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COMPUTER SCIENCE

HISTORY OF VISUAL BASIC PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

**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.

Even though people tend to say Visual Basic's compiler is far behind the compilers of Pascal and C, it has earned itself the status of a professional programming language, and has almost freed BASIC of the reputation of a children's language. Overall you would class Visual Basic as a Graphics User Interface(GUI). Because as you draw, you write for the program. This must always be remembered in any kind of creation of a Visual Basic program. All in all, VB is the preferred language of many future programmers. If you want to start programming Windows, and don't know *how* to start, give Visual Basic a shot.

The first version of visual basic, VB 1.0, was announced in the year 1991. The creation of user interface through a drag and drop design was inspired a beta generator that was developed by Alan Cooper at Tripod, which was Cooper’s company.

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 preferred 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 controls.

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 caused a few 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.

#### A Brief History Of Visual Basic ApplicationYear

Comments

Visual Basic 1 VB1(1991)

Project 'Thunder' was released for Windows at the Comdex/Windows World trade show in Atlanta, Georgia.

Visual Basic 1 for MS-DOS (1992)

This release updated Microsoft's QuickBASIC Professional Development System with a new library that enabled use of a character-based Windowing system.

Visual Basic 2 VB2(1992)

With VB2, forms became instantiable objects, laying the concepts of class modules as were later offered in VB4. Included ODBC for accessing a database.

Visual Basic 3 VB3(1993)

VB3 was released in Standard and Professional versions. VB3 included the Microsoft Jet Database Engine that could read and write to the Access database.

Visual Basic 4 VB4(1995)

VB4 added 32-bit code compilation. Introduced classes, giving VB object orientation though inheritance. VB4 also replaced the VBX with a new type of add-on called OCX (OLE Control Extension), based on COM, Microsoft's component programming model.

Visual Basic 5 VB5(1997)

VB5 introduced the ability to create OCX custom user controls, as well as the ability to compile to native Windows executable code. VB5 no longer supported compilation to 16-bit executables.

Visual Basic 6 VB6(1998)

VB6 improved in a number of areas, including the ability to create web-based applications. VB6 has now entered Microsoft's "non-supported phase". VB6 is still in use today for maintaining existing applications. For the latest Windows Operating Systems, it must be run in compatibility mode.

Visual Basic.Net VB7(2002)

Visual Basic.Net was the first version to target the .NET Framework. VB.Net introduced full object orientation and cleaned up anomalies in the language. The language was not fully compatible with VB6 and caused difficulty in migrating existing code.

Visual Basic.Net VB8(2005)

The language continued to evolve, with features like the "Using" statement for freeing resources automatically. It supports generic types (a collection of objects) and nullable types (handles empty database fields). It added the ability (not too well) to modify code while debugging, called Edit and Continue.

Visual Basic.Net VB9(2008)

The new features are:

* Support for the language-integrated query (LINQ).
* Other features include extension methods, type inference, anonymous types and Lambda Expressions (nameless functions).

VB has strayed far from its roots as a simple programming language. None of these additions improve productivity in developing commercial business systems.

Visual Basic.Net VB10(2010)

Most of the new features relate to large programming teams or object-oriented programming – and are of little interest to the Visual Basic Programmer.

The new features of interest are:

* Implicit Line Continuation
* Properties created in one-line statements
* The Primary Interop Assembly (Microsoft Office applications) has a reduced footprint size

Visual Basic.Net VB11(2012)

The new Visual Basic features are:

* Better support for Asynchronous processing
* The Yield keyword to iterate through a collection
* Call Hierarchy shows where a Method is called
* Code Clone Analysis and Launch Performance Wizard
* Performance Analysis tool for tracking CPU and Memory usage

Visual Basic.Net VB12(2013)

Visual Studio 2013 was released in November 2013.

There was little of value or use for the Visual Basic Programmer.

Visual Basic.Net VB14(2015)

Visual Studio Professional 2015 was launched in August 2015.

* Compiling is faster
* Publishing Websites is much, much faster
* Website page load times are much improved
* Visual Basic has been rewritten from scratch
* The big news is that VS2015 is free!

VS2015 is now stable after multiple updates.

Visual Basic.Net VB15(2017)

Visual Studio 2017 was released in March 2017.

The new features are:

* Reduced minimum footprint
* Installs faster with less system impact
* Easy to select and install features
* Monitor extensions that impact performance
* Revamped Start Page
* Supports SQL Server Database 2016
* Visual Basic analyser to enforce coding standards

Visual Studio 2017, with multiple updates, is stable. ASP.Net performance and stability has improved markedly.