Coding property values

In addition to setting property design values for your application in the Properties window, you may also set some text and color values in programming code, so the properties get assigned their initial values (are “initialized”) when the Form first loads.

Statements to initialize property values should be placed within the Form’s Load event-handler. This executes the statements it contains when it is called by the action of the Form loading — just as the Click event-handler executes its statements when it is called by the action of a user clicking the Button.

Initializing Control properties

1. Click on File, New, Project then create a new Windows Forms App and name it “Initialize”

2. Click and drag a Label item from the Toolbox’s Common Controls category, or double-click on it, to add a Label control to a blank default Form

3. In the Form Designer window, double-click anywhere on the default Form to launch the Code editor — the cursor is automatically placed in the Form’s Load event-handler section of code, ready to add statements

4. Type an instruction to set the Label’s background color:
   Label1.BackColor = Color.Yellow

5. On the next line, add an instruction to set the Label’s text:
   Label1.Text = “Initialized Text”

6. Click on the Start button to run the application and see that the Label properties initialize with the values you have specified
...cont’d

**Initializing Form properties**

1. Click the **Stop Debugging** button to halt the Initialize application and return once more to the **Code** editor at the Form’s **Load** event-handler section of code.

2. Type an instruction to attempt to set the Form’s background to blue, then hit **Enter**
   ```vbnet
   Form1.BackColor = Color.Blue
   ```

3. Notice that a wavy underline now appears beneath this line of code – place the mouse pointer over the red wavy line and read the **ToolTip** message that pops up.

4. The ToolTip message means you cannot refer to the Form by its name within its own event-handler, so change the instruction to see the wavy underline disappear
   ```vbnet
   Me.BackColor = Color.Blue
   ```

5. Add an instruction to set the Form’s text caption
   ```vbnet
   Me.Text = "Initialized Caption"
   ```

6. Click on the **Start** button to run the application and see that the Form properties initialize with the values you have specified.