



Introduction to Windows controls

1



Lecture Contents:

- Windows applications - basic concepts
 - OOP
 - Event driven Programming
- Form
- Controls - label, edit box, button
- Procedures - Event handlers
- Visual Studio IDE

2



Object Oriented Programming

- **Object-oriented programming** (OOP) is a programming paradigm that uses abstraction to create models based on the real world. It permits creation of entities known as UDT /User Defined data Types/ that contain data components and procedures to operate on these data components.
- Typical characteristics of OOP:
 - modularity,
 - data encapsulation (data hiding)
 - inheritance,
 - polymorphism.

3



Object Oriented Programming

- **Windows**
- **Forms**
- **Controls (labels, textboxes, listboxes, checkboxes, buttons, radio buttons, etc)**
are objects (also called instances) that belong to specific abstract user defined data types, named classes.

Analogy: Class >> Object
 Basic data type >> Variable

4



Event Driven Programming

- **Event Driven Programming** is a style of computer programming where the flow of the program is determined by user actions (mouse clicks, key presses) or messages from other programs.
- In contrast, in **batch programming** the flow is determined by the programmer. Batch programming is the style taught in beginning programming classes while event driven programming is what is needed in any interactive program.

5

Windows Applications

6



Console applications

- A console application runs in a console window (or DOS box) and provides simple text-based output.

```
Visual Studio .NET 2003 Command Prompt
D:\VISUAL\1\UB\PROBEN>UBdemo
Hello, World! from a console application
Hello, World! from a console application
Hello, World! from a console application
D:\VISUAL\1\UB\PROBEN>dir
```

7



Windows applications

- A Windows application runs on a PC's desktop.
- Windows applications are more complex than console applications and take advantage of the GUI /Graphical User Interface/.
- VB programs are also known as applications, solutions, or projects. Each program is saved in its own folder.

8

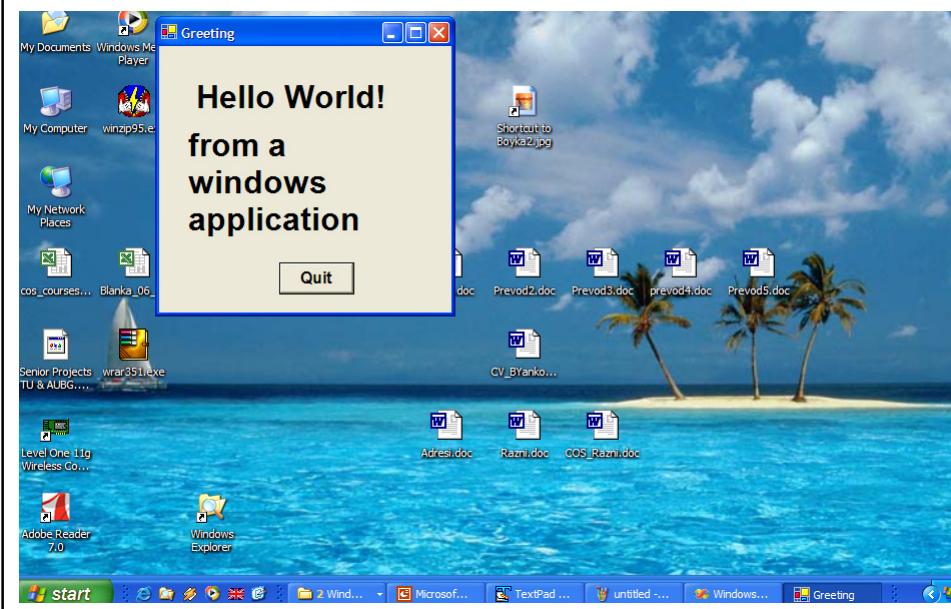


Windows applications

- VB programs display a Windows-style screen (called a form). Each form contains:
 - boxes (Text box, List box, Combo box, etc) into which users type and edit information.
 - buttons that users click to initiate actions.
 - labels located near a text box to tell the user what type of information is displayed in the text box.
- Boxes, buttons and labels are referred to as controls.

9

Desktop and Windows application



Windows application: form, label, button

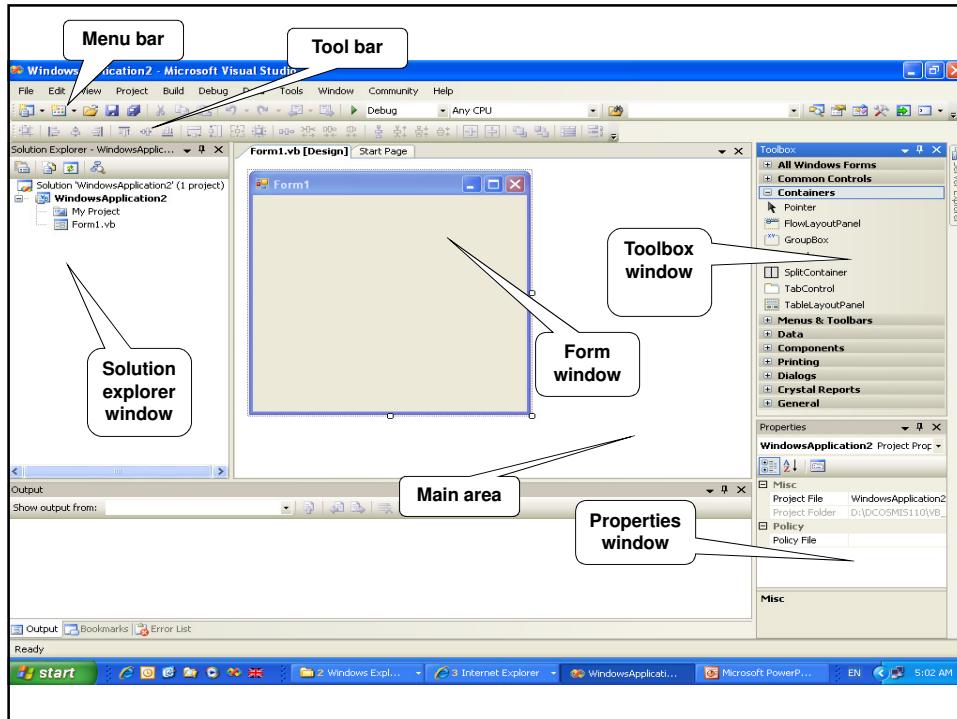


11

Windows applications

For example, in **Visual Basic .NET**, selecting the **Windows Application option** automatically creates the windows shown on the next slide.

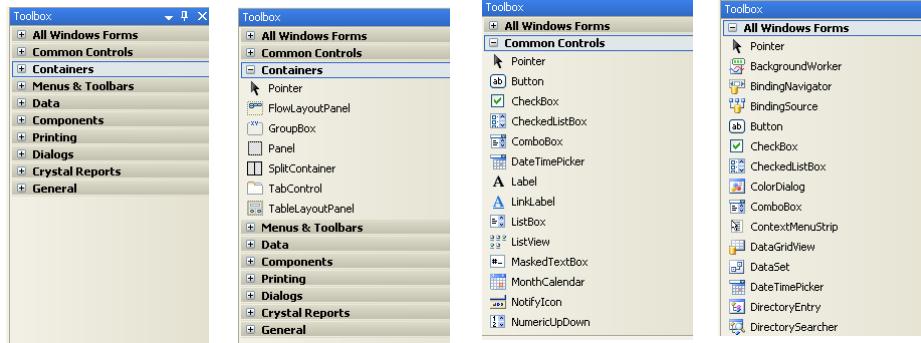
12



The **Integrated Development Environment (IDE)** for **VB.NET** displays following main windows:

- **the Main area window** currently holds the **Windows Form Designer**. The rectangular **Form window**, or **form** for short, becomes a **Windows window** when a program is executed.
- **the Solution Explorer window** is used to display various parts of a program.
- **the Properties window** is used to change how objects look and react.
- **the Toolbox window** holds icons representing controls that can be placed on the form.

The **ToolBox** consists of a collection of control objects or controls for short that can be created by clicking and dragging.



15

Some of the most often used controls available from The **ToolBox**:

Text boxes: You use a text box to get information from the user, referred to as input, or to display information produced by the program, referred to as output.

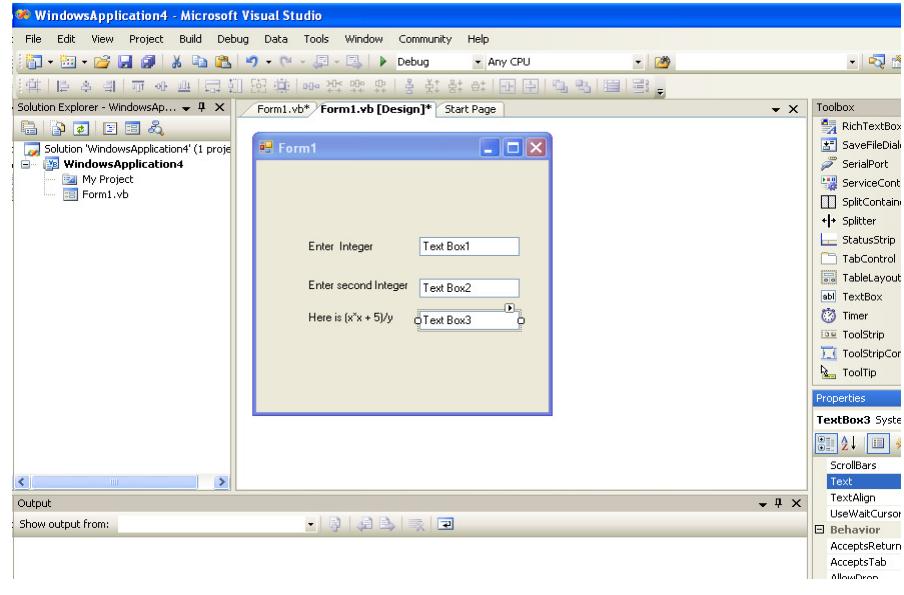
Labels: You place a label near a text box to tell the user what type of information is displayed in the text box.

Buttons: the user clicks a button to initiate an action.

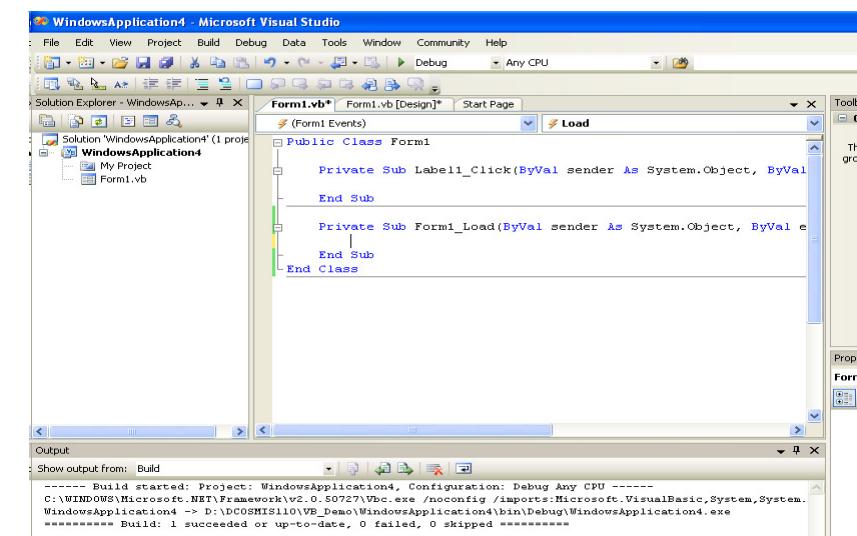
List boxes: You use a list box to display tables or several lines of text, or to make a selection.

16

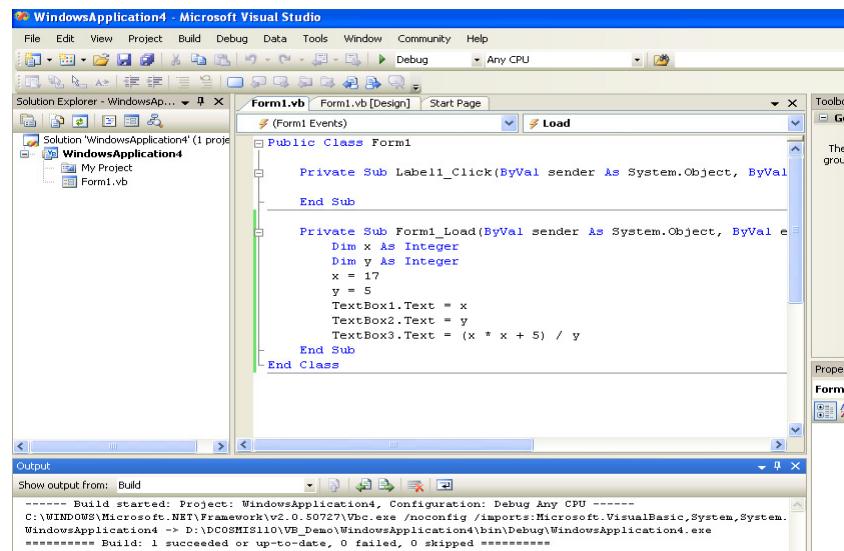
In the following, **three labels** and **three textboxes** have been created by using the **ToolBox**



Having created a visual interface by clicking and dragging, the appropriate **Visual Basic code** is also automatically inserted into your program.



