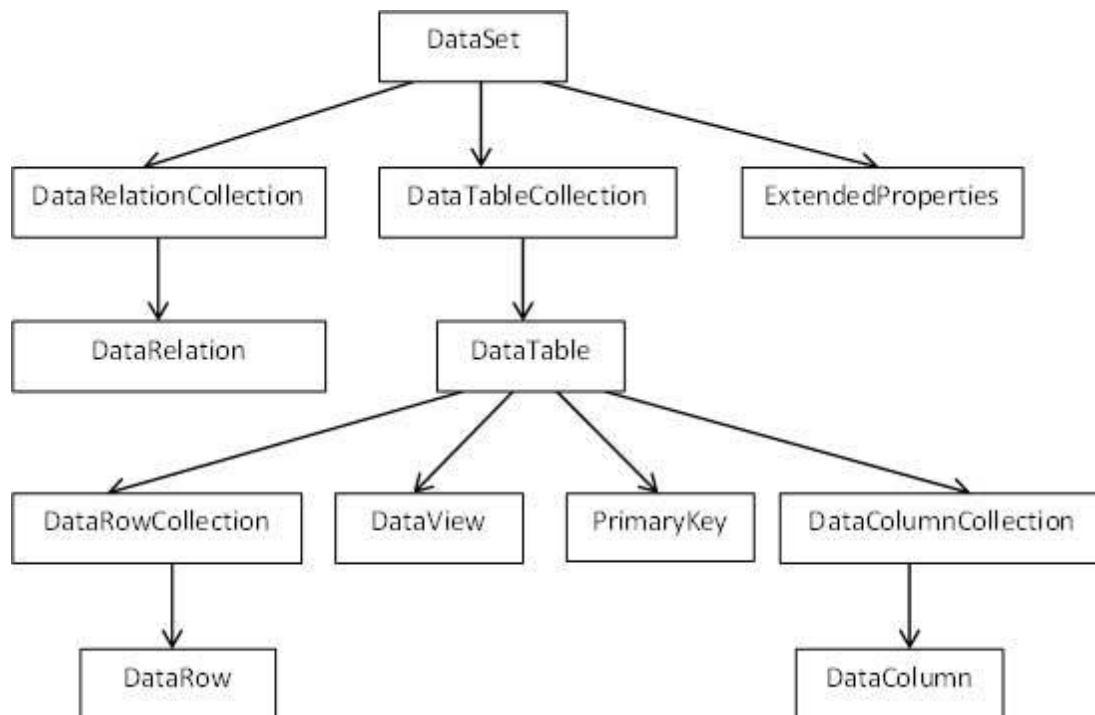
There are following different types of data providers included in ADO.Net

- The .Net Framework data provider for SQL Server - provides access to Microsoft SQL Server.
- The .Net Framework data provider for OLE DB - provides access to data sources exposed by using OLE DB.
- The .Net Framework data provider for ODBC - provides access to data sources exposed by ODBC.
- The .Net Framework data provider for Oracle - provides access to Oracle data source.
- The EntityClient provider - enables accessing data through Entity Data Model (EDM) applications.

DataSet

DataSet is an in-memory representation of data. It is a disconnected, cached set of records that are retrieved from a database. When a connection is established with the database, the data adapter creates a dataset and stores data in it. After the data is retrieved and stored in a dataset, the connection with the database is closed. This is called the 'disconnected architecture'. The dataset works as a virtual database containing tables, rows, and columns.

The following diagram shows the dataset object model:



The DataSet class is present in the System.Data namespace. The following table describes all the components of DataSet:

S.N	Components & Description
1	DataTableCollection It contains all the tables retrieved from the data source.
2	DataRelationCollection It contains relationships and the links between tables in a data set.
3	ExtendedProperties It contains additional information, like the SQL statement for retrieving data, time of retrieval, etc.

4	DataTable It represents a table in the DataTableCollection of a dataset. It consists of the DataRow and DataColumn objects. The DataTable objects are case-sensitive.
5	DataRelation It represents a relationship in the DataRelationshipCollection of the dataset. It is used to relate two DataTable objects to each other through the DataColumn objects.
6	DataRowCollection It contains all the rows in a DataTable.
7	DataView It represents a fixed customized view of a DataTable for sorting, filtering, searching, editing and navigation.
8	PrimaryKey It represents the column that uniquely identifies a row in a DataTable.
9	DataRow It represents a row in the DataTable. The DataRow object and its properties and methods are used to retrieve, evaluate, insert, delete, and update values in the DataTable. The NewRow method is used to create a new row and the Add method adds a row to the table.
10	DataColumnCollection It represents all the columns in a DataTable.
11	DataColumn It consists of the number of columns that comprise a DataTable.

