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HISTORY OF VISUAL BASIC

The History of Visual Basic dates back to 1991 when VB 1.0 was introduced. The core of Visual Basic was built on the older BASIC language, which was a popular programming language throughout the 1980s. 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. The final release of visual basic was version 6 in 1998 (now known simply as Visual Basic).

What Is Visual Basic?

Programmers have undergone a major change in many years of programming various machines. For example what could be created in minutes with Visual Basic could take days in other languages such: as "C" or "Pascal". Visual Basic provides many interesting sets of tools to aid you in building exciting applications. Visual Basic provides these tools to make your life far easier because all the real hard code is already written for you.

With controls like these you can create many applications which use certain parts of windows. For example, one of the controls could be a button, which we have demonstrated in the "Hello World" program below. First create the control on the screen, then write the code which would be executed once the control button is pressed. With this sort of operation in mind, simple programs would take very little code. Why do it like the poor old "C" programmer who would have to write code to even display a window on the screen, when Visual Basic already has this part written for you.

Visual Basic is not only a programming language, but also a complete graphical development environment. This environment allows users with little programming experience to quickly develop useful Microsoft Windows applications which have the ability to use OLE (Object Linking and Embedding) objects, such as an Excel spreadsheet. Visual Basic also has the ability to develop programs that can be used as a front end application to a database system, serving as the user interface which collects user input and displays formatted output in a more appealing and useful form than many SQL versions are capable of.

Visual Basic's main selling point is the ease with which it allows the user to create nice looking, graphical programs with little coding by the programmer, unlike many other languages that may take hundreds of lines of programmer keyed code. As the programmer works in the graphical environment, much of the program code is automatically generated by the Visual Basic program. In order to understand how this happens it is necessary to understand the major concepts, objects and tools used by Visual Basic. The main object in Visual Basic is called a form

Visual Basic is ideal for developing applications that run in the new Windows 95 operating system. VB presents a 3-step approach for creating programs:

1. Design the appearance of your application.
2. Assign property settings to the objects of your program.
3. Write the code to direct specific tasks at runtime.

Visual Basic can and is used in a number of different areas, for example:

* Education
* Research
* Medicine
* Business
* Commerce
* Marketing and Sales
* Accounting
* Consulting
* Law
* Science

Thought-out the History of Visual Basic the focus has always been on rapid application development and that's what makes Visual Basic such a widely used programming environment.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF VISUAL BASIC

-October 1998
Visual Basic 6 Debuts

Introduces Web Classes, windowless controls, data designers, new reporting designers, and the ability to create data sources.

-February, 2002
Visual Basic.Net  (VB 7.0) Debuts

-April, 2003
Visual Basic.Net 2003 (VB 7.1) Debuts

-March 31, 2005
Mainstream support for Visual Basic 6 ends

-October 18, 2005
Visual Basic.Net 2005 (VB 8.0) Debuts

-October 18, 2005
Visual Basic.Net 2005 Express Version Introduced

-November 19, 2007
Visual Basic.Net 2008 (VB 9.0) Debuts

-November 19, 2007
Visual Basic.Net 2008 Express Version Introduced

-March 31, 2008
Extended support for Visual Basic 6 ends

-November 19, 2010
Visual Basic.Net 2010 Express Version Introduced