Editing property values

Changing the properties of a Visual Basic object allows you to determine the appearance of that object. When creating an interface, at design time, an object’s **Size** property can be changed by moving its handles to resize it in the Form Designer window – its new dimension values will then appear in the Properties window. More usefully, the value of each single Form and **Control** property can be edited directly in the Properties window.

**Editing a Form property value**

1. Click on a Form in the Designer window to display its properties in the Properties window

2. Find the **Appearance, Text** property in the Properties window, then double-click in the value column alongside it to highlight the present default “Form1” value

3. Type “New Caption” to specify that as a new value for the **Text** property – the text string appears in the value column as you type

4. Hit **Enter**, or click anywhere else, to apply the new value – it now appears on the Form in the Designer window

Although a new value has been assigned to the Form’s **Text** property here, its **(Name)** property still has the default value of “Form1” for reference in Visual Basic programming code.
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Editing a Control property value

1. Click View, Toolbox on the Menu Bar or press Ctrl + Alt + X, to open the ToolBox

2. Click and drag the Label item from the 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 on the Label control to display its present property values in the Properties window – this will be “Label1” by default

4. Find the Common, Content property in the Properties window, then double-click in the value column alongside it to highlight the present default “Label” value

5. Type “New Label Text” to specify that as a new value for the Text property – the text string appears in the value column as you type

6. Hit Enter, or click anywhere else, to apply the new value – it now also appears on the Label in the Form Designer

Some properties, such as Icon, provide a browse button when you click on their value column, so you can navigate to the location of a local resource to select as the new property value.

Whenever you make changes in the IDE, Visual Basic works in the background to make associated changes to the underlying code.