

Visual Basic DBase 2 and 3 DLL

(c) Nigel Salt 1991

Background

The files in this archive provide access from Visual basic to DBase format files. You can create, read and update DBase files. Random access is supported but I have not yet written the routines for index and memo handling.

The DLL

Written by Nigel Salt 1991 loosely based on routines published by James Troutman in 1986. My thanks to James. The current routines have been extensively modified for the windows environment and to suit Turbo PASCAL and then rewