

AKDENIZ UNIVERSITY COMPUTER ENGINEERING

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES VISUAL BASIC

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1. VISUAL BASIC

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Visual Basic is a high-level programming language and fully compatible with Windows which is one of the most famous operating systems. It is derived from Basic (Beginners-All Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) which is an easy and base programming language. Visual Basic is a high-level programming language that contains an object-oriented approach. It is developed for some reasons as easy to learn and use, enables RAD (Rapid Application Development) of GUI (Graphical User Interface), access databases with Data Access Objects, etc. Using drag and drop logic, it is possible to implement an application. With this feature, it contains tools collection to implement a program instead of writing codes line by lines using an editor to generate visuality. In Visual Basic, implementation is done in a graphical environment. Developers click objects randomly, each object implemented independently. For this reason, each object has different actions.

An object is a thing that can be seen, used in object-oriented programming. Applications that are implemented by Windows environments use objects such as text boxes, buttons, etc. Every object in Visual Basic programming language is generated from a class. The class that belongs to an object includes the behavior and look of the object. An object that is created from its class is called an instance of the class.

1.2 AUTHOR(S)

Alan Cooper is an American software designer and programmer. He is recognized as "Father of Visual Basic". He is a pioneer of the modern computing era. He created the programming language Visual Basic and wrote industry-standard books on design practice like "About Face."

1.3 HISTORY OF THE LANGUAGE

The first version of VB 1.0 of Visual basic released in 1991. The creation of the user interface with drag and drop design inspired a beta generator developed by Alan Cooper on Cooper's company Tripod.

Microsoft signed a contract with Cooper and its partners to create a Tripod on a programmable system for Windows 3.0. This system was developed under the code name Ruby, which has no relation to the Ruby Programming Language.

Tripod did not have any programming language at all. Microsoft then decided to use Ruby in combination with basic language to develop visual basic.

Ruby's interface contributed to the "visual" component of the Visual Basic programming language. This was later combined with the Embedded BASIC engine that was developed for Microsoft's abandoned "Omega" database system.

Version 5.0, in February 1997, Microsoft released a visual basic compatible only with 32-bit versions of Microsoft Windows. Programmers who prefer to write programs in 16-bit could do this in versions between 4.0 and 5.0. Besides, programs written in Visual Basic 5.0 can be easily converted to Version 4.0 programs. Version 5.0 also can compile with Windows native execution code and introduce custom user controls.

Visual Basic 6.0 was introduced in the middle of 1998. This version also came with many enhancements, including its stunning ability to build web-based applications. Extended support for Visual Basic 6.0 was stopped in March 2008. However, the basic parts of the Visual Basic 6 development environment work on all 32-bit Microsoft Windows, including Windows 8.1.

After the cessation of mainstream and extended support for Visual Basic 6.0 caused several programs to show concern. Community members then created users lobby and a petition was signed by them. The main purpose of this petition was to ensure the survival of the product. However, the petition did not achieve its purpose effectively.

1.4 WHICH LANGUAGES INFLUENCED IT

Visual basic was influenced by QuickBasic, Basic, Algol and Fortran languages. Figure 1 shows which languages are affected by each other.

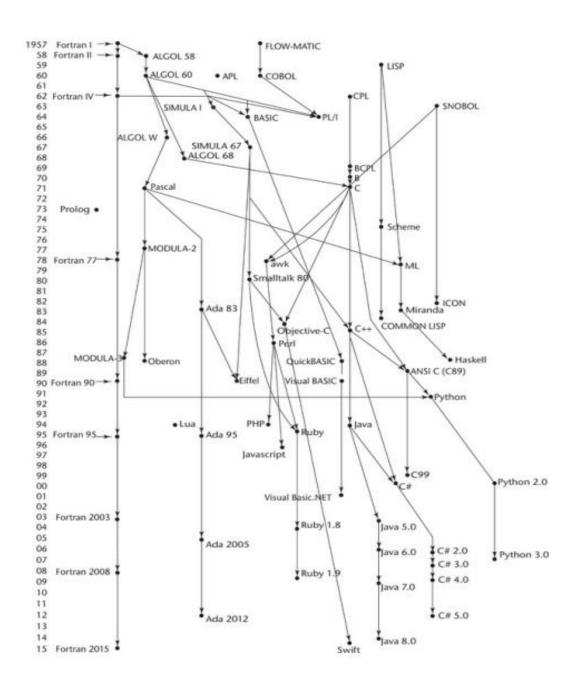


Figure 1. Table of languages influenced by each other

1.5 WHY WAS IT INVENTED

In 1988, Alan Cooper created a visual programming language which code called a "Ruby" that allowed Windows users to create shells like "Finder". It was called "a shell construction set". After Ruby was shown to Bill Gates, Microsoft bought it. Microsoft initially decided not to release the product as a shell for users. However, transform it into a professional development tool for the QuickBASIC programming language named Visual Basic. It is widely used for business application development for Windows computers.

The dynamically installable control facility, known as Cooper's "VBX" interface, was a well-known component of "Ruby". This innovation allowed any 3rd party developer to write a widget as a DLL, put it in the Visual Basic directory, and Visual Basic to find, communicate, and offer it to the user as a seamless part of the program.

