

VB5-CGI Objects Version 2.01 - Overview

CGI object collection for Visual Basic 5. Copyright © 1997, 1998 [EazyWare](#).
URL: <http://www.eazyware.com/vb5-cgi> e-mail: tools@eazyware.com

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Short Introduction

Which Are The Components Of The VB5-CGI Objects Collection?

- [VB5CGI](#) Object
- [VB5HTML](#) Object
- [VB5DB](#) Object
- [Library Loader](#) application
- HTML to VB string converter

What Are The VB5-CGI Objects For?

Creating dynamic HTML pages for the Intranet or Internet (interactive Web pages).

These objects help to dramatically reduce the amount of time, required to develop dynamic web applications.

The technique they use is the standardized [CGI](#) method.

If you already developed a Visual Basic application and need to develop a Web frontend for it, using the [VB5-CGI Objects](#) to Web-enable your application could be the fastest and easiest solution for you!

Why Using CGI?

CGI is the most used and tested technique for creating dynamic pages.

Which Web Server Do They Support?

They proved to work with any CGI capable Web server, running under Windows 95/NT4.0.

Which Web Browser Do They Support?

They proved to work with any browser, who supports the HTML 3.2 standard.

Which Development Environment Do They Support?

All objects can be used with any language, who supports ActiveX DLL's.

The tools were specially designed and tested for Microsoft Visual Basic version 5.0 Service Pack 2 or 3.

What Are The Limits Of The VB5-CGI Objects

The Web server and the protocols define the limit. If you can't do something with a [high-level](#) function, use a [low-level](#) one for unlimited functionality.

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Technical Description

Powerful Objects

- The objects are designed as native compiled ActiveX DLL's (they produce and submit the HTML code to the Web server) and therefore run in the same address space as the compiled Visual Basic 5 CGI application.
- Because they are not ActiveX Controls, you don't need a startup form in your project, which downgrades the overall performance. You just need one Visual Basic module for the script project (for double byte custom URL en-/decoding you need an additional class module, in order to receive events).
- They use direct standard input/output files, not like other Visual Basic solutions, who communicate over INI-files (e.g. Win-CGI).
- CGI-scripts written with the VB5-CGI Objects will run on every Windows 95/NT4.0 Web server, who supports standard CGI (e.g. MS Personal Web Server, MS Internet Information Server, Netscape Enterprise Server, Apache NT-Server, WebSite, Lotus Domino, ...) and works with all browsers, who supports the HTML 3.2 standard (e.g. MS Internet Explorer 3 and 4, Netscape Navigator 3 and 4, ...).
- Since Visual Basic 5 Professional, it is possible to compile the script application to a native .EXE file, which brings additional speed.
- You can even further improve the performance, by using the Library Loader application, which keeps the desired objects and additional DLL's in the memory. Only the small executable script file (usually 10 to 20 kb) will then be started by the Web server.

Easy To Use

- In the Visual Basic 5 environment, you get the standard quick infos for all of the properties, methods, parameters and constants, or just press the [F2] button to get an object overview with a description text.
- You decide about the amount of required lines of code: Either you are using the simple and powerful high-level functionality, or you program everything from the bottom, for full flexibility.
- Most of the object methods have optional parameters with default values for fast and easy development.
- If you know Visual Basic 5 and have a basic knowledge about HTML and CGI, you're fine.

Shareware

- All objects and the 'Library Loader' application are available as TRIAL EDITION, which allows you to test them before you buy them. The TRIAL EDITION allows you to run only one script instance at a time, the licensed version does not have this limitation, has a better run-time performance and e-mail support is provided.

And Last, But Not Least

- The only thing you need to develop CGI-scripts with the VB5-CGI Objects is Microsoft Visual Basic 5 (with Service Pack 2 or 3). You can even create your database with it.