Connecting to a Database

The .Net Framework provides two types of Connection classes:

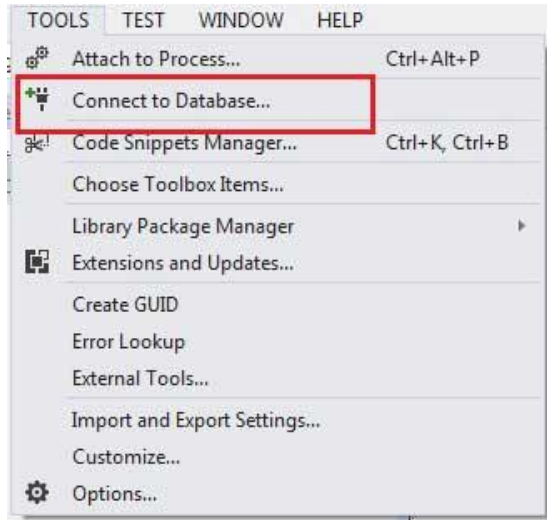
- SqlConnection - designed for connecting to Microsoft SQL Server.
- OleDbConnection - designed for connecting to a wide range of databases, like Microsoft Access and Oracle.

Example 1

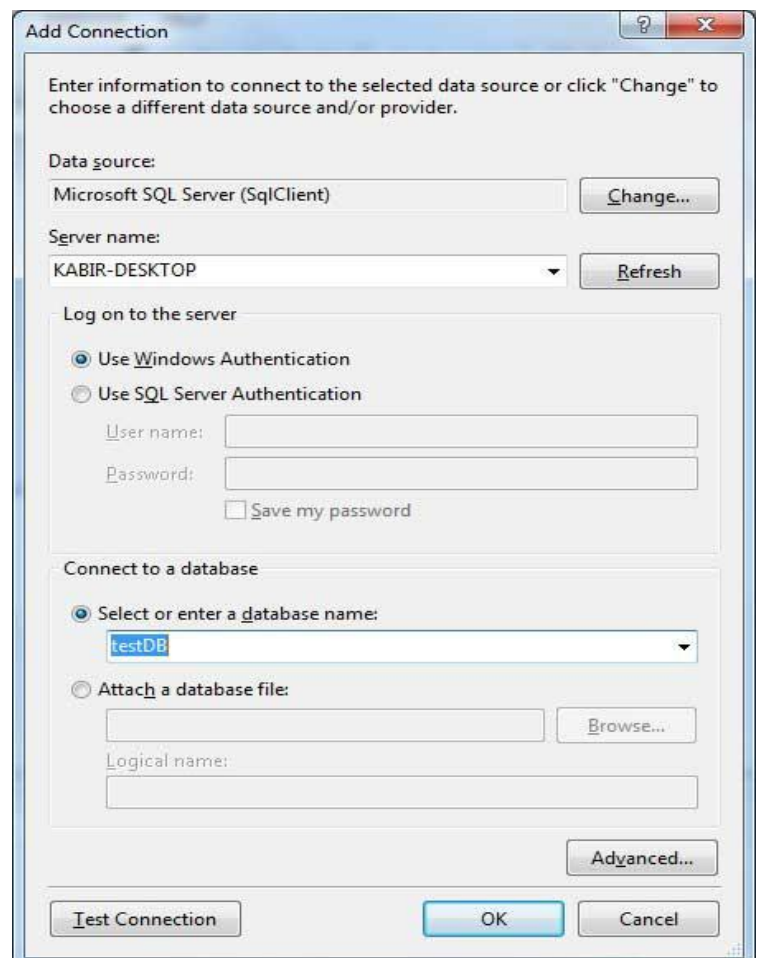
We have a table stored in Microsoft SQL Server, named Customers, in a database named testDB. Please consult 'SQL Server' tutorial for creating databases and database tables in SQL Server.