1.6 WHEN/WHY SHALL WE USE IT

Visual Basic is considered one of the most powerful programming languages as Microsoft's first visual development tool. Compared to other computer programming languages like C, C ++, it is easy to learn and understand.

Visual Basic is a widely understood high-level programming language written using simple English-like words and syntax. It is an interpreted language; Sit can be run immediately after the code is written.

Having an interpreter makes it easier to use, as there is no need for the computer to compile the code, possibly finding errors to fix, before the compiled version can be run.

The Visual Basic programming language allows programmers to create software interface and codes in an easy-to-use graphical environment.

It allows programmers to quickly develop window-based applications. It also allows programmers to use ActiveX controls and various objects. It helps in accessing databases using ADO.

Although it is mostly used to develop applications, it is also suitable for game development. Compared to other languages, Visual basic may be slower than other languages. However, it is flexible, and it is stated that things that are difficult in other languages are relatively easy and comfortable in a visual basic programming language.

Visual Basic is one of the most popular programming languages. It has many accessible resources.

Another thing that stands out in visual basic programming is that the VB structure is designed to allow programmers to create executable code - Exe files.

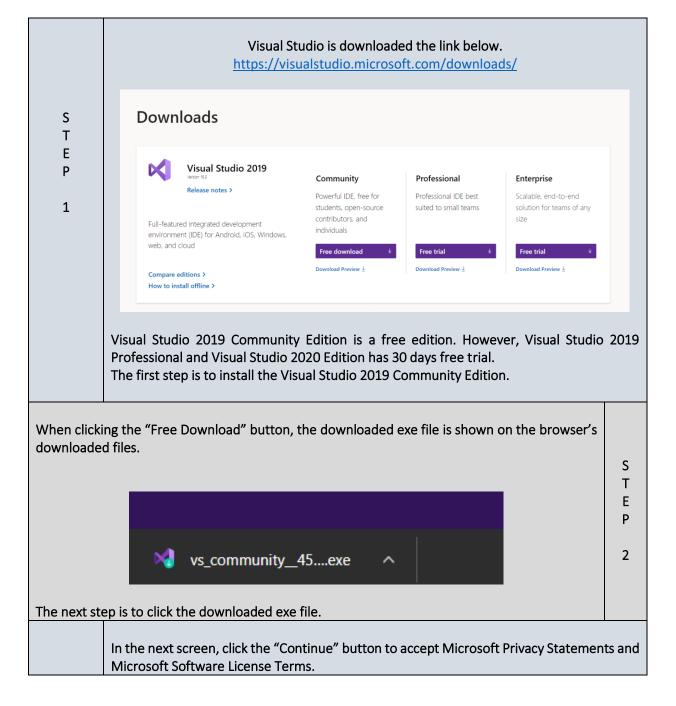
It enables programmers to develop programs that can be used as a front end in databases. Also, with the help of visual basic tools, someone can change abstract ideas into programs or all software and allow them to modify Programs appropriately.

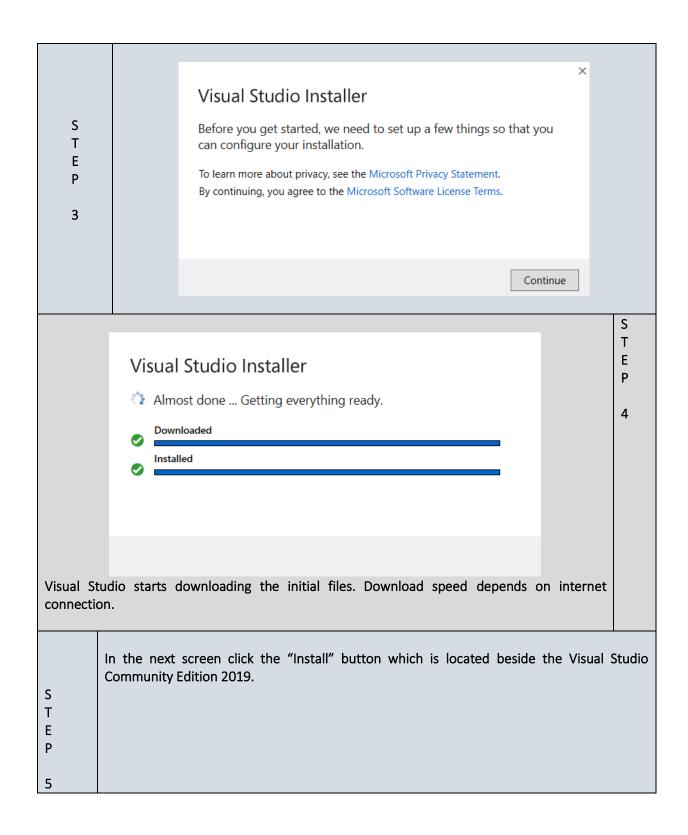
Visual Basic is a language with a powerful front-end tool that can achieve simple and complex business needs effectively and efficiently.

