

Contents

Introduction	xxv
Chapter 1: What Is Microsoft .NET?	1
What Is .NET?	1
A Broad and Deep Platform for the Future	2
What's Wrong with DNA and COM?	2
An Overview of the .NET Framework	3
The Common Language Runtime	4
Key Design Goals	5
Metadata	7
Multiple-Language Integration and Support	7
A Common Type System	8
Namespaces	8
The Next Layer — The .NET Class Framework	8
What Is in the .NET Class Framework?	9
User and Program Interfaces	10
Windows Forms	11
Web Forms	11
Console Applications	12
Web Services	12
XML as the .NET Metalanguage	12
The Role of COM	13
No Internal Use of COM	13
Some Things Never Change . . .	13
.NET Drives Changes in Visual Basic	14
How .NET Affects You	14
A Spectrum of Programming Models	14
Reducing Barriers to Internet Development	15
Libraries of Prewritten Functionality	15
Easier Deployment	15
The Future of .NET	16
Major Differences in .NET 2.0	16
Summary	17

Contents

Chapter 2: Introducing Visual Basic 2005 and Visual Studio 2005 **19**

Visual Studio .NET — Startup	20
Visual Studio .NET	21
The Solution Explorer	22
My Project	23
References	24
Assembly Information Screen	25
The New Code Window	26
The Properties Window	29
Dynamic Help	30
Working with Visual Basic 2005	31
Form Properties Set in Code	32
Enhancing the Sample Application	34
Adding a Control and Event Handler	34
Customizing the Code	35
Build Configurations	40
Building Applications	43
Useful Features of Visual Studio	46
The Task List	46
The Command Window	47
The Server Explorer	47
Recording and Using Macros in Visual Studio 2005	49
Summary	50

Chapter 3: Variables and Type **51**

Differences of Value and Reference Types	52
Value Types (Structures)	54
Primitive Types	54
Explicit Conversions	63
Compiler Options	64
Performing Explicit Conversions	66
Reference Types (Classes)	68
The Object Class	68
The String Class	70
The DBNull Class and IsDBNull() Function	72
Arrays	73
Collections	76
Parameter Passing	78
Boxing	79

Retired Keywords and Methods	80
Elements of Visual Basic 6.0 Removed in .NET	80
Summary	81
Chapter 4: Object Syntax Introduction	83

Object-Oriented Terminology	84
Objects, Classes, and Instances	84
Composition of an Object	85
Working with Objects	88
Object Declaration and Instantiation	88
Object References	90
Dereferencing Objects	90
Early versus Late Binding	90
Creating Classes	94
Creating Basic Classes	94
Constructor Methods	114
Termination and Cleanup	115
Advanced Concepts	116
Overloading Methods	116
Overloading Constructor Methods	119
Shared Methods, Variables, and Events	120
Operator Overloading	125
Delegates	128
Classes versus Components	133
Summary	134
Chapter 5: Inheritance and Interfaces	137

Inheritance	138
Implementing Inheritance	140
Multiple Interfaces	187
Object Interfaces	187
Secondary Interfaces	189
Summary	195
Chapter 6: The Common Language Runtime	197

Elements of a .NET Application	198
Modules	198
Assemblies	199
Types	200

Contents

Versioning and Deployment	201
Better Support for Versioning	201
Better Deployment	202
Cross-Language Integration	203
The Common Type System	203
Metadata	204
Better Support for Metadata	205
Attributes	206
The Reflection API	208
IL Disassembler	209
Memory Management	210
Traditional “Garbage Collection”	211
Faster Memory Allocation for Objects	218
Garbage Collector Optimizations	220
Summary	222
Chapter 7: Applying Objects and Components	223
Abstraction	223
Encapsulation	227
Polymorphism	230
Method Signatures	230
Implementing Polymorphism	230
Inheritance	241
When to Use Inheritance	242
Inheritance and Multiple Interfaces	246
How Deep to Go?	252
Fragile Base Class Issue	254
Summary	257
Chapter 8: Generics	259
Using Generics	260
Generic Types	261
Generic Methods	265
Creating Generics	267
Generic Types	267
Generic Methods	275
Constraints	276
Generics and Late Binding	280
Summary	281

