



Mabry Software Information And Product List

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Packages

<u>Internet Pack</u>	32-bit OLE controls for Internet Access
<u>Mega Pack 2</u>	Version 2.0 of the Mega Pack (more controls!)
<u>MIDI Pack</u>	Five custom controls for MIDI access and control

Individual Controls

<u>Alarm</u>	Alarm Custom Control
<u>BarCod</u>	Barcode Display and Printing Custom Control
<u>BmpLst</u>	List Box with Bitmaps and Text Custom Control

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<u>FLabel</u>	Formatted Label Custom Control
<u>FMDrop</u>	File Manager Drag-and-Drop Notification Custom Control
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Internet Controls

<u>ASocket</u>	Windows Sockets Custom Control
<u>Finger</u>	Finger Custom Control
<u>FTP</u>	File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Custom Control
<u>GetHst</u>	Get Address / Host Name Custom Control
<u>Gopher</u>	Gopher Custom Control
<u>Mail</u>	Mail (SMTP/POP) Custom Control
<u>News</u>	News (NNTP) Custom Control
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MIDI Controls

<u>Indic</u>	Indicator Custom Control
<u>Knob</u>	Knob Custom Control
<u>MIDI I/O</u>	MIDI Input and Output Custom Control
<u>MIDIFile</u>	MIDI File Access Custom Control
<u>Slider</u>	Slider Custom Control

Background

Mabry Software was founded by James Shields in 1992. We specialize in Windows programming tools and components. Mabry Software focuses on custom controls (VBXes, OLE controls and ActiveX controls).

Our software is available in Microsoft's Visual Basic (MSBASIC) forum on CompuServe, in our section on CompuServe (GO MABRY), on BBSes, and on various Internet sites (including ftp.cica.indiana.edu).



Alarm Custom Control

Alarm is a Visual Basic custom control that lets you set multiple alarms to go off (i.e., fire events) at various times during the day. This control makes it easy to schedule events to happen at various times. Just set the properties and wait for Alarm to notify you.

You can specify times such as 9:12am, 10:45pm, every hour on the hour, every ten minutes, once per minute, etc. Alarm even tells you when the date has changed. You can use this to remove all of the current alarms and set new ones for the day. A must if you're writing a PIM.

Registration:	\$15
Source and Registration:	\$30
<u>CompuServe SWREG:</u>	1475 (1476 for source)

[Order Form](#)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).



BarCod Custom Control

BarCod makes bar code display and printing really easy. Just pick the orientation, set the size, and pick the bar code style. Then, set the caption to whatever you want the bars to be.

BarCod uses the Caption property to determine what to display. ForeColor is used for the color of the Bars. BackColor is used for the color of the background. If BarCod cannot fit the entire bar code in the control window, it will fill the entire control with the background color.

Printing is straight forward, too. Just tell the BarCod control what to print and where, and it paints barcodes into the Printer Object.

Under VB 3.0 and VB 4.0, BarCod will bind to a data control. It uses the DataField, DataSource, and DataChanged properties.

This control is good for inventory applications, identification systems, and any other programs that require printed computer-readable data. Samples included show how to print barcodes using the Printer Object and how to copy a bitmap of the barcode to the clipboard.

Registration:	\$35
Source and Registration:	\$90
CompuServe SWREG:	1314 (1315 for source)

Order Form



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.



BmpLst Custom Control

BmpLst is a Visual Basic custom control that displays a list box that has text and bitmaps in it. The bitmaps can be placed on any side of the text (top, bottom, right, left). BmpLst is not hampered by the normal 64k limit that normal list boxes suffer. Users have loaded 10,000 items into BmpLst with great success.

BmpLst supports multi-column lists. In this case, all of the list elements must be the same size. The bitmaps may be of varying size (shorter bitmaps will result in gaps between it and the item below).

BmpLst also supports 3-D effects (much like the THREEED.VBX). The control's border supports raised, lowered, and inset 3-D effects (plus the normal solid border).

BmpLst can easily be set up to handle a check-box list. All it takes is a few lines of code. A working sample with all of the bitmaps required to produce this style of list box is included with the BmpLst package.

Registration:	\$20
Source and Registration:	\$45
CompuServe SWREG:	1059 (1060 for source)

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This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).

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DFInfo Custom Control

This control gives you disk and file information that VB doesn't provide. It also allows you to change some aspects of a file (attributes, size, date, time, etc.).

The disk side of this control allows you to find out how much disk space you have, and how much of it is free. You can also read volume names.

The file side of this control allows you to find out all of the important information about a file (size, attribute flags, date and time of last modification). It also allows you to change most of the attribute flags and change the size of the file as well.

Registration:	\$15
Source and Registration:	\$35
<u>CompuServe SWREG:</u>	1069 (1070 for source)

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This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).

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Internet Finger Custom Control

The Finger control requests user information from another host. Some hosts will return little information, some hosts return large amounts of information, some return none at all. The information typically returned includes last date of logon, mail waiting, real name, etc. Sometimes the information includes an address and/or a phone number.

Registration:	\$20
Source and Registration:	\$50
<u>CompuServe SWREG:</u>	6392 (9059 for source)

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This control is available separately or as part of the Internet Pack.

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FLabel Custom Control

FLabel is a label control that lets you format the text within it. You can have different fonts, different colors, multiple paragraphs, paragraph formatting, etc. All this and it's bound, too.

Registration: \$20

Source and Registration: \$50

CompuServe SWREG: 4352 (4353 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).

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FMDrop Custom Control

This custom control notifies you when a file has been dragged and dropped from the Windows File Manager (FILEMAN).

Registration:	\$15
Source and Registration:	\$35
<u>CompuServe SWREG:</u>	1378 (1379 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).

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Internet FTP Custom Control

This control provides the complete FTP protocol. This allows you to send and receive files from FTP servers, get directory information from a server and manage directories on a server. You can use the Mabry FTP control to automatically transfer files to/from a host when a user enters or needs data.

Registration:	\$40
Source and Registration:	\$120
CompuServe SWREG:	6393 (9060 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Internet Pack.

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Internet GetHst Custom Control

The GetHst control translates host names to and from IP addresses.

Registration: \$15

Source and Registration: \$30

CompuServe SWREG: 6390 (9057 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Internet Pack](#).

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Internet Gopher Custom Control

Gopher is the predecessor to the World Wide Web. Universities still have a lot of information out on Gopher sites. The Gopher control allows your program to automatically retrieve information, menus, images, etc. from Gopher sites. The Gopher control even gives you access to Veronica, which allows you to search Gopher-space.

Registration:	\$35
Source and Registration:	\$90
CompuServe SWREG:	6394 (9061 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Internet Pack](#).

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HiTime Custom Control

HiTime is a high resolution timer. You use this control just like the default Timer control that comes with Visual Basic. Visual Basic's Timer control can only fire an event every 55 milliseconds (18.2 times per second). HiTime can fire events at a much higher rate.

How high depends on the speed of your machine. 486DX2/66's can handle more than 500 ticks per second. 66MHz Pentiums can handle 1000 ticks per second.

Registration: \$20

Source and Registration: \$45

CompuServe SWREG: 3382 (3383 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).

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Knob Custom Control

This control is a knob. You can change the size, have tick marks around it, have text near the tick marks, change some of the colors, etc. You can use Knob to control volume, pitch, tempo, or anything else you might control with a scroll bar or slider.

Registration: \$20

Source and Registration: \$45



This control is available separately or as part of the MIDI Pack.

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Indicator Custom Control

The Indicator control shows a gauge that looks like those found on the front of stereos (tri-color, multiple lights). This control includes horizontal and vertical versions of the indicator.

Registration: \$15

Source and Registration: \$40



This control is available separately or as part of the [MIDI Pack](#).

[Order Form](#)



IniCon Custom Control

This VB custom control makes INI file access simple. WIN.INI and private INI file access are both supported. No API calls required.

Registration: \$15
Source and Registration: \$30
CompuServe SWREG: 833 (1003 for Source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).

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Internet Pack

This package contains nine controls for giving your applications access to the Internet. All of them are VBXes and 32-bit OLE controls (OCXes) ready to run under Windows 3.1x, Windows 95 or Windows NT. The controls support Finger, FTP, GetHost, Gopher, Mail (SMTP/POP), News (NNTP), Time, and Whols. There's even a control that gives you direct access to Windows sockets.

Registration:	\$129
Source and Registration:	\$359
<u>CompuServe SWREG</u> :	9065 (9066 for source)

[Order Form](#)



JoyStk Custom Control

JoyStk gives your program information and events about the joystick's movement and buttons. One or two normal joysticks, one 4-button joystick, or one 3-D joystick are supported.

JoyStk comes with a joystick driver for Windows (required). This driver supports 4-button joysticks (such as the Gravis PC GamePad).

Registration:	\$15
Source and Registration:	\$35
CompuServe SWREG:	1340 (1341 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).

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LED Custom Control

This is a custom control for Visual Basic that behaves like an LED. 3-D effects and colors are all user-definable. This control is useful whenever you need a passive on/off indicator (modem lights, working lights, etc.).

Registration:	\$15
Source and Registration:	\$35
<u>CompuServe SWREG:</u>	3380 (3381 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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Internet Mail Custom Control

The Mabry Mail Control allows you to easily send and receive e-mail. This control supports the Post Office Protocol (POP) for receiving mail and the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) for sending mail. The Mail control supports MIME multi-part messages, UU encoding/decoding, Base64 encoding/decoding, blind copies and much more.

The Mail control comes with a sample program written in VB that is nearly a complete mail client. The sample program shows how to use all of the major features (and most of the minor ones) of the Mail control.

Registration:	\$40
Source and Registration:	\$120
CompuServe SWREG:	6395 (9062 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Internet Pack.

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RAS Custom Control

The RAS control gives your programs easy access to the RAS sub-system. Your program can select an Internet service from your phone book, dial and connect to the server, do any processing necessary (using our other Internet controls), and then disconnect.

Registration:	\$20
Source and Registration:	\$45
CompuServe SWREG:	13886 (13887 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Internet Pack.

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MenuEv Custom Control

MenuEv provides menu selection notification. In other words, it tells you when the user has selected a menu item and when the user has exited the menu. This is really useful for status bar style help.

MenuEv is really easy to use. All you need to do is place it on your form. There's nothing to set. Events start coming in automatically. The events give you the text of the menu item selected.

Also, MenuEv will automatically update another control for you. You can easily make status bar style help merely by setting a couple of properties. No code required.

Registration:	\$15
Source and Registration:	\$30
CompuServe SWREG:	1270 (1271 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).

[Order Form](#)



MSStat Custom Control

Status bar control for Visual Basic. This control displays a multi-element status bar on the bottom of your form. It automatically handles the NumLock, CapsLock, ScrollLock, and Insert key indicators. It also displays times/dates in International and programmer defined formats.

Registration:	\$20
Source and Registration:	\$45
CompuServe SWREG:	4462 (4463 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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MIDI Pack

The MIDI Pack is made up of five controls. Two controls give you MIDI device and file access ([MIDI I/O](#) and [MIDIFile](#)). The other three controls are interface widgets that give feedback ([Indicator](#)), and user input ([Knob](#) and [Slider](#)).

Registration: \$99

Source and Registration: \$299

[Order Form](#)



MIDIFile Custom Control

The MIDIFILE control provides the Visual Basic programmer with an easy way to read and write MIDI files, both formats 0 (single track) and 1 (multiple-tracks) are supported. Using the MIDIFILE control you can modify existing MIDI files or create entirely new ones from scratch. You have complete control over and access to every type of MIDI message, and you can insert, delete and modify tracks and messages at anytime.

Registration: \$40

Source and Registration: \$120



This control is available separately or as part of the [MIDI Pack](#).

[Order Form](#)



MIDI I/O Custom Control

The MIDI I/O control is really two controls in one. The MIDIIN control handles MIDI input and the MIDIOUT control handles MIDI output.

The MIDIIN control is used to receive MIDI messages from external MIDI devices. Messages can be retrieved using Events or polling, and are time-stamped with millisecond accuracy. The MIDIIN control has an internal queuing mechanism so, if messages arrive faster than your application can handle them, they will not be lost.

The MIDIOUT control gives you complete control over the contents and timing of MIDI messages sent to either internal or external MIDI devices. You can queue as many messages as you like (within the constraints of available memory) before starting output, or you can queue one or more messages prior to starting output and then add more as the output proceeds. Messages are scheduled for transmission at a time you specify relative to the time that output is started. As with the MIDIIN control, timing has millisecond resolution, giving you the ability to precisely control the timing of sent MIDI messages.

Registration: \$40

Source and Registration: \$120



This control is available separately or as part of the [MIDI Pack](#).

[Order Form](#)



MSlot Custom Control

The Mailslot control provides simple interprocess communication between programs running on the same or different computers running Windows for Workgroups.

This control enables you to create and use Windows for Workgroups mailslots. A mailslot is an application-defined buffer that receives and holds messages. Applications create mailslots so that they can receive text or data from other applications on one or more computers in a network.

No Windows API calls required. Requires Windows for Workgroups. Includes network chat sample program.

Registration:	\$30
Source and Registration:	\$50
CompuServe SWREG:	1848 (1849 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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Mega Pack 2 of Custom Controls

The Mega Pack 2 contains twenty-two of our controls ([Alarm](#), [BarCod](#), [BmpLst](#), [DFInfo](#), [FLabel](#), [FMDrop](#), [HiTime](#), [IniCon](#), [JoyStk](#), [LED](#), [MenuEv](#), [MSlot](#), [MSStat](#), [PerCnt](#), [PicBtn](#), [Probe](#), [RoText](#), [SoundX](#), [Tips](#), [Ver](#), [Wave](#), and [Ziplnf](#)).

Registration: \$179

Source and Registration: \$399

[Order Form](#)



Internet News Custom Control

News provides easy access to Network News Transfer Protocol (NNTP) servers as specified in RFC977, and includes support for popular extensions used by nearly all existing news servers. News also supports the user authentication protocol used by many news servers, especially those of commercial news providers.

Registration:	\$35
Source and Registration:	\$90
CompuServe SWREG:	6964 (9064 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Internet Pack](#).

[Order Form](#)



PerCnt Custom Control

PerCnt displays a percentage bar on your form. This makes status reporting very easy. 3-D effects, fonts, and colors are all at your control.

Registration: \$15

Source and Registration: \$30

CompuServe SWREG: 966 (1004 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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PicBtn Custom Control

This custom control for Visual Basic is a command button that has both text and a picture on it. The picture can be scaled and placed above, below, to the right, or to the left of the text. The text may be multi-line.

Registration:	\$15
Source and Registration:	\$50
<u>CompuServe SWREG:</u>	3434 (3435 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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Probe Custom Control

This control lets you examine and modify other controls' properties at run-time. After telling Probe the name of another control, Probe will give you a list of the properties in that control.

Probe can also display a dialog box that will let you modify other controls' properties (at run-time).

Probe's dialog box makes it possible to fiddle with the properties of other controls at run-time.

Common dialog boxes are used for fonts and colors to make selection easier.

Registration: \$15

Source and Registration: \$40

CompuServe SWREG: 2449 (2450 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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RoText Custom Control

This control lets you place a label on your forms at any angle or degree of rotation. This control can be bound to a data control.

Registration: \$15

Source and Registration: \$35

CompuServe SWREG: 1338 (1339 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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Slider Custom Control

This control provides horizontal and vertical sliders. You can select from different slider styles, track styles, colors, ticks, etc.

Registration: \$20

Source and Registration: \$45



This control is available separately or as part of the [MIDI Pack](#).

[Order Form](#)



SoundX Custom Control

This control provides Soundex and Metaphone algorithms. Soundex and Metaphone convert words or names to codes that represent how they "sound". This can be really useful in a database application where users need to find names they may not know how to spell exactly.

Use this control to make it easier for them. Just put in the word or name you want converted, and the appropriate codes come out.

About the Soundex Algorithm

Soundex is an algorithm developed and patented by Margaret Odell and Robert Russell in the early part of this century [U.S. Patent 1,261,167 (1918) and 1,435,663 (1922)]. Don't worry about the patents, they've long since expired.

Many articles have been written about it, but the best description I've seen so far is by Donald Knuth in *The Art of Computer Programming, Vol. 3*.

Soundex converts a word or name to a code comprised of a letter followed by three digits. Some redundancy is taken out of the word (such as stripping vowels, consonant doubles, etc.). The first letter is preserved and the code is generated from what remains.

