CHAPTER-8
Visual Basic Interface Styles

1> Interface is the visual part of the application, which the user interact with.

VB support following three types of interface styles:

  (i)   Single Document Interface (SDI)

  (ii)   Multiple Document Interface (MDI)

  (iii) Explorer Style Interface

2> Difference between SDI and MDI

Single Document Interface (SDI) support single document in its window. i.e., the moment we open another document the previously opened document is closed and then the new document is loaded in its window. An example of the SDI interface is the *Wordpad* application included with *Microsoft Windows*. In *Wordpad*, only a single document may be opened; we must close one document in order to open another, simply because it is an SDI application.

Multiple Document Interface (MDI) on the other hand, allows us to display *multiple documents* at the same time, with each document displayed in its own window. *MS-Word, MS-Excel* etc are example of MDI applications as they allow opening of several documents simultaneously.

3> It is discouraged to create separate menus for child forms because when a child form is loaded and activated, its menu takes over the menu of parent form and the menu of parent form is lost.

4> We can convert existing forms to MDI child forms, by setting their MDIChild properties to True.

5> The controls that can be placed on an MDI parent form are **Timer control** and **Image box**.

6> An MDI child form is not a top-level window, it needs a container i.e., an MDI parent form, to be displayed. That is why if a child form is loaded first, its parent form gets loaded automatically.

7> **Me** is a special keyword used to refer to the active form object in which it is used.

8> A splash screen is a special form with minimal functionality that is loaded as soon as a user executes an application. This screen has few graphics/ text displayed on it.

9> A VB application can have only one MDI parent window.

10> An MDI application must have an MDI Parent form and at least one MDI Child form (i.e. a form with its MDI Child property set to True).

11> A child form cannot be displayed modally.

12> An MDI application can contains as many MDI child forms.

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