

Introduction

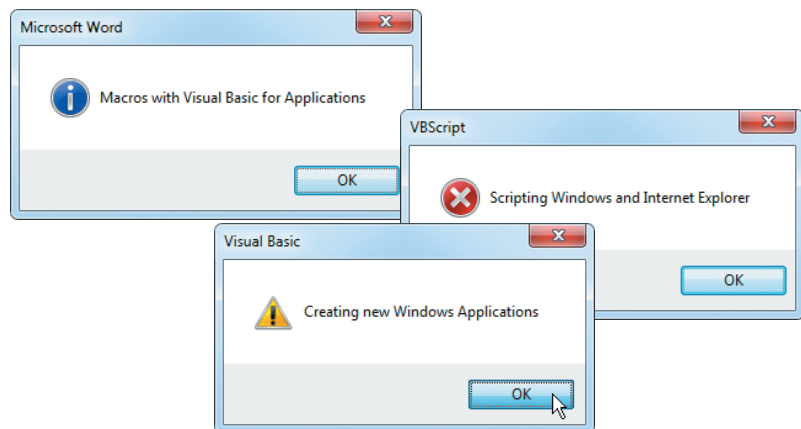


In choosing to start programming with Visual Basic you have made an excellent choice – the Visual Basic programming language offers the easiest way to write programs for Windows. This means you can easily create your own programs to give maximum control over your computer and automate your work to be more productive. Also, programming with Visual Basic is fun!

Like other programming languages Visual Basic comprises a number of significant “keywords” and a set of syntax rules. Beginners often find its syntax simpler than other programming languages making Visual Basic a popular first choice to learn.

Although writing programs can be complex Visual Basic makes it easy to get started. You can choose how far to go. Another advantage of Visual Basic is that it works with Microsoft Office and on the Internet – so the possibilities are immense...

- Visual Basic (VB) – quite simply the best programming language for the novice or hobbyist to begin creating their own standalone Windows applications, fast
- Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) – an implementation of Visual Basic that is built into all Microsoft Office applications. It runs within a host rather than as a standalone application
- Visual Basic Script (VBScript) – a derivative of Visual Basic that can be used for Windows scripting and client-side web page scripting for Internet Explorer



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The evolution of Visual Basic

- Visual Basic 1.0 released in May 1991 at the Comdex trade show in Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- Visual Basic 2.0 released in November 1992 – introducing an easier and faster programming environment
- Visual Basic 3.0 released in the summer of 1993 – introducing the Microsoft Jet Database Engine for database programs
- Visual Basic 4.0 released in August 1995 – introducing support for controls based on the Component Object Model (COM)
- Visual Basic 5.0 released in February 1997 – introducing the ability to create custom user controls
- Visual Basic 6.0 released in the summer of 1998 – introducing the ability to create web-based programs. This hugely popular edition is the final version based on COM and is often referred to today as “Classic Visual Basic”
- Visual Basic 7.0 (also known as Visual Basic .NET) released in 2002 – introducing a very different object-oriented language based upon the Microsoft .NET framework. This controversial edition broke backward-compatibility with previous versions and caused a rift within the developer community
- Visual Basic 8.0 (also known as Visual Basic 2005) – adding .NET 2.0 language features to the previous edition
- Visual Basic 9.0 (also known as Visual Basic 2008) – adding .NET 3.5 language features to the previous edition
- Visual Basic 10.0 (also known as Visual Basic 2010) – adding more powerful language features from the .NET 4.0 framework to the previous edition

All examples in this book have been created for Visual Basic 10.0 although many of the core language features are common to previous versions of the Visual Basic programming language.

Hot tip



Visual Basic derives from an earlier simple language called BASIC – Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. The “Visual” part was added later as many tasks can now be accomplished visually, without writing code.