Chapter 9: Namespaces	283
What Is a Namespace?	284
Namespaces and References	287
Common Namespaces	289
Importing and Aliasing Namespaces	291
Importing Namespaces	292
Referencing Namespaces in ASP.NET	293
Aliasing Namespaces	294
Creating Your Own Namespaces	295
My	298
My.Application	299
My.Computer	303
My.Forms	307
My.Resources	308
My.User	308
My.WebServices	308
Summary	309
Chapter 10: Exception Handling and Debugging	311
A Brief Review of Error Handling in VB6	312
Exceptions in .NET	314
Important Properties and Methods of an Exception	314
How Exceptions Differ from the Err Object in VB6	315
Structured-Exception-Handling Keywords in VB.NET	315
The Try, Catch, and Finally Keywords	316
The Throw Keyword	318
Throwing a New Exception	319
The Exit Try Statement	320
Nested Try Structures	321
The Message Property	323
The InnerException and TargetSite Properties	323
Interoperability with VB6-Style Error Handling	328
Error Logging	329
Writing to Trace Files	333
Analyzing Problems and Measuring Performance via the Trace Class	335
Summary	338

Chapter 11: Data Access with ADO.NET 2.0	341
ADO.NET 2.0 Architecture Enhancements	342
ADO.NET Components	343
.NET Data Providers	344
Connection Object	344
Command Object	345
Using Stored Procedures with Command Objects	346
DataReader Object	350
Executing Commands Asynchronously	352
DataAdapter Objects	354
SQL Server .NET Data Provider	358
OLE DB .NET Data Provider	359
The DataSet Component	359
DataTableCollection	359
DataRelationCollection	360
ExtendedProperties	360
Creating and Using DataSet Objects	361
ADO.NET DataTable Objects	363
ADO.NET 2.0 Enhancements to the DataSet and DataTable	364
Working with the Common Provider Model	366
Connection Pooling Enhancements in ADO.NET 2.0	369
Building a Data Access Component	369
Constructors	370
Properties	371
Stored Procedure XML Structure	372
Methods	373
Using DataSet Objects to Bind to DataGrids	385
Summary	388
Chapter 12: Using XML in Visual Basic 2005	389
An Introduction to XML	391
XML Serialization	392
Source Code Style Attributes	397
System.Xml Document Support	399
XML Stream-Style Parsers	399
Writing an XML Stream	400
Reading an XML Stream	405
Using the MemoryStream Object	414
Document Object Model (DOM)	418

XSLT Transforms	424
XSLT Transforming between XML Standards	429
Using XML in Visual Basic 2005	430
Other Classes and Interfaces in System.Xml.Xsl	432
ADO.NET	432
ADO.NET and SQL Server 2000's Built-In XML Features	434
XML and SQL Server 2005	436
Summary	437
Chapter 13: Security in the .NET Framework 2.0	439
Security Concepts and Definitions	440
Permissions in the System.Security.Permissions Namespace	442
Code Access Permissions	445
Role-Based Permissions	446
Identity Permissions	449
Managing Code Access Permissions	449
Managing Security Policy	454
Figuring the Minimum Permissions Required for Your Application	465
Using Visual Studio to Figure Minimum Permissions	467
Security Tools	470
Dealing with Exceptions Using the SecurityException Class	471
Cryptography Basics	473
Hash Algorithms	474
Summary	495
Chapter 14: Windows Forms	497
The Importance of Windows Forms	498
Summary of Changes in Windows Forms version 2.0	498
Default Instances of Forms	498
Changes in Existing Controls	499
New Controls	500
Replacements for Older Windows Forms Controls	501
The System.Windows.Forms Namespace	502
Using Forms	502
Showing Forms via Sub Main	503
Setting the Startup Form	503
Startup Location	504
Form Borders	505
Always on Top — The TopMost Property	505
Owned Forms	505