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Library Loader Introduction

The 'Library Loader' (LibLoad.exe) was developed for the following purposes:

- Loading the VB5-CGI Objects and other Windows DLL's, which are needed by the CGI-script into the memory.
The program is written in VB5, therefore it automatically loads the VB5 runtime library MSVBVM50.DLL (SP2) and the VB5CGI.DLL for retrieval of the hit counter names and values.
- When the script gets loaded, all the needed DLL's are already in the memory. This improves the script loading time, and thus the global machine performance.
- Shows and lets you edit the different hit counter values stored in the hit counter file or Windows Registry.
They automatically get created with the first call of the GetHitCounterInc or SaveHitCounterValue method from the VB5CGI object.

With the help of the tooltips, the functionality of this program should be self explanatory.

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HTML to VB converter Introduction

The 'HTML to VB converter' (HTMLConvert.exe) was developed for easy and fast HTML to Visual Basic string conversion using the clipboard. Design your page in your preferred HTML editor and paste the converted code to Visual Basic.

To successfully convert HTML code, just follow the steps below:

- 1 Design your page in your preferred editor.
- 2 In your editor, select the part of the document you would like to convert and copy it to the clipboard.
- 3 Run the 'HTML to VB converter', press the [HTML Convert] button. After converting, a message box shows you a part of the converted code. Press [OK] to copy the converted code to the clipboard.
Optionally you can change the default settings:
 - Variable name [msg].
 - Number of indent tabs [1].
 - Include the variable declaration in the code [enabled].
 - Remove all empty lines, beginning spaces and tabs [enabled].Note: All settings will be saved in the registry.
- 4 Switch to Visual Basic and paste the converted code .

Converting Example

Original HTML code:

```
<HTML>
  <HEAD>
    <TITLE>Test Page</TITLE>
  </HEAD>

  <BODY BGCOLOR="#FFFFFF">
    <FONT FACE="Arial" SIZE="+2" COLOR="#FF0000">Test Form</FONT>

    <FORM ACTION="/scripts/test.exe" METHOD="POST">
      <INPUT TYPE="Text" NAME="myname" MAXLENGTH="30">
      <INPUT TYPE="Submit" VALUE="show my name">
    </FORM>

  </BODY>
</HTML>
```

Converted Visual Basic code:

- Variable Name = msg
- Indent Tabs = 1
- Include Variable Declaration = Selected
- Remove Empty Lines and Trim = Selected

```
Dim msg As String

msg = msg + "<HTML>" + vbCrLf
msg = msg + "<HEAD>" + vbCrLf
msg = msg + "<TITLE>Test Page</TITLE>" + vbCrLf
msg = msg + "</HEAD>" + vbCrLf
msg = msg + "<BODY BGCOLOR=""#FFFFFF"">" + vbCrLf
msg = msg + "<FONT FACE=""Arial"" SIZE=""+2"" COLOR=""#FF0000"">Test
Form</FONT>" + vbCrLf
msg = msg + "<FORM ACTION=""/scripts/test.exe"" METHOD=""POST"">" +
vbCrLf
msg = msg + "<INPUT TYPE=""Text"" NAME=""myname"" MAXLENGTH=""30"">" +
vbCrLf
msg = msg + "<INPUT TYPE=""Submit"" VALUE=""show my name"">" + vbCrLf
msg = msg + "</FORM>" + vbCrLf
msg = msg + "</BODY>" + vbCrLf
msg = msg + "</HTML>" + vbCrLf
```

With the help of the tooltips, the functionality of this program should be self explanatory.

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CGI Introduction

What Does CGI Mean?

CGI stands for **C**ommon **G**ateway **I**nterface.

It is a standard protocol for how a program running on a Web server can communicate with the actual Web server software, and how the Web server can talk to a CGI-compliant program.

What Is A CGI Script?