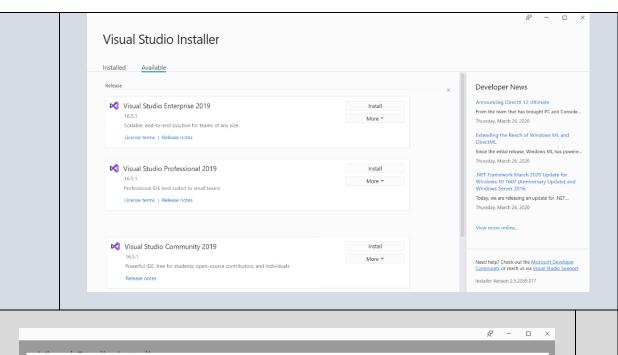
1.7 HOW TO SETUP

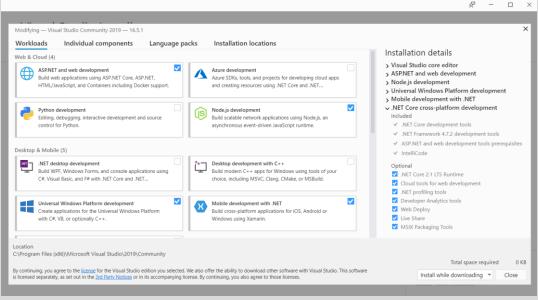
To create applications with Visual Basic programming language, it is needed to install the Visual Basic IDE (Integrated Development Environment). Visual Studio which is developed by Microsoft is the most known IDE for Visual Basic. Visual Studio IDE also provides to write code with C++, C#, F#, J#, and Visual Basic programming languages.

1.7.1 WINDOWS









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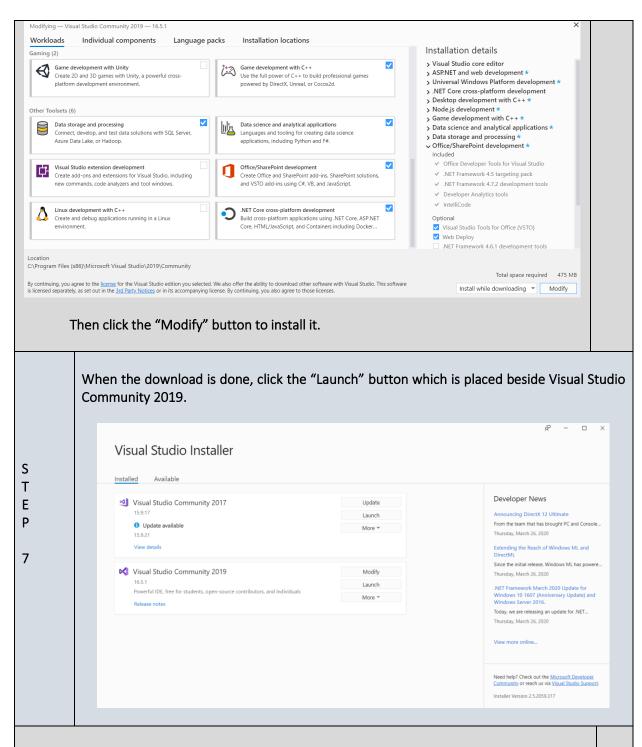
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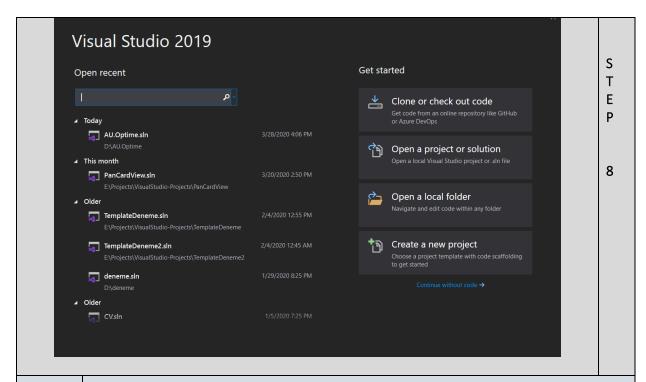
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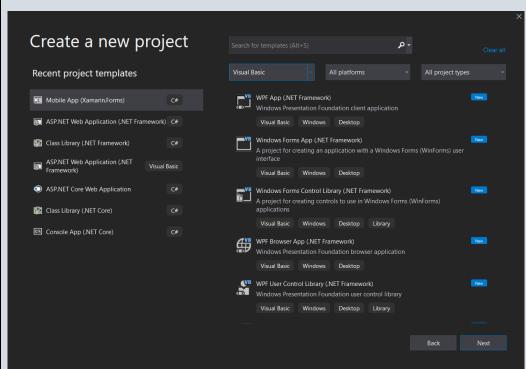
Visual Basic provides to develop applications for many platforms:

- 1. To implement a desktop application with Visual Basic, select ".Net desktop development",
- 2. To create a Universal Windows Platforms, "Universal Windows Platform development" option is available,
- 3. To develop Office and SharePoint, select "Office/SharePoint development" as shown below.



In the Visual Studio IDE, click the "Create new project" button to create a new project with Visual Basic programming language.