Contents

Making Forms Transparent and Translucent	507
Visual Inheritance	508
Scrollable Forms	509
Forms at Runtime	509
Controls	510
Control Tab Order	511
Control Arrays	511
Automatic Resizing and Positioning of Controls	513
FlowLayoutPanel Control	517
TableLayoutPanel Control	520
Extender Provider Controls	520
Advanced Capabilities for Data Entry	523
Validating Data Entry	526
Toolbars and the New ToolStrip Control	528
Menus	531
Common Dialogs	533
Drag and Drop	535
Panel and GroupBox Container Controls	538
Summary of Standard Windows.Forms Controls	539
Retired Controls	543
Using ActiveX Controls	543
Other Handy Programming Tips	543
MDI Forms	544
An MDI Example in VB.NET	545
Dialog Forms	547
Summary	549
Chapter 15: Windows Forms Advanced Features	551
Packaging Logic in Visual Controls	552
Developing Custom Controls in .NET	552
Inherit from an Existing Control	553
Build a Composite Control	553
Write a Control from Scratch	554
Inheriting from an Existing Control	554
Overview of the Process	554
Adding Additional Logic to a Custom Control	555
Other Useful Attributes	559
Defining a Custom Event for the Inherited Control	560
Creating a CheckedListBox that Limits the Number of Selected Items	560
The Control and UserControl Base Classes	564
The Control Class	564
The UserControl Class	565

A Composite UserControl	566
Creating a Composite UserControl	567
How Does Resize Work?	568
Setting a Minimum Size	568
Exposing Properties of Subcontrols	568
Stepping Through the Example	569
Building a Control from Scratch	572
Painting a Custom Control with GDI+	573
Attaching an Icon for the Toolbox	579
Embedding Controls in Other Controls	580
Summary	582
Chapter 16: Building Web Applications	583
A Web Site in Action	583
Setting Up the Environment	584
The HelloWorld Web Form	584
The Anatomy of a Web Form	590
Single-File Page Model	590
Code-Behind Page Model	591
The Template for Presentation	593
A More Complex Example	594
The Processing Flow of ASP.NET Web Forms	596
The Controls Available in Web Forms	598
The Concept of Server-Side Controls	598
HTML Server Controls	600
ASP.NET Server Controls	602
Validation Controls	604
User Controls	605
Events in Web Forms	606
The Web Form's Lifecycle	607
Event Categories	608
Web Forms versus ASP	609
Transferring Control among Web Forms	611
A Final Example	611
Summary	625
Chapter 17: ASP.NET 2.0 Advanced Features	627
Applications and Pages	627
Cross-Page Posting	628
ASP.NET Advanced Compilation	632

Contents

Master Pages	634
Creating a Master Page	635
Creating the Content Page	637
Declaring the Master Page Application-Wide	641
Providing Default Content in Your Master Page	642
Data-Driven Applications	642
Using the GridView and SqlDataSource Controls	643
Allowing for Editing and Deleting of Records with the GridView	648
Don't Stop There!	652
Navigation	653
Using the SiteMapPath Server Control	654
Menu Server Control	656
The TreeView Server Control	657
Membership and Role Management	661
Personalization	665
Configuring ASP.NET	666
Summary	668
Chapter 18: Assemblies	671
<hr/>	
Assemblies	672
The Manifest	673
The Identity Section	675
Referenced Assemblies	677
Assemblies and Deployment	678
Application-Private Assemblies	678
Shared Assemblies	679
Versioning Issues	681
Application Isolation	681
Side-by-Side Execution	682
Self-Describing	682
Version Policies	682
Configuration Files	684
Dynamic Loading of Assemblies	687
The Assembly Class	687
Putting Assemblies to Work	689
Summary	689
Chapter 19: Deployment	691
<hr/>	
Application Deployment	692
Why Is Deployment Easier in .NET?	692

XCOPY Deployment	694
Using the Windows Installer	694
Visual Studio .NET Deployment Projects	695
Project Templates	696
Creating a Deployment Project	698
Walkthroughs	698
Modifying the Deployment Project	710
Project Properties	711
The File System Editor	714
The Registry Editor	719
The File Types Editor	722
The User Interface Editor	723
The Custom Actions Editor	726
The Launch Conditions Editor	729
Building	732
Internet Deployment of Windows Applications	733
No-Touch Deployment	733
ClickOnce Deployment	735
Custom Deployment Options	745
Summary	745
Chapter 20: Working with Classic COM and Interfaces	747
Classic COM	748
COM and .NET in Practice	749
A Legacy Component	749
The .NET Application	752
Trying It All Out	754
Using TlbImp Directly	755
Late Binding	756
ActiveX Controls	761
A Legacy ActiveX Control	761
A .NET Application, Again	763
Trying It All Out, Again	766
Using .NET Components in the COM World	766
A .NET Component	767
RegAsm	769
TlbExp	772
Summary	772