It is a program that executes on a Web server in response to a request from a client (typically a Web browser). The CGI script knows the CGI standard. So the script can understand the Web server's requests and can itself communicate to the server.

```
-----  
|Browser| <-> |Server <-> CGI-Script|  
-----  
Client           Server
```

[How CGI Works](#)

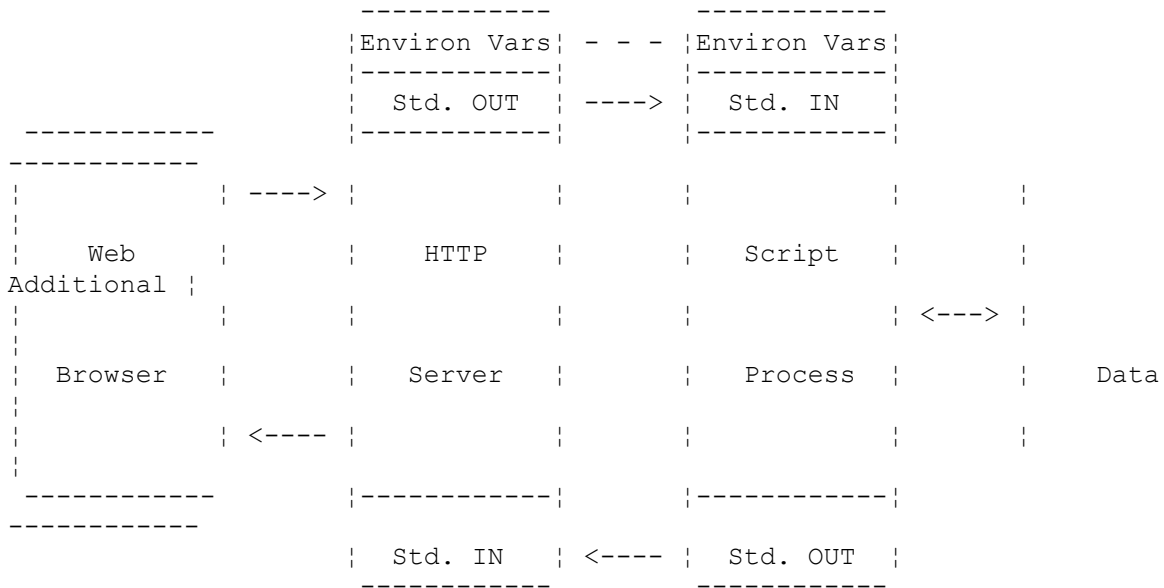
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How CGI Works

- 1 The client makes a request to the server. VB5-CGI Objects uses either the GET or the POST method.
- 2 The server gathers the information provided by the client.
- 3 The server sends that information to the CGI script.
- 4 The CGI script processes the information and eventually read/writes external data (e.g. from a database).
- 5 The CGI script returns the result to the server.
- 6 The server parses the information.
- 7 The server sends the result to the client.



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Environmental Variables

When a CGI script is called, **client** and **server** store information into environmental variables. Either the **server** or the **script** can use these variables.

There are 3 types of environmental variables:

1 Server Information Variables

The server provides information about itself. The VB5CGI object supports:

- Server software name and version (SERVER_SOFTWARE)
- Server name (SERVER_NAME)
- Server protocol and version (SERVER_PROTOCOL)
- Server port (SERVER_PORT)
- Gateway interface (GATEWAY_INTERFACE)

2 Client Information Variables

The client provides information about itself, that means information about a visitor to your site. The VB5CGI object supports:

- Client software name (Web browser) and version (HTTP_USER_AGENT)
- Internet Protocol address (REMOTE_ADDR)
- Domain name (REMOTE_HOST)
- Username that the visitor entered (if the access page is password protected) (REMOTE_USER)
- Username used by the visitor on the remote host (REMOTE_IDENT)
- URL that contains a link to the file being requested (HTTP_REFERER)
- Accept parameters (HTTP_ACCEPT)

3 Script Information Variables

Information about your form and script. The VB5CGI object supports:

- Information that the visitor entered (QUERY_STRING)
- Kind of information the server is receiving (CONTENT_TYPE)
- Length of information entered by the user (CONTENT_LENGTH)
- Method the client is using to request information (REQUEST_METHOD)
- Additional path information if the Uniform Resource Indicator (URI) provides it (PATH_INFO)
- Actual path to the PATH_INFO (PATH_TRANSLATED)
- Document's path and name (DOCUMENT_URI)
- Name of the CGI script that the client calls within the URI (SCRIPT_NAME)
- The authentication schema that the client uses (AUTH_TYPE)

Occasionally some of the variables might be empty because the client is not required to send this information to the server. The implementation of certain variables also depend on the server manufacturer.

