VISUAL BASIC

Visual Basic is a tool that allows us to develop Windows applications based on its GUI (Graphical User Interface). Such applications have a user friendly appearance (or interface).

Visual Basic is event-driven, that is, the software application remains idle until an event (such as clicking the mouse, pressing the keyboard, etc.) is triggered. Behind every event is a code that is supposed to be executed. Such code is then executed when the event it watches for is triggered.

History of Visual Basic

Visual Basic 1.0 (May 1991) was released for Windows. Visual Basic 1.0 for DOS was released in September 1992. The language itself was not quite compatible with Visual Basic 1.0 for Windows, as it was actually the next version of Microsoft's DOS-based BASIC compilers, Microsoft Quick BASIC compiler and the BASIC Professional Development System 7.1. The interface was barely graphical, using extended ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) characters to simulate the appearance of a GUI.

Visual Basic 2.0 was released in November 1992. The programming environment was easier to use and its speed was improved.

Visual Basic 3.0 was released in the summer of 1993 and came in standard and professional versions. Visual Basic 3 included a database engine that could read and write Access databases.

Visual Basic 4.0 (August 1995) was the first version that could create 32-bit as well as 16-bit Windows programs. It also introduced the ability to write classes in Visual Basic.

With version 5.0 (February 1997), Microsoft released Visual Basic exclusively for 32-bit version of Windows. Programmers who preferred to write 16-bit programs were able to import programs written in Visual Basic 4.0 to Visual Basic 5.0, and Visual Basic 5.0 programs can easily be converted with Visual Basic 4. Visual Basic 5.0 also introduced the ability to create customer user controls, as well as the ability to compile to native Windows executable code, speeding up runtime code execution.

Visual Basic 6.0 (mid 1998) improved in a number of areas, including the ability to create web-based applications using Internet Explorer. Visual Basic 6 is no longer supported.

Visual Basic .NET is the phrase used to name the various versions of Visual Basics that follow the Visual Basic 6. The first version of the Visual Basic .NET (VB 7.0) was released in 2002, and relies on the .NET Framework 1.0. The most important feature is managed code, which contrasts with the classic Visual Basic.

Visual Basic .NET 2003 (VB 7.1) was released with .NET Framework 1.1. New features included support for the .NET Compact Framework and a better VB upgrade wizard.

After Visual Basic .NET 2003, Microsoft dropped ".NET" from the name of the product calling the next version Visual Basic 2005 (VB 8). For this release, Microsoft added many features intended to reinforce Visual Basic .NET's focus as a rapid application development platform and further differentiate it from C#, including: Edit and Continue feature; Design-time expression evaluation, a pseudonamespace called

"My", which provides: easy access to certain areas of the .NET Framework, and to dynamically generated classes; improved VB to VB .NET conversion feature; a "using" keyword, simplifying the uses of objects that require the dispose pattern to free resources; Just My Code feature, which hides (steps over) boilerplate code written by the Visual Studio .NET IDE and system library code during debugging; and Data Source binding, easy database client/server development.

Other versions that has been released are VB 2008 which programs the .NET Framework 3.5; VB 2010; VB 2012, which programs the .NET Framework 4.5; VB 2015; VB 2017; and VB 2019.