Contents

Chapter 21: Enterprise Services	773
Transactions	774
The ACID Test	774
Transactional Components	775
An Example of Transactions	776
Other Aspects of Transactions	791
Just-In-Time	791
Object Pooling	792
Holding Things Up	792
Queued Components	792
An Example of Queued Components	793
Transactions with Queued Components	799
Summary	801
Chapter 22: Threading	803
What Is a Thread?	803
Processes, AppDomains, and Threads	805
Thread Scheduling	807
Thread Safety and Thread Affinity	809
When to Use Threads	809
Designing a Background Task	811
Interactive Applications	811
Implementing Threading	812
A Quick Tour	812
Threading Options	815
Manually Creating a Thread	820
Shared Data	822
Avoid Sharing Data	823
Sharing Data with Synchronization	825
Synchronization Objects	827
Summary	834
Chapter 23: XML Web Services	835
Introduction to Web Services	835
Early Architectural Designs	837
The Network Angle	837
Application Development	837
Merging the Two with the Web	837
The Foundations of Web Services	838

The Problems	839
The Other Players	840
What All the Foundations Missed	841
Building a Web Service	844
A Realistic Example	848
Using Visual Studio 2005 to Build Web Services	848
Visual Basic and System.Web.Services	858
System.Web.Services Namespace	858
System.Web.Services.Description Namespace	859
System.Web.Services.Discovery Namespace	860
System.Web.Services.Protocols Namespace	860
Architecting with Web Services	861
Why Web Services?	861
How This All Fits Together	862
State Management for XML Web Services	862
Using DNS As a Model	863
Security in Web Services	866
The Secure Sockets Layer	867
Directory-Level Security	867
Other Types of Security	868
The Downside	868
Security	868
State	868
Transactions	868
Speed and Connectivity	868
Where We Go from Here	869
Summary	869
Chapter 24: Remoting	871
<hr/>	
Remoting Overview	872
Basic Terminology	872
SingleCall, Singleton, and Activated Objects	875
Implementing Remoting	879
A Simple Example	879
Using IIS As a Remoting Host	890
Using Activator.GetObject	894
Interface-Based Design	895
Using Generated Proxies	897
Summary	898

Chapter 25: Windows Services	899
Example Windows Services	899
Characteristics of a Windows Service	900
Interacting with Windows Services	901
Creating a Windows Service	902
The .NET Framework Classes for Windows Services	902
Other Types of Windows Services	905
Creating a Windows Service with Visual Basic	906
Creating a Counter Monitor Service	907
Installing the Service	910
Starting the Service	910
Uninstalling the Service	911
Monitoring a Performance Counter	912
Creating a Performance Counter	912
Integrating the Counter into the Service	914
Changing the Value in the Performance Counter	914
Communicating with the Service	915
The ServiceController Class	916
Integrating a ServiceController into the Example	917
More About ServiceController	919
Custom Commands	919
Passing Strings to a Service	921
Creating a File Watcher	922
Writing Events Using an Eventlog	922
Creating a FileSystemWatcher	923
Debugging the Service	927
To Debug a Service	927
Summary	929
Chapter 26: Network Programming	931
Getting Your Message Across: Protocols, Addresses, and Ports	931
Addresses and Names	933
Ports: They're Not Just for Ships	934
Firewalls: Can't Live with Them, Can't Live without Them	934
The System.Net Namespace	935
Web Requests (and Responses)	935
Simplifying Common Web Requests with WebClient	952
Creating Your Own Web Server with HttpListener	955
Summary	963

Chapter 27: Visual Basic and the Internet	965
Downloading Internet Resources	965
Sockets	969
Building the Application	970
Creating Conversation Windows	972
Sending Messages	980
Shutting Down the Application	986
Using Internet Explorer in Your Applications	990
Windows Forms and HTML — No Problem!	991
Summary	1000
Appendix A: The Visual Basic Compiler	1001
Appendix B: Visual Basic Resources	1017
Index	1019