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Client Methods To Call A Script

To request information from the server, a client can use several methods like GET, POST, HEAD or PUT.

VB5-CGI Objects uses either the GET or the POST method because CGI scripts support normally only GET and POST.

The method specifies the **way in which the information is presented to the script.**

GET method

It gets the query information from the environment variable QUERY_STRING.

- The server receives information from a client using a form that uses the GET method.
- The server creates the environmental variable QUERY_STRING and saves this received information in it.
- The CGI script reads this environmental variable and processes the information.

Remarks:

- An environmental variable has a limit of 255 characters including spaces. That's why the GET method is used with simple queries, which have less than 256 characters query strings.
- The query string is transferred directly after the question mark (?) placed behind the URL address that calls the CGI script. Once you have submitted the form, the whole information is visible in your browser.

POST method

It uses the STDIN (standard in) and the STDOUT (standard out) to get the query information.

- The server receives information from a client using a form that uses the POST method.
- The server spools the information to its STDOUT.
- The CGI script receives this information through its STDIN (which is the server's STDOUT).
- The CGI script decodes and processes the information.
- The CGI script sends the result to its STDOUT (which is the server's STDIN).

Remarks:

- The data stream transferred through the STDOUT does not contain any end of data stream sign. That is why the CGI script must read the CONTENT_LENGTH environment variable to know how many characters it has to read from the STDOUT.

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Software And Hardware Requirements

To develop CGI scripts with the VB5-CGI Objects, you need:

- Windows 95/NT4 running on a i386 compatible machine.
- MS Visual Basic 5 Standard, Professional or Enterprise version with Service Pack 2 or 3.
- Web server running under Windows 95/NT4, who supports standard CGI scripts (MS Personal Web Server, MS Internet Information Server, Netscape Enterprise Server, Apache NT-Server, WebSite, Lotus Domino, ...).

The minimum hardware requirements depend on the purpose of your application:
For small traffic, a 133MHz Pentium PC with 32MB RAM should be fine.

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VB5CGI Object Introduction

The VB5CGI is a ActiveX DLL object from the VB5-CGI Objects collection. It handles most of the low-level CGI functionality, like:

- Standard file input/output capability for standardized CGI server communication.
- Retrieves the query string, from either a GET or POST method and by default, URL decodes it.
- Allows DBCS systems to encode or decode the query string in a custom way.
- Allows to count and show the page access, with the possibility of different hit counters for different scripts.
- Enhances the security, by optionally allowing only POST methods and limiting the query string length.
- Decodes/encodes URL strings.
- Converts DOS to UNIX style paths and vice versa.
- Retrieves the value of different CGI environment variables.
- Handles the HTTP header settings.
- Allows to set and get Cookie values.
- Dumps the environment variables and object information for debugging purposes.
- Allows to write run-time debug information (environment variables, input, output and execution time) to a text file.

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VB5HTML Object Introduction

The VB5HTML is an ActiveX DLL object from the VB5-CGI Objects collection. It handles high-level and low-level HTML functionality, like:

- Automatically retrieves the URL decoded query string from either a GET or POST method.
- Allows DBCS systems to decode the query string in a custom way.
- Lets you enhance the security, by allowing only POST methods and limiting the query string length.
- Simple one line form field value retrieval for different variable types and content.
- Enhanced form field validation for different types and content.
- Simple, powerful and self descriptive HTML language support.
- Loads in run-time page header, footer and general HTML files.
- Submits error pages with optional global defined customized error text.

Internally, the VB5HTML uses the VB5CGI object to preserve memory space while running.

