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Mastering

Visual Basic

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First published 1997 by
MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-69599-9 ISBN 978-1-349-14525-6 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-14525-6

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and
made from fully managed and sustained forest sources.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
06 05 04 03 02 01 00 99 98 97

Copy-edited and typeset by Povey-Edmondson
Tavistock and Rochdale, England

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Preface

This new book in the Macmillan Mastering Series provides the essential skills needed to produce applications in the Microsoft Visual Basic language. The book builds up the necessary skills by introducing features in a logical way and providing opportunities to try them out. The features and methods are explained in easy to follow language with illustrations and graphics to help you on your way. Each chapter contains a variety of practical tasks which allow you to apply and develop your new skills.

The book is not intended to be just be another reference book – there are many perfectly good reference sources available and the on-line help available within the package is an excellent resource. The book uses a practical approach, developing the basic skills first then moving on to more advanced topics. Each chapter introduces new ideas and shows how these are used. Opportunities are provided for you to apply and practise your skills in a variety of tasks at strategic points. Practising your new skills is an important part of ensuring that you have understood the material in the chapter and helps to avoid confusion due to having too much information to process at once.

Who is this book for?

This book is for you! It is suitable for anyone who wants to learn how to write programs which run under Windows. Whether you are a home user interested in writing your own programs quickly and easily or if you are a student, this book will help you though the stages of building an application. It is suitable for students who are studying Visual Basic as part of a computing or information technology course. The book can be used by students on a variety of courses and levels who want to learn to program in Windows or are looking for extra material and perhaps a different approach to increase their understanding. Visual Basic is now present in many courses as an addition or an alternative to traditional programming. For example, it is included in GNVQ Advanced Information Technology as an additional unit and is found on many higher level courses (HNC, HND and degree level) in Business IT and Computing. Many local centres run programming courses and they are increasingly switching to Visual Basic as

being the new environment for developers. City & Guilds of London provide accreditation for Visual Basic programming through their 7261 Information Technology programme.

As you reach the end of this book you will have gained a sound footing in Visual Basic programming. We hope you will have found the journey challenging and fun and will wish to continue learning and developing in Visual Basic.

STEPHEN SAXON
DIANE SAXON

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank our editor, Tim Davies, for his suggestions and support and Mark Saxon for checking and reading chapters. Grateful thanks are also given to Microsoft and Text 100 for providing copies of Microsoft Visual Basic software

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Conventions

bold	menu options
<i>italic</i>	new terms, first time they are introduced
typeface	commands and functions

practice tasks

points to note