Chapter 1
Introduction to Programming and Visual Basic 2005
Computer Hardware

- Refers to the physical components
- Not one device but a system of many devices
- Major types of components include:
  - Central Processing Unit
  - Main memory
  - Secondary storage devices
  - Input devices
  - Output devices

Organization of a Computer System
The CPU

- Fetches instructions from main memory
- Carries out the operations commanded by the instructions
- Each instruction produces some outcome
- A *program* is an entire sequence of instructions
- Instructions are stored as *binary numbers*
- *Binary number* - a sequence of 1’s and 0’s

Main Memory

- Commonly known as random access memory, or just RAM
- Holds instructions and data needed for programs that are currently running
- RAM is usually a *volatile* type of memory
- Contents of RAM are lost when power is turned off
Secondary Storage

- A **nonvolatile** storage medium
- Contents retained while power is off
- Hard disk drives are most common
  - Records data magnetically on a circular disk
  - Provides fast access to large amounts of data
- Optical devices store data on CD’s as pits
- USB flash memory devices
  - High capacity device plugs into USB port
  - Portable, reliable, and fits easily in a pocket

Input Devices

- Any type of device that provides data to a computer from the outside world
- For example:
  - Keyboard
  - Mouse
  - Scanner
Output Devices

- Any type of device that provides data from a computer to the outside world
- Examples of output data:
  - A printed report
  - An image such as a picture
  - A sound
- Common output devices include:
  - Monitor (display screen)
  - Printer

Knowing About: Computer Hardware

- Evolution of hardware
  - 1950s: all hardware units were built using relays and vacuum tubes
  - 1960s: introduction of transistors
  - mid-1960s: introduction of integrated circuits (ICs)
  - Present computers: use of microprocessors
- Bit: smallest and most basic data item in a computer; represents a 0 or a 1
- Byte: a grouping of eight bits
  - E.g., 00010001
  - What does this represent?
- Word: a grouping of one or more bytes
First-Generation and Second-Generation (Low-Level) Languages

- Low-level languages
  - First-generation and second-generation languages
  - Machine-dependent languages
  - The underlying representation the machine actually understands
- First-generation languages
  - Also referred to as machine languages
  - Consist of a sequence of instructions represented as binary numbers
  - E.g.: Code to ADD might be 1001. To add 1+0 and then 1+1 our program might look like this:
    - 1001 0001 0000
    - 1001 0001 0001

Second-generation languages

- Also referred to as assembly languages
- Abbreviated words are used to indicate operations
- Allow the use of decimal numbers and labels to indicate the location of the data
- Assemblers
  - Programs that translate assembly language programs into machine language programs
  - Our add program now looks like:
    - ADD 1,0
    - ADD 1,1
    - Assembler

High-level languages
- Third-generation and fourth-generation languages
- Programs can be translated to run on a variety of computer types

Third-generation languages
- Procedure-oriented languages
- Object-oriented languages

Our Add program might now look like:

\[ \text{sum} = \text{value1} + \text{value2} \]
Third-Generation and Fourth-Generation (High-Level) Languages

- Procedure-oriented languages
  - Programmers concentrate on the procedures used in the program
  - Procedure: a logically consistent set of instructions which is used to produce one specific result
- Object-oriented languages
  - Items are represented using self-contained objects
  - Often used for graphical windows environments, ability to re-use code efficiently

Example of an Object

- This is a Visual Basic GUI object called a form
- Contains data and actions
- Data, such as Hourly Pay Rate, is a text property that determines the appearance of form objects
- Actions, such as Calculate Gross Pay, is a method that determines how the form reacts
- A form is an object that contains other objects such as buttons, text boxes, and labels
Example of an Object

- Form elements are objects called **controls**
- This form has:
  - Two **TextBox** controls
  - Four **Label** controls
  - Two **Button** controls
- The value displayed by a control is held in the **text property** of the control
- Left button text property is **Calculate Gross Pay**
- Buttons have methods attached to **click events**

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Third-Generation and Fourth-Generation (High-Level) Languages

- Graphical user interface (GUI)
  - Provides a graphical way for the user to interact with the program
  - Uses events
- Event
  - A specific procedure that is connected to an object
- Visual languages
  - Permit the programmer to manipulate graphical objects directly, with the language providing the necessary code
  - Permit users to access and format information without the need for writing any procedural code
The Visual Basic .NET Platform