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VB5DB Object Introduction

The VB5DB is a ActiveX DLL object from the VB5-CGI Objects collection. It handles simple high-level database functionality, like:

- Allows to create search queries from form field values.
- Creates search result HTML tables.
- Adds new records with field values.

The object uses the DAO/JET engine version 3.5, which is supported by Visual Basic 5 and Access 97 (version 8).

Internally, the VB5DB object uses the VB5CGI and the VB5HTML objects, to preserve memory space while running.

This object is intended to be a solution for simple tasks. For more flexibility, it is recommended to program your own database functionality in Visual Basic. If you already developed a DB application in VB and would like to implement a Web interface, it's probably the fastest and easiest way to use the VB5CGI and VB5HTML object.

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Installation, Remove And Upgrade

Before installing, the objects, be sure you already installed the Visual Basic Service Pack 2 or 3.

These Service Packs contain the new VB5 runtime library MSVBVM50.DLL (SP2), which is needed by the VB5-CGI Objects.

Standard Installation/Removing

After unzipping the installation files to a temporary directory, just run the SETUP.EXE file and follow the instructions.

To remove the VB5-CGI objects with all related files go to the 'Control Panel' and select 'Add/Remove Programs'. From the list of installed programs select 'EazyWare VB5-CGI Objects 2.01 TRIAL EDITION' or 'EazyWare VB5-CGI Objects 2.01' and press the [Add/Remove...] button. The files and folders you created will not be removed.

Manual Installation/Removing

Each ActiveX component needs to be registered on the system before it can be used. When such a component gets registered, its unique GUID will be added to the Windows registry.

If you use the standard installation, the three ActiveX-DLL's will be automatically registered by the setup program.

If you need to install the ActiveX-DLL's on another machine you can do it manually by using the RegSvr32.exe program from Microsoft, which by default is located in your %System% or %System32% directory.

Usage: RegSvr32 [/u] [/s] [/c] [ActiveX-file]

[ActiveX-file]: Filename including path of your ActiveX component.

[/u]: Unregister server.

[/s]: Silent, display no message boxes (this is useful on a remote server).

[/c]: Console output.

Examples:

- Silent registration of VB5CGI.DLL: regsvr32 /s c:\web\objects\vb5cgi.dll

- Unregistration of VB5HTML.DLL with message box: regsvr32 /u c:\web\objects\vb5html.dll

Note: Usually you have to add the program switches after the filename, but doing so with RegSvr32 will not work!

VB5-CGI Upgrade

If you already developed CGI scripts and want to upgrade to another version of VB5-CGI Objects (also from the TRIAL EDITION to the registered version) the easiest would be first to uninstall the previous version and install the new one (see above).

Note:

After updating from version 1.0 or 1.1, all scripts, which were compiled for a previous one need to be recompiled. Otherwise you will get an 'ActiveX component can't create object' error. You will see this error message, only if you didn't mark the 'Unattended Execution' checkbox in the 'Project Properties' dialog, which should be checked before compiling a productive CGI script version. Future versions will be binary compatible and thus it's not necessary to recompile.

Install Your CGI Script And Associated Files On A Remote Server

If you want to install your CGI script on a server hosted by an ISP, be sure the remote machine contains all needed files from your script application.

There are different possibilities to achieve this:

Create a setup program and send it to your ISP:

You can create a setup program (e.g. with the VB setup wizard), where all needed files will be installed and registered properly. After a successful test on a 'clean' local machine, you can then send the created setup program to your ISP, which should install it for you.

The registered version contains also dependency information of each object. These dependency files (*.dep) are located in the '\Objects' directory.

Register the VB5-CGI Objects using Telnet:

If your ISP allows you to use Telnet and you have the appropriate rights on its server you can register the VB5-Objects using the RegSvr32 program, but don't forget to use the /s parameter (see above).

Chose an ISP, which supports an online registration service:

There are some ISP's where you can register your ActiveX-DLL's by using an online form. One I know, which provides this kind of service is Intemedia Inc. (<http://www.intermedia.net>).