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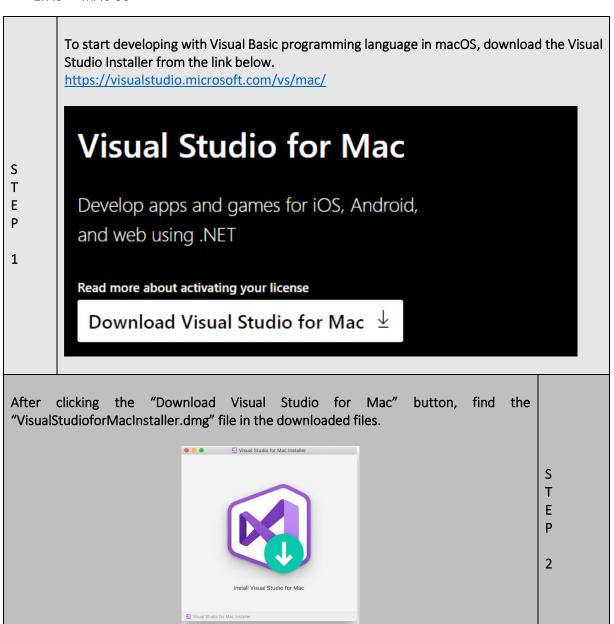
In the Create new project screen, select the programming language which is Visual Basic that is located below the search bar. There are many project templates to create applications for different platforms.

1.7.2 LINUX

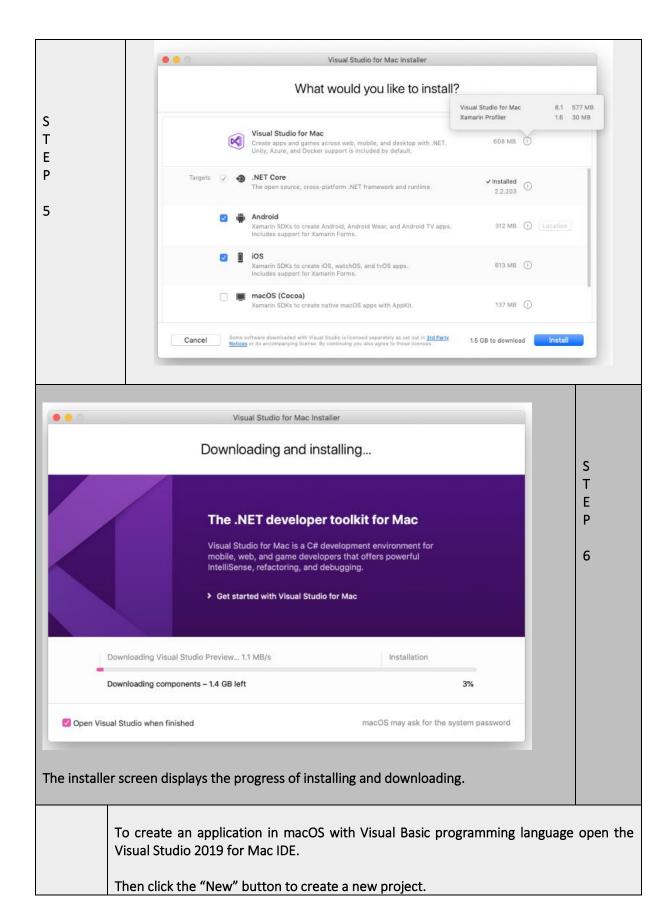
S T E P	To compile codes that are written by Visual Basic programming language, Mono Visual Basic Compiler, and Visual Basic Runtime are required in Linux operating system. These requirements are available in "Mono 1.2.3". Packages can be downloaded at the link below https://www.mono-project.com/download/stable/#download-lin			
1	To download for Ubuntu 18.04 the commands are used as shown below to package repository hosts that the packages are needed.			
	sudo apt install gnupg ca-certificates			
	sudo apt-key advkeyserver hkp://keyserver.ubuntu.com:80recv-keys 3FA7E0328081BFF6A14DA29AA6A19B38D3D831EF			
	echo "deb https://download.mono-project.com/repo/ubuntu stable-bionic main" sudo tee /etc/apt/sources.list.d/mono-official-stable.list			
	sudo apt update			
	To install for Ubuntu 16.04, the shared commands are used as listed below to repository hosts.			
	sudo apt-key advkeyserver hkp://keyserver.ubuntu.com:80recv-keys 3FA7E0328081BFF6A14DA29AA6A19B38D3D831EF			
	sudo apt install apt-transport-https ca-certificates			
	echo "deb https://download.mono-project.com/repo/ubuntu stable-xenial main" sudo tee			
	/etc/apt/sources.list.d/mono-official-stable.list			
	sudo apt update			
To install I	Mono to compile code the command is used. S T E			
sudo apt install mono-devel				
	2			
S T E	To install code which is available in the git from the module "mono-basic",			
Р	\$./configure			

