


Chapter 2

Integrated Development Environment



- ### Integrated Development Environment Overview
- VB comes up in New Project dialog screen
 - Choose type of VB program to create
 - Standard EXE is default using most common VB features
 - Dialog screen contains template (project) with predefined features
 - assist in designing windows programs

- ### Integrated Development Environment Overview
- Tabs:
 - New used to create new project
 - Existing refers to project already created
 - Recent refers to project previously loaded into IDE
 - Note 1: Do not show this dialog in future checkbox can eliminate New Project dialog box
 - Note 2: Figure 2.1, p. 21
 - from the VB Enterprise Edition

- ### Integrated Development Environment Overview
- Standard EXE windows:
 - Project1 Form1(Form) GUI will be displayed
 - Form Layout specify form's position on screen
 - Properties Form1 attributes (color, font style, size, ect.)
 - Project Project1 project's files by type
 - Toolbox has controls used to develop GUI
 - buttons, labels, checkboxes, ect.
 - Project window (Project-Project1)
 - called Project Explorer : contains project files (Project)

- ### Integrated Development Environment Overview
- Toolbox (Figure 2.5, p. 30)
 - contains controls for customizing forms
 - already created and can be reused
 - Figure 2.6, p. 30-31 describes each control
 - when mouse is placed on top of control, tool tip appears
 - Form Layout Window
 - View Form Layout: form visible inside screen
 - allows specify location at runtime
 - Mouse as 4-pointed arrow, allows form movement

- ### Integrated Development Environment Overview
- Properties Window:
 - displays attributes for the form or control
 - example Figure 2.8, p. 32
 - Menu and Tool Bars (Figure 2.10, p. 33):
 - File: opens projects, closing, printing, and saving
 - Edit: cut, paste, copy, undo, and delete
 - View: display IDE windows and toolbars
 - Project: adding features on form to project

Integrated Development Environment Overview

- Format: aligning and locking form's controls
- Debug: options for debugging
- Run: execute and stop program
- Query: manipulate data received from database
- Tools: IDE tools and options for customizing environment
- Add Ins: independent software extend VB's features
- Windows: arranging and displaying windows
- Help

Simple Program: Displaying a Line of Text

- Steps for writing simple program:
 - Set form's title bar
 - Caption property determines what is displayed in title bar
 - default is Form1, Figure 2.12, p. 34
 - Set form's Name property
 - identifies form or control for coding purposes
 - Example- Name: frmFig02.12 prefix=frm
 - Resizing form
 - click and drag form's resizing handles(white disabled)

Simple Program: Displaying a Line of Text

- Creating the form
 - use Form Layout
 - will display in center of monitor when program is executed
- Changing background color:
 - BackColor- background color for form or control
- Adding a Label control to form
 - use Label control on toolbar
- Setting Label's display
 - Caption property will determine what text is displayed
 - Example Caption=Welcome to Visual Basic!
 - (Figure 2.17 & 2.18, p. 37).

Simple Program: Displaying a Line of Text

- Naming label
 - Name property used for identification
 - prefix=lbl Example: Name=lblWelcome
- Customizing Label's colors
 - Properties
 - BackColor: background color
 - BackStyle: opaque=solid, transparent=see through
 - ForeColor: color of displayed text
- Setting label's font size and aligning label's text
 - Font property: set font type and size
 - Alignment property: left, center, right (text within label)

Simple Program: Displaying a Line of Text

- Positioning and resizing label
 - Figure 2.19-2.22, p.38-39
- Saving the project
 - File: Save Project As
 - File: Save File As
 - save form file which contains project's properties and other information
- Running the program
 - Design mode: program is not executing
 - Start button or Start from Run menu (interacts with interface)
 - Immediate window appears at runtime and is used for debugging

- Terminating execution of program
 - Close button
 - X at top right corner
 - End button
 - put you back in design mode