Files which need to be registered:

- All from your script needed VB5-CGI Objects (VB5CGI.DLL, VB5HTML.DLL, VB5DB.DLL).
- If you use the VB5DB Object, the DAO files: DAO350.DLL and DAO3032.DLL.
- Additional COM objects (ActiveX-DLL's, ActiveX-OCX's, ActiveX-EXE's) needed by your CGI script from a third party vendor.

Files which can be copied using FTP:

- The VB5 runtime library MSVBVM50.DLL (SP2).
- If you use the VB5DB Object, all JET related files: MSJET35.DLL, MSJTER35.DLL and MSJINT35.DLL.
- Other files needed by your script (DLL's, EXE's, ...).

If you need the above mentioned files for multiple scripts in different directories, try to copy them to the %System% or %System32% directory on your remote machine. If you can't do so, or you don't need them in multiple scripts or different directories, you can also copy them in the same directory where your scripts and objects are located.

Also, before uploading files to your remote host, check if they are not already installed on the server.

For more information, about these and other distribution issues, please check the topic "Distributing Your Applications" in the Visual Basic Programmer's Guide.

How To Run The Examples

Assuming you already installed the VB5-CGI Objects on your machine, the samples can be found under \VB5-CGI Objects\Samples\.

To run a demo successfully, please follow the steps below:

- 1 In Visual Basic 5 (with Service Pack 2 or 3), load your preferred demo project file (.vbp).
- 2 If the script uses another external file (HTML or database file), check the filename and path.
- 3 Compile it to an .exe file.
- 4 Copy this .exe file to the CGI-script directory (e.g. '\Scripts', '\cgi-bin') of your Web Server.
- 5 Check the corresponding HTML-file for the proper action-URL path and filename, e.g. <FORM METHOD="GET" **ACTION="http://localhost/scripts/demoCGI.exe"**>.
- 6 Load the HTML-file in your browser and submit the form data accordingly.
- 7 The script will be called from the server and after execution has terminated, it will return the appropriate data to the browser.

Create A New Script

After a successful installation of the VB5-CGI Objects, you're ready for your first script:

1. Create A New Project

- Run Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0 (with Service Pack 2 or 3).
- In the [New Project] window, Select the Icon [Standard EXE] from the [New] tab and press the [OK] button.
- VB creates the Project1 with a form called Form1.
- Remove this Form1 and add a new standard module.
- VB creates in the Project1 a new module called Module1.

2. Reference The Object(s) To Your Project

- In the VB environment, select [References...] from the [Project] menu.
- In the reference listbox, search for the VB5-[CGI Objects](#) (VB5CGI, VB5HTML, VB5DB) and select the ones you need for your script by clicking the appropriate checkbox.
- After selecting the [OK] button, the selected objects are referenced to your actual project.

3. Look At The Properties/Methods

- Press [F2] to start the Object Browser.
- In the Project/Library dropdown list select the object you are interested in (VB5CGI, VB5HTML or VB5DB) and browse it.

4. Declare A New Instance In Your Project

In the general declaration section, add the objects you need for your script with the following code line(s) to your module:

```
Private CGI As New VB5CGI.clsCGI
Private HTML As New VB5HTML.clsHTML
Private DB As New VB5DB.clsDB
```

These declarations will create a new private object instance to your module.

5. Develop Your CGI-Script

- Write an HTML page and copy it to the appropriate document directory of your Web Server.
- Code the corresponding CGI-script, compile it and copy it to the CGI-directory (Scripts, cgi-bin) of your Web Server.
Usually, your CGI script needs only one module and a 'Sub Main()' as startup procedure.
- Load the HTML page in your browser and test the CGI-script.

6. Finalize Your CGI-Script

- After a successful test, set the script for Unattended Execution (checkbox on the General tab from the Project Properties dialog). If you don't do so and an error occurs in your script, an error message box will pop-up on the server machine (depending on OS and Web server software) and an open task could remain.
- Before compiling, check the compile options and set them accordingly.

