

How to Navigate from Form to Form

Keep navigation simple.

Only allow navigation from the Main Menu form to another form OR from a form back to the Main Menu form.

Ensure that the form control being manipulated is **named** appropriately BEFORE adding the code.

For example, if the item on the Menu Strip which navigates to the **Register Supplier** form is named **mnuRegSupp**, then the following event handler is required in the Main Menu to navigate to the form frmSuppReg:

```
Private void mnuRegSupp_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    this.Hide(); //makes the main menu form invisible

    frmSuppReg frmNextForm = new frmSuppReg(); //create an instance of the form to navigate to
    frmNextForm.Show(); //show the form navigating to
}
```

What's happening here?

The Main Menu form is hidden rather than closed as closing the only active form will terminate the application. This is the ONLY TIME the Hide() method should be used.

Each windows form is a class. We create an instance of this form and show it.

When we need to return to the Main Menu, the form frmSuppReg must know where to return to. Therefore, when we create the instance of the form, we need to use a different constructor to create the instance of the form:

```
Private void mnuRegSupp_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    this.Hide(); //makes the main menu form invisible

    frmSuppReg frmNextForm = new frmSuppReg(this); //create an instance of the form to navigate to
    frmNextForm.Show(); //show the form navigating to
}
```

In the form frmSuppReg, we must add an instance variable to remember where we have navigated from and the new constructor. The instance variable is then instantiated when the form (object) is constructed.

```
public partial class frmSuppReg : Form
{
    frmMainMenu parent; //define the instance variable

    public frmSuppReg()
    {
        InitializeComponent();
    }

    public frmSuppReg(frmMainMenu Parent)
    {
        InitializeComponent();

        parent = Parent; //instantiate the instance variable
    }

    :
    :
    :

    Private void mnuBack_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
    {
        this.Close(); //close the form

        parent.Show(); //show the previously hidden form (Main Menu)
    }

    :
    :
}
```