Let us connect to this database. Take the following steps:

- Select TOOLS -> Connect to Database



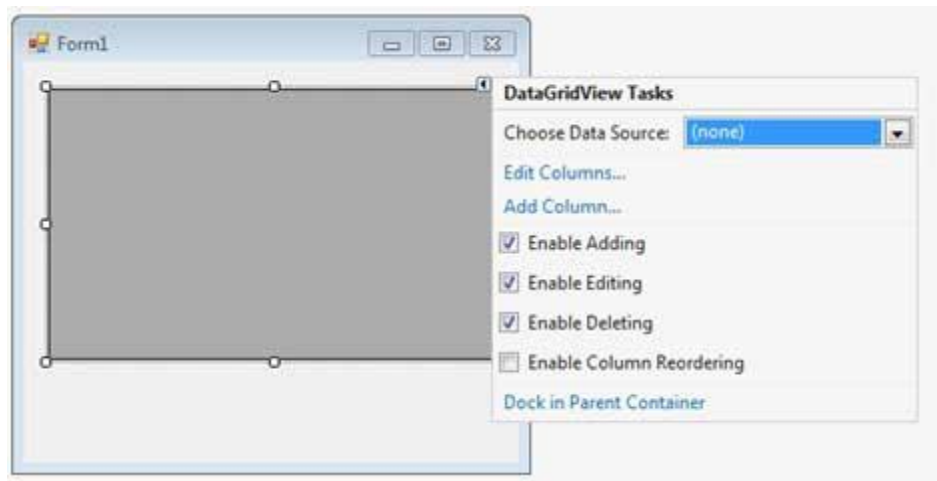
- Select a server name and the database name in the Add Connection dialog box.



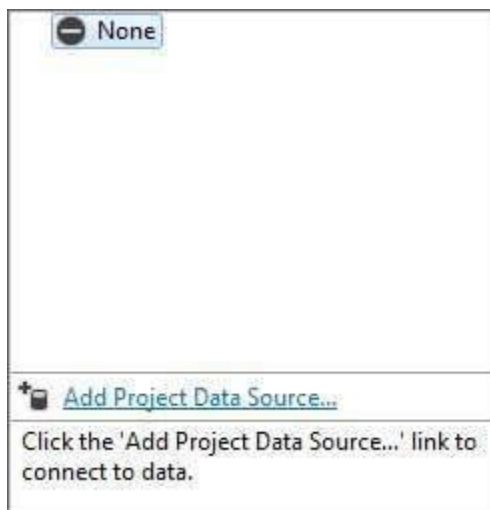
- Click on the Test Connection button to check if the connection succeeded.



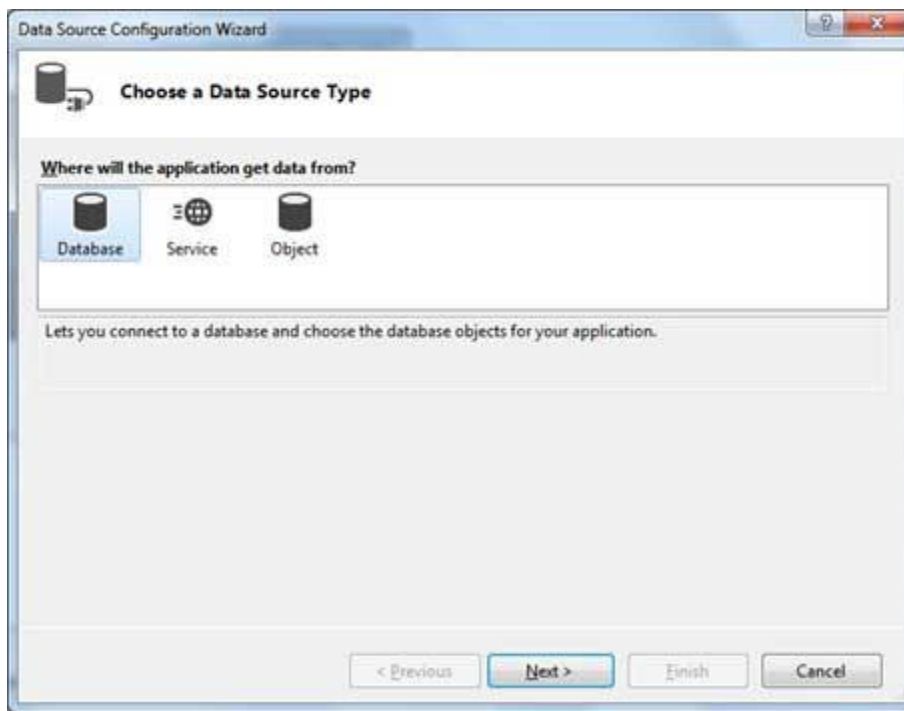
- Add a DataGridView on the form.



