

Copycode 3.3

VB source code copy utility for VB 3.0

One problem of VB is that you can only open one project at a time. If (like me) you have a lot of projects with great functions that you would like to use in a new project, there is always the possibility of adding the source file that contains the source you need. That would, however, leave you with a lot of unneeded functions. And this works only if you don't already have a duplicate procedure name in the project.

Well, ok, you could try Notepad, or MS-Write, but that would leave you with a lot of unstructured and unneeded code (your forms descriptions). Notepad can also only edit 32Kb, not enough for the more complicated forms files.

Copycode comes to your rescue. It allows you to open a second project next to your VB environment. And it can show you which of the procedures in your project are not needed anyway.

Installing Copycode

In order to use Copycode you do need to have:

VBRUN300.DLL (not included, as it belongs to VB 3.0)

CMDIALOG.VBX (not included)

COMMDLG.DLL (not included)

in your \windows\system directory or in the directory that contains Copycode.exe.

Copycode creates a .INI file in your \windows directory (it contains the 4 most recent files you edited in Copycode and registration information when registered).

For version 3.2 I removed MDIChild.VBX. I used it as it came with VB 2.0, but of course VB 3.0 has better ways to handle MDI-forms. So this saves a few resources. I wouldn't mind if you removed MDIChild.VBX from your system, but first make sure you don't need it elsewhere.

Funny though, I didn't use this VBX at all anymore since release 2.0.

Running Copycode

Opening files

After choosing the File-Open command (either from the menu or by clicking the FileOpen icon) the Windows common open file dialog appears. Standard file-extensions are *.MAK, *.BAS and *.FRM. By choosing a *.MAK file you open all relevant *.BAS and *.FRM files. You can also open *.FRX files. In this case Copycode reads the information from the FRX file.

You can also open a file from the recent-files menu within the File-menu. Copycode remembers the last 4 projects/files you opened. These files are read from the Copycode.ini file (in your Windows subdirectory).

After opening all relevant files, the source code of the first procedure is shown in its window (new in release 3.1).

BTW: for Copycode to work properly, you have to save all VB source files as Ascii files. Only then will Copycode read the file. You can save these files from the VB File - Save As menu, by checking the Save As Text checkbox. Once a file is saved as an Ascii file, you do not have to worry about it anymore.

Also choose Save as Text as the default option for VB. You may find this option under Options - Environment - Default Save As Format - choose Text instead of Binary. After that all new files

Copycode 3.0 readme file
are saved as Ascii as standard.

Resizing Windows

Use the maximize and minimize buttons in every window to make more or less room available for editing. After resizing the main window the child windows are not automatically resized (unless a child window is maximized within the main window). The reason being that after resizing the main window all child windows would appear cascaded, which is not pleasing to the eye or usefull.

Editing Visual Basic source code files

Cut, Copy and Past

Just like all Windows programs Cut, Copy and Paste can be chosen from the Edit menu or by clicking one of the icons in the buttonbar (only when a file is available).

There is no Save-file option, so you can only use Paste and Copy for reorganising your files prior to copying a large amount of code.

Once in a sourcecode window, you can reach a quick-menu by pressing the righthand mouse button, which allows for cut, copy, paste and Select all Text actions. Choose Select all text and then Copy to copy all of the procedure.

Finding text

There is a Find text option (within the Edit menu). After pressing the Find-button in the Find-window, Copycode will show a listbox with all the procedures that contain the text you're looking for. Double-clicking on one of these routines lets you see the procedure. The text you searched for is highlighted. You can of course select all text and copy and paste the text, these functions are available form the menu. By keeping open the listbox containing the referenced text after double_clicking a line, you can access multiple instances of the text.

Fonts and Colors

VB doesn't offer it, Copycode does: the option to change the font and color in a child window. By choosing a small font, you can view more code on a line.

Choose Font or Color from the Options menu and play for a while.

Check All Windows from this menu prior to choosing a font or color to change alle windows in one go (new in 3.1).

Sorry Copycode can't show reserved words highlighted like VB, but where are we without anything to wish for.

Copying Graphics files data

When all VB-forms are saved as Ascii, VB creates FRX files, that contain the graphics information from the forms. This includes the Forms-Icon and all icons and bitmaps in PictureBox controls and Image controls. By using the Spy:FRX technique it is possible to read these graphics.

After opening an FRX file, Copycode reads the file and displays the information in the two listboxes in the main window. The left hand listbox shows all BMP's and WMF's. The right hand listbox shows all Icons within the FRX file. The names shown are fictional.

By choosing one of these graphics names, the relevant graphic is shown.

At this time you van choose to:

- copy a BMP or WMF to clipboard (by pressing the Copy-button or Menu Edit-Copy)
- save a BMP (choose from the File menu the Save Bitmap option)
- save an icon (choose from the File menu the Save Icon option)

Optimizing your source code

Copycode 3.0 readme file

The advantage of reusing sourcecode from existing projects (by using existing forms or modules) is that you do not need to do a lot of extra work. The disadvantage is that you could end up with a lot of code you actually do not need. So, CodeAdvisor was built for you.

What it does?

Not very much. It just reads your code and checks for procedures, constants and declarations which are never actually called in your code. When it finds these, CodeAdvisor creates a report on screen, mentioning all these procedures, constants and declarations. CodeAdvisor never touches your code!

You can save the report (as an Ascii-file) by pressing Menu File-Save CodeAdvisor Info.

CodeAdvisor doesn't look for procedures with an Underscore character (it might be an custom event not known by Copycode or myself for that matter).

If CodeAdvisor finds an obsolete procedure and you decide to delete it, I advise you to rerun CodeAdvisor: there could be constants or calls to procedures that are no longer present in your project after deleting the procedure.

Before actually deleting anything, be sure to make a back-up of your project. I tested this function, but I will not accept any claims for lost code...

You can find this CodeAdvisor option after loading a Project. It is situated in the Edit menu. I even created a nice button for it, it is the one with the two ovals and a small arrow pointing from the large oval to the small one.

Create a personal VB library

After using Copycode for some time, I found that I needed to load several projects that contain usefull procedures. So I decided to add the Make-Lib option. You can use it in this manner:

Hilight a procedurename in the right-hand listbox (the regular, not control-bound one).

Press the right hand mouse button and choose the To-Library option.

That's all folks.

To save your library, choose the Save library option beyond the File menu.

To reload the library: Open Library.

Note: This is the first release. After loading a library: DO NOT choose CodeAdvisor, that would result in loads of unneeded code (depending on your library size).

Project Information

Copycode shows:

Project information: shows statistical information about your project. The indicated number of Constants and delarations shows a question mark unless you run CodeAdvisor.

The Make-file: You guessed it

About...: Copyright information and registration details.

These data are available form the File-menu

Any comments?

Please E-mail in, I like your responses and try to cope with them.

Revision history

Version 1.0. There is also a version in the Dutch language.

Version 1.1: Loads all files

Version 1.2: Includes a Recent-files option.

Version 2.0: Bye bye 32 Kb-limit (I killed the dutch language version too, to much effort)

Copycode 3.0 readme file

- Version 2.1: Removed two 'bugs':
- inability to read single *.BAS and *.FRM files (error 64, invalid path).
 - Copycode now shows source code of the upper file in the listboxes after loading a project.
- Added:
- Copycode now shows the number of subs and functions in the Project info window.
- Version 2.2: Removed two more 'bugs'
- inability to read files with a path different from the default path of the project (would result in an Error 64 message). It is the same error as the one mentioned above, but I forgot to look at it, as I seldom create projects with shared modules.
 - Copycode didn't recognise the Gotfocus-event. It would find the Getfocus event, but that would never occur as this event doesn't exist.
- Added: _Sel* event.
- Version 3.0: Spy:FrX (ability to copy graphics from FRX-files).
CodeAdvisor.
Project Info shows number of declarations and constants (after running CodeAdvisor).
Recent files accessible via quick-keys (underscored numbers).
Registration bits.
- Version 3.1: Added project helpfile info in Project information window.
Now shows the first procedure after loading.
Change Font and Filesize globally.
Copycode Error 62: Now mentions that you should save as Ascii
Removed a bug: Global-modules larger than 30K would not load, now CopyCode splits these files. At this moment loading 51K is possible.
- Version 3.2: Removed MDIChild.VBX.
Removed the showing of empty declarations section of forms.
Removed a bug: CodeAdvisor would advise to remove procedures of which the name ended with a Type declaration character while this character is not used in the calling of these procedures.
- Version 3.2: Added Make-Lib option.
An unknown bug in the registration form seems to be resolved unknowingly.

Copycode has a **limit of 32 Kb per procedure** (due to the limit for VB Text-boxes) and a **limit of 51 Kb** for the global declarations area (due to a built in limit).

Copycode So far:

Over 2000 downloads from Compuserve!
Included on (at least) 3 CD-Roms.

Planned for the current version:

-On-line Help (I use the Help Magician from Software Interphase, great tool!)

Possibilities for a future version:

-Printing sourcecode (but why on earth would you want to?)

Technical issues:

I received a few reactions (thanx) after submitting version 1.x. Everyone seemed pleased and agreed that the 32K problem would have to be addressed somehow, but nobody could offer a solution.

I found one. I decided to try to understand the User Defined Type. Every procedure is stored in a UDT and I use a dynamic array to store the UDT's. VB knows how to handle UDT-arrays and dynamically creates Huge arrays, even Huge arrays of UDTs.

Copycode 3.0 readme file

The UDT and array looks like this:

```
Type codetype
  name As String      'procedure name, max 64 Kb
  text As String      'procedure text, max 64 Kb
End Type

Global copycode() As codetype

called:
  copycode(n).name="procname"
  copycode(n).text=sourcecode ie. "Sub... ...End Sub"
where n is a unique identifier.
```

Thanks to:

Several Code Copyiers deserve thanks for their support and ideas. So, thanks to:

Bradley O'Keefe
Guy Verville
Chris Velazquez
Larry Rebich

Also, of course, thanks to MicroSoft for creating Visual Basic and not including Copycode!

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After registration is confirmed, you will be sent a serial number for Copycode and an access code via E-Mail. Enter these with your name in the registration form that is available from the About box in Copycode. These data will be written to the Copycode.ini file in your windows directory.

Please allow for 2 weeks delivery of the codes after registering.

I am looking at an other solution for British Code Copiers.

That's all for now,

Greetings form The Netherlands,

André Koot