About the Extended Soundex Algorithm

This is a minor change to the basic Soundex algorithm. In this algorithm, the first letter is treated like all the rest of the letters (i.e., if it's a vowel, it's stripped, if it's part of a consonant double, the second is stripped (as in LLAMA), etc.).

This code is purely numeric. This can result in faster database scans to pick out like-sounding words or names.

About the Metaphone Algorithm

Quite frankly, I don't know where Metaphone came from. I got some source code from a friend a few years ago in my e-mail with the comment attached to it: "Try this, it's cool!"

Well, I thought so, that's why it has been included in SoundX. Metaphone does a better job than Soundex and Extended Soundex when it comes to representing like-sounding names. Its drawback is that Metaphone is comprised purely of letters. In other words, it takes up more storage and, in a large database, this can be costly.

This implementation only returns the first four (4) characters of the Metaphone string generated. The code will generate more than that, but after some experimentation, this seemed like an ideal compromise between accuracy and storage space.

Registration:	\$15
Source and Registration:	\$30
CompuServe SWREG:	1272 (1273 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Mega Pack 2](#).

[Order Form](#)



Internet Time Custom Control

The Time control allows you to retrieve the current Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) from time servers on the Internet. The time servers usually have the correct time, since they all talk among themselves to keep things accurate.

Registration:	\$20
Source and Registration:	\$50
CompuServe SWREG:	6524 (9063 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Internet Pack](#).

[Order Form](#)



Tips Custom Control

Tips provides Microsoft style tool tips. Small windows pop-up with bits of info when the user pauses the mouse over your controls. No code required, just set the Tag properties.

Registration: \$25

Source and Registration: \$55

CompuServe SWREG: 3482 (3483 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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Validate Custom Control

The Validate control lets you easily validate data entered by the user. It fires an event when the input control (edit box, combo box, check button, any control) is about to lose focus. In the event, you can place all of the data validation logic. In fact, if you choose, you can have the Validate control cancel the change of focus.

This control is great for data entry forms and any other place where you need to conveniently check user input.

Registration:	\$25
Source and Registration:	\$60
<u>CompuServe SWREG:</u>	9526 (9527 for source)

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Ver Custom Control

Ver lets you use the functionality of VER.DLL through properties. It makes getting version information from a file (EXE, DLL, VBX, etc.) very easy.

Ver also gives you file installation functionality. Included with the control is a sample installation/setup utility. This makes it easier for you to write your own installation utilities without the bulk of the Setup Wizard.

Registration:	\$20
Source and Registration:	\$50
CompuServe SWREG:	2529 (2530 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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Wave Custom Control

This control makes it easy for you to play and get information about WAV files. Play WAV files in the background as your program performs other tasks; add recorded speech to your applications; put beeps, whistles, and laser sounds into your games. The Wave control makes all of this very straight forward. Set the Filename property and tell it to go.

Registration:	\$15
Source and Registration:	\$40
<u>CompuServe SWREG:</u>	4034 (4035 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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Internet Whols Custom Control

The Whols control queries a database at either the InterNIC or MILNET to get information about a user, domain or host. This information includes their name and address (at least). All domains and hosts are listed in this database (at least, they should be). The only people are those associated with hosts and their management.

Registration:	\$20
Source and Registration:	\$50
CompuServe SWREG:	6391 (9058 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Internet Pack.

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Internet ASocket Custom Control

ASocket is a Visual Basic custom control which provides you with full access to the power of Windows, making it easy to write TCP/IP client and server software. ASocket provides complete support for Windows and Visual Basics' event driven programming model.

Registration:	\$35
Source and Registration:	\$90
<u>CompuServe SWREG:</u>	6389 (9056 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the [Internet Pack](#).

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ZipInf Custom Control

This control gives you information about the content (directory) of a ZIP file. Many, many useful uses (File Manager replacement, drive searching, etc.).

Registration: \$15

Source and Registration: \$35

CompuServe SWREG: 1595 (1596 for source)



This control is available separately or as part of the Mega Pack 2.

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CompuServe's SWREG

If you are a CompuServe member, you can register these products by going to CompuServe's Software Registration forum (GO SWREG). You'll get your control(s) quickly through E-mail and save a little money, too.