- Visual Basic .NET is in a sense one step removed from a typical high-level language
- VB.NET runs using a “Virtual Machine” or “Common Language Runtime”
  - The physical computer simulates a virtual computer that runs your program
- What is .NET?
  - Microsoft’s vision of the future of applications in the Internet age
    - Increased robustness over classic Windows apps
    - New programming platform
    - Built for the web
  - .NET is a platform that runs on the operating system

.NET

- .NET is actually a program that sits on top on the Operating System (currently all the Windows 9x, NT, ME & XP; subset exists for FreeBSD, Linux, MacOS)
- Provides language interoperability across platforms
- Strong emphasis on Web connectivity, using XML web services to connect and share data between smart client devices, servers, and developers/users
- Platform/language independent
.NET Framework

- C#  VB.NET  C++.NET  Other

Common Language Specification

Framework Class Library

- ASP.NET
  - Web Services
  - ASP.NET Application Services
- Windows Forms
  - Controls
  - Windows Application Services
- ADO.NET
- XML
- Network
- Security
- Threading
- Diagnostics
- IO
- Etc.

Common Language Runtime

- Memory Management
- Common Type System
- Lifecycle Monitoring

Operating System

Visual Studio .NET

Slide 1-21

.NET: Language-Independent, Mostly Platform Specific

Person.vb  (Visual Basic)

Person

Address

Company

Address.cs  (C#)

Company.cbl  (Cobol)

CLR

Windows

Deploy

Others?

Windows

Others?

Slide 1-22
Programming

- Computers can only follow instructions
- In VB.NET our instructions must sometimes be very detailed and sometimes can be more general
- A computer program is a set of instructions on how to solve a problem or perform a task
- Example:
  - In order for a computer to compute someone’s gross pay, we must tell it to perform the steps on the following slide

Computing Gross Pay

- Display message: "How many hours did you work?"
- Allow user to enter number of hours worked
- Store the number the user enters in memory
- Display message: "How much are you paid per hour?"
- Allow the user to enter an hourly pay rate
- Store the number the user enters in memory
- Multiply hours worked by pay rate and store the result in memory
- Display a message with the result of the previous step

This well-defined, ordered set of steps for solving a problem is called an algorithm
1.3 More About Controls and Programming

As a Visual Basic Programmer, You Must Design and Create the Two Major Components of an Application: the GUI Elements (Forms and Other Controls) and the Programming Statements That Respond to And/or Perform Actions (Event Procedures)

Visual Basic Controls

- As a Windows user you’re already familiar with many Visual Basic controls:
  - Label - displays text the user cannot change
  - TextBox - allows the user to enter text
  - Button – performs an action when clicked
  - RadioButton - A round button that is selected or deselected with a mouse click
  - CheckBox – A box that is checked or unchecked with a mouse click
  - Form - A window that contains these controls
- Tutorial 1-3 demonstrates these controls
VB.NET Controls

- Invoking VB.NET
- Text Box
- Button
- Label
- Radio Button
- Checkbox Button
- PictureBox
- Help
- Fonts / Auto Hide

Name Property

- All controls have properties
- Each property has a value (or values)
- Not all properties deal with appearance
- The name property establishes a means for the program to refer to that control
- Controls are assigned relatively meaningless names when created
- Programmers usually change these names to something more meaningful
**Examples of Names**

- The label controls use the default names (Label1, etc.)
- Text boxes, buttons, and the Gross Pay label play an active role in the program and have been changed

![Diagram of Wage Calculator](image)

**Naming Conventions**

- Control names must start with a letter
- Remaining characters may be letters, digits, or underscore
- 1st 3 lowercase letters indicate the type of control
  - txt… for Text Boxes
  - lbl… for Labels
  - btn… for Buttons
- After that, capitalize the first letter of each word
- txtHoursWorked is clearer than txthoursworked
Event Handler – Compute Gross Pay

Private Sub btnCalcGrossPay_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles btnCalcGrossPay.Click

    'Define a variable to hold the gross pay.
    Dim sngGrossPay As Single

    'Convert the values in the text boxes to numbers, 'and calculate the gross pay.
    sngGrossPay = CSng(txtHoursWorked.Text) * CSng(txtPayRate.Text)

    'Format the gross pay for currency display and 'assign it to the Text property of a label.
    lblGrossPay.Text = FormatCurrency(sngGrossPay)

End Sub

Event Handler - Close

Private Sub btnClose_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles btnClose.Click

    'End the program by closing its window.
    Me.Close()