Having created a visual interface by clicking and dragging, the appropriate *Visual Basic code* is also automatically inserted into your program.

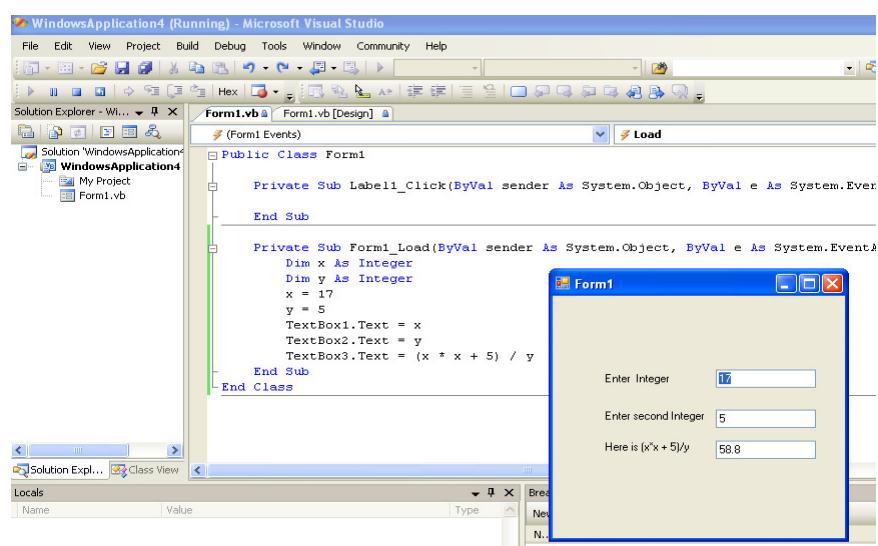


```

WindowsApplication4 - Microsoft Visual Studio
File Edit View Project Build Debug Data Tools Window Community Help
Solution Explorer - WindowsAp... Form1.vb [Design] Start Page
Solution 'WindowsApplication4' (1 project)
  My Project
    Form1.vb
Form1.vb (Form Events) Load
Public Class Form1
    Private Sub Label1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles Label1.Click
        Dim x As Integer
        Dim y As Integer
        x = 17
        y = 5
        TextBox1.Text = x
        TextBox2.Text = y
        TextBox3.Text = (x * x + 5) / y
    End Sub
    Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load
        Dim x As Integer
        Dim y As Integer
        x = 17
        y = 5
        TextBox1.Text = x
        TextBox2.Text = y
        TextBox3.Text = (x * x + 5) / y
    End Sub
End Class

```

Having created a visual interface by clicking and dragging, the appropriate *Visual Basic code* is also automatically inserted into your program.

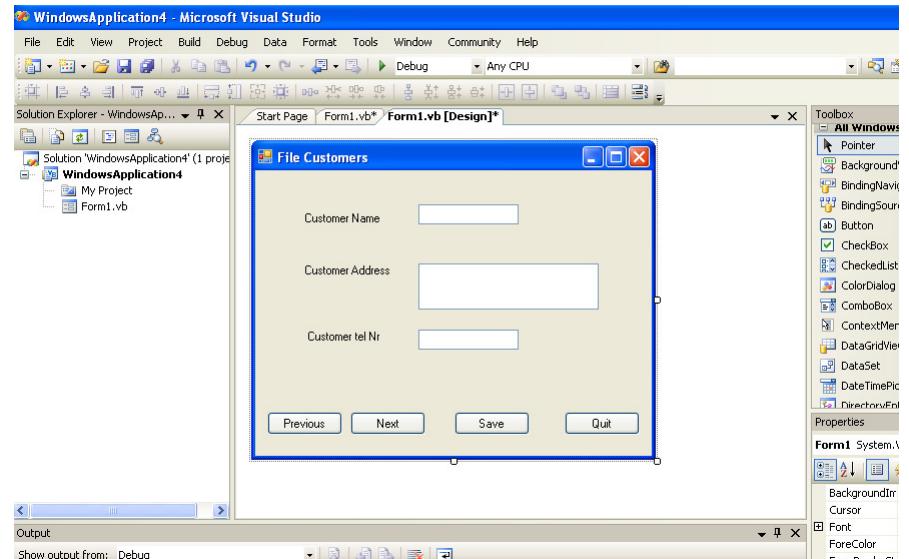


```

WindowsApplication4 (Running) - Microsoft Visual Studio
File Edit View Project Build Debug Tools Window Community Help
Solution Explorer - WindowsAp... Form1.vb [Design]
Solution 'WindowsApplication4'
  My Project
    Form1.vb
Form1.vb (Form Events) Load
Public Class Form1
    Private Sub Label1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles Label1.Click
        Dim x As Integer
        Dim y As Integer
        x = 17
        y = 5
        TextBox1.Text = x
        TextBox2.Text = y
        TextBox3.Text = (x * x + 5) / y
    End Sub
    Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load
        Dim x As Integer
        Dim y As Integer
        x = 17
        y = 5
        TextBox1.Text = x
        TextBox2.Text = y
        TextBox3.Text = (x * x + 5) / y
    End Sub
End Class

```

Another example of a Form design: three Labels, three blank Text Boxes and four Buttons



Visual Basic is completely graphically (visually) oriented.

Visual Basic allows you to create applications using the concepts of *Graphical User Interface (GUI)*.

It has already constructed all the necessary building blocks that an application needs like windows, command buttons, list boxes and option buttons.

This means that there is much less coding needed to be done and an impressive **Visual Basic** application can be created very quickly.

Visual Basic is an event-driven language

- the code is written to respond to specific events, e.g. a user creates an **event** by clicking on a button, pressing a key, choosing an item in a list box or closing a window, etc.

In **Basic**, a program is executed without regard to **events**.

In **Visual Basic**, due to its windows interface, the users may click on a certain object randomly, so each object has to be programmed independently to be able to respond to those actions (events).

Therefore, a **Visual Basic** program is made up of many “**subprograms**”, each has its own program code, and each can be executed independently, and at the same time each can be linked together in one way or another.

23



I-P-O Illustrated

- **Demo1: I-P-O model of computing process using a console application**
- **Demo2: I-P-O model of computing process using a Windows application**

24

Reminder: a program for a company office manager.

The company mails letters comprising a different number of sheets of paper.

The more sheets, the more stamps are required for the letter

Problem:

- How many stamps do you use when mailing a letter?
- “rule of thumb”: Use one stamp for every five sheets of paper or fraction thereof.

25

The Source text as a console application

Imports System
Module Module1

Sub Main()

Dim Sheets, Stamps As Integer

Console.WriteLine("Enter number of sheets:")
Sheets = CInt(Console.ReadLine())

Stamps = Math.Ceiling(Sheets / 5)

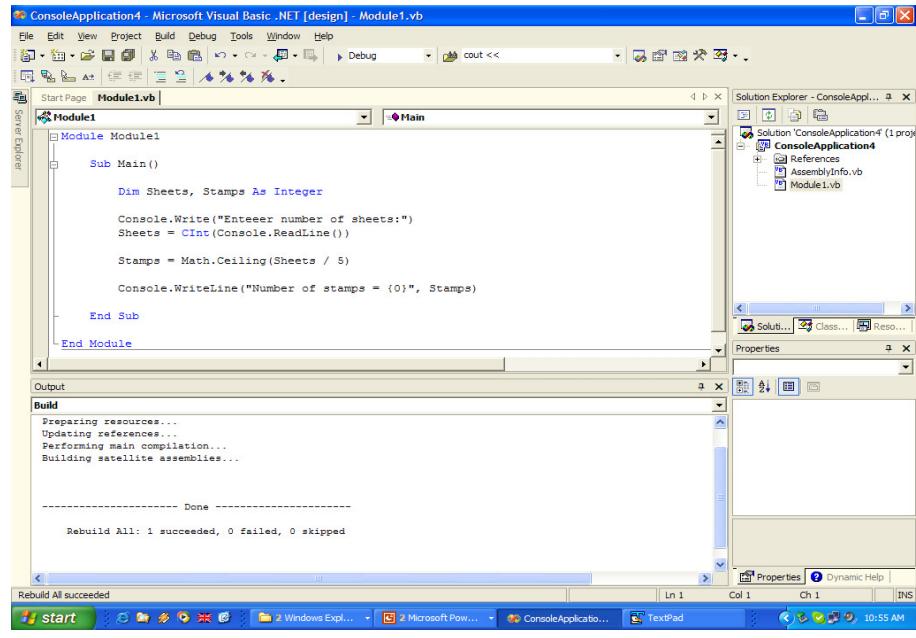
Console.WriteLine("Number of stamps = {0}", Stamps)

End Sub

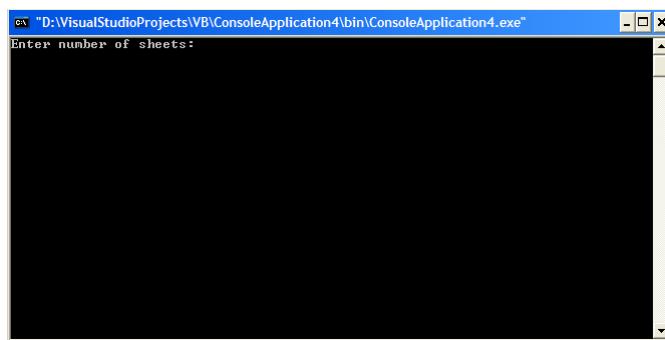
End Module

26

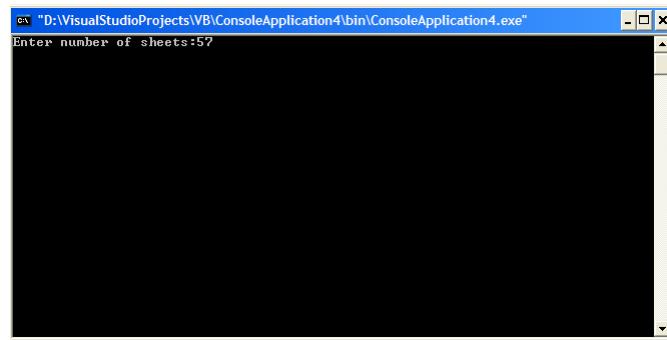
Compile-time: Compilation process takes place



Run-time: Execution takes place: INPUT Console.WriteLine("Enter number of sheets:")



Run-time: Execution takes place: INPUT
Sheets = CInt(Console.ReadLine())



29

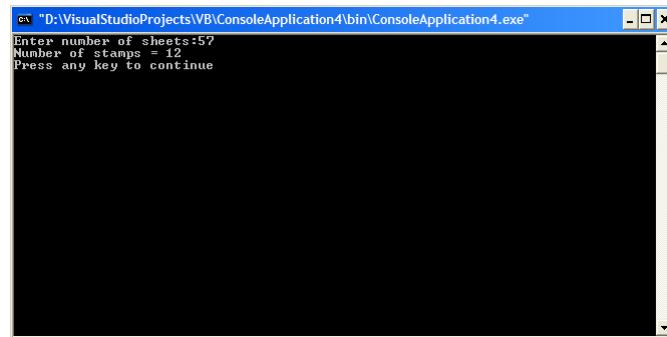
Run-time: Execution takes place: PROCESS

Stamps = Math.Ceiling(Sheets / 5)

30

Run-time: Execution takes place: OUTPUT

`Console.WriteLine("Number of stamps = {0}", Stamps)`



31

I-P-O Illustrated

- Demo1: I-P-O model of computing process using a console application
- **Demo2: I-P-O model of computing process using a Windows application**

32

No Compile-time, No Run-time: Design takes place:

Application includes:

1 Form

Form includes:

3 labels:

"Enter no of Sheets:"

"You need"

"Stamps"

2 text boxes:

1 for input

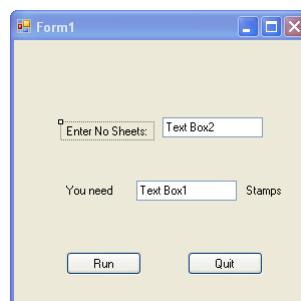
1 for output

2 buttons:

Run

Quit

33

No Compile-time, No Run-time: Design takes place:

34

Source text concentrated in procedure button Run

```

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

    Dim Sheets, Stamps As Integer

    Sheets = CInt(TextBox1.Text)

    Stamps = Math.Ceiling(Sheets / 5)      'Stamps = Sheets \ 5

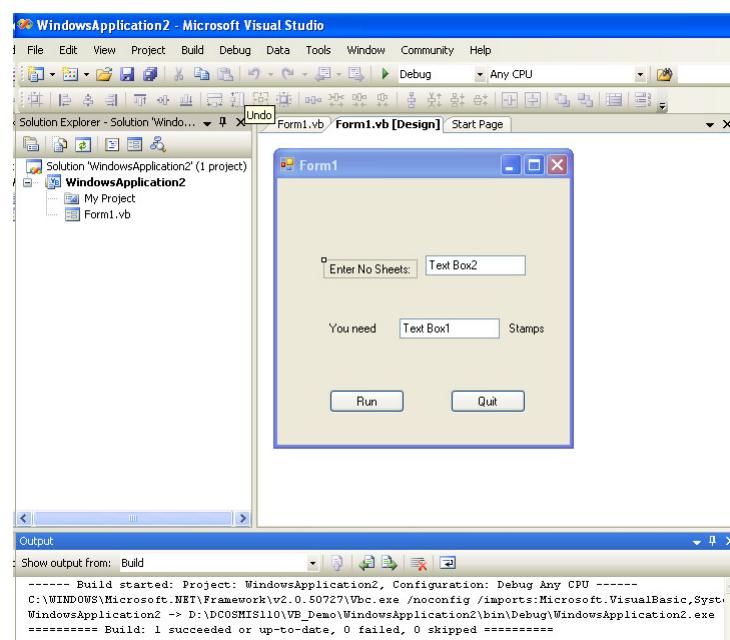
    TextBox2.Text = CStr(Stamps)

End Sub

```

35

Compile-time: Compilation process takes place



36

Run-time: Execution takes place:



37

Run-time: Execution takes place:



38

Run-time: Execution takes place:



39

Windows Applications

40

VB.NET displays a Window-style screen (called a *form*) with:

- **boxes** into which users type information and/or in which users edit information;
- **buttons** that users click to initiate actions.

The boxes and buttons are referred to as *controls*.

The most common *controls* are:

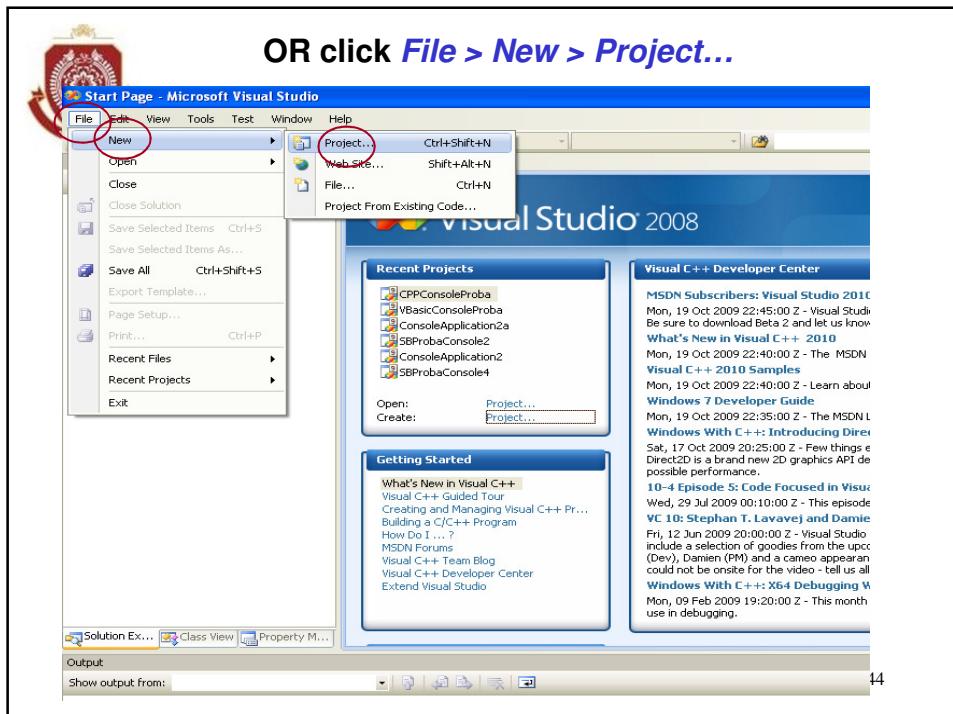
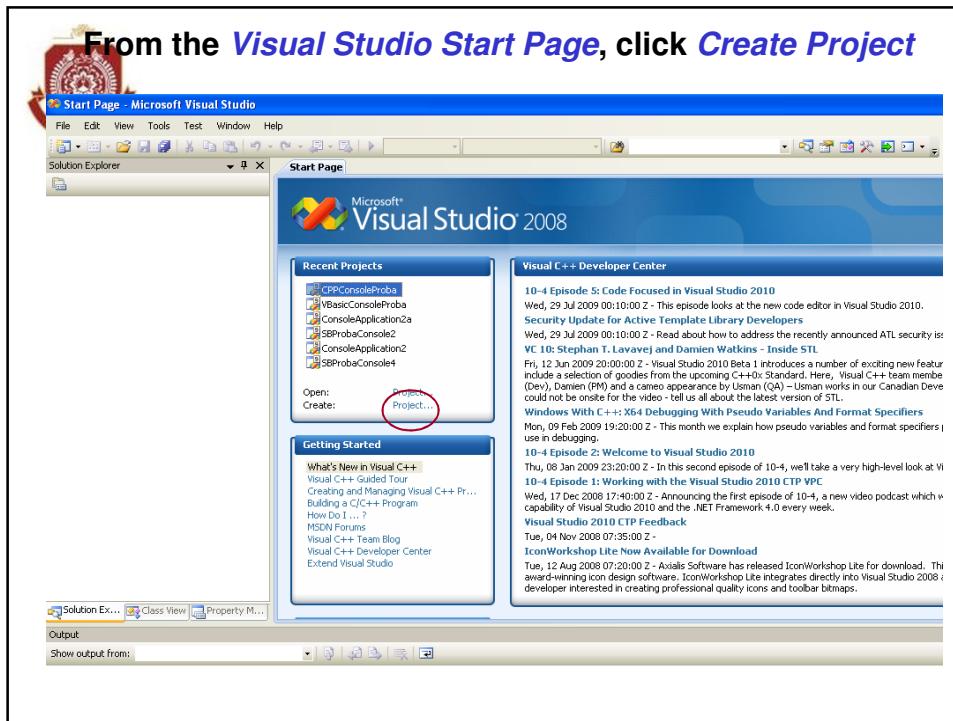
- **Text boxes**
- **Labels**
- **Buttons**
- **List boxes**

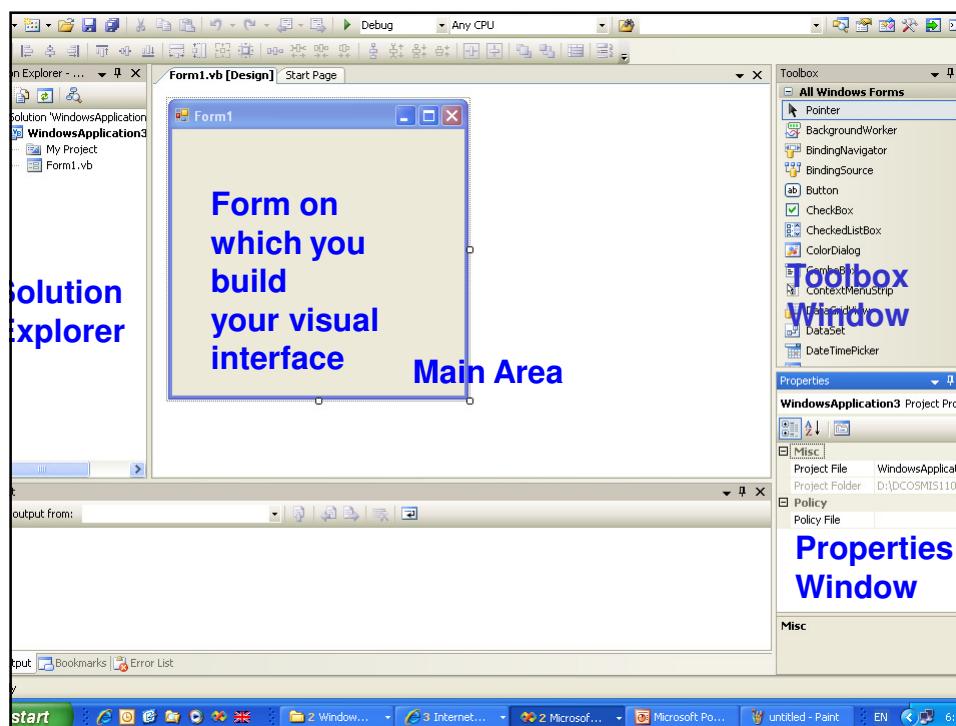
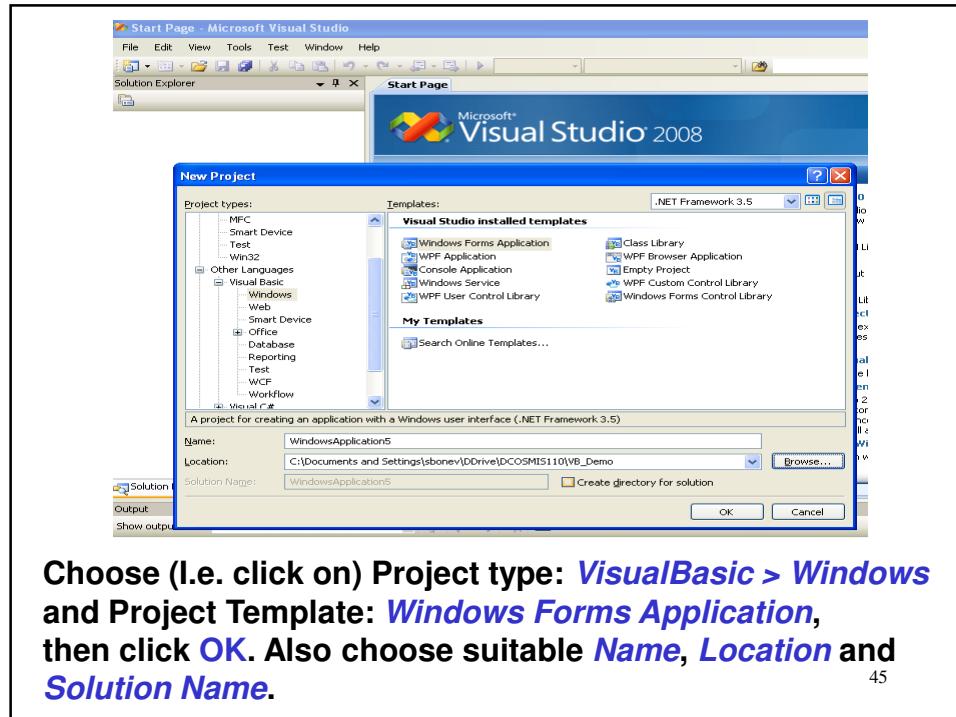
41

The three steps in creating a VB.NET program

1. Create the interface; that is, generate, position, and size the objects.
2. Set properties; that is, configure the appearance of the objects.
3. Write the code that executes when events occur.

42





The **Form** is your “**canvas**” – here you build the **visual interface** that your program will present to users

- The interface comprises various **controls** that are required by your particular program.

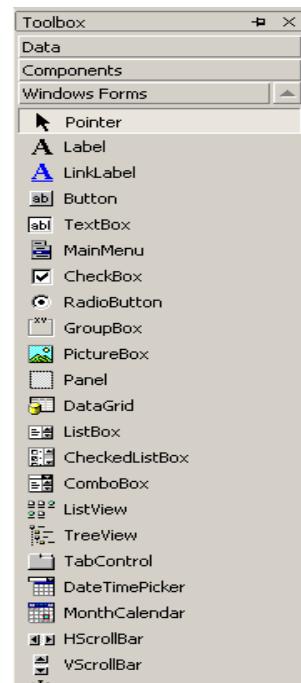
- These **controls** permit the user to:

- input data to the program (**textboxes**);
- receive back the results generated by the program and displayed on the screen in order to be examined by the user (**textboxes, listboxes**);
- to process specific activities (**buttons**);
- to display text within the form (**labels**).

47

The **Toolbox** contains a list of **controls** (icons).

Using the **Toolbox**, you may add **controls** to your “**user interface**”, i.e. you may develop a screen for your program.