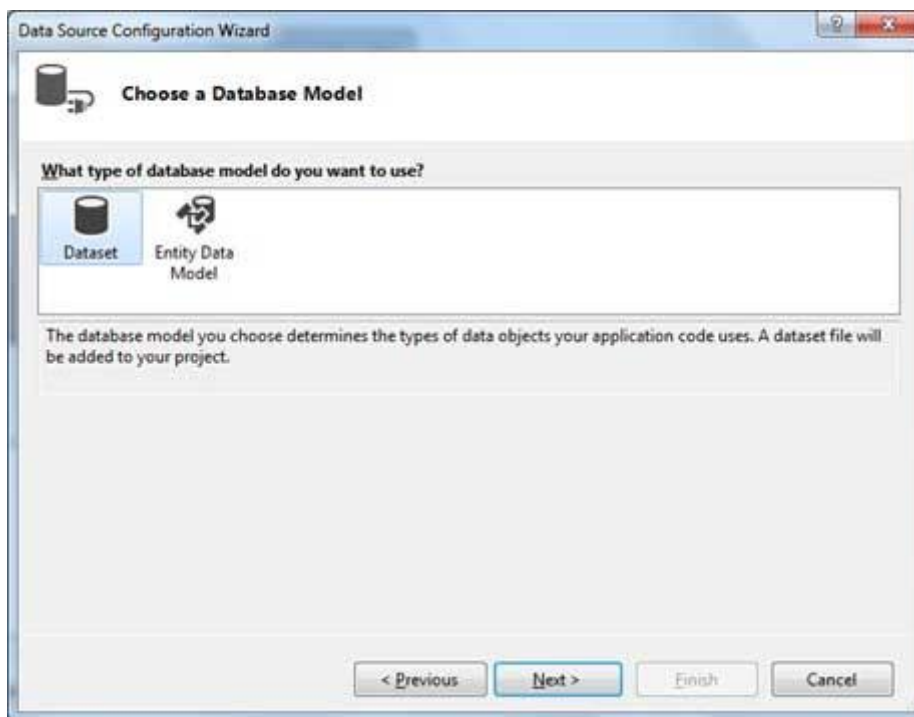
- Click on the Choose Data Source combo box.
- Click on the Add Project Data Source link.



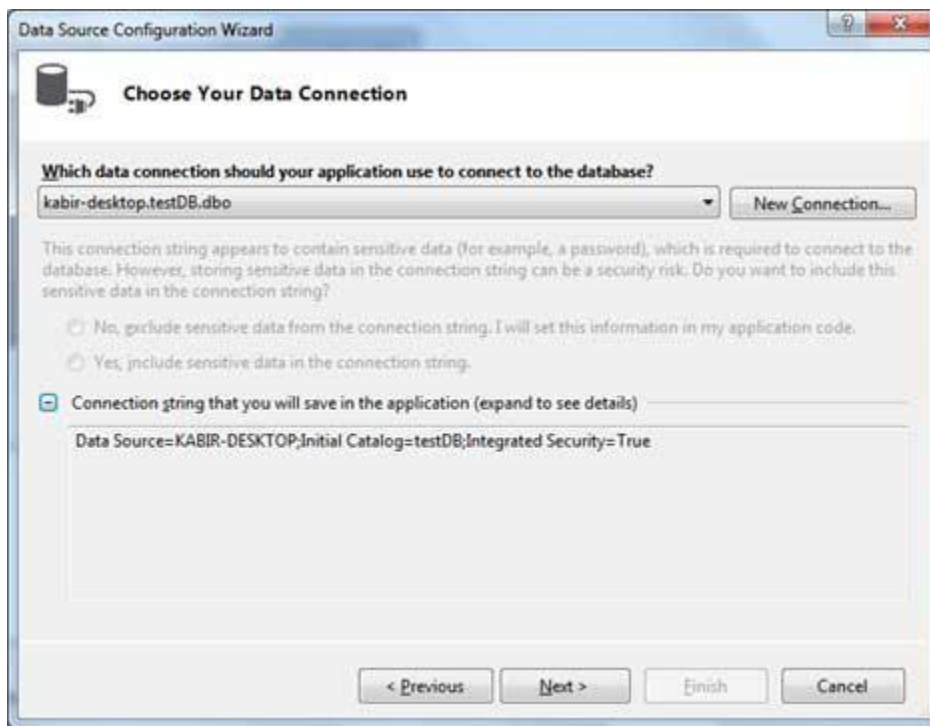
- This opens the Data Source Configuration Wizard.
- Select Database as the data source type



