

# Introduction to Visual Basic

## Introduction

Visual Basic is a windows programming language that has been developed at Microsoft Corporation. Visual Basic is a powerful programming language to develop sophisticated windows programs very quickly.

→ Visual Basic is one of the "RAD" (Rapid Application Development) tools as it enables the programmer to develop applications very easily and very quickly.

→ It contains the same BASIC-like language that has been popular over the years and it includes all the necessary extensions required to produce windows programs.

## \* V.B Application Development Cycle

→ There are the necessary steps to create a visual Basic program. Programmers call these steps as "development cycle".

i) Decide what we want the computer to do.

ii) Decide how we want our program to look on the screen. (The appearance of our program is called the user interface).

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- iii) Draw our user interface by using common components, such as windows, menu and command buttons. (The components of user interface are called objects or controls).
  - iv) Define the name, color, size and appearance of each user interface object. (An object's characteristics are called properties).
  - v) Write instructions in Basic to make each part of our program do something. (Basic instructions are called commands).
  - vi) Run our program to see whether it works.
  - vii) Fix any errors (or bugs) in our program.

### \* Develop an Attractive User Interface

The user interface is what someone sees when our program is running. Every program has a user interface in one form or another. Some programs have elaborate, colorful windows while other programs have a simple appearance.

A VB user interface consists of forms and objects. A form is nothing more than a window that appears on the screen.

Objects are items that appear on a form, such as a command button, scroll bar, option button or check box. An object enables the user to give commands to our program.