

Schedule/VBX Sample 2 - Conference Room Scheduler

Sample 2 is a complete Conference Room Scheduling application written in Visual Basic using the Schedule/VBX control. It demonstrates the use of complete drag and drop both to and from the Schedule/VBX control.

This application stores its data in an Access 1.1 database through the DataControl. The Access 1.1 drivers are included with Visual Basic Professional Edition. If you have only the Standard Edition then you will have to upgrade to the Professional Edition or obtain the Access 1.1 drivers from Microsoft before running this sample application.

The database used in this application consists of three tables; Rooms, Bars and Meetings. The Rooms table contains one record for each conference room defined by the user. The contents of the Rooms table is loaded into the Resources in the Schedule/VBX control. The Bars table also contains one record for each room. The Bars table has a field for each definable field of a bar inside the Schedule/VBX control and is loaded into the Bar properties inside Schedule/VBX. The Meetings table contains one record for meeting defined by the user and is loaded into the TimeBlocks array inside Schedule/VBX.

The Conference Room Scheduler demonstrates the use of drag and drop both to and from the Schedule/VBX control. Dragging onto the control was demonstrated in Sample1 and is merely repeated here. Dragging bars from Schedule/VBX onto other controls is demonstrated by the code attached to the MeetingInfo.DragDrop, MeetingNotes.DragDrop and Trash.DragDrop events. First look at the MouseDown event in the Schedule/VBX control. This event is triggered when the user presses a mouse button. It examines the shift state first - normal mouse movement is handled directly by the Schedule/VBX control and moves a bar to a different time slot. If the shift key is depressed when the MouseDown event occurs, then the coordinates are converted from Twips to Pixels and the SchedVBXPointOnBar call is made. This call will tell us whether or not the point is on a bar. If it is, then the drag icon is changed and the control is placed into drag mode.

Note how the Global variable "iTB" is passed to the SchedVBXPointOnBar call. This is set inside the call to the TimeBlock that was clicked on. This Global variable is then used in the DragDrop events for the buttons to determine which bar was dragged.

Once the bar is dragged on top of the MeetingInfo, MeetingNotes or Trash buttons the icon is changed in the DragOver events. The DragDrop events for these buttons handles the actual dropping of the bar and the subsequent actions.

Another point of interest in this application is the way in which the timescales are setup in the MonthlyView, WeeklyView and DailyView buttons. The Week and Day views restrict the hours timescale to display only the hours between 8:00am and 5:00pm. The WeeklyView does this with the secondary timescale "SchedVBX1.TS(1)" and the DailyView does this with the primary timescale "SchedVBX1.TS(0)". Notice the difference in how these two timescales are manipulated. You'll also notice in these events how the bar text is turned on and off for the various views. This is done to make the display more attractive when the bars become very small.

One last feature to examine is the RoomEditForm. In this form is a button, labeled Bar Definition, that lets the user change the appearance of the bar assigned to a conference room. This button simply calls the BarsDialog property in the Schedule/VBX control to display the property dialog! All the work is already done for you, all you have to do is read the changed values back out of the control and update the database.