



I Declare!

The Visual Basic API/MultiMedia Declaration Utility
Copyright 1994 By Dan Mullin

Overview:

I Declare! was written for the serious Visual Basic programmer who uses Windows API and MultiMedia functions, constants, and data types on a daily basis. Before I Declare! most programmers had to import an entire declaration file and copy what was needed, scrolling up and down through miles of data to find that one declaration. Or, even worse, enter the VB Help system and grab declarations one at a time. I Declare! changes all that! Now you can access hundreds of declarations quickly and easily and copy them all in one pass!

Installing I Declare!

Since you're reading this file you're halfway home. You can either leave these files here or copy them all into another directory of your choice. To install I Declare! into the Windows VB group:

1. Open File Manager but keep your Visual Basic group visible by reducing the size of the File Manager window.
2. Select "IDECLARE.EXE" from this sub-directory.
3. Drag "IDECLARE.EXE" into your Visual Basic group.

That's it! I Declare! doesn't use any special .VBX files and will not attempt to install any into your Windows system directory. This may not make the program look as pretty but you also won't have to worry about it changing your current .VBX files either! You're now ready to start using I Declare!

Starting I Declare!

I Declare! is meant to be used while working in Visual Basic. However, with a stack of forms, modules, and property windows open, the last thing most of us need is another window taking up space. Don't worry, I Declare! is programmer friendly. Simply double-click I Declare! to start the program. Now, click the Minimize button. I Declare! will shrink down to a small command button with a title bar. You can then drag I Declare! to a handy location by grabbing the title bar. Yes, it will remember where you put it and will return there everytime. When minimized I Declare! will always stay on top of other windows, allowing you quick access. Pressing the button will reopen and start the I Declare! program.

This trial version does have nag screens. Hey, folks, we programmers have to eat, too. However, if you do decide to register, your copy will start immediately.

Using I Declare!

To Find And Copy Declarations:

1. Select the API or MultiMedia Functions, Constants, or Types button. This will enable the alphabetical controls.

2. Select the starting letter of the declaration you need (for example, P' for POINT)
3. Scroll down the list until you see the declaration you need.
4. Double-click the declaration. This will place the entire declaration into the Preview box.
5. Examine the declaration to confirm this is the one you want. If so, press Add to add it to the Declarations List. Don't worry if a function declaration enters the list broken into two or more lines. It will be passed to Visual Basic as one line.
6. Repeat selecting and adding until you have all of the declarations you need.
7. Once you have added them all to the Declarations List, press Copy To Clipboard.
8. If you're done with I Declare! press Exit. Otherwise, press the Minimize button to keep I Declare ! handy.
9. Return to the Visual Basic code module that needs the declarations. Place the cursor and press Ctrl-V to paste the declarations.

That's all there is to it! If you make a mistake you can clear the Declarations List by pressing Clear. If you realize that you don't need any declarations you can press Minimize and keep the current Declarations List active when you return, or simply hit Exit to end your I Declare! session.

The Declarations Files:

The six declarations files provided with I Declare! are in standard text format but have an .ASC extension to minimize the chances of a filename conflict. You may edit existing declarations and add additional declarations as needed by using a standard text editor. It is important, however, to maintain the overall structure of a record. Examine how the records in a file are formatted and format your's the same way. If tabs are used, use tabs. If one space is left between words, use one space.

The basis for the declarations was the book *Visual Basic Programmer's Guide To The Windows API* by Daniel Appleman, copyright 1993 by Ziff-Davis Press. This book is excellent, providing tried-and-true declarations that far exceed the accuracy of those provided in the Visual Basic Help files. In fact, Microsoft recommends this book to programmers who are having trouble with declarations included with VB. The declaration files have been updated to reflect corrections going into the 4th printing of the book so you should find these very accurate. Though this program is not in any way endorsed by Daniel Appleman or Ziff-Davis Press I would like to thank Mr. Appleman for his permission to use these declarations in this program. To show your appreciation for his excellent work in assisting all of us, buy his book!

The Legalese:

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What I Need:

A license for the use of I Declare! can be obtained by sending a \$20.00 registration fee to:

Dan Mullin
20 Mountview Lane Suite D
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

Please use the form provided in the IDECLIC.WRI file.

What You Get:

The license fee paid for I Declare! is a one time fee. You will receive via mail a registered version with no timeout screen. In addition, licensed users will automatically receive the next update of I Declare! and will receive information on any corrections or additions to the declarations files.

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- ideclare.exe
- ideclare.wri
- idecllic.wri
- apitypes.asc
- apiconst.asc
- apidecs.asc
- mmtypes.asc
- mmconst.asc
- mmdecs.asc

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Summary:

I hope all of the above didn't spook you! The program is truly straightforward, simply reading in information and displaying it for your use. Though nothing is bulletproof I truly believe you won't have any problems with this program. In fact, I hope it helps you get your work done, exit Visual Basic a little early, and relax!

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