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**Question:**

Trace the history of Visual Basic Programming Language to date

* Visual Basic is a [third-generation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third-generation_programming_language) [event-driven programming language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Event-driven_programming) and [integrated development environment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integrated_development_environment) (IDE) from [Microsoft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft) for its [Component Object Model](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Component_Object_Model) (COM) programming model first released in 1991 and declared [legacy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legacy_system) during 2008. Microsoft intended Visual Basic to be relatively easy to learn and use.
* Visual Basic was derived from [BASIC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BASIC), a user-friendly programming language designed for beginners, and it enables the [rapid application development (RAD)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rapid_application_development) of [graphical user interface (GUI)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graphical_user_interface) applications, access to [databases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Database) using [Data Access Objects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_Access_Object), [Remote Data Objects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remote_Data_Objects), or [ActiveX Data Objects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ActiveX_Data_Object), and creation of [ActiveX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ActiveX) controls and objects.
* A programmer can create an application using the [components](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Component-based_software_engineering) provided by the Visual Basic program itself. Over time the community of programmers developed third-party components. Programs written in Visual Basic can also use the [Windows API](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_API), which requires external function declarations.
* The final release was version 6 in 1998 (now known simply as Visual Basic).
* On April 8, 2008, Microsoft stopped supporting Visual Basic 6.0 [IDE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integrated_development_environment). The Microsoft Visual Basic team still maintains compatibility for Visual Basic 6.0 applications on [Windows Vista](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Vista), [Windows Server 2008](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Server_2008) including R2, [Windows 7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_7), [Windows 8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_8), [Windows 8.1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_8.1), [Windows Server 2012](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Server_2012) and [Windows 10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_10) through its "It Just Works" program. In 2014, some [software developers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_developer) still preferred Visual Basic 6.0 over its successor, [Visual Basic .NET](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visual_Basic_.NET).
* In 2014 some developers lobbied for a new version of Visual Basic 6.0. In 2016, Visual Basic 6.0 won the technical impact award at the 19th Annual D.I.C.E. Awards. A dialect of Visual Basic, [Visual Basic for Applications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visual_Basic_for_Applications) (VBA), is used as a macro or scripting language within several Microsoft applications, including [Microsoft Office](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Office).