End Sub
Language Elements

- **Keywords**: Words with special meaning to Visual Basic (e.g., `Private`, `Sub`)
- **Programmer-defined-names**: Names created by the programmer (e.g., `sngGrossPay`, `btnClose`)
- **Operators**: Special symbols to perform common operations (e.g., `+`, `-`, `*`, and `/`)
- **Remarks**: Comments inserted by the programmer – these are ignored when the program runs (e.g., any text preceded by a single quote)

Language Elements: Syntax

- **Syntax** defines the correct use of key words, operators, & programmer-defined names
- Similar to the syntax (rules) of English that defines correct use of nouns, verbs, etc.
- A program that violates the rules of syntax will not run until corrected
The Programming Process

The Programming Process Consists of Several Steps, which Include Design, Creation, Testing, and Debugging Activities

Step 1 of Developing an Application

- Clearly define what the program is to do
- For example, the *Wage Calculator* program:
  - Purpose: To calculate the user’s gross pay
  - Input: Number of hours worked, hourly pay rate
  - Process: Multiply number of hours worked by hourly pay rate (result is the user’s gross pay)
  - Output: Display a message indicating the user’s gross pay
Step 2 of Developing an Application

- Visualize the application running on the computer and design its user interface

![User Interface Diagram]

Step 3 of Developing an Application

- Make a list of the controls needed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TextBox</td>
<td>txtHoursWorked</td>
<td>Allows the user to enter the number of hours worked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TextBox</td>
<td>txtPayRate</td>
<td>Allows the user to enter the hourly pay rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label</td>
<td>lblGrossPay</td>
<td>Displays the gross pay, after the btnCalcGrossPay button has been clicked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Button</td>
<td>btnCalcGrossPay</td>
<td>When clicked, multiplies the number of hours worked by the hourly pay rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Button</td>
<td>btnClose</td>
<td>When clicked, terminates the application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label</td>
<td>(default)</td>
<td>Description for Number of Hours Worked TextBox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label</td>
<td>(default)</td>
<td>Description for Hourly Pay Rate TextBox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label</td>
<td>(default)</td>
<td>Description for Gross Pay Earned Label</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form</td>
<td>(default)</td>
<td>A form to hold these controls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 4 of Developing an Application

- Define values for each control's relevant properties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control Type</th>
<th>Control Name</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form</td>
<td>(Default)</td>
<td>&quot;Wage Calculator&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label</td>
<td>(Default)</td>
<td>&quot;Number of Hours Worked&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label</td>
<td>(Default)</td>
<td>&quot;Hourly Pay Rate&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label</td>
<td>(Default)</td>
<td>&quot;Gross Pay Earned&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label</td>
<td>lblGrossPay</td>
<td>&quot;$0.00&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TextBox</td>
<td>txtHoursWorked</td>
<td>&quot;&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TextBox</td>
<td>txtPayRate</td>
<td>&quot;&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Button</td>
<td>btnCalcGrossPay</td>
<td>&quot;Calculate Gross Pay&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Button</td>
<td>btnClose</td>
<td>&quot;Close&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 5 of Developing an Application

- List the methods needed for each control:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>btnCalcGrossPay_Click</td>
<td>Multiplies hours worked by hourly pay rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These values are entered into the txtHoursWorked and txtPayRate TextBoxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Result is stored in lblGrossPay Text property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>btnClose_Click</td>
<td>Terminates the application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 6 of Developing an Application

- Create **pseudocode or a flowchart** of each method:
  - Pseudocode is an English-like description in programming language terms
  - A flowchart is a diagram that uses boxes and other symbols to represent each step

  Store Hours Worked x Hourly Pay Rate in sngGrossPay.
  Store the value of sngGrossPay in lblGrossPay.Text.

  Multiply hours worked by hourly payrate. Store result in sngGrossPay.
  Copy value in sngGrossPay to lblGrossPay text property

Step 7 of Developing an Application

- Check the code for errors:
  - Read the flowchart and/or pseudocode
  - Step through each operation as though **you** are the computer
  - Use a piece of paper to jot down the values of variables and properties as they change
  - Verify that the expected results are achieved
Step 8 of Developing an Application

- Use Visual Basic to create the forms and other controls identified in step 3
  - This is the first use of Visual Basic, all of the previous steps have just been on paper
  - In this step you develop the portion of the application the user will see

Step 9 of Developing an Application

- Use Visual Basic to write the code for the event procedures and other methods created in step 6
  - This is the second step on the computer
  - In this step you develop the methods behind the click event for each button
  - Unlike the form developed on step 8, this portion of the application is invisible to the user
Step 10 of Developing an Application

- Attempt to run the application - find syntax errors
  - Correct any syntax errors found
  - *Syntax errors* are the incorrect use of an element of the programming language
  - Repeat this step as many times as needed
  - All syntax errors must be removed before Visual Basic will create a program that actually runs

Step 11 of Developing an Application

- Run the application using test data as input
  - Run the program with a variety of test data
  - Check the results to be sure that they are correct
  - Incorrect results are referred to as a *runtime error*
  - Correct any runtime errors found
  - Repeat this step as many times as necessary
The Visual Basic Environment

- Tutorial 1-4 introduces elements of the IDE:
  - Customizing the IDE
  - Design window – a place to design and create a form
  - Solution Explorer window – shows files in the solution
  - Properties window – modify properties of an object
  - Dynamic Help window – a handy reference tool
  - Toolbar – contains icons for frequently used functions
  - Toolbox window – objects used in form design
  - Tooltips – a short description of button’s purpose

- Loading/Saving Projects, Project Folder

Adding Code to an Event

- To add code for an event:
  - In the VB Code Window select the control on the left side menu and the event of interest on the right side menu
  - Or double-click the control in the designer to bring up the most common event for that control

- Other methods for opening the Code window:
  - If the Code window is visible, click on it
  - Double-click anywhere on the Form window
  - Select the Code option from the View menu
  - Press the F7 method key anywhere on the design form
  - Select the View Code icon from the Project Window
Event Procedures - Subroutines

Private Sub objectName_event(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles objectName.event

For now you can ignore most of this, aside from knowing the name of the subroutine:

Private Sub objectName_event(...) Handles objectName.event
Structure of an Event Procedure

```vbnet
Private Sub objectName_event(...) Handles objectName.event
    statements ' Your code goes here
End Sub
```

IntelliSense

Automatically pops up to give the programmer help.
Code for Walkthrough

Private Sub txtFirst_TextChanged(...) Handles txtFirst.TextChanged
txtFirst.ForeColor = Color.Blue
End Sub

Private Sub btnRed_Click(...) Handles btnRed.Click
txtFirst.ForeColor = Color.Red
End Sub

Private Sub txtFirst_Leave(...) Handles txtFirst.Leave
txtFirst.ForeColor = Color.Black
End Sub

Assigning properties in code

- The following won't work:
  Form1.Text = "Demonstration"

- The current form is referred to by the keyword Me.
  Me.Text = "Demonstration"
The Text Property of a TextBox

- A user can change the text property of a text box simply by typing in the text box
- A programmer can change the text property of a text box with an assignment statement
  - Uses the form Object.Property just as we did to change the text property of a label
  - The following code assigns the text to the left of the equal sign to the text property of the text box txtInput
    - `txtInput.Text = "Type your name"`

The Text Property of a TextBox

- We can use the text property of a text box to retrieve something the user has typed
  - The following code assigns the text in txtInput to the text property of the label lblSet
    - `lblSet.Text = txtInput.Text`
  - Once again we use the form Object.Property
  - This is the typical means to refer to a property of any object
Clearing a TextBox

- Can be done with an assignment statement:
  - `txtInput.Text = ""`
  - Two adjacent quote marks yields a null string
  - So this replaces whatever text was in txtInput with "nothing" -- a string with no characters
- Can also be done with a method:
  - `txtInput.Clear()`
  - Clear is a *Method*, not a *Property*
  - Methods are *actions* – as in clearing the text
  - Uses the form *Object.Method*

The MessageBox.Show Method

- The MessageBox.Show method is used to display a box with a message for the user
- The message box also contains a title and an icon
- General forms of the MessageBox.Show method
  - `MessageBox.Show(text)`
  - `MessageBox.Show(text, caption)`
  - `MessageBox.Show(text, caption, buttons)`
  - `MessageBox.Show(text, caption, buttons, icon)`
  - `MessageBox.Show(text, caption, buttons, icon, defaultbutton)`

- To do: Add a MessageBox.Show to the button click event
  - Hard-coded text, textbox.text
Console.WriteLine

- Another handy way to output information is to the Console:
  - `Console.WriteLine("Hello there")`
    - Outputs the message in double quotes and adds a newline
  - `Console.Write("Hello again. ")`
    - Outputs the message in double quotes without a newline
- Useful for debugging, don’t have to push the OK button and clutter up the screen with message boxes

Load Event Procedure

- Every form has a **Load event procedure**
- Automatically executed when the form is displayed
- Double-click in any empty space on the form
- The code window will appear
- Place the code to be executed between the Private Sub and End Sub lines

```vbnet
Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load
    ' Code to be executed when the Form loads
End Sub
```