In a nutshell Alan Cooper is the father of Visual Basic. Basic as a language already existed and Microsoft used the features that Alan Cooper founded with them through his shell program Tripod to create Quick Basic which over standard updates turned into today's VB.NET.

Alan Cooper was a highschool dropout who attained an Associates Degree in programming. Later in his career as a programmer and system/language designer windows came out with their initial operating system in the 1980’s which Cooper was very supportive of. He was impressed with windows support for practical multitasking but was severely disappointed with MSDOS.exe which was windows original shell or terminal. It was in this initial disappointment that gave Cooper the drive to fix and improve upon this shell program with his own, with the goal in mind to fix all of MSDOS’s issues and improve upon it. He called this new program Tripod which eventually caught the eye of Microsoft and with Cooper they created what Tripod has turned into today which is the language Ruby. The idea behind Ruby/Tripod was to have a shell that can be personalized for every user and programmer alike. Microsoft took this and created VB as a way to easily create graphical user interfaces both for programmers and system users alike.

Alan Cooper had a vision for a shell that could be used by a programmer and tailored to them. He said he didn’t want to tell a programmer what the ideal shell is but that they can create it themselves using his shell. It is the foundation for Ruby as it is known and used today and also for Visual Basic allowing users to easily create GUI programs. Even programs such as Wix in easily designing web pages take on this dynamic approach that all began with Alan Cooper back in the 1980’s with this initial drive to improve upon the innovation that Windows was already pioneering at the time.