

DBPush v1.5 Dec 94

Description The DBPush command button control emulates the 3D command button control (SSCommand) supplied with Visual Basic Professional Edition 3.0. In addition it supports several enhancements to SSCommand.

File Name DBPUSH.VBX

Object Type DBPush

Remarks This document describes only the properties where DBPush differs from SSCommand.

About This control was developed by Dan Byström. For more information, contact me at: "dan.bystrom@adb-partner.it-invest.se". Swedish users may try to reach me at phone: 0708-68 65 78. I would be happy to discuss development of customised VBX'es (or OCX'es) for you.

Distribution You have the right to do whatever you want with DBPush, *as long as you don't attempt to modify any of it's code*. "Do whatever you want" includes using DBPush in your own commercial applications and distributing it for free.

When the control is loaded in design mode a message is displayed. *This message may not be removed or changed in any way*. Anyway, the message won't appear at run-time.

Revision history

Oct 94: Beta release.

Nov 94: BUGFIX: Right mouse button no longer generates a Click event.
Library name changed from PUSH to DBPUSH.
Version info is now included in the VBX.
New property added: *ForceDown*.
New property added: *CornerColor*.

v1.1: New property added: *ForceUp*.
New property added: *WasDbClick*.
New property added: *VertAlignment*.

v1.2: A minor error in the default setting of *VertAlignment* was fixed.
Placement may now be "Text on top of picture" as well.

v1.3: New property added: *PictureDisabled*.
New property added: *ForeColorDisabled*.
New property added: *Font3DDisabled*.
Added exported function for easy version control.

v1.4: New property added: *Style*.
New property added: *CustomCursor*.

v1.5: BUGFIX: Two pictures (if used) were not released from memory.
New property added: *FocusRect*.
New property added: *OutlineSize*.
The property *Outline* is superseded and doesn't show up in design mode.

New property added: *Transparent*.
New property added: *TransColor*.
The button is now first drawn in an off-screen buffer to prevent flicker.

Double pipe characters may now be used instead of CRLF in caption.

Properties

*Alignment	*BackColor	*BackColorDown	+BevelWidth
*Caption	*CornerColor	*CustomCursor	DragIcon
DragMode	Enabled	*FocusRect	+Font3D
*Font3DDisabled	FontBold	FontItalic	FontName
FontSize	FontStrikethru	FontUnderline	*ForceDown
*ForceUp	ForeColor	*ForeColorDisabled	Height
hWnd	Index	Left	MousePointer
Name	+Outline	*OutlineSize	Parent
+Picture	*PictureDisabled	*PictureDown	*Placement
*Style	TabIndex	TabStop	Tag
Top	*TransparentColor	*Transparent	
Visible	*VertAlignment	Width	
	*WasDbClick		

* = The property applies only to DBPush (or offers some improvement, like the *Caption* property).

+ = The property behaves like it's SSCommand counterpart. It is therefore not documented here.

Alignment Property

Description Determines the alignment of the caption text within the push button.

Remarks The *Alignment* property settings are:

Setting	Description
0	The caption text appears left-justified.
1	The caption text appears right-justified.
2	(Default) The caption text appears (horizontally) centred.

Data Type Integer (enumerated)

BackColor Property

Description Determines the background color of the button.

Remarks This property is set to light gray by default and it probably looks best that way.

Data Type Long

BackColorDown Property

Description Determines the background color of the button when the button is depressed.

Remarks This property is set to light gray by default and it probably looks best that way, unless you want to use the button as a two-state button.

Data Type Long

Caption Property

Description	The button's caption text.
Remarks	Unlike <i>SSCommand</i> , <i>DBPush</i> is able to display several lines of caption text. If the caption text doesn't fit on one line (or if it contains CRLF breaks) it is automatically wrapped onto several lines. Beginning with <i>DBPush</i> v1.5, a pair of pipe characters (or "vertical bars") may be used instead of CRLF. This makes it possible to create hard line breaks in design mode.
Data Type	String

CornerColor Property

Description	Determines the color of the corners on the outline. Instead of implementing a <i>RoundedCorners</i> property like <i>SSCommand</i> (which always uses light gray to draw smooth corners), <i>DBPush</i> lets you decide what color to use.
Remarks	This property is set to black by default which means that the control appears to have sharp edges. To mimic a <i>RoundedCorners</i> property, set <i>CornerColor</i> to the same value as the parent form's background color.
Data Type	Long

CustomCursor Property

Description	Sets a custom cursor shape to use when the mouse is moved over the button. <i>CustomCursor</i> takes precedence over the <i>MousePointer</i> property.
Remarks	Just like the <i>DragIcon</i> property, the cursors must be saved as icons in an .ICO file! This is because VB handles .ICO files by default, but not .CUR files.
Data Type	Picture (Icon only)

DBPushVersion Function

Description	This <u>function</u> may be used to investigate the version of the system's <i>DBPUSH.VBX</i> and supplying the user with an appropriate error message if an old version is found.
Remarks	The major version number is returned in the high byte and the minor version number is returned in the low byte. For an example, refer to the last section of this document.
Data Type	Integer

Enabled Property

Description	Determines whether the control is enabled or not.
Remarks	The caption text is <i>not</i> grayed like normal buttons when the control is disabled.

Instead, the properties *Font3DDisabled*, *ForeColorDisabled* and *PictureDisabled* may assist you in presenting an alternate disabled look.

Data Type Integer (Boolean)

Font3DDisabled Property

Description Determines the 3D style of the caption when the button is in a disabled state.

Remarks Try to set *ForeColorDisabled* to the same color as *BackColor* and *Font3DDisabled* to "4 - Inset with heavy shading".