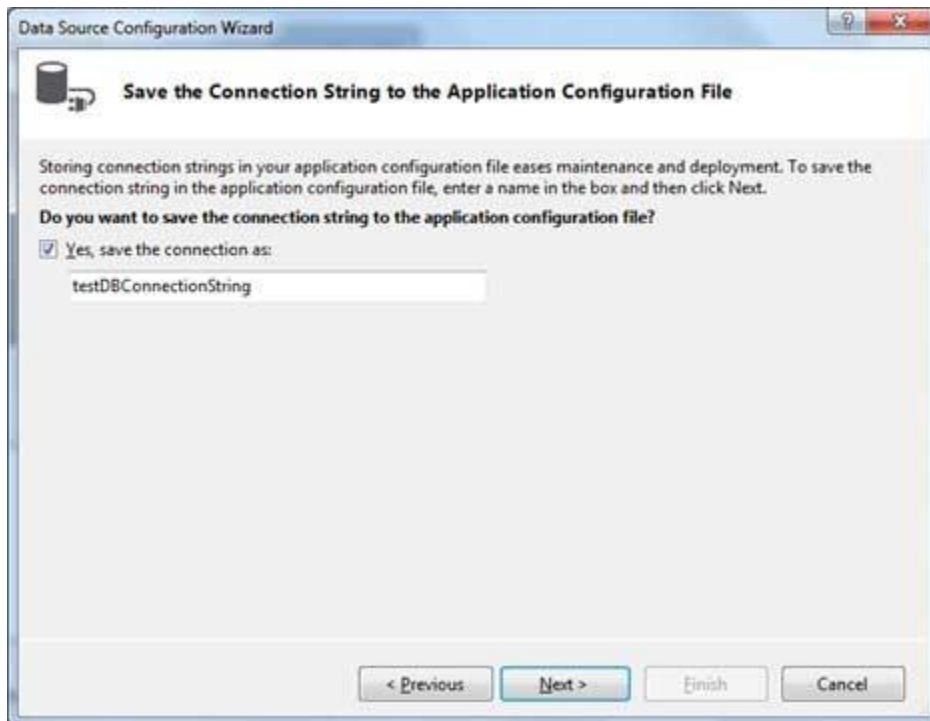
- Choose DataSet as the database model.



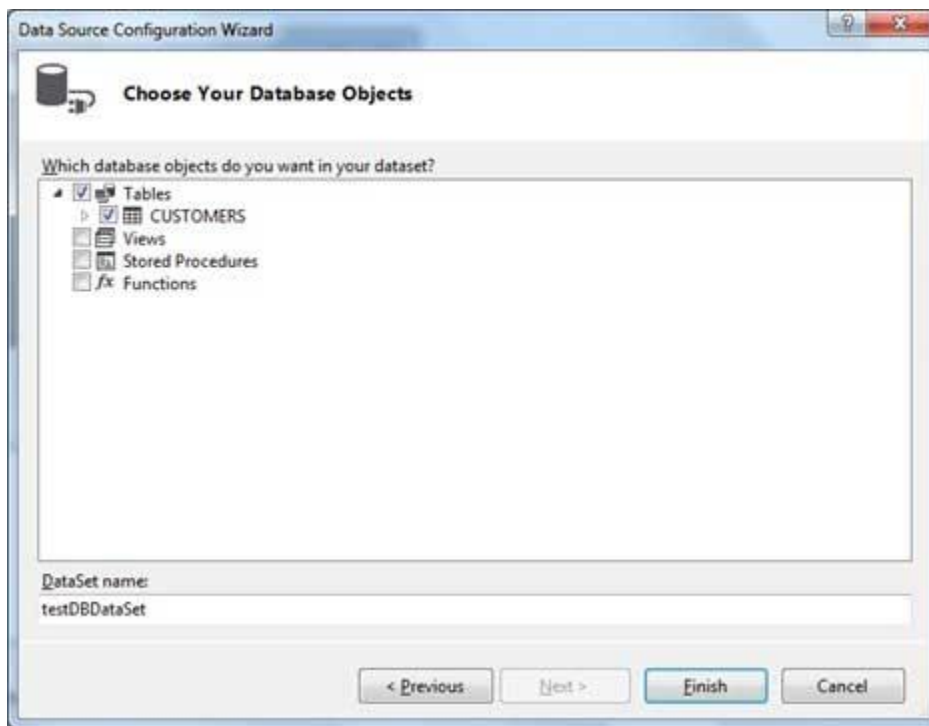
- Choose the connection already set up.



