

Dive Into® Visual Studio Express 2012 for Windows Desktop

2

Seeing is believing.

—Proverb

Form ever follows function.

—Louis Henri Sullivan

*Intelligence ... is the faculty of
making artificial objects,
especially tools to make tools.*

—Henri-Louis Bergson




Objectives

In this chapter you'll learn:

- The basics of the Visual Studio Express 2012 for Windows Desktop Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for writing, running and debugging your apps.
- Visual Studio's help features.
- Key commands contained in the IDE's menus and toolbars.
- The purpose of the various kinds of windows in the Visual Studio Express 2012 for Windows Desktop IDE.
- What visual app development is and how it simplifies and speeds app development.
- Use visual app development to create, compile and execute a simple Visual Basic app that displays text and an image.

2 Chapter 2 Dive Into® Visual Studio Express 2012 for Windows Desktop

Self-Review Exercises

- 2.1** Fill in the blanks in each of the following statements:
- The technique of _____ allows you to create GUIs without writing any code.
ANS: visual app development.
 - A(n) _____ is a group of one or more projects that collectively form a Visual Basic app.
ANS: solution.
 - A(n) _____ appears when the mouse pointer hovers over an icon.
ANS: tool tip.
 - The _____ window allows you to browse solution files.
ANS: Solution Explorer.
 - The properties in the **Properties** window can be sorted _____ or _____.
ANS: alphabetically, categorically.
 - A Form's _____ property specifies the text displayed in the Form's title bar.
ANS: Text.
 - The _____ contains the controls that you can add to a Form.
ANS: Toolbox.
 - _____ displays relevant help articles, based on the current context.
ANS: context-sensitive help.
 - The _____ property specifies how text is aligned within a Label's boundaries.
ANS: TextAlign.
- 2.2** State whether each of the following is *true* or *false*. If *false*, explain why.
-  toggles auto-hide for a window.
ANS: False. The pin icon () toggles auto-hide.  closes a window.
 - The toolbar icons represent various menu commands.
ANS: True.
 - The toolbar contains icons that represent controls you can drag onto a Form.
ANS: False. The **Toolbox** contains icons that represent such controls.
 - Both Forms and Labels have a title bar.
ANS: False. Forms have a title bar but Labels do not (although they do have Label text).
 - Control properties can be modified only by writing code.
ANS: False. Control properties can be modified using the **Properties** window.
 - PictureBoxes typically display images.
ANS: True.
 - Visual Basic files use the file extension .bas.
ANS: False. Visual Basic files use the file extension .vb.
 - A Form's background color is set using the BackColor property.
ANS: True.

Exercises

- 2.3** Fill in the blanks in each of the following statements:
- When an ellipsis button is clicked, a(n) _____ is displayed.
ANS: dialog. Dialogs are windows that facilitate user-computer communication.
 - Using _____ help immediately displays a relevant help article.
ANS: context-sensitive.
 - GUI is an acronym for _____.
ANS: graphical user interface.

d) The _____ menu contains commands for arranging and displaying windows.

ANS: **Window**.

2.4 State whether each of the following is *true* or *false*. If *false*, explain why.

a) You can add a control to a Form by double clicking its control icon in the **Toolbox**.

ANS: True.

b) The `Form`, `Label` and `PictureBox` have identical properties.

ANS: False. Each type of control has a different set of properties, although controls can have common properties.

c) If your machine is connected to the Internet, you can browse websites from the Visual Studio IDE.

ANS: True.

d) Visual Basic app developers usually create complex apps without writing any code.

ANS: False. Visual Basic programming usually involves a combination of writing a portion of the program code and having Visual Studio generate the remaining code.

e) Sizing handles are visible during execution.

ANS: False. Sizing handles are present only in **Design** view when a `Form` or control is selected.

2.5 Some features that appear throughout Visual Studio perform similar actions in different contexts. Explain and give examples of how the ellipsis buttons, down-arrow buttons and tool tips act in this manner. Why do you think the Visual Studio IDE was designed this way?

ANS: An ellipsis button indicates that a dialog will be displayed when the button is clicked. The down-arrow button indicates that there are more options, both for toolbar icons and for items in the **Properties** window. Moving the mouse pointer over most icons displays the icon's name as a tool tip. These features make the Visual Studio IDE easier to learn and use.

2.6 Briefly describe each of the following terms:

a) toolbar

ANS: A toolbar contains icons that, when clicked, execute a command.

b) menu bar

ANS: A menu bar contains menus, which are groups of related commands.

c) **Toolbox**

ANS: The **Toolbox** contains controls used to customize forms.

d) control

ANS: A control is a component, such as a `PictureBox` or `Label`. Controls are added to a `Form`.

e) `Form`

ANS: A `Form` represents the Windows Forms application that you are creating. The `Form` and controls collectively represent the program's GUI.

f) solution

ANS: A solution is a group of projects.

Note Regarding Exercises 2.7–2.11

Solutions for these exercises are provided in the `so1_ch02` folder.