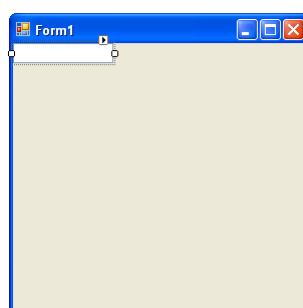


48

The TextBox control

49

Double click on the **Text Box** icon in the **Toolbox (IDE 2005/08)**



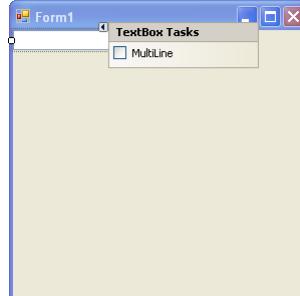
A **text box** appears in the top left part of the **Form** – by default it has the name “**TextBox1**” and is blank.

Drag (with the left mouse button) the **text box** to any part of the **Form**

The two small squares are known as **sizing handles** and they allow you to resize the length of the **text box**

50

Double click on the **Text Box** icon in the **Toolbox**

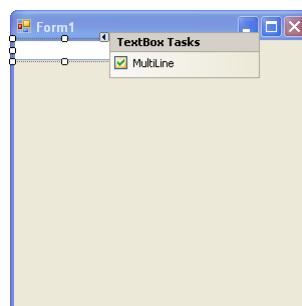


If you click the top-right square filled with triangle mark, you can modify the TextBox tasks, selecting the check box in order to transform the selected control
from **SingleLine TextBox**
to **MultiLine TextBox**

See next slide.

51

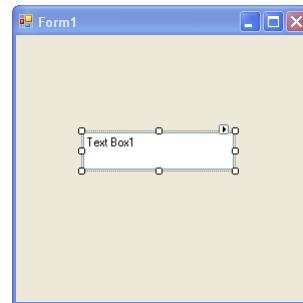
Double click on the **Text Box** icon in the **Toolbox**



A **text box** appears in the top left part of the **Form** – by default it has the name “**TextBox1**”

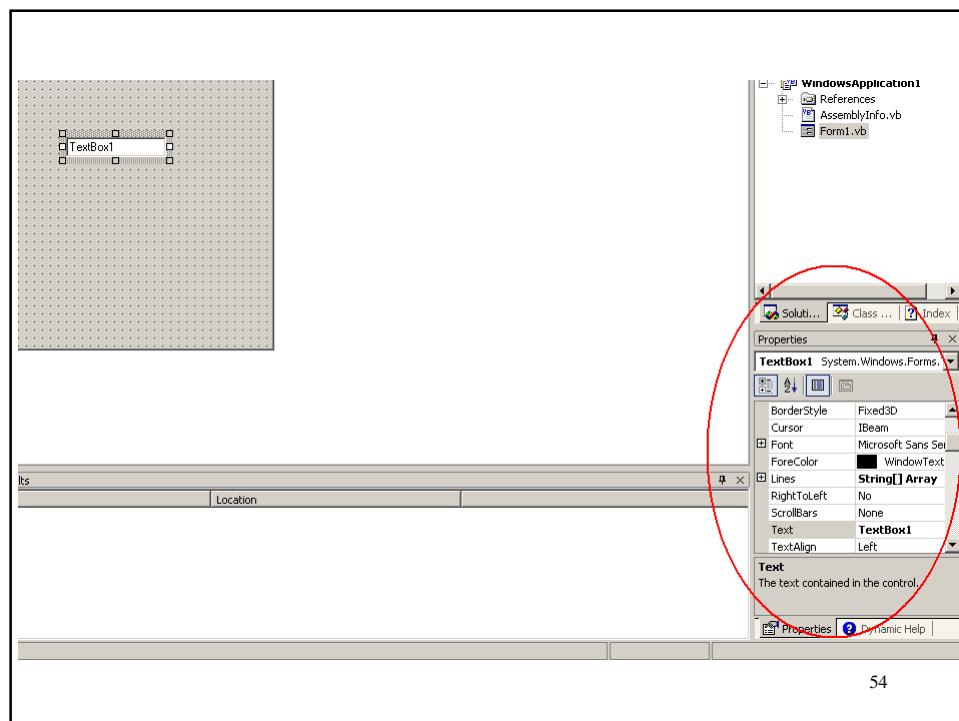
Drag (with the left mouse button) the **text box** to any part of the **Form**

The eight small squares are known as **sizing handles** and they allow you to resize the **length&width** of the **text box**



When a **control** is “**selected**” (i.e. its **handles** are showing), its “**properties**” (how the controls looks and reacts) are listed in the **Properties window** (bottom right window of screen)

53



54

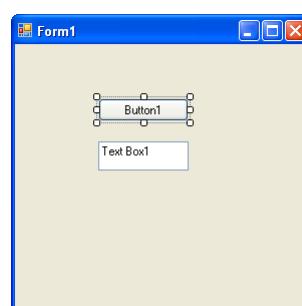
The **Button** control

55

Now add a **button** to the **Form** by double clicking on the **Button icon** in the **Toolbox**.

By default, it has the name “**Button1**”

Drag it above the **text box**



56

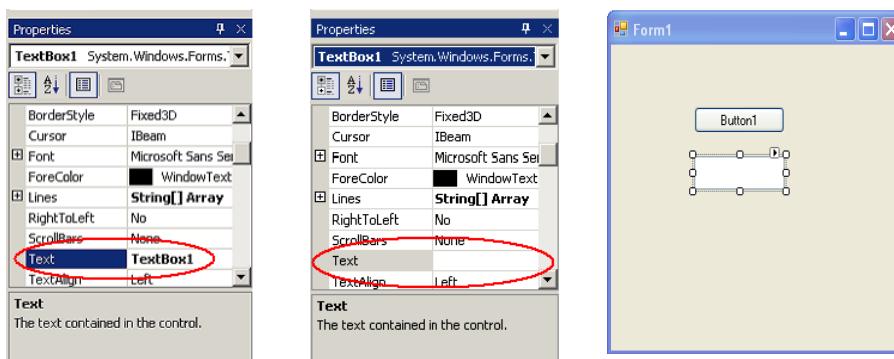
Other controls may be added to the Form in a similar way.

We will now develop a small program so that when the button is clicked, a message will appear in the text box.

57

Click on the text box to select it.

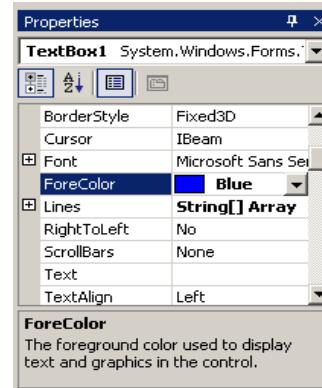
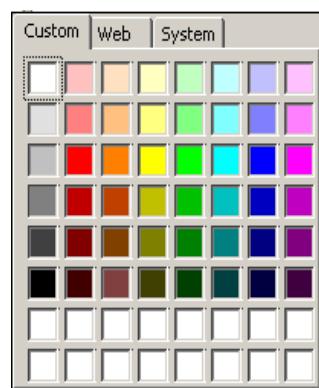
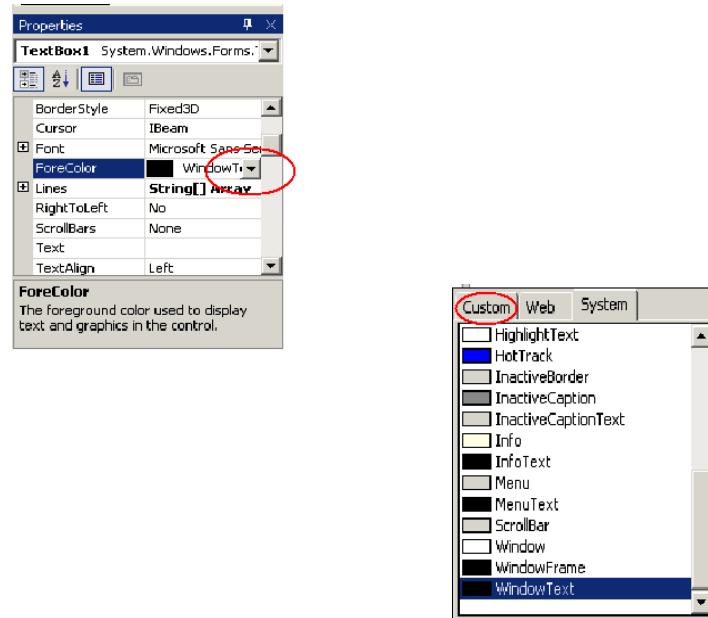
In the Properties window, delete the Text string “Textbox1”



The text box will now be blank.

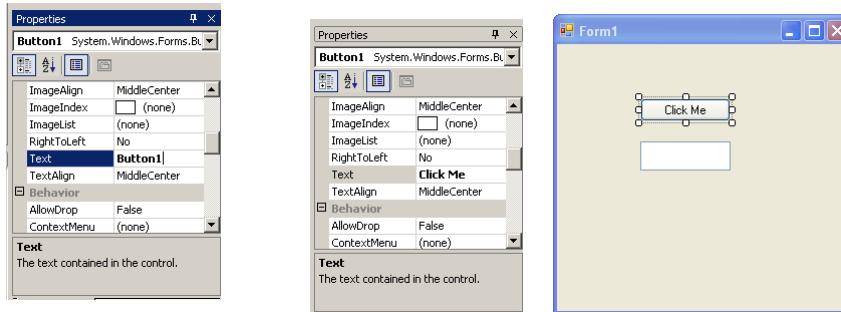
58

In the *Properties* window, scroll to find the *ForeColor* property.



Click on the button to select it.

In the Properties window, change the Text string from “Button1” to “Click Me”



The button on the form will now display the message “Click Me”.

61

Double click on the button.

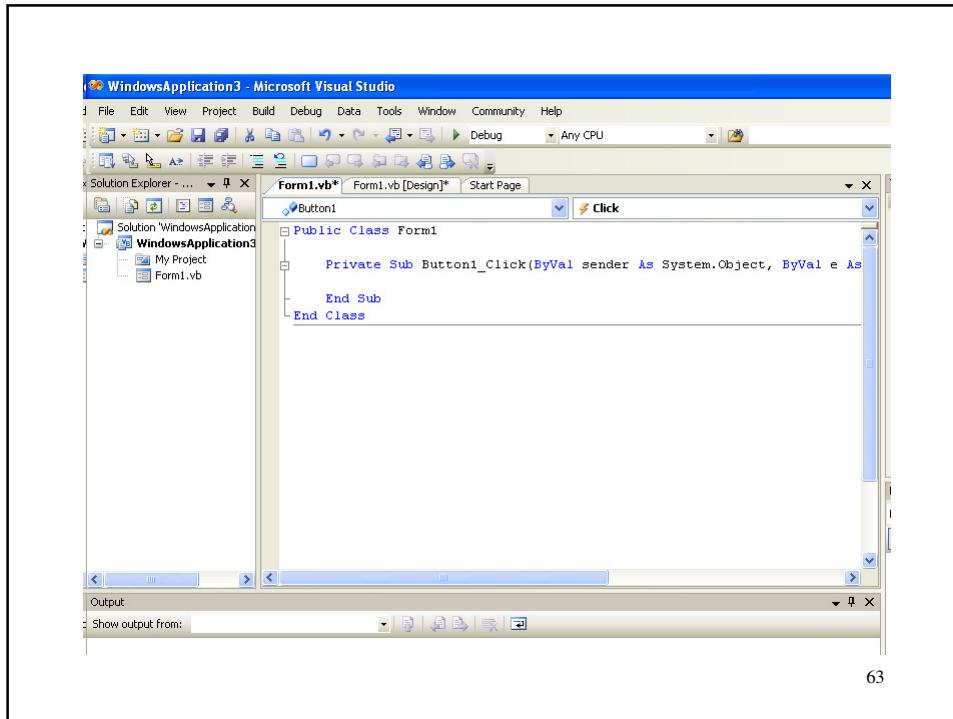
A **Code Designer** window opens up.

VB.NET automatically generates a skeleton Sub Procedure to handle the “event” when the button is clicked.

- When the **button** is clicked, this **Sub Procedure** will be called automatically.

This skeleton Visual Basic code (template) is displayed in the main area of the screen.

62



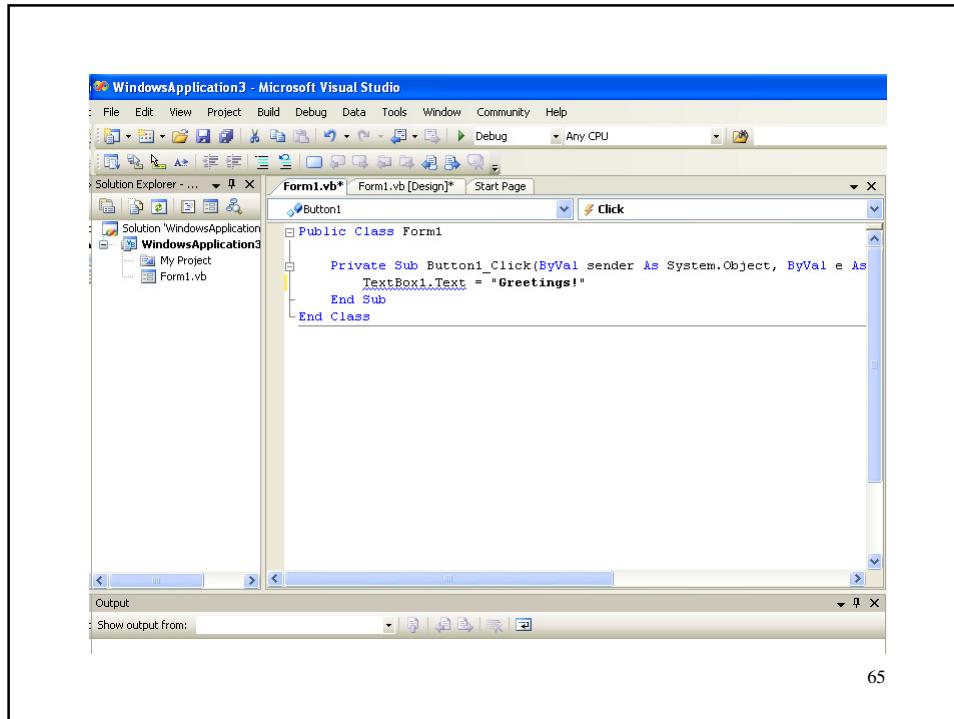
We now need to add **Visual Basic** statements to this **Sub Procedure** that will display a message when the **button** is clicked.

For the **text box**, we can assign a message as follows

```
TextBox1.Text = "Greetings!"
```

i.e. for the **control** called **TextBox1**, we assign the text message "**Greetings!**" to its **Text** property.

64



You are now in a position to test your first VB Windows program.

Select the **Start** option from the **Debug** pull-down menu.



You could alter further properties of the text box if necessary, e.g. font type, font size, centered, etc.

66

You are now in a position to modify your first VB Windows program.

Change/modify/update/alter the following properties of the TextBox control:

Forecolor to become green

Backcolor to become pink

Font to become Courier New

TextAlign to become centered

67

Other common controls:

labels: You place a label control to the left of a text box to tell the user what information should be typed in the text box

Name

list boxes: Have a number of uses, e.g. display tables or several lines of output.

68

The Name Property

Every **control** has a **Name** property.

It is used in the code to refer to the **control**, e.g. **TextBox1**, **TextBox2**, etc.

Common **controls** have **short-form Name**

e.g.

button	btn
label	lbl
list box	lst
text box	txt

69

Working with Events

The Windows user interface relies on **events** to know when the user has done something

- when user clicks a button – **Click event**
- when user double clicks the mouse – **DoubleClick event**
- when user presses a key – **KeyPress event**

Controls may have several **events**, e.g. Button besides **Click event**, has **MouseUp** and **MouseDown events**

70

When a **VB.NET** program runs, the **Form** and its **controls** appear on the screen.

However, nothing happens until the user takes an action, causing an **event**.

We need to write **VB** code to handle these **events**.

Specifically, **properties of controls** are changed with an **assignment statement**

```
ControlName.Property = Value
```

71

E.g.

```
TextBox1.ForeColor = Color.Red
```

sets the color of characters in the text box

```
TextBox1.Text = "Hello"
```

displays the word “Hello” in the text box

```
btnButton.Visible = True
```

makes the button visible

72

VB.NET's Code Designer automatically generates a **code template** for handling an **event** for a **control** whenever you double click on a specific **control object** in the **Form** – **event (Sub) procedure**

E.g. Double clicking on a button control – **Code Designer** generates the following code template (in red). You (the programmer) must add **VB statements** to handle the event.

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

    VB statements
    ↑
End Sub
Inserted by programmer
```

73

E.g.

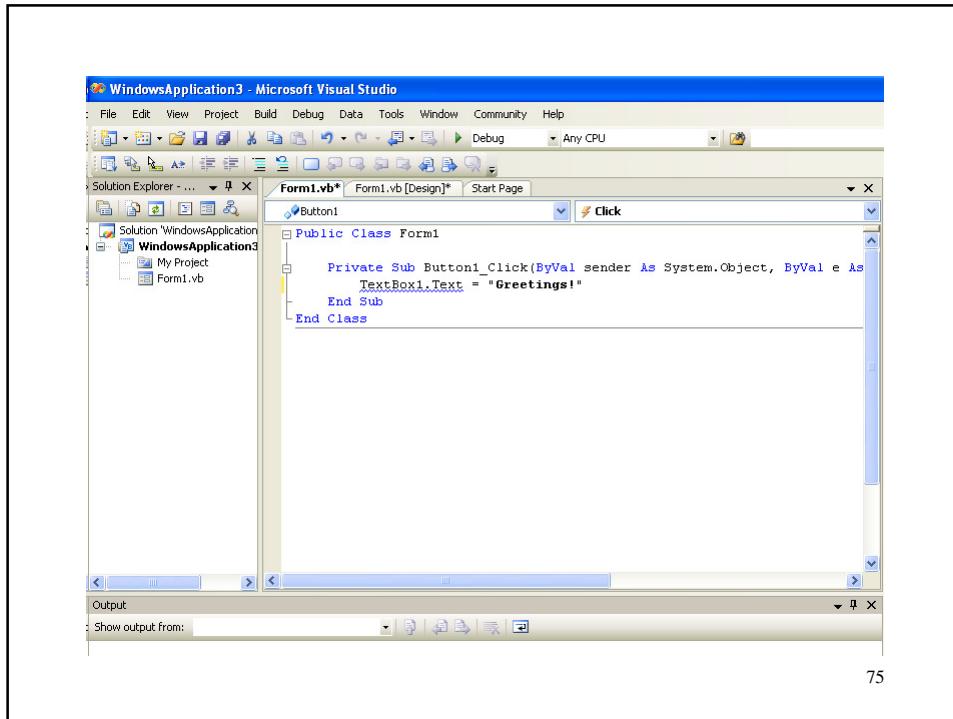
```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As
System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles
Button1.Click

    TextBox1.Text = "Greetings!"

End Sub
```

displays the message “Greetings!” in the text box when the button is clicked.

74



75

The Declaration Statement of an *Event Procedure*

- A declaration statement for an *event procedure*

```
Private Sub btnOne_Click(...) Handles btnOne.Click
```

- The name can be changed at will. For example,

```
Private Sub ButtonPushed(...) Handles btnOne.Click
```

- Handling more than one event

```
Private Sub ButtonPushed(...) Handles btnOne.Click,
    btnTwo.Click
```

76

Whenever a control, say a textbox, is selected (cursor is visible in the textbox), we say that the textbox has the focus.

It means that the textbox is the currently selected control and any keyboard actions will be sent directly to this control.

77

When a control loses the focus, the event
`control.Leave`

is triggered.

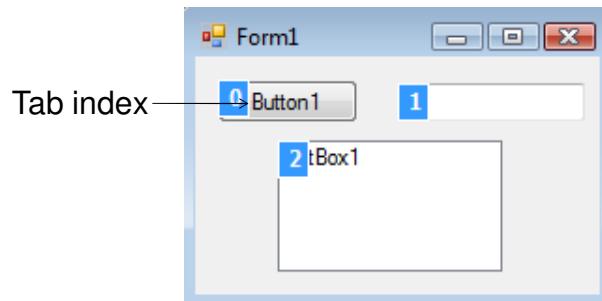
When a control gets the focus, the event
`control.Enter`

is triggered.

To move the focus to a specified control, use
`control.Focus()`

78

Tab Order /Schneider09, pp53/



The tab indices determine the order in which controls receive the focus during tabbing.

Chapter 2 - VB 2008 by Schneider

79
79

You may also assign properties to the **Form** itself in the code.

Not

```
Form1.Text = "Demonstration"
```

But

```
Me.Text = "Demonstration"
```

The form is referred to by the keyword **Me**.

80

Three other useful properties:

BackColor - specifies the background color for the form or control.

Visible – setting this property to **False** causes the control to disappear when the program is run. It can be made to reappear with code.

Enabled – setting this property to **False** restricts its use. It appears grayed and cannot receive the focus. This means that the user will not be able to type text in the textbox. Indeed, there exist cases when you want the program to update the string in the text box but you do not want the user to be able to type text in the text box.

81

One way to end a Windows application program is by getting the user to click on a button named, say “**Exit**”

The following VB statement then has to be entered in the sub-procedure handling the button click event.

Me.Close()

OR only

Close()

OR simply

End

82

Add one more button to this demo program, name it “quit” or “exit”.

Insert in the body of the corresponding event handler one of the following statements:

`Me.Close()` OR

`Close()` OR

`End`

83

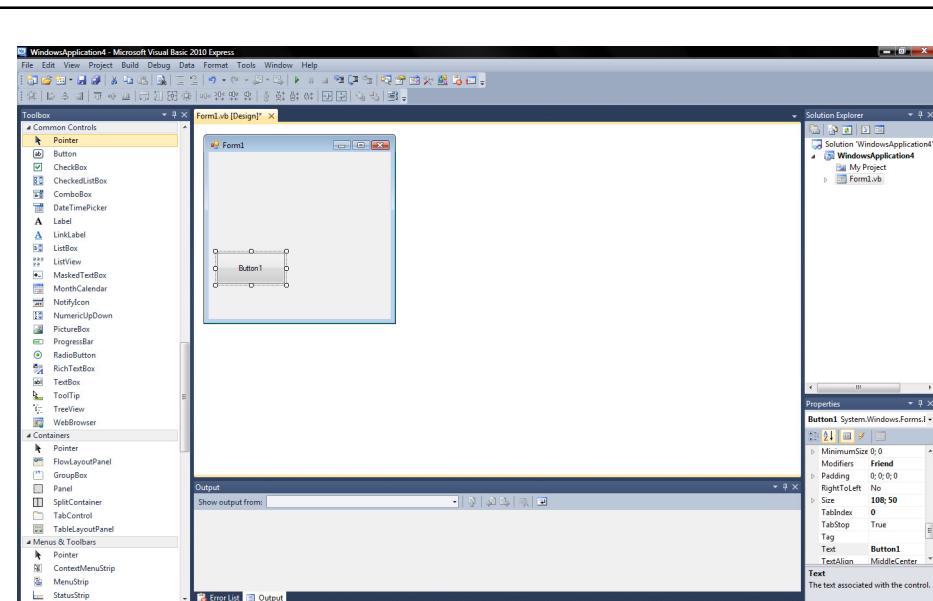
PRACTICAL TASKS

84

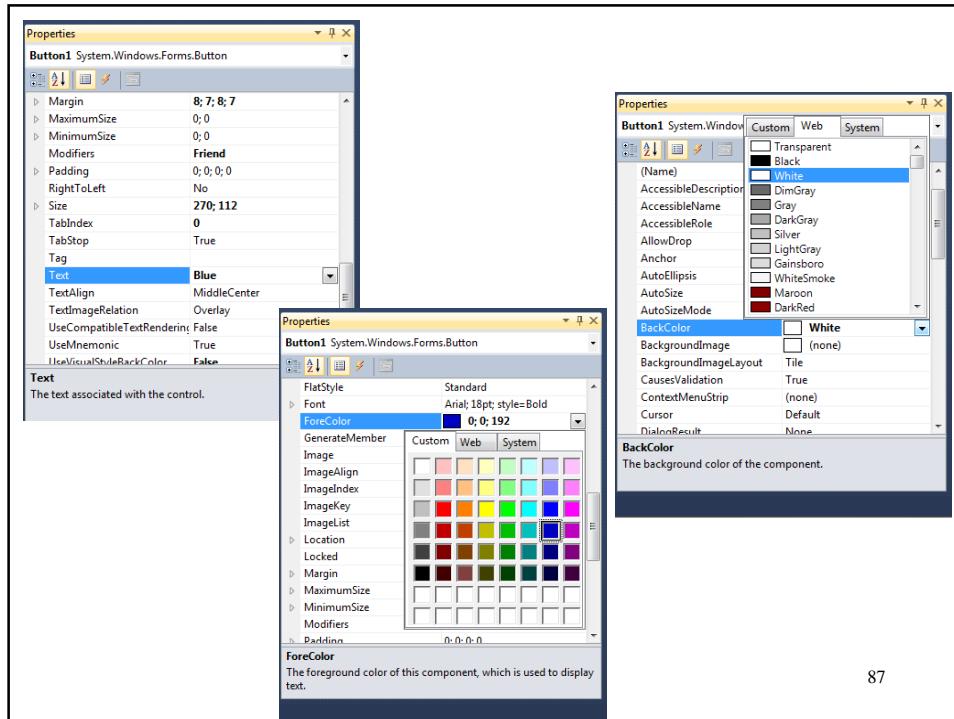
Task 1

- Develop Windows application with 2 buttons that allows the user to change the application form background color alternatively.

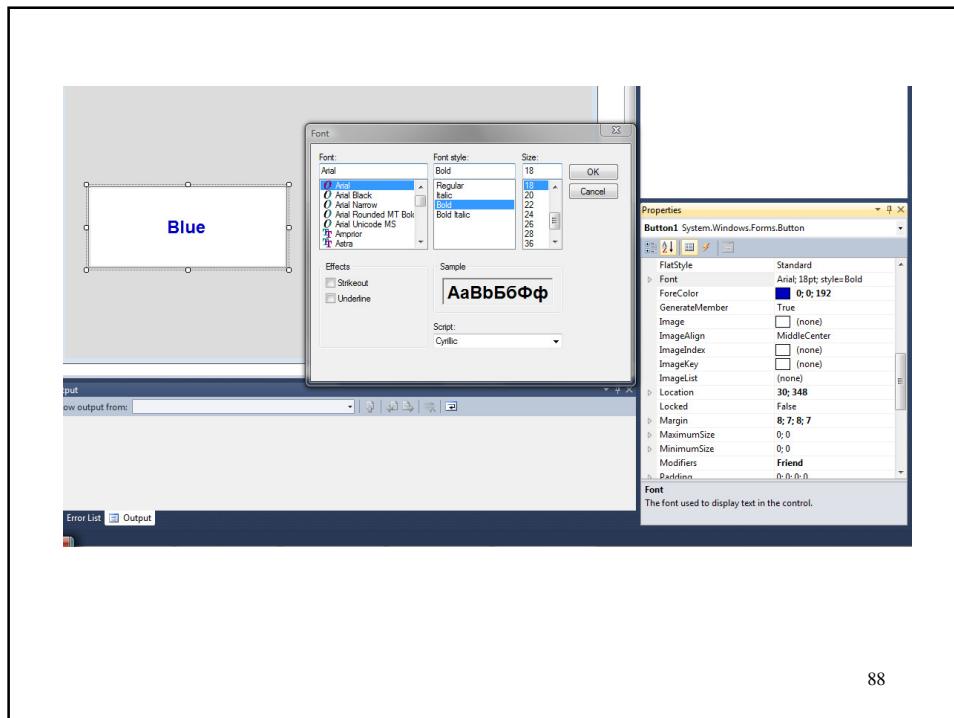
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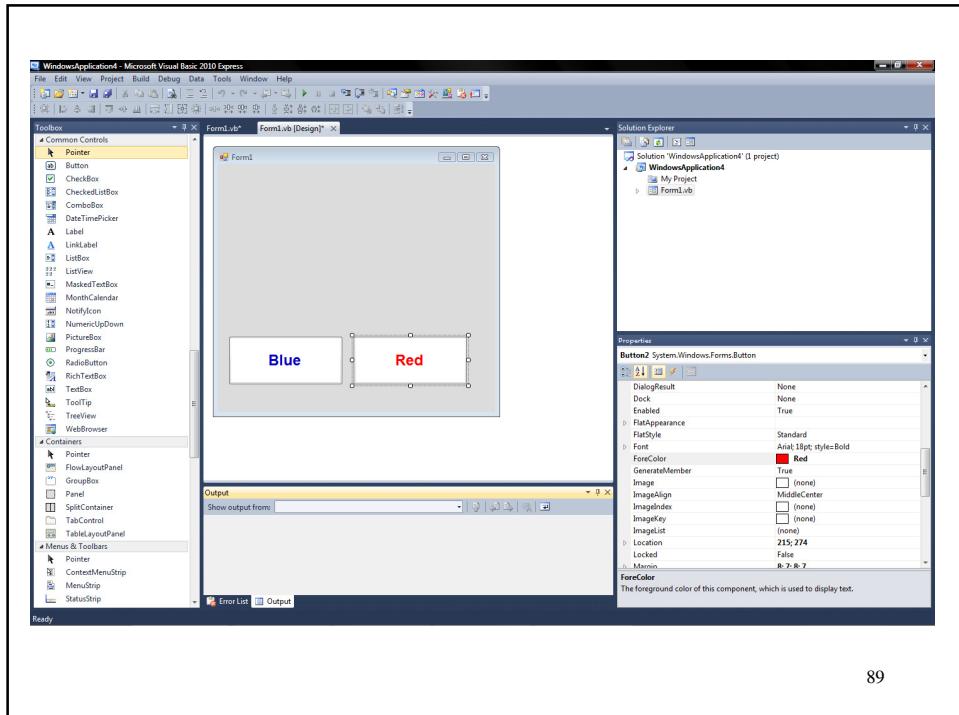
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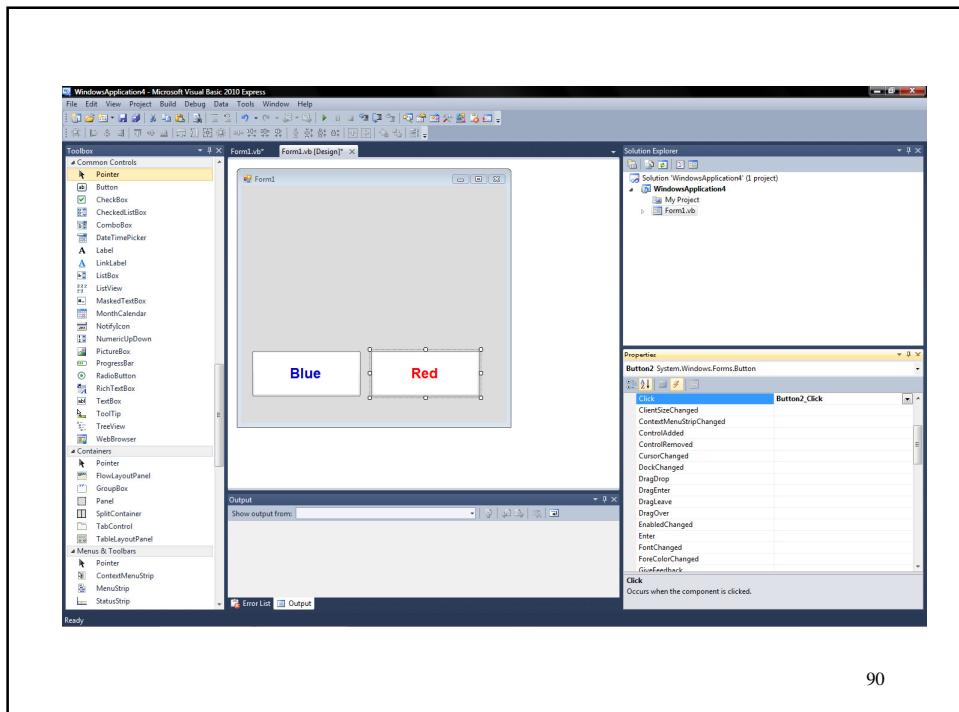
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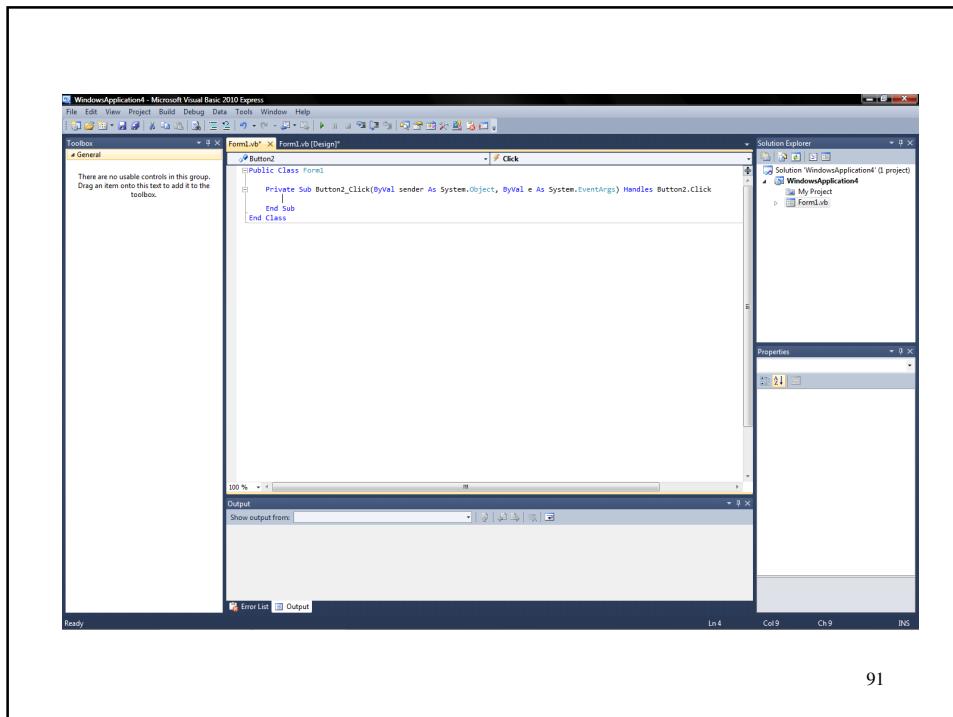
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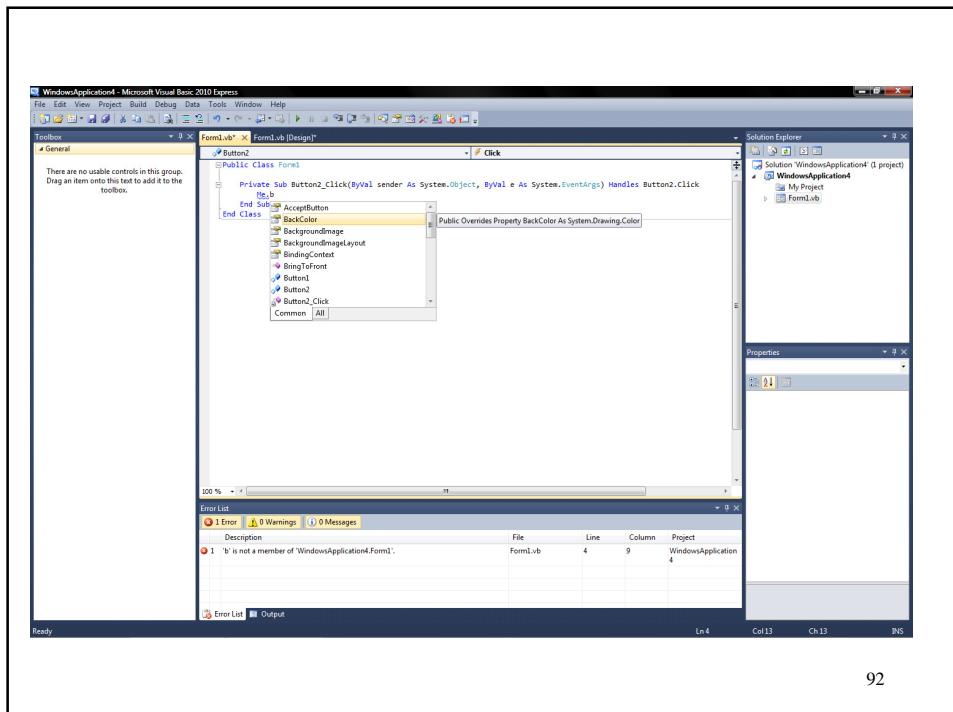
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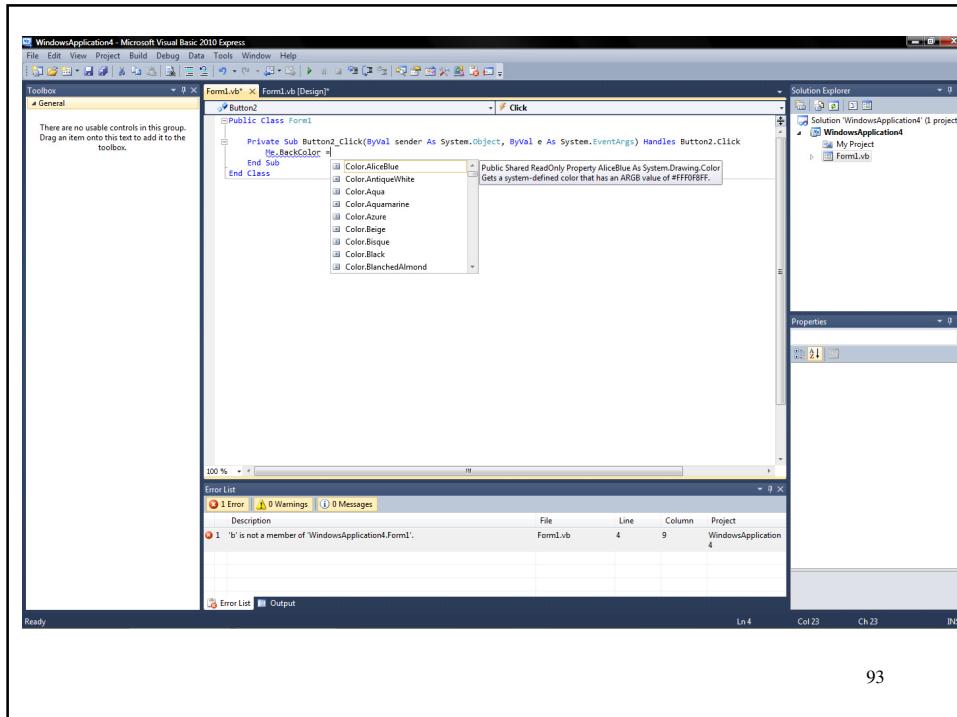
90



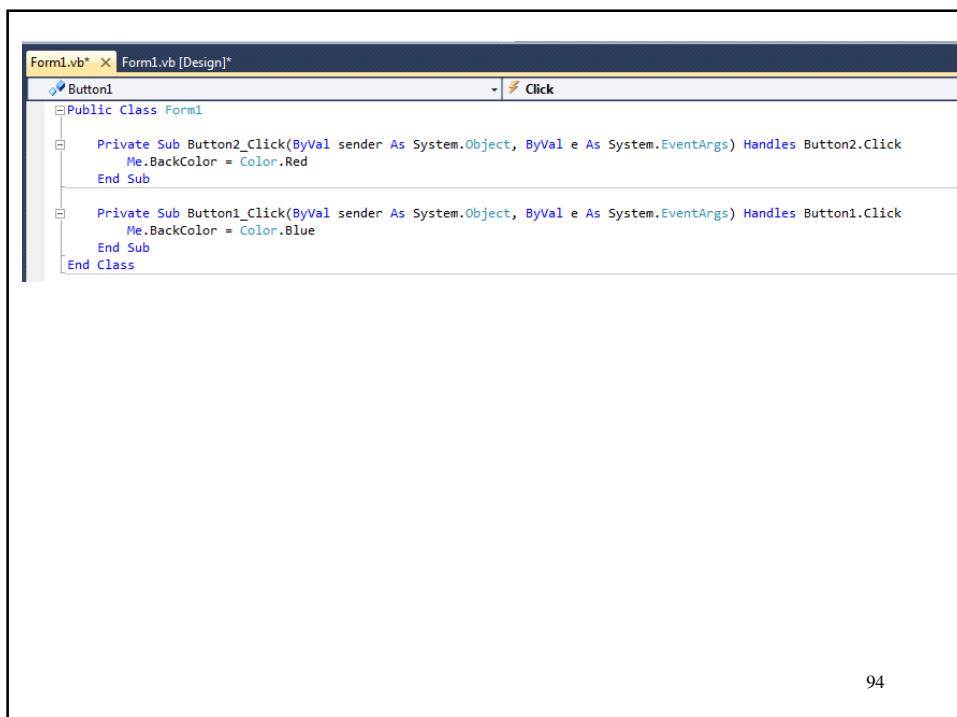
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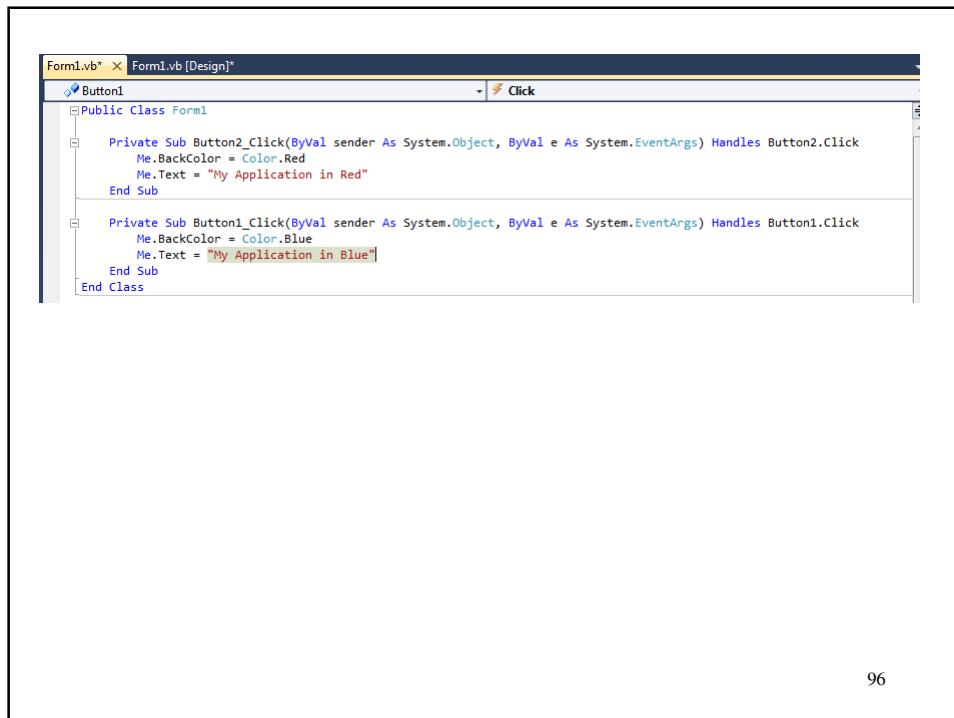
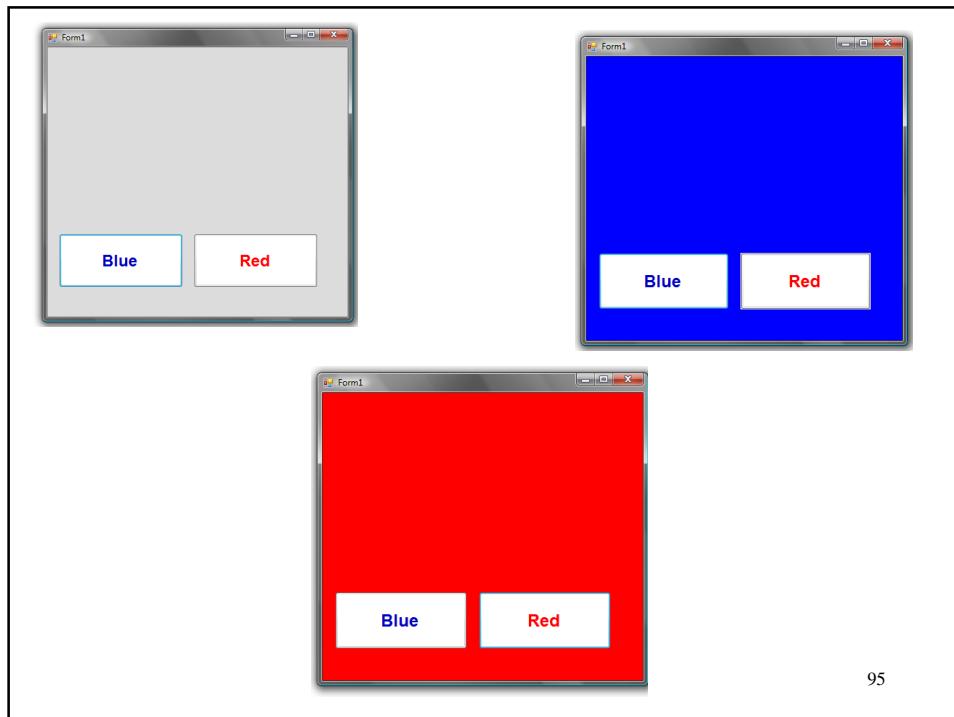
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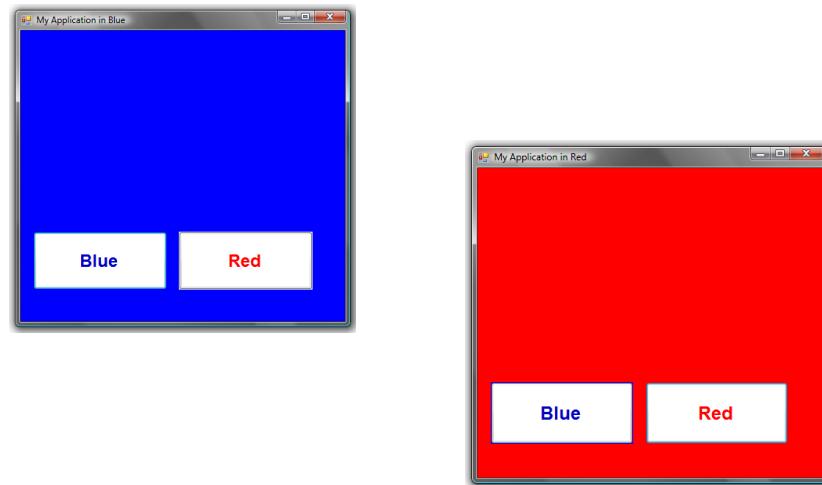


93



94





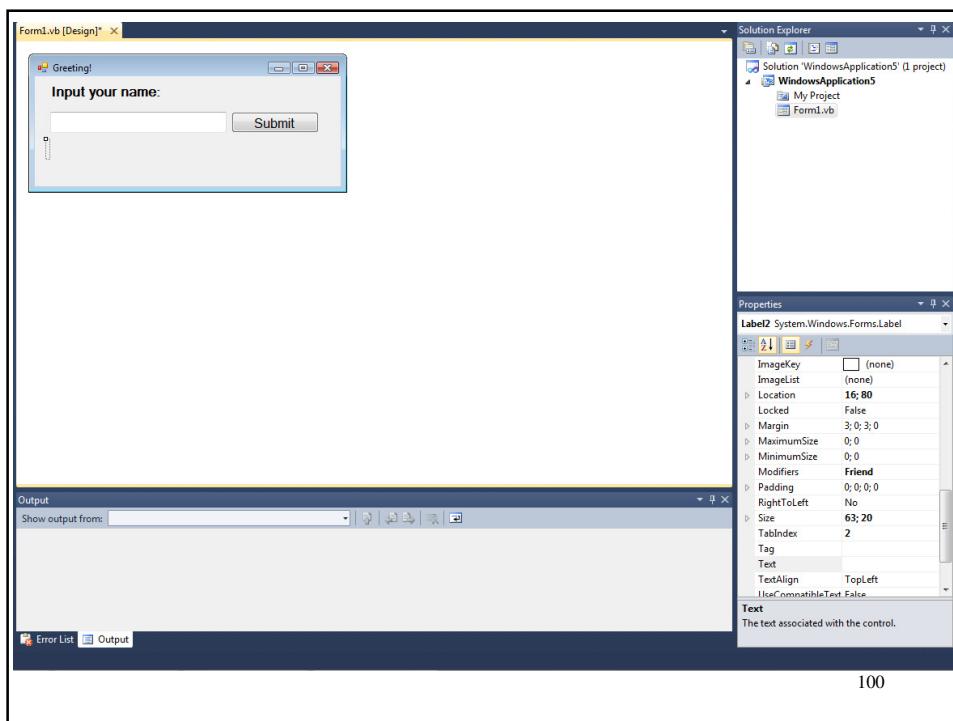
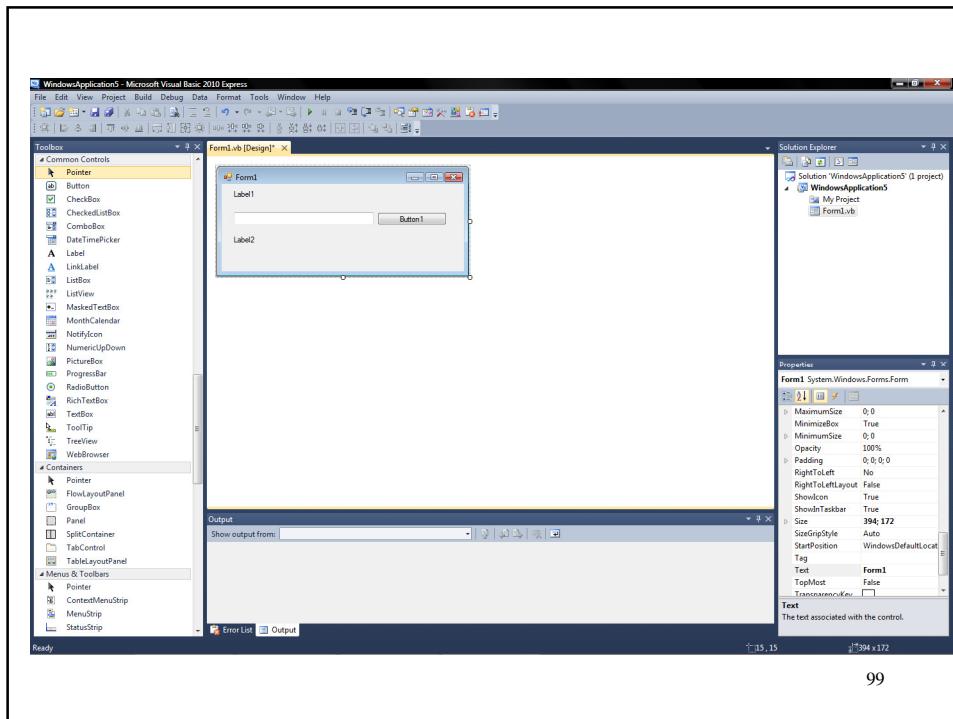
97



Task 2

- Develop Windows application that asks the user to input his/her name and displays greeting message.
- Components:
 - 2 labels
 - 1 textbox
 - 1 button

98

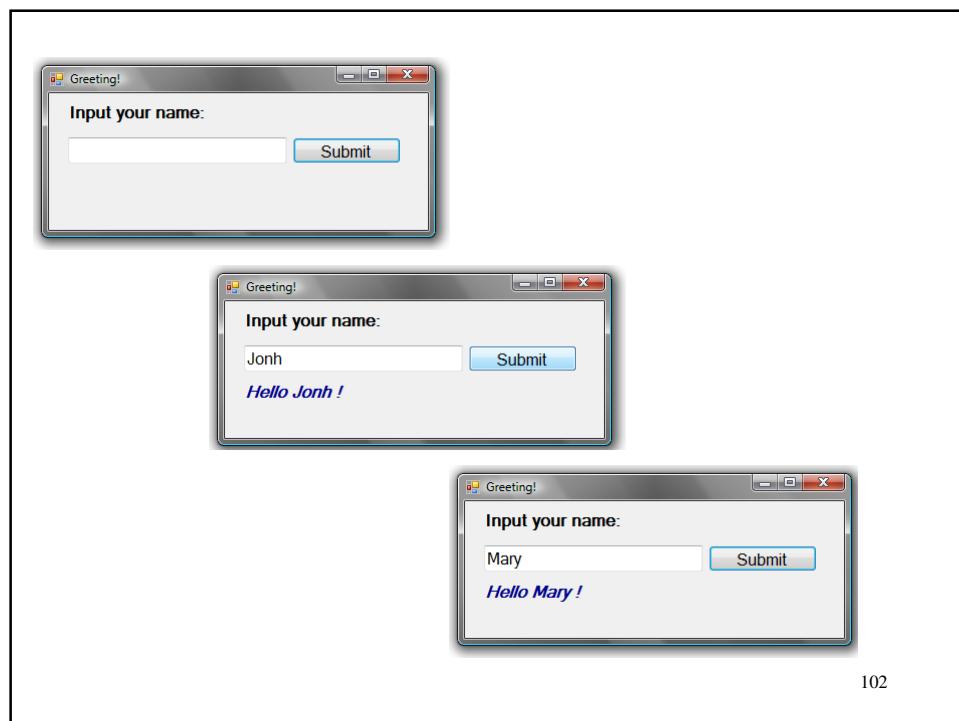


The screenshot shows the Visual Studio IDE with the code editor open for a file named 'Form1.vb'. The title bar says 'Form1.vb* < Form1.vb [Design]'.

The code in the editor is:

```
Public Class Form1
    Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
        Label2.Text = "Hello " + TextBox1.Text + " !"
    End Sub
End Class
```

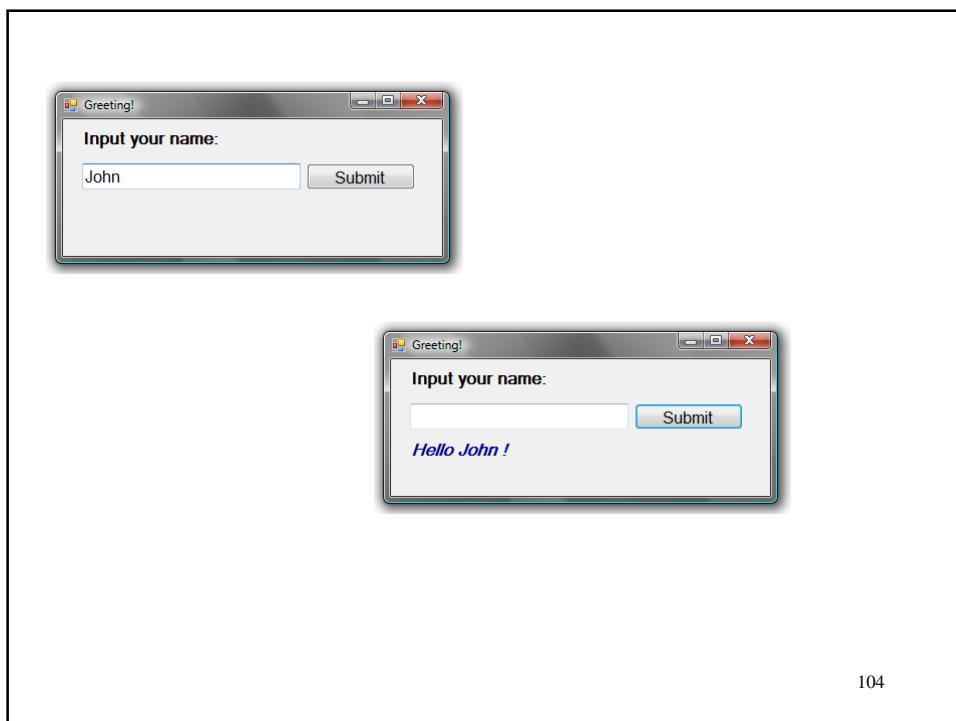
In the bottom right corner of the code editor window, the number '101' is displayed.



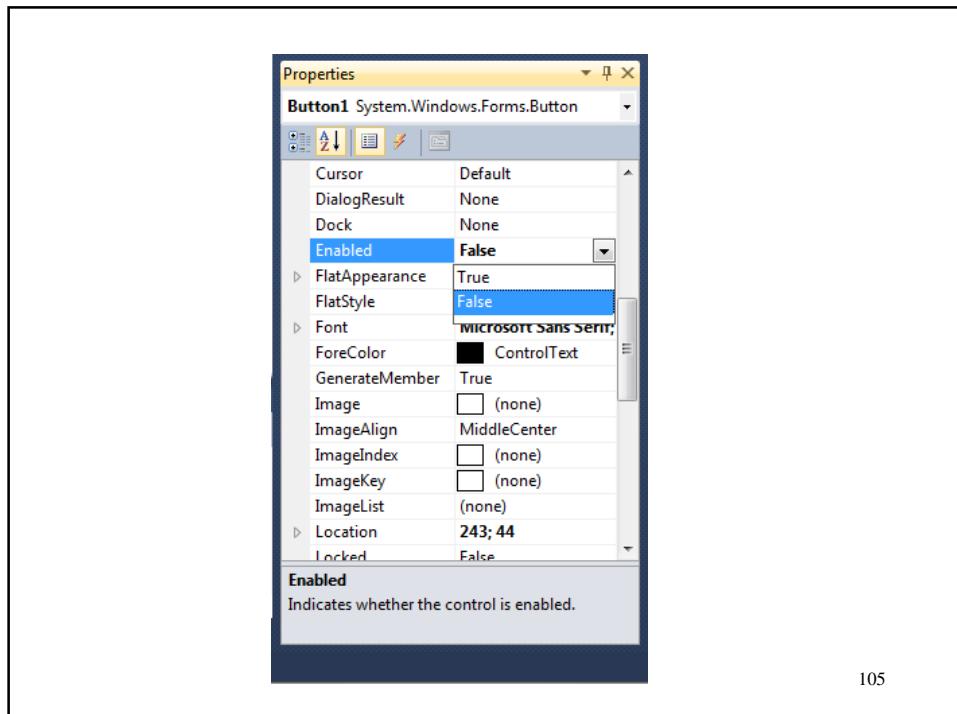
The screenshot shows the Visual Studio IDE with the code editor open for a file named 'Form1.vb'. The title bar indicates 'Form1.vb' and 'Form1.vb [Design]*'. The code is written in VB.NET and defines a class 'Form1' with a single event handler 'Button1_Click'. The event handler concatenates the text from 'TextBox1' and 'Label2', then updates 'Label2' with the result and clears 'TextBox1'. The code is as follows:

```
Form1.vb* x Form1.vb [Design]*  
    Button1  
    Public Class Form1  
        Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click  
            Label2.Text = "Hello " + TextBox1.Text + " !"  
            TextBox1.Text = ""  
        End Sub  
    End Class
```

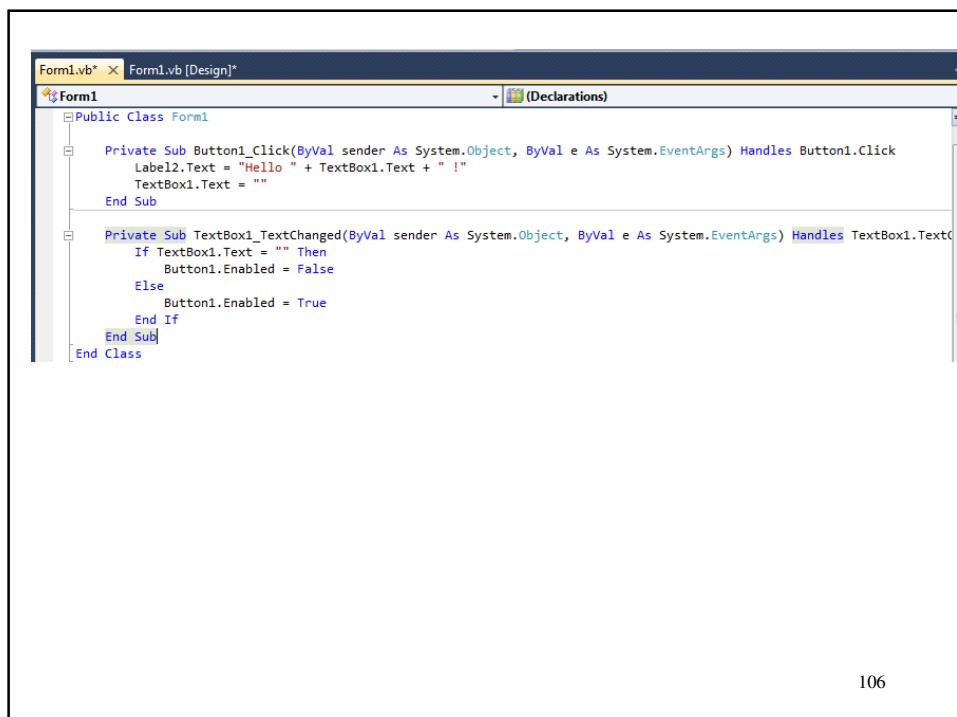
103



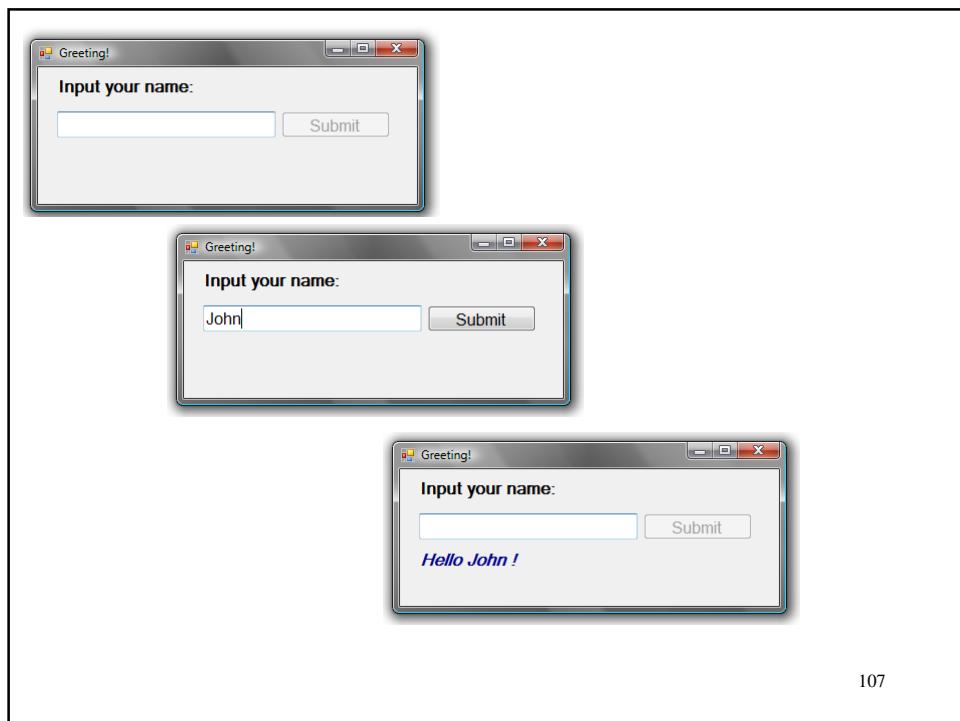
104



105



106



107