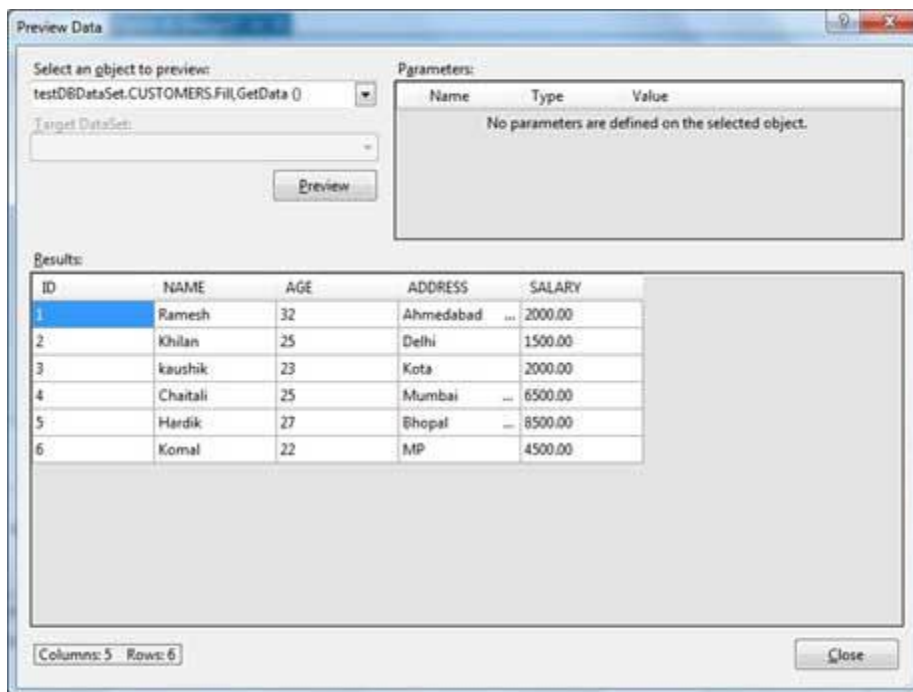
- Save the connection string.



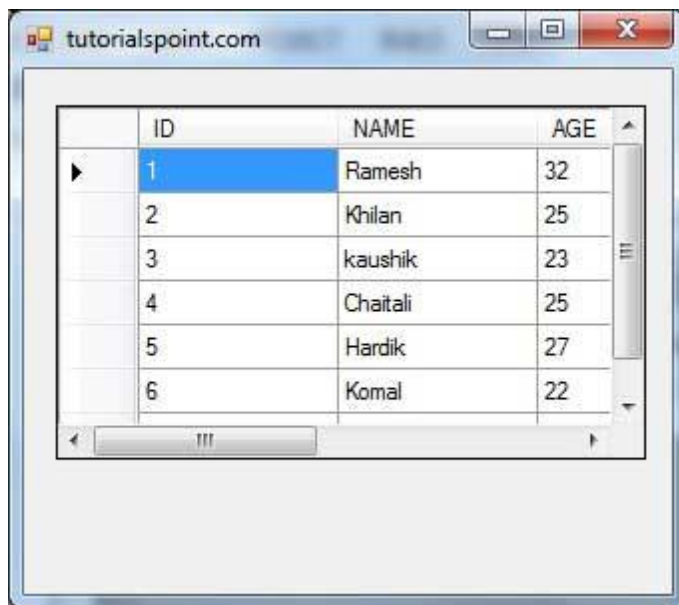
- Choose the database object, Customers table in our example, and click the Finish button.