Contact Information

We can be reached many different ways. They are:

US Mail:	Mabry Software Post Office Box 31926 Seattle, WA 98103-1926
Voice:	206-634-1443
Toll Free:	800-99-MABRY (800-996-2279)
Fax:	206-632-0272
CompuServe:	71231,2066 GO MABRY (our own section on CompuServe!)
Internet:	mabry@mabry.com
Web:	www.mabry.com
AOL:	MabrySoft

ORDER FORM

Use File | Print Topic... to print this form.

**SEND CHECK OR
MONEY ORDER TO:**

Mabry Software
Post Office Box 31926
Seattle, WA 98103-1926
Voice: 206-634-1443
CompuServe: 71231,2066
Fax: 206-632-0272

Toll Free: 800-99-MABRY
Internet: mabry@mabry.com
Web: www.mabry.com

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Country _____

E-Mail Address(es) _____

MC/VISA/AMEX: _____ exp. _____

Program Name	Qty	Total Cost
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Sub Total of Order _____

International Mail Orders, add \$5 per package _____

All Orders, add \$5 shipping and handling _____

Washington State Residents Add 8.6% Tax _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

Ordering Details

International Notes

Canada and Mexico are not considered international. International orders should add \$5 per control or control package.

E-Mail Delivery

We'll can e-mail your control(s) to you if you provide us with an Internet (Uuencoded or MIME encoded), CompuServe, or AOL address.

On-Line Ordering via CompuServe

Controls may be registered via CompuServe's Software Registration forum. If you're a CompuServe member you can register this software there. Just GO SWREG, and enter the registration ID after the menu.

Credit Cards

We accept American Express, VISA and Mastercard. When ordering using any of these, please send us your card number, expiration date, complete mailing address and phone number.

Overnight Delivery and Other Special Instructions

If you have any special shipping instructions, please let us know. Our goal is to ensure your absolute satisfaction.

Support Information

Our Support Philosophy

We want to be as helpful as possible. We always want you to come away happy. We realize that we can't make everyone happy (for some reason, our families like to see us and we sometimes need sleep) ... but we still try.

Help With Our Controls

If you're having trouble with one of our controls, here are a few general suggestions. First, take a look at the sample programs. Usually, there is a sample program which shows how to use every feature of our controls. These can be quite helpful.

Second, if you haven't already, take a look at the help file and/or manual. They spell out what each of the properties, events, and methods does.

If you are still having trouble with one of our controls, please feel free to [contact us](#) to get help. When you do, make sure that you have as much information about your problem ready as possible. The more you tell us, the better we can help you.

Help With General Programming

Many people come to us with questions about general programming issues. We would love to help everyone learn to become great programmers, but we simply don't have the time. All is not lost. There are a few places to go to get general help and a few good books that we recommend.

Probably the best on-line place to go is the Microsoft Basic forum (GO MSBASIC) on CompuServe. This place is designed for user-to-user help. Most questions asked here get answered pretty quickly. Another really good place is the VBPJ forum on CompuServe (GO VBPJFO). There are a lot of experts here.

Books, books, books. There are dozens of books out now. The best way to buy a book is to take a look at it at the bookstore. If you like it and it suits your needs, buy it. If it's shrink-wrapped, don't buy it (usually it means they don't want you to know how much the book stinks).

Here are four books we recommend:

Visual Basic 4 How-To

by Zane Thomas, James Shields, et al
\$39.95, ISBN 1-57169-001-8

Waite Group Press
200 Tamal Plaza
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Teach Yourself Visual Basic in 21 Days

by Nathan Gurewich and Ori Gurewich
\$35.00, ISBN 0-672-30715-4

Sams Publishing
201 W 103rd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46290

PC Magazine Visual Basic Programmer's Guide to the Win32 API

by Daniel Appleman
\$49.95, ISBN 1-56276-287-7

Ziff-Davis Press (A Division of Que New Technologies)

PC Magazine Visual Basic Programmer's Guide to the Windows API

By Daniel Appleman
\$34.95, ISBN 1-56276-073-4

Published by Ziff-Davis Press (A Division of Que New Technologies)

Lastly, some of the best sources of material come from Microsoft. The Microsoft Developer's Network is a great deal. Every serious developer we know belongs. The CD-ROM and its search engine are truly fabulous (from a time savings stand-point alone).

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