

Overview of VBList

When I first started to write Visual Basic I found that re-indenting the source code to reflect changes in the logic, of which there were quite a few, was to put it kindly, a screaming bore.

Hence this program.

It reformats a Visual Basic program and gets the indentation correct or at least more correct than it was. VBList will process all the files in a project or an individual file and has been used with VB 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 so long as the source files have been saved in text format. The program checks that the source file is in text format before attempting to update the file and, in my experience to date has not yet got it wrong. There is, of course, always a first time.

There are not a lot of options in this program. You can choose the size of the indentation per logic level in the range 0 to 5 spaces. Choosing 0 eliminates all indentation. I found that choosing an indentation level of more than 5 meant the source code marched merrily towards the rhs of the screen and out of sight.

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Installation

There is not a lot to this really. Hence I have not produced a setup program.

The program comes in two flavours, one for VB3.0 and one for VB4.0. Both flavours are 16 bit executables.

You are assumed to have the appropriate Visual Basic run time system on your machine but both flavours use VBX'es in addition to those supplied by Microsoft.

The extra VBX's are supplied in the appropriate Windows\System subdirectory. Simply copy the contents into Windows\System after having checked that the versions used by VBList are later than any you may have on your system

Create a directory to contain the other files:

- VBLIST.EXE - the executable

- VBLIST.INI - the .INI file

- ABOUT.RTF - Displayed by the About menu

- VBLIST.BNF - the table used to control the indentation.

- VBLIST.HLP - this file

What VBLIST does.

The program re-indent Visual Basic source files saved as text such that the logical paragraphs are presented.

To illustrate, Suppose a program contains the subroutine Fred shown below.

Please Note : it is an open question as to how Fred got into such a mess. In the case of more complex routines the indentation can get into a mess if new logic paragraphs are added or the original design structure required significant alterations.

```
Sub Fred (x%, y%, z%)
  If x% <> 0 Then
    If y% = 0 Then
      z% = x% * 2
    Else
      z% = x% + y%
    End If
  Else
    z% = 0
  End If
End Sub
```

The program reindents Fred to look like

```
Sub Fred (x%, y%, z%)
  If x% <> 0 Then
    If y% = 0 Then
      z% = x% * 2
    Else
      z% = x% + y%
    End If
  Else
    z% = 0
  End If
End Sub
```

How VBLIST works

The file VBLIST.BNF contains a table of keywords that define the start and end of a paragraph and change the logic level of the paragraph.

Paragraph definition keywords include while & wend, loop & do but there are others (e.g. If condition then expression else expression End if).

Associated with each keyword there may be a processing index but there are always a number of indentation change indexes to be applied e.g. at the start of the line or to the next line in the source.

VBLIST reads through the source file a line at a time, looks for the keywords defined in VBLIST.BNF and applies the appropriate indentation action.

VBLIST.BNF is a comma separated text file may be inspected or changed using any text editor. To see the full structure of the table, Excel is recommended.

Please feel free to change the BNF file as you deem appropriate.

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VBLIST is distributed as freeware but the copyright remains with the author.

About the Author

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Please Report any bugs you find to
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There is no support as such for this product : its made available on an as is basis. That said, I would like to hear about any bugs you find in order to have a chance to correct them.

If you like this program, please feel free to copy and distribute the complete software package in any way you like.

