

MQUERY for Visual Basic
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Background

Microsoft packaged two sample programs with VB 3.0, Visdata and DataMgr. These were intended to provide programmers with sophisticated examples of how VB can manipulate databases. However, usage has demonstrated that both programs have serious 'bugs' and/or flaws. A good understanding of how these programs work, (or don't work) will equip the VB programmer with superior skills in database coding.

I corrected both Datamgr and Visdata to some degree. Datamgr will handle up to 255 fields using multiple child windows, but they still scroll the command buttons and are not synchronized on selected record. The windows now have a decent size scroll bar. Not yet a really useful tool except for grappling with code. Now Datamgr returns an error message if you try to load a query instead of bombing you out. **Visdata will now properly handle all field names and field data.** If you try and load a table of more than 80 fields you will get an error message instead of bombing out. It is a much more useful tool, but still needs more work. **I have renamed the revised Visdata program to VISNEWDB and it is available in the MSBASIC conference, programming issues library, as VISNEW.ZIP.**

MQUERY

There is a real need for Visual Basic programs accessing databases to allow users to run 'ad-hoc' queries. No such mechanism now exists to my knowledge outside of the bad query procedures section of Visdata. I moved and modified the query section of **VISNEWDB** into a new program called **MQUERY**.

MQUERY will allow programmers to take **MQUERY** code, all or in part, and splice it into their program(s). Passing the selected database name and path and an ini file name and eliminating the splash form is all that is necessary. **MQUERY** as of now is for ACCESS database's only. I also have a version, **MSQLQRY** for Sql-Server databases. Both have been tested and are in use in enterprise wide applications and allow users to store, load and run private and public queries generated by names they choose. To access other Databases, modify the mopenb.frm in **MSQLQRY**.

MQUERY will run as a standalone program with query storage if you use the NWIND.MDB database provided with MS Access, and the Storeqry.ini file copied to your Windows directory.

PRINTING

There is no printing capability in **MQUERY**, however to allow users to print the results of a query, I use the third party controls in **SpreadVBX**. All you do is pass the SQL string to it, and Voila!, great output.

ACCESS 2.0

Tested with Access 2.0 and the Visual Basic Compatibility Layer. Access 2.0 database queries ran noticeably faster.

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