How To Order The Registered Version

Register The VB5CGI Objects in No Time

Registering is finally a fast and easy process with the ShareIt! online registering system. Here's how:

1. **Browse to:** <http://www.shareit.com/programs/101410.htm>
2. **Click on the [Register] button and fill out the form that follows.**

Available payment options are currently:

- Mastercard/Eurocard
- Visa
- American Express
- Diner's Club
- money order

All credit card data are transmitted using the secure (encrypted) HTTP protocol according to the current SSL standard. If you still do not want to transmit your encrypted credit card number over the secure server connection, you can also register by phone, fax or postal mail (see link below).

After registering your software with ShareIt! you will receive, usually within 24 hours, an e-mail with the keyword allowing access to the VB5-CGI Objects Owner's Area on the Web. There, you can download the latest version files and get the newest information.

[Register by phone, fax or postal mail using ShareIt! registering service](#)

Price Of The Registered Version

The price of one license is US \$79.-.

If you need more than 5 licenses or a site license, please contact the author by e-mail at: tools@eazyware.com.

Advantages Of The Registered Version

Compared to the TRIAL EDITION, the registered version has the following advantages:

- License to use the VB5-CGI Objects for commercial purposes.
- Unlimited script instances.
- Maximum speed and performance.
- Full e-mail support for upcoming questions in relation with the objects.
The author can be reached at: tools@eazyware.com.
- Free updates for the same version number.
- Access to the Owner's Area, where you can download the latest version files. To access the Owner's Area, just follow the provided menu link from the VB5-CGI Objects homepage at: <http://www.eazyware.com/vb5-cgi>.

Register by phone, fax or postal mail using ShareIt! registering service

If you do not have access to the Internet, you can register via phone, fax or postal mail. Please print out the following form, and fax or mail it to:

ShareIt! - Reimold&Schumann Internet Services
Habsburgerring 3
50674 Koeln
Germany

Phone: +49-221-2407279
Fax: +49-221-2407278
E-Mail: register@shareit.com

US customers may also order by calling 1-800-903-4152 (orders only please!). US check and cash orders can be sent to our US office at:

ShareIt! Inc.
P.O. Box 97841
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-0241
USA

Registration form for VB5-CGI Objects

Program No.: **101410**

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Company: _____

Street and #: _____

City, State, postal code: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

How would like to receive the registration key/full version?

e-mail - fax - postal mail

How would you like to pay the registration fee of \$79:

credit card - wire transfer - EuroCheque - cash

Credit card information (if applicable)

Credit card: Visa - Eurocard/Mastercard - American Express - Diners Club

Card holder: _____

Card No.: _____

Date of Expiration : _____

Date / Signature _____

Copyright, Licenses And Warranty

Copyright

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Registered Version License

One registered copy of EazyWare VB5-CGI Objects may either be used for development by a single person who uses the software personally on one or more computers, or installed on a single workstation or single server used non simultaneously by multiple people, but not both.

You may access the registered version through a network, provided that you have obtained individual licenses for the software covering all workstations that will access the software through the network.

The VB5-CGI Objects may be used to create an unlimited number of script programs as long as the needed registered (licensed) DLL's like VB5CGI.DLL, VB5HTML.DLL and VB5DB.DLL and the Library Loader application reside on one physical located machine. For developing and testing purposes the DLL's may be installed on more than one machine, as long they are not used simultaneously by multiple developers.

Example

You bought one license and use it for development purposes on your local workstation.

You may:

- Install the VB5-CGI Objects to one physical remote Web server machine, which is connected to the Intranet/Internet.
- Use the VB5-CGI Objects for an unlimited number of scripts on this physical machine.

You must not:

- Install the VB5-CGI Objects to more than one physical remote Web server machine.

Please ask the author for an appropriate license, if you intend to implement the VB5-CGI Objects in your own application for reselling purposes or if you need a site license.
The author can be reached by e-mail at: tools@eazyware.com.

Disclaimer of Warranty

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Version History

For further information, please consult the appropriate topic in the help file.

Thanks to all who gave me feedback, which allowed me to improve the VB5-CGI Objects!

Version 2.01- Release Date: 21. June 1998

VB5CGI object:

- Method SwapChar improved and fixed.

VB5HTML object:

- Method GetKeyString improved. If multiple parameters with the same name are used (e.g. multiple form checkboxes with the same name) it will return all of them, separated by a comma.

General:

- Tool 'HTML to VB converter' added.
 - New installation created which contains all needed VB5 DLL's.
 - Small fixes and improvements.
-

Version 2.0 - Release Date: 2. June 1998

VB5CGI object:

- Run-time debugging properties added: DebugLogMode, DebugLogFile and DebugAddEnvVars. They allow to write debug information, such as environment variables, input, output and execution time to a text file.
- Method GetPath added.
- Method SwapChar added.
- Property ServerStatus added.
- Optional parameter added to method GetQueryString, GetURLDecode and GetURLEncode.
- Event CustomDecode and CustomEncode added.
- GetQueryString method changed, so that it works correctly, if the HTML.InitQueryString method is used in the same script.
- StdInput method changed. It now works correctly with very large stdin files.
- Improved performance.

VB5HTML object:

- Optional parameter added to InitQueryString, GetKeyString, GetFileText and BodyFile.
- Event CustomDecode added.

General:

- Several small fixes and improvements.
 - Help file updated.
 - Existing examples improved, new examples added.
 - Two versions available: Free TRIAL EDITION and registered version.
-

Version 1.1 - Release Date: 17. December 1997

VB5CGI object:

- GetHitCounterInc and SetHitCounterValue: One optional parameter added, which allows to use by default a file for the Hit Counter functionality, due to problems with some Web servers (IIS3, IIS4)

running under NT4 SP3.

VB5HTML object:

- InitQueryString: Internal method changed and optimized, due to problems with some Web servers running under NT4 SP3.

VB5DB object:

- GetRecordsetRows: New method implemented, which allows to retrieve the resulting recordset in a two-dimensional array.
- CreateSearchTable: Four parameters added, one parameter changed.

Library Loader application:

- Checkbox "Use Registry" added.

General:

- Minor fixes and improved performance.

Version 1.0 - Initial Release Date: 10. November 1997

VB5CGI Object

VB5DB Object

VB5HTML Object

ActiveX DLL

An in-process Dynamic Link Library, which runs in the same process as the client. It provides the fastest way of accessing objects, because property and method calls don't have to be marshaled across process boundaries.

CGI

The Common Gateway Interface (CGI) is the gateway between the Web server and your script. It is used to create dynamic Web pages, e.g. feedback forms.

DLL

A Dynamic Link Library is a program module, with functionality for one or multiple programs. When loaded in the memory it can be used simultaneously by multiple threads.

EazyWare

Internet and software solutions, Switzerland

VB5-CGI Objects:

Author: Stephan Schmid

Web: <http://www.eazyware.com/vb5-cgi>

E-mail: tools@eazyware.com

high-level

Means a high abstraction of a certain functionality. Normally, you don't need to know the exact code syntax, for a certain task.

Hit Counter

A page access counter. Every time a page gets accessed, this counter can be incremented, thus showing the number of 'hits' to this page.

Library Loader

A program (LibLoad.exe), which loads all the needed objects into the memory, resulting in no script runtime loading time. It can also load other DLL's and edit the VB5CGI object hit counter values.

low-level

Means a low or no abstraction of a certain functionality. Normally, you need to know the exact code syntax, for a certain task.

VB5-CGI Objects

A collection of powerful and easy to use Visual Basic 5 objects to develop CGI scripts on any CGI capable web server under Windows 95/NT4.0.

VB5CGI

An object from the VB5-CGI Objects collection, which handles most of the low-level CGI functionality like standard file input/output.

VB5DB

An object from the VB5-CGI Objects collection, which handles database queries.

VB5HTML

An object from the VB5-CGI Objects collection, which handles most of the high-level HTML functionality like validating query string parameter values and submitting pages.

