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 16/MHS01/037 GEOLOGY

Visual Basic is a third-generation event-driven programming language and integrated development environment (IDE) from Microsoft for its Component Object Model (COM) programming model first released in 1991 and declared legacy during 2008. Microsoft intended Visual Basic to be relatively easy to learn and use. Visual Basic was derived from BASIC, a user-friendly programming language designed for beginners, and it enables the rapid application development (RAD) of graphical user interface (GUI) applications, access to databases using Data Access Objects, Remote Data Objects, or ActiveX Data Objects, and creation of ActiveX controls and objects. A programmer can create an application using the components provided by the Visual Basic program itself. Over time the community of programmers developed third-party components.

There have been nine versions of Visual Basic up to the current version. The first six versions were all called Visual Basic. But in 2002, Microsoft introduced Visual Basic .NET 1.0, a completely redesigned and rewritten version that was a key part of a whole computer software revolution at Microsoft. The first six versions were all "backward compatible" which means that later versions of VB could handle programs written with an earlier version. Because the .NET architecture was such a radical change, any programs written in Visual Basic 6 or earlier had to be rewritten before they could be used with .NET. It was a controversial move at the time, but VB.NET has now proven to be a great programming advance.

One of the biggest changes in VB.NET was the use of object oriented software architecture (OOP). VB6 was 'mostly' OOP, but VB.NET is totally OOP. The rules of object orientation are recognized as a superior design. Visual Basic had to change or it would have become obsolete.

Microsoft entered into a contract with Cooper and his partners to create Tripod into a system that is programmable for Windows 3.0. This system was developed under the code name of Ruby, which has no relationship with the Ruby Programming Language. Tripod did not have any programming language at all. Microsoft then decided to use Ruby in combination with basic language to develop visual basic. The interface of Ruby contributed the “visual” component of the Visual Basic programming language. This was then amalgamated with the Embedded BASIC engine that was developed for the ceased “Omega” database system of Microsoft.

The introduction of version 5.0, in the month of February in 1997, Microsoft exclusively released a visual basic that was compatible with 32-bit Microsoft Windows versions. The programmers who had a preference for writing programs in 16-bit could do it in versions between 4.0 and 5.0. In addition to that the programs written Visual Basic 5.0 can be converted to Version 4.0 programs in an easy manner. The version 5.0 also has the ability of compilation with native execution code of Windows, and introduction of custom user control.

The introduction of Visual Basic 6.0 was made in the middle of 1998. This version also came with a number of enhancements, including the striking ability of creating web based applications. The extended support for Visual Basic 6.0 was ceased in the month of March in 2008. The basic parts of development environment of Visual Basic 6, however, still run in all the 32-bit Microsoft windows, including Windows 8.1.

After the cessation of mainstream and extended support for Visual Basic 6.0, it caused a number of programs to show concern. The community members then created a lobby of users and a petition was signed by them. The basic aim of this petition was to ensure that the product remains alive. However, the petition did not attain its aim effectively.