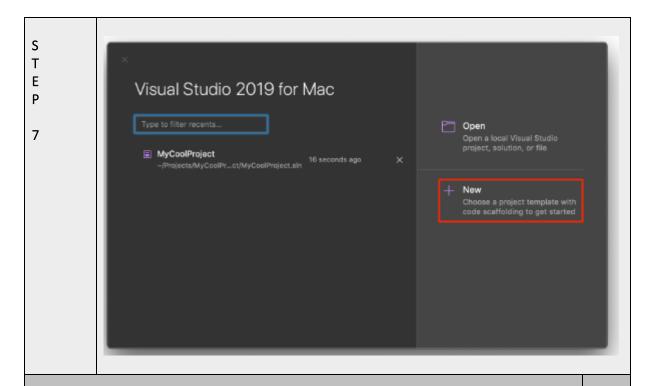
	\$ make && sudo make install				
3	commands are used.				
	communica are used.	c			
Then the command "vbnc" is available to build applications that are written by Visual Basic T					
		P			
		4			

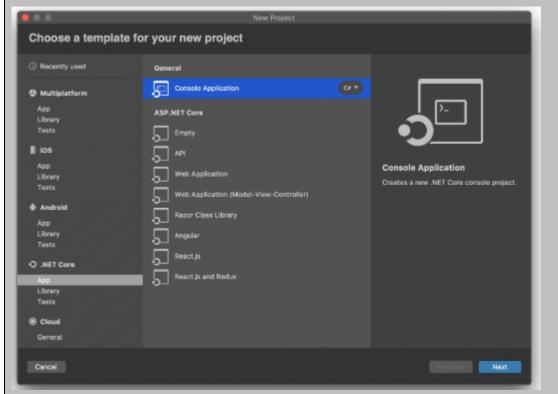
1.7.3 MAC OS



The warning screen may be presented which is about downloading the application from the internet. Open it. Visual Studio for Mac Installer S Т Ε 3 Checking if Android SDK is installed... Cancel Visual Studio for Mac Installer will be asked to accept Microsoft Privacy Statement and License Terms. Click "Continue". S Visual Studio for Mac Installer Т Ε Thank you for downloading Visual Studio for Mac To learn more about privacy, see the Microsoft Privacy Statement By continuing, you agree to the License Terms 4 Continue Quit There are some options to the installer screen. To use Visual Basic programming language, select the .Net Core framework then click the button that is called "Install".







S T E

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Select the project template to develop an application for different platforms and the right side of the project template there is a dropdown menu which enables to change programming language. After selecting a template, change programming language with Visual Basic.

1.8 USAGE

Visual Studio 2019 provides a Toolbox window to drag and drop controls to the project which is developed using Visual Basic programming language. To open the Toolbox window, click "Toolbox" on the View menu as shown in Figure 1.7.1. Using the Toolbox window, GUI of the application will be created easily.

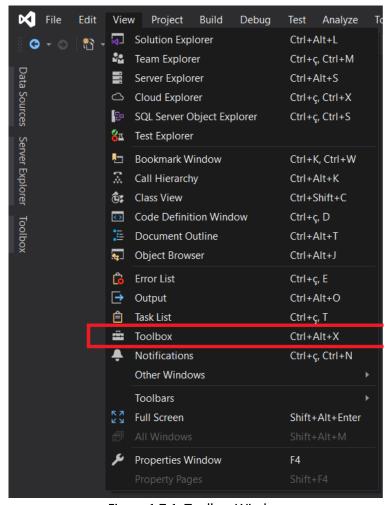


Figure 1.7.1: Toolbox Window

In the Toolbox window, controls are located as seen in Figure 1.7.2. Controls, which are known as objects, are added dragging selected objects with a mouse pointer. When dragging the control to the form, Visual Basic is automatically created its instance to the Form's class. Many controls occurred in the Toolbox. Most commons are Button, CheckBox, ComboBox, Label, ListBox, MonthCalendar, ProgressBar, RadioButton, TextBox etc.

Button	lcon	Description
abl	TextBox	It contains text that can be changed by the user.
A	Label	It allows to have text that is shown to the user, but the user cannot change.
	ComboBox	It provides to draw a combination Listbox and text box. Users can select one of the items from the list.
= 0	ListBox	It is used to display many items at the same time which a user can select. It has a scroll if many items occur.
	CheckBox	It is a box to indicate whether something is false or true. It is possible to select multiple choices.
0	OptionButton (RadioButton)	It allows for displaying multiple choices. However, the user can select only one of them.
7	ToggleButton	It is a button to toggle on and off.
k	Select Objects (Pointer)	It is the item that does not draw control. When it is selected, it can only resize or move a control.
[XVZ]	Frame	It provides to build a group for controls. To group controls, first, drag the frame to the Windows Form. Then drag controls inside of the frame.
	CommandButton	To create a button to choose to carry out a command.
	TabStrip	It provides to define multiple pages for the same form.
	MultiPage	It presents multiple screens of knowledge.
4	ScrollBar	It allows to graphical tool to navigate through a long list of items or used to large amounts of data.
•	SpinButton	It is used with another control to decrement or increment numbers.
	Image	It is used to display images from a bitmap, icon or metafile. The image will be displayed Image control.

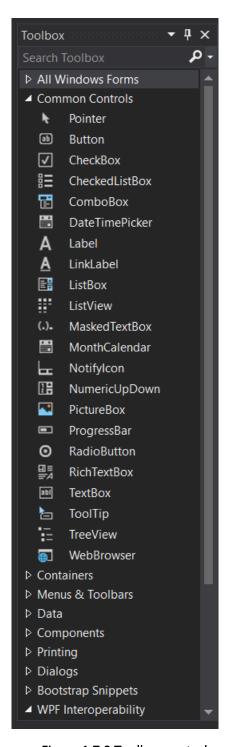


Figure 1.7.2 Toolbox controls

The designer window is where the GUI of application is created. A windows form is shown in the designer window in Figure 1.7.3. The form is an object to create user interfaces. The form is an instance of Windows Form class.

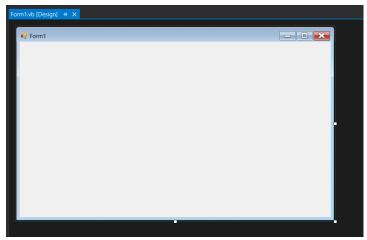


Figure 1.7.3 Designer Window

Each control has attributes that identify behavior and appearance. These attributes called properties that are listed in the Properties window shown in Figure 1.7.4.

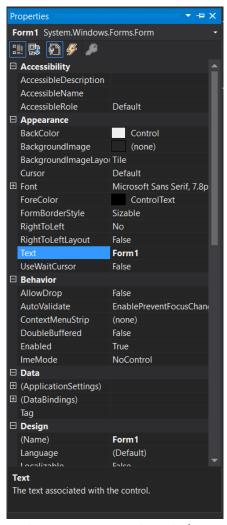


Figure 1.7.4 Properties Window

To change the properties of a control, select the control in the designer window and open the properties window. General attribute examples are Name, Text, Text Color, Background Color, Font, ForeColor, etc.

Example "Login Form" is shown in Figure 1.7.5. It is created using two Labels to show text called "Email" and "Password". To get information from the user, there are two TextBox exist. One of them is for "Email" and the other one is for "Password". Besides, there is a Login button that exists to click.

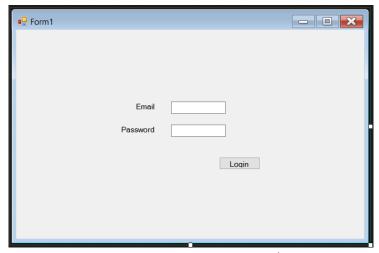


Figure 1.7.5 Login Form Example

To get an event of any control double click to control and it is automatically generated in the file with .vb extension as shown in Figure 1.7.6. The event belongs to Login Button in the Form.

```
1reference
□Public Class Form1
| O references
□ Private Sub btnLogin_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) Handles btnLogin.Click
| End Sub
| End Class
```

Figure 1.7.6 Visual Basic file of the Form.

In addition to this, we can call other controls with their names as shown in Figure 1.7.7. TextBox of Email is called as a statement "txtEmail.Text" where the "txtEmail" is the name of the control which can be changed in the Properties Window. With using ".Text" property, it is possible to get the text of the Email TextBox. Then it is controlled in the if-else statement to show the message to the user.

Figure 1.7.7 Login Button event example

1.9 EXAMPLE CODES

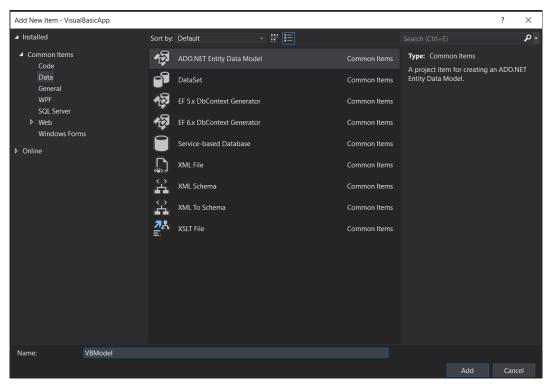


Figure 1.9.1

In Figure 1.9.1, the database model was added to the project using Ado.Net Entity Data Model.

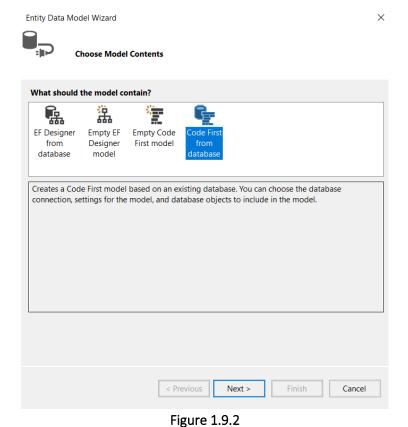


Figure 1.9.2 shows the Code First approach of the database connection.

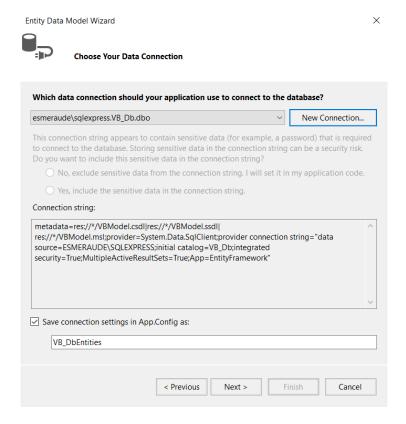


Figure 1.9.3

Figure 1.9.3 is where connectionString generated to get database information.

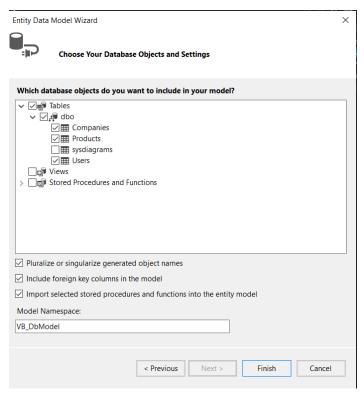


Figure 1.9.4

In Figure 1.9.4 Database tables are shown. To use these tables in the project, select tables.

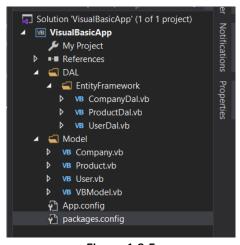


Figure 1.9.5

Figure 1.9.5 shows that the views of tables in the project which is implemented by Visual Basic programming language. On the other hand, there is a folder that contains DAL which is called "Data Access Layer". DAL is configured for the CRUD operations (Create/Read/Update/Delete) of the tables.

```
| Simple | System |
```

Figure 1.9.6

Figure 1.9.6 contains a Product class that is the view of the Product table in the project.

```
| Section | Sec
```

Figure 1.9.7

In Figure 1.9.7 there is a VBModel class that is inherited from DbContext class. DbContext class provides to do operations with the database automatically. The class also contains table names as property.

Figure 1.9.8

Properties of the User table is shown in Figure 1.9.8.

```
| Disports System | Company | System | Disports System | Disports
```

Figure 1.9.9

The view of the Company table is shown in Figure 1.9.9.

Figure 1.9.10

Figure 1.9.10 contains CompanyDAL class to define company table operations.

Figure 1.9.11

Figure 1.9.11 contains the ProductDAL class.

```
Public Class UserDal
Public model As VBedel

Public model As VBedel

Public function Add(User as User)
model. SaveChanges()
End Function

Public Function Remove(userId As Integer)

Dim userModel As User = model.Users.Find(userId)
model. Jesrs.Remove(userWodel)
model. Jesrs.Remove(userWodel)

End Function

Public Function Update(user As User)
model. SaveChanges()
End Function

Public Function Update(user As User)
model. SaveChanges()
editToUser.Email = user.Email
editToUser.Password = user.Password
model. SaveChanges()
End Function

Public Function GetUser(userId As Integer) As User
Dim user As User = model.Users.Find(userId)
Return user
End Function

Public Function GetUser(userId As Integer) As User
Dim user As User = model.Users.Find(userId)
Return user
End Function

Return user
End Function

Return user
End Function

Return user End Function
Return user In model.Users.ToList()
Where user.Password = password
Where user.Password
Where user.Email = email
Select (user.UserId, user.Email, user.Password)

Return queryResults
End Function

End Class
```

Figure 1.9.12

In Figure 1.9.12, the UserDal class is located.

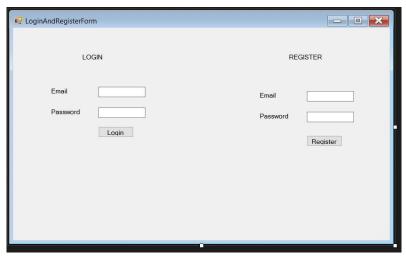


Figure 1.9.13

Login and Register form is shown in Figure 1.9.13. It was created using the Toolbox window of Visual Studio 2019. There are 6 labels to the shown user and 4 textboxes to get information from the user. The login button is located to control login information of the user and the Register button is located to add a user to the user table in the database. Backend codes are shown in Figure 1.9.14

```
Public Class LoginAndRegisterForm

Dim efUserDAL As UserDal
Public Shared userId As Integer

Orderences
Private Sub btnlogin_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) Handles btnlogin_Click
Dim user As User = efUserDAL.login(txtloginEmail.Text, txtloginPassword.Text)

If user.UserId = 0 Then
| lblInfo.Text = "User cannot found! Please try again."

Else
| MessageBox.Show("Welcome!")
| userId = user.UserId
| Dim changeForm As New CompaniesForm
| changeForm.Show()

End If
| End Sub

Orderences
| Private Sub btnRegister_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) Handles btnRegister.Click
| Dim newUser As User |
| newUser.Email = txtRegisterEmail.Text |
| newUser.Password = txtRegisterFmail.Text |
| efUserDAL.Add(newUser) |
| MessageBox.Show("Melcome!") |
| userId = newUser.UserId |
| Dim changeForm As New CompaniesForm |
| changeForm.Show() |
| End Sub |
```

Figure 1.9.14

After user login, the Companies Form will be open which contains CompanyName label to show the company name of the user. And then, there is a ListView to show the Product name of the company. Its form is shown in Figure 1.9.15 and the Visual Basic codes are shown in Figure 1.9.16

