

SoftCraft Graphic Custom Control provides stunning graphics for Visual Basic developers

SoftCraft, Inc. announced today that it is shipping a new Custom Control for Visual Basic and Visual C++. The control, named SoftCraft Graphic Custom Control, provides Visual Basic and Visual C++ application developers attractive and flexible graphical shapes that can be added to Visual Basic forms and Visual C++ dialogs.

The .VBX control is similar to the Shape control that comes with Visual Basic, but is much more capable and provides many more basic shapes, properties, events and options. For example, the SoftCraft Graphic control provides closed polygons and all of the shapes can be filled with graduated color fills. The Control provides full 256-color palette management for the purest colors and graduated fills.

Basic shapes include rectangle, ellipse, polyline, freeform polygon, regular n-sided polygon, arc and pie. Polylines and polygons can consist of straight line segments or of Bezier curves with automatic or developer-specified Bezier curvature.

A demo program that comes with the SoftCraft Graphic control shows how these basic shapes can be combined to produce composite shapes that resemble fully-rendered 3D objects, such as shaded cylinders and natural-looking cast shadows.

Even if a designer only wants a palette-managed, graduated color, rectangular background for a form, this Control saves a lot of programmer time and effort.

The control provides the following properties:

AngleEndAngleEnd: Ending angle for a pie or arc.

AngleStartAngleStart: Starting angle for a pie or arc.

ArrowSizeArrowSize: Arrowhead size on a polyline.

ArrowTypeArrowType: Arrowhead location on a polyline.

DragIconDragIcon: Standard Visual Basic property.

DragModeDragMode: Standard Visual Basic property.

DrawInsideDrawInside: Scale a control to draw the boundary completely within the bounding rectangle.

FillColorFillColor: Color of a closed shape, such as a rectangle or polygon.

FillColor2FillColor2: Second color of a graduated fill or a hatch pattern.

FillPatternFillPattern: Many fill patterns are allowed for closed shapes, including horizontal, vertical, angled and elliptical graduated fills and hatch patterns.

HeightHeight: Standard Visual Basic property.

IndexIndex: Standard Visual Basic property.

LeftLeft: Standard Visual Basic property.

LineColorLineColor: Color of a polyline or arc or of the border surrounding a closed shape.

LinePatternLinePattern: Pattern of a line or border.

LineWidthLineWidth: Thickness of a line or border.

MouseEventsMouseEvents: Determines whether the shape should generate events and respond to DragDrop events.

NameName: Standard Visual Basic property.

NumPointsNumPoints: Number of vertices in a polyline or polygon.

PaletteStepsPaletteSteps: Number of graduations (smoothness) to use in a graduated fill.

RoundRadiusRoundRadius: Corner roundness for rectangles, polygons and polylines.

SelectByInkSelectByInk: Determines whether the user should be able to select the control by clicking anywhere in the bounding rectangle of the control or on non-white ink.

ShadowColorShadowColor: Color of the shadow.

ShadowDepthXShadowDepthX: Shadow depth in the X direction.

ShadowDepthYShadowDepthY: Shadow depth in the Y direction.

ShapeShape: The type of shape, rectangle, ellipse, polyline, freeform polygon, regular n-sided polygon, arc or pie.

ShowOutlineOnlyShowOutlineOnly: Display the control in a very quickly-drawn draft mode that allows for very fast update during movement operations.

TagTag: Standard Visual Basic property.

TopTop: Standard Visual Basic property.

Use256PaletteUse256Palette: On a 256-color display, chooses between pure palette colors and dithered colors for the control.

VisibleVisible: Standard Visual Basic property.

Width: Standard Visual Basic property.

Unlike the Microsoft Shape control, the SoftCraft Control generates mouse events so that the application can allow the user to select and/or move shapes on the form (sample code is provided to demonstrate the use of these events). The following standard events are generated:

Click, DblClick, MouseUp, MouseDown, MouseMove, DragDrop, DragOver.

SoftCraft Controls on a Visual Basic form can be printed with the normal Visual Basic printing methods, and in addition, the Control provides an exported print procedure similar to a custom method that allows the application to print the controls with much better resolution and shading on all printers, including

PostScript printers, typesetters and slide service bureau devices. The printing procedure determines the capabilities of the current printer and uses low-level Windows Escapes, when appropriate, to produce the best possible output.

The SoftCraft Graphic control is distributed with a royalty-free runtime license, fully-integrated design-time online help, sample project source code files and a demo program.

SoftCraft Graphic Custom Control, a Visual Basic .VBX product, is available from SoftCraft, Inc. for \$295, 16 N. Carroll Street, Madison, WI 53703; or phone (800) 351-0500, (608) 257-300 or FAX (608) 257-6733.

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