- Select the Preview Data link to see the data in the Results grid:



When the application is run using Start button available at the Microsoft Visual Studio tool bar, it will show the following window:



Example 2

In this example, let us access data in a DataGridView control using code. Take the following steps:

- Add a DataGridView control and a button in the form.
- Change the text of the button control to 'Fill'.
- Double click the button control to add the required code for the Click event of the button, as shown below:

```
Imports System.Data.SqlClient
```

```
Public Class Form1
```

```
    Private Sub Form1_Load(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) _
```

```
        Handles MyBase.Load
```

```
        'TODO: This line of code loads data into the 'TestDBDataSet.CUSTOMERS'
```

table. You can move, or remove it, as needed.

```
        Me.CUSTOMERSTableAdapter.Fill(Me.TestDBDataSet.CUSTOMERS)
```

```
        ' Set the caption bar text of the form.
```

```
        Me.Text = "tutorialspoint.com"
```

```
    End Sub
```

```
    Private Sub Button1_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) Handles
```

```
        Button1.Click
```

```
        Dim connection As SqlConnection = New sqlconnection()
```

```
        connection.ConnectionString = "Data Source=KABIR-DESKTOP; _
```

```
            Initial Catalog=testDB;Integrated Security=True"
```

```
        connection.Open()
```

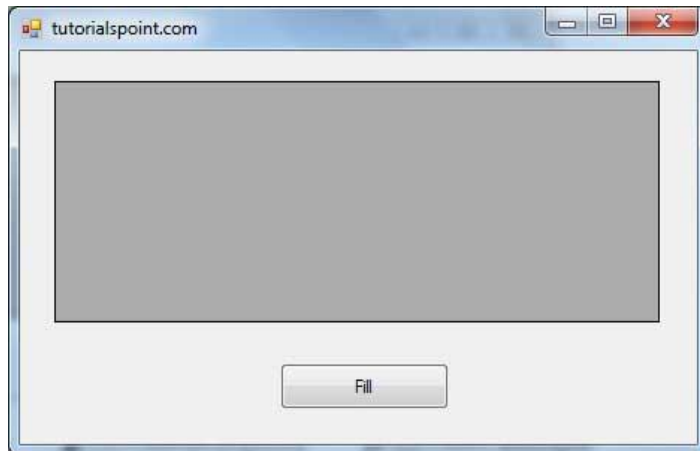
```
        Dim adp As SqlDataAdapter = New SqlDataAdapter _
```

```

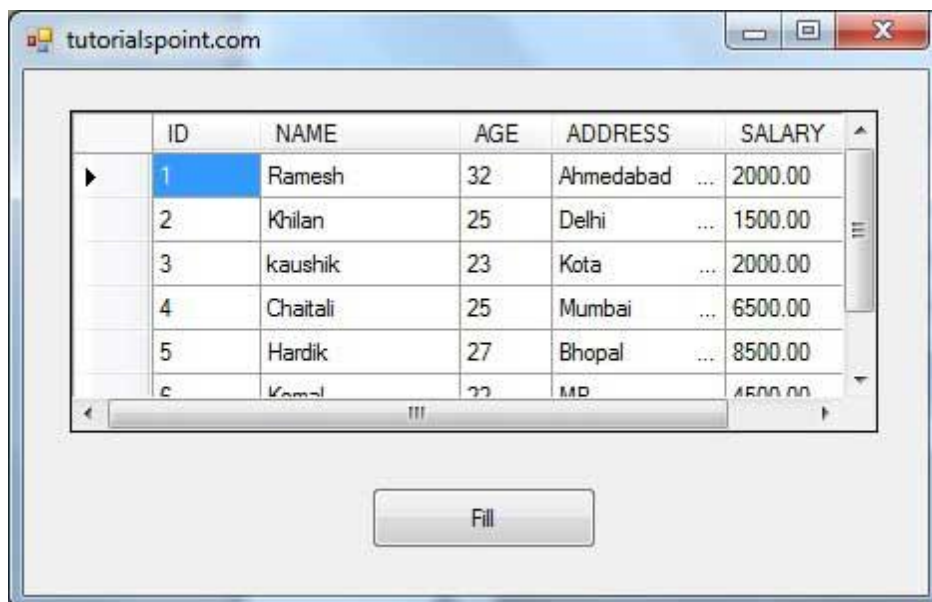
("select * from Customers", connection)
Dim ds As DataSet = New DataSet()
adp.Fill(ds)
DataGridView1.DataSource = ds.Tables(0)
End Sub
End Class

```

When the above code is executed and run using Start button available at the Microsoft Visual Studio tool bar, it will show the following window:



Clicking the Fill button displays the table on the data grid view control:



Creating Table, Columns and Rows

We have discussed that the DataSet components like DataTable, DataColumn and DataRow allow us to create tables, columns and rows, respectively.

The following example demonstrates the concept:

Example 3

So far, we have used tables and databases already existing in our computer. In this example, we will create a table, add columns, rows and data into it and display the table using a DataGridView object.

Take the following steps:

- Add a DataGridView control and a button in the form.
- Change the text of the button control to 'Fill'.
- Add the following code in the code editor.

```
Public Class Form1
```

```
    Private Sub Form1_Load(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) Handles
```

```
        MyBase.Load
```

```
            ' Set the caption bar text of the form.
```

```
            Me.Text = "tutorialspont.com"
```

```
        End Sub
```

```
    Private Function CreateDataSet() As DataSet
```

```
        'creating a DataSet object for tables
```

```
        Dim dataset As DataSet = New DataSet()
```

```
        ' creating the student table
```

```
        Dim Students As DataTable = CreateStudentTable()
```

```
        dataset.Tables.Add(Students)
```

```
        Return dataset
```

```
    End Function
```

```
    Private Function CreateStudentTable() As DataTable
```

```
        Dim Students As DataTable
```

```
        Students = New DataTable("Student")
```

```
        ' adding columns
```

```
        AddNewColumn(Students, "System.Int32", "StudentID")
```

```
        AddNewColumn(Students, "System.String", "StudentName")
```

```
        AddNewColumn(Students, "System.String", "StudentCity")
```

```
        ' adding rows
```

```
        AddNewRow(Students, 1, "Zara Ali", "Kolkata")
```

```
        AddNewRow(Students, 2, "Shreya Sharma", "Delhi")
```

```
        AddNewRow(Students, 3, "Rini Mukherjee", "Hyderabad")
```

```
        AddNewRow(Students, 4, "Sunil Dubey", "Bikaner")
```

```
        AddNewRow(Students, 5, "Rajat Mishra", "Patna")
```

```
        Return Students
```

```

End Function

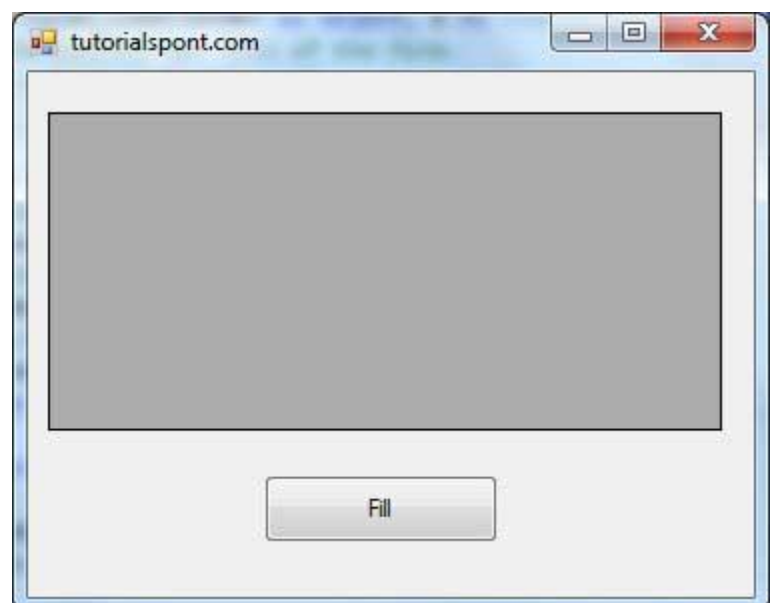
Private Sub AddNewColumn(ByRef table As DataTable, _
ByVal columnType As String, ByVal columnName As String)
    Dim column As DataColumn = _
        table.Columns.Add(columnName, Type.GetType(columnType))
End Sub

'adding data into the table
Private Sub AddNewRow(ByRef table As DataTable, ByRef id As Integer, _
ByRef name As String, ByRef city As String)
    Dim newrow As DataRow = table.NewRow()
    newrow("StudentID") = id
    newrow("StudentName") = name
    newrow("StudentCity") = city
    table.Rows.Add(newrow)
End Sub

Private Sub Button1_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) Handles
Button1.Click
    Dim ds As New DataSet
    ds = CreateDataSet()
    DataGridView1.DataSource = ds.Tables("Student")
End Sub
End Class

```

When the above code is executed and run using Start button available at the Microsoft Visual Studio tool bar, it will show the window:



Clicking the Fill button displays the table on the data grid view control:

