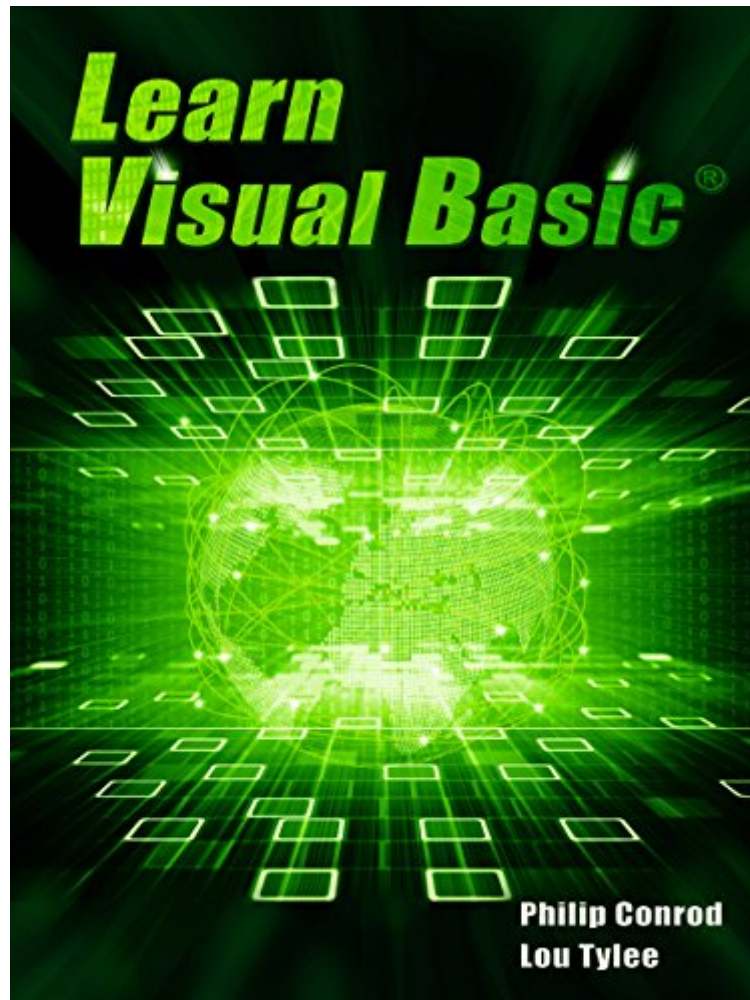




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Learn Visual Basic: A Step-By-Step Programming Tutorial



Synopsis

LEARN VISUAL BASIC is a comprehensive programming tutorial covering object-oriented programming, the Visual Basic integrated development environment, building and distributing Windows applications using the Windows Installer, exception handling, sequential file access, graphics, multimedia, advanced topics such as web access, printing, and HTML help system authoring. The tutorial also introduces database applications (using ADO .NET) and web applications (using ASP.NET). This curriculum has been used in college and universities for over two decades. It is also used as a college prep advanced placement course for high school students. The focus of LEARN VISUAL BASIC is to use the objects and capabilities of Visual Basic to build a wide variety of useful desktop applications. Students will also develop their own objects. Some of the applications built include: Stopwatch, Calendar Display, Loan Repayment Calculator, Flash Card Math Game, Database Input Screen, Statistics Calculator, Tic-Tac-Toe Game, Capital City Quiz, Information Tracker (with plotting), Blackjack, Line, Bar and Pie charts, a version of the first video game ever – Pong, and a Telephone Directory. LEARN VISUAL BASIC is presented using a combination of over 850 pages of self-study notes and over 100 Visual Basic practical examples and applications. To grasp the concepts presented in LEARN VISUAL BASIC, you should possess a working knowledge of Windows and have had some exposure to programming concepts. Our Beginning Visual Basic course would provide you with this exposure. LEARN VISUAL BASIC requires a Microsoft Windows operating system. This tutorial also requires the free Community Edition or Professional Edition of Microsoft Visual Studio. The Visual Basic source code solutions and all needed multimedia files are included in the compressed download file available from the Publisher's website (KidwareSoftware.com) after book registration.

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Customer Reviews

Do you remember when you learned to ride a bike? The person holding you up let go and you were on your way. The exhilaration of that accomplishment, the freedom, and empowerment were indescribable and easily recalled to this day. Completing a computer program that you designed and built, either on your own or with a team, warrants the same degree of fulfillment and jubilation. As a programmer, a long-time college programming instructor, and as the head of the department, I have reviewed countless programming books for almost all of the most popular programming languages. "Learn Visual Basic: A Step-By-Step Programming Tutorial" by Conrod and Tylee is my favorite. The order in which the topics are presented is very easy for students to follow. The transitions from one topic to the next are so smooth it doesn't feel like steps but just a continuously smooth flow from start to finish. Object-oriented programming (OOP) is often difficult to explain to new programmers and most books give it no consideration until the second half of the book. The authors have made OOP clear, logical, and astonishingly easy to understand and they have successfully presented it in the third chapter. It is absolute genius. Consequently, every topic after that is much clearer and relevant to students. All the examples in the book are interesting and easy to follow. I have worked through all of them line by line and found them easy to follow and duplicate. Students quickly become frustrated with examples that contain errors so the fact that these work so well is critically important to me. Topics included in "Learn Visual Basic" are date, time, and financial calculations which are lacking in most first-year programming books. I really appreciate the chapters that include business graphics for pie and bar charts and general graphics applied to multimedia. The authors also use code to access databases instead of the Visual Studio wizards which seems to give the students a much better understanding of how databases work and how to program their interactions. The book covers numerous topics but I would like to see a little

more coverage of web development and at least some discussion of Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF).

These lessons are a highly organized and well-indexed set of lessons in the Visual Basic programming environment. They are written for the initiated programmer, the college-prep or university student seeking to advance their Computer Science repertoire. While full solutions are provided, the projects are presented in an easy-to-follow set of lessons explaining the rationale for the solution, the form layout, coding design and conventions, and specific code related to the problem. The learner may follow the tutorials at their own pace while focusing upon context relevant information. The finished product is the reward, but the student is fully engaged and enriched by the process. This kind of learning is often the focus of teacher training at the highest level. Every Computer Science teacher and self-taught learner knows what a great deal of work is required for projects to work in this manner, and with these tutorials, the work is done by an author who understands the adult need for streamlined learning. The author taught Visual Basic Programming at the University level for 15 years. Graduated Lessons for Every Project | Lessons, examples, problems and projects. Graduated learning. Increasing and appropriate difficulty... Great results. With these projects, there are lessons providing a comprehensive background on the programming topics to be covered. Once understood, concepts are easily applicable to a variety of applications. Then, specific examples are drawn out so that a learner can practice with the Visual Basic form designer. Conventions relating to event-driven programming, naming controls and the scope of variables are explained. Then specific coding for the example is provided so that the user can see all the parts of the project come together for the finished product. After the example is completed, then short problems challenge the user to repeat the process on their own, and finally, exercises provide a "summative" for the unit. By presenting lessons in this graduated manner, adult students are fully engaged and appropriately challenged to become independent thinkers who can come up with their own project ideas and design their own forms and do their own coding. Once the process is learned, then student engagement is unlimited! I have seen student literacy improve dramatically when students cannot get enough of what is being presented. Lessons encourage accelerated learning - in the sense that they provide an enriched environment to learn computer science, but they also encourage accelerating learning because students cannot put the lessons away once they start! Computer Science provides this unique opportunity to challenge students, and it is a great testament to the authors that they are successful in achieving such levels of engagement with consistency. How independent learners use the

materials. The style of presentation (lessons, examples, problems, exercises) encourages self-guided learning. Students may trust the order of presentation in order to have sufficient background information for every project. But the lessons are also highly indexed, so that students may pick and choose projects if limited by time. Materials already condense what is available from MSDN so that students remember what they learn. My history with the Kidware Software products. I have used single license or shareware versions of the tutorials for over a decade to keep up my own learning as a Secondary School teacher of advanced Computer Science. As a learner who just wants to get down to business, these lessons match my learning style. I do not waste valuable time ensconced in language reference libraries for programming environments and help screens which can never be fully remembered! With every project, the pathway to learning is clear and immediate, though the topics in Computer Science remain current, relevant and challenging. Some of the topics covered in these tutorials include:

- Data Types and Ranges
- Scope of Variables
- Naming Conventions
- Decision Making
- Looping
- Language Functions
- String, Date, Numerical
- Arrays, Control Arrays
- Writing Your own Methods and Classes
- Windows Application Design and Distribution
- Sequential File Access, Error-Handling and Debugging techniques
- Graphics and Multimedia applications
- Visual Basic Database and Web Applications
- and more

It's all integrated into the tutorials. Quick Learning curve by Contextualized Learning Having projects completed ahead of time encourages Contextualized Learning. Once a problem statement is understood, then the process of form-design, naming controls and coding is mastered for a given set of Visual Basic controls. Then, it is much more likely that students create their own problems and solutions from scratch. This is the pattern of learning for any language! Meet Different State and Provincial Curriculum Expectations and More Different states and provinces have their own curriculum requirements for Computer Science. With the Kidware Software products, you have at your disposal a series of projects which will allow you to pick and choose from among those which best suit your learning needs. Students focus upon design stages and sound problem-solving techniques from a Computer Science perspective. In doing so, they become independent problem-solvers, who will be able to meet the challenges of post-secondary Computer Science with confidence. Computer Science topics not explicitly covered in tutorials can be added at the learner's discretion. For example, recursive functions could be dealt with in a project which calculates factorials, permutations and combinations with a few text boxes and

buttons on a form. Students learn to process information by collecting it in text boxes, and they learn to code command buttons. The language - whether it is Visual Basic, Visual C#, Visual C++, or Console Java, Java GUI, etc... is really up to the individual learner! Lessons encourage your own programming extensions. Once concepts are learned, it is difficult to NOT know what to do for your own projects. Having developed my own projects in one language, such as Visual Basic, I know that I could easily adapt them to other languages once I have studied the Kidware Software tutorials. I do not believe there is any other reference material out there which would cause me to make the same claim! In fact, I know there is not as I have spent over a decade looking! With their programming tutorials, I have learned to teach Small Basic, Visual Basic, Visual C#, and Java! Having used Kidware Software tutorials for the past decade, I have been successful at the expansion of my own learning of other platforms such as XNA for the Xbox, the Kinect and Unity game programming. I thank Kidware Software and its authors for continuing to stand for what is right in the teaching methodologies which not only inspire, but propel the self-guided learner through what can be an intelligible landscape of opportunities. Alan Payne, B.A.H. , B.Ed. Computer Science Teacher

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