

Contents

About the Author	xi	
About the Technical Reviewer	xii	
Acknowledgments	xiii	
Introduction	xv	
CHAPTER 1	Welcome to Visual Basic Express	1
	Just What Is Express?	4
	Exploring the Visual Basic 2005 Express IDE	4
	Exploring the IDE a Little More	13
	Working with the Editors	16
	Writing Your Own Web Browser	27
	Summary	32
CHAPTER 2	The Basics of Visual Basic	35
	The Basic Structure	35
	Source Code and the Two Project Types	37
	Types	46
	Inheritance and Polymorphism	50
	Control Structures	57
	Summary	61
CHAPTER 3	Working with Variables	63
	The Basic Basics	63
	Numbers	66
	Integers	66
	Other Number Types	72
	Boolean Values	73
	Characters and Text	73
	Arrays	77
	Making Decisions	81
	If Statements	81
	Select Statements	85

Loops	86
While Loops	86
For Loops	90
Summary	92
CHAPTER 4 Classes and Object Orientation in Visual Basic 2005	93
Classes and Objects	94
Creating Classes	94
Using Constructors and Finalizers	96
Methods	103
Properties and Members	114
Getters and Setters	117
Scoping	122
Public	122
Private	123
Shared	125
Summary	126
CHAPTER 5 More-Advanced Object Orientation	127
Inheritance	127
Virtual Methods	131
Abstract Methods and Classes	134
Beware Shadows	138
Interfaces	143
Casting Types	150
Reference Types and Value Types	153
Summary	156
CHAPTER 6 Handling Exceptions	157
Understanding Exceptions	157
Handling Exceptions	161
Bubbling Exceptions	165
Throwing Exceptions	165
Custom Exceptions	168
Summary	170

CHAPTER 7	How Visual Basic 2005 Express Helps You Code	171
	Building a User Interface	171
	Using Property Smart Tags	175
	Aligning Controls	176
	Setting Tab Orders	179
	Using IntelliSense	181
	Automatically Fixing Namespace Problems	181
	Using Code Snippets	182
	Summary	185
CHAPTER 8	Building Windows Applications	187
	How Windows Programs Work	187
	Common Properties and Events	190
	Buttons in All Their Glory	192
	Entering Text	197
	Text Boxes	197
	The MaskedTextBox Control	208
	Adding ToolTip Help	211
	Choosing Things: Radio Buttons and Check Boxes	215
	Date Pickers	221
	Summary	226
CHAPTER 9	Windows and Dialogs	227
	Windows (or Forms)	227
	The Main Window and How to Change It	228
	Opening and Closing Windows	229
	Styles	236
	The Life and Times of a Form	237
	MDI (Multiple Document Interface)	242
	Dialogs	247
	Using a Simple Message Box	247
	Creating Your Own Dialog Box	251
	Common Dialogs	255
	Summary	260

CHAPTER 10	Lists	261
	The ListBox Control	262
	The CheckedListBox Control	278
	The ComboBox Control	279
	The TreeView Control	281
	Changing the Visual Appearance of the Tree	285
	Responding to Selections and Finding Nodes	292
	Summary	292
CHAPTER 11	Menus and Toolbars	293
	The Menu Controls	295
	Building a Menu	296
	Adding Images and Shortcuts to a Menu	299
	Menus in an MDI Application	305
	The Context Menu Control	311
	Toolbars and Status Bars	312
	Summary	314
CHAPTER 12	Events	315
	Hooking Events by Hand	315
	Creating Custom Events	319
	Summary	328
CHAPTER 13	Lists and Generics	329
	Introducing Generics	331
	Lists and SortedLists	332
	Dictionaries	346
	Stacks and Queues	356
	Creating Your Own Generics	357
	Summary	358

CHAPTER 14	Files and Streams	359
	Working with Files	360
	The FileSystemWatcher Class	360
	The File and Directory Classes	366
	Working with Streams	370
	The Core Concepts	371
	Working with File Streams	372
	Working with Network Streams	378
	Summary	381
CHAPTER 15	Working with XML	383
	System.Xml	384
	Searching XML Documents	389
	Reading XML Files	399
	Writing XML	407
	Summary	414
CHAPTER 16	Database Programming	415
	A Quick Walk-Through of the Tools	416
	Exploring the Database Creation Tools	424
	Writing Database Code	429
	An Overview of Data Binding	442
	Summary	448
CHAPTER 17	The Internet and Visual Basic	449
	Introducing the WebBrowser Control	449
	Working with the WebBrowser Control	454
	Accessing the Web Through Code	456
	Handling Other Types of Data with WebClient	465
	Using Web Services	472
	Summary	480

■ CHAPTER 18	Threading	481
	Timers	482
	BackgroundWorker Control	485
	Race Conditions and Deadlocks	495
	Summary	496
■ CHAPTER 19	Where to Now?	497
	Starter Kits	497
	The Other Express Tools	502
	MSDN	502
	Blogs	503
	Summary	504
■ INDEX	505