Data Type Long

FocusRect Property

Description Determines whether a focus rectangle shall be drawn when the button gets focus.

Remarks This property is True by default.

Data Type Integer (Boolean)

ForceDown Property

Description Forces the button to be drawn in a depressed state.

Remarks This property may be used to mimic the behaviour of a check button. Just toggle the property value (`DBPush1.ForceDown = Not DBPush1.ForceDown`) in the Click event.

Data Type Integer (Boolean)

ForceUp Property

Description Forces the button to always be drawn in up state.

Remarks By enabling this property the button no longer behaves like a command button, but more like a specialised picture control. When this property is set, no focus rectangle is drawn around the picture or the caption.

This property does not affect the events the button receives in any way.

Data Type Integer (Boolean)

ForeColorDisabled Property

Description Determines the caption color when the button is in a disabled state.

Remarks Try to set *ForeColor* to the same color as *BackColor* and *Font3DDisabled* to "4 - Inset with heavy shading".

Data Type Long

Outline Property

Description This property has been superseded by the *OutlineSize* property.

Remarks For compatibility reasons this property has to be retained. It does not, however, show up in design mode anymore. If set to *False*, it also zeroes the *OutlineSize* property and if set to *True* AND *OutlineSize* is zero, then it also sets *OutlineSize* to one.

Data Type Integer (Boolean)

OutlineSize Property

Description Determines the size of the black outline (or border) around the button. Set this property to zero to remove the outline.

Remarks This property may be used to indicate a default button (by setting *OutlineSize* to two).

Data Type Integer

PictureDisabled Property

Description Determines the picture to be displayed when the button is disabled.

Remarks If no picture is assigned to this property, the *Picture* property is used for the disabled button as well.

Data Type Picture

PictureDown Property

Description Determines the picture to be displayed when the button is depressed.

Remarks If no picture is assigned to this property, the *Picture* property is used for the depressed button as well.

Data Type Picture

Placement Property

Description Determines the placement of the picture with respect to the caption text.

Remarks The *Placement* property settings are:

Setting	Description
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0	(Default) The picture appears horizontally centred at the top of the button and the caption text appears below.
1	The picture appears vertically centred at the right of the button and the caption text appears to the left.
2	The picture appears horizontally centred at the bottom of the button and the caption text appears above.
3	The picture appears vertically centred at the left of the button and the caption text to the right.
4	The picture appears both vertically and horizontally centred and the caption will be drawn on top of the picture if necessary.

Data Type Integer (enumerated)

Style Property

Description Gives the button a different style when in a depressed state.

Remarks The *Style* property settings are:

Setting	Description
0	(Default) Normal.
1	Sink deep. When the button is depressed it appears to sink below the surface of the form. This works best if <i>OutlineSize</i> is zero.

Data Type Integer (enumerated)

TransColor Property

Description This property is used to make one color of a picture transparent, which means that this particular color is replaced with the buttons background color.

Remarks For this property to have any effect, the *Transparent* property must be enabled. Instead of using this feature you may consider repainting the picture, since both extra execution time and system resources are needed each time the button is repainted. This property is however useful when the button uses a different background color when in a depressed state (using the *BackColorDown* property).

Data Type Long

Transparent Property

Description This property is used to enable the *TransColor* property.

Remarks See the *TransColor* property.

Data Type Integer (Boolean)

VertAlignment Property

Description Aligns the caption text vertically within the area not occupied by a picture.

Remarks The *VertAlignment* property settings are:

Setting	Description
0	Caption is aligned at the top.
1	Caption is aligned at the bottom.
2	Caption is centred vertically.

Every time the *Picture* property or the *Placement* property is altered, this property changes to the (static) alignment used before version 1.1. This is done purely to ensure version compatibility. Beware!

Data Type Integer (enumerated)

WasDbClick Property

Description In the Click event, this property may be used to determine if the Click originated from a DbClick.

Remarks Command buttons should normally not respond to DbClicks, but this is nevertheless a method to do it.

Data Type Integer (Boolean)

Group push buttons

It is possible to use DBPush as a group push button. If you only want one button in a group to be down at the same time, just make a control array out of the buttons of a group and include the following code in the click event:

```
Sub DBPush1_Click (Index As Integer)
  DBPush1(nCurrentButtonDown).ForceDown = False
  DBPush1(Index).ForceDown = True
  nCurrentButtonDown = Index
End Sub
```

Also declare this somewhere (in the form or a module):

```
Dim nCurrentButtonDown As Integer
```

You may also want to set the *BackColorDown* property to &H00E0E0E0& in buttons used as group push buttons.

Palette considerations

DBPush is not made palette aware. This is done on purpose; the user would probably not like to see palette shifts each time the focus is moved to a new button. This doesn't mean that you can't use 256 color pictures, however. The only thing you need to do is to have the same palette as the button uses realised in some other way. The easiest way to do this is to put a 1x1 picture with the same palette in an image control on the form and move it outside the visible area.

Cancel and Default buttons

The standard VB command button have the *Cancel* and *Default* properties which can't(?) be mimicked by a custom control. A primitive work-around is to place normal command buttons outside the visible area of the form, set their *Cancel* and *Default* properties respectively and let their click events call the corresponding DBPush buttons.

Version control

The following code shows an easy way to check the version of DBPUSH.VBX before it is accessed by VB. In a global module, put the following declaration:

```
Declare Function DBPushVersion Lib "dbpush.vbx" () As Integer
```

Then use a Sub Main() as your program's entry point:

```
Sub Main()  
  If Hex$(DBPushVersion()) < "0150" Then  
    MsgBox "Your DBPUSH.VBX is too old for this program!", 16  
  End  
  End If  
  'Load your main form here  
End Sub
```