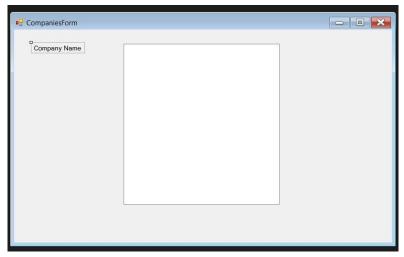


Figure 1.9.15

```
Dim efCompanyDAL As CompanyDal
Dim efProductDAL As ProductDal

Dim userId As Integer = LoginAndRegisterForm.userId

Oreferences

Public Sub Main()
BlbCompanyId.Text = efCompanyDAL.GetUserCompany(userId).CompanyId
IblCompanyId.Text = efCompanyDAL.GetUserCompany(userId).CompanyName

For Each item As Product In efProductDAL.GetProducts(efCompanyDAL.GetUserCompany(userId).CompanyId)

IstProducts.Items.Add(item.ProductName)

Next

End Sub
End Sub
End Sub
End Class
```

Figure 1.9.16

In the example codes part, a small application was developed to show how Visual Basic codes are generated, how to connect the Database model with the project and how Forms are designed.

1.10 SPECIFIC THINGS

1.10.1 CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE LANGUAGE

Visual Basic is based on characteristics of BASIC.

- As in the previous BASIC, there is no line number, the code is grouped into subroutines or methods. → Sub ... End Sub.
- Code Expressions do not contain a terminating character other than a line break (carriage return/line feed). Versions since at least VB 3.0 have allowed expressions to be indirectly multi-line by combining strings, or explicitly multi-line using the underscore character (_) at the end of the lines.
- Code comments are made with a single apostrophe (') character. → 'This is a comment
- Loop statement blocks begin and end with keywords \rightarrow Do ... Loop, While ... End While, For ... Next.
- Multiple variables cannot be assigned. A = B = C does not mean that all values are equal.

- The Boolean data type is stored as a two's complement signed integer. The numerical value of the Boolean constant True is −1. In this structure, −1 evaluates all-1s as binary (Boolean value of True) and 0 all-0s (Boolean value of False).
- Logical and bitwise operators are unified. This is different from some C-derivative languages, for example, Perl with separate logical and bitwise operators. This is one of BASIC's traditional features.
- Variable array base. Arrays are declared by specifying the upper and lower boundaries similar to Pascal and Fortran. It is also possible to use the Option Base statement to set the default lower bound. Using the Option Base statement can confuse when reading Visual Basic code and is best avoided by always explicitly specifying the lower boundary of the array. This lower limit is not limited to 0 or 1 because it can also be set via notification. In this way, both the lower and upper bounds can be programmed. In languages limited to subscript, the lower bound of the array is not variable.
- Relatively strong integration with the Windows operating system and Component Object Model.
- The banker's rounding is rounded as the default behavior when converting real numbers to integers with the Round function. → ? Round (2,5,0) 2,? The round gives (3.5,0) 4.
- Integers are automatically raised to the reals in expressions containing the normal division operator (/), so dividing one integer with another produces an intuitively accurate result. VB provides a specific integer division operator (\) that is truncated. By default, if a variable is not declared or no type of declaration character is specified, the variable is of the Variant type. However, this can be replaced with Deftype statements such as DefInt, DefBool, DefVar, DefObj, DefStr. There are 12 Deftype statements in total offered by Visual Basic 6.0. The default type may be overridden for a specific declaration by using a special suffix character on the variable name (# for Double, ! for Single, & Long, % for Integer, \$ for String, and @ for Currency).

1.10.2 DERIVATIVE LANGUAGES

- Visual Basic itself is derived heavily from BASIC.
- Microsoft has developed derivatives of Visual Basic for use in scripting.
- Visual Basic subsequently has been replaced with a .NET platform version.

❖ Visual Basic for Applications (VBA)

It is a structure developed to create automation within software such as Microsoft Office.

❖ VB Script

VBScript is the default language for Active Server Pages.

Active Server Pages (ASP) is the standard language of the web Platform.

It is based on the Visual Basic syntax.

ASP and VB Script are not the same thing as ASP.NET.

ASP.NET is in a similar category with Visual Basic.Net.

❖ Visual Basic .NET

Although Visual Basic.NET is the heir to the Visual Basic 6.0 Platform, it is a different structure and runs on the .NET Framework.

This Platform is a step to strengthen the Object-Oriented features of the Visual Basic language.

However, it can be said that the user-friendly features of the Visual Basic language that make it an advanced language are compromised.

Apart from these;

- OpenOffice Basic is a Visual Basic compatible interpreter arising from the StarOffice office suite.
- The Gambas is a free software programming language inspired by Visual Basic for the Linux operating system.
 - It is not a Visual Basic clone, but it can convert Visual Basic programs to the Gambas.
- WinWrap Basic is a third-party VBA variant used with various software that programmers can use to create a macro facility in their programs.
- LotusScript is a VBA variant available in Lotus SmartSuite and Lotus Notes.
- Later versions of the Corel WordPerfect Office apply to access to VBA as one of the macro/scripting languages.
 - Other major languages are CorelScript and PerfectScript earlier versions of Microsoft Word use a variant of Visual Basic called WordBasic.

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- 3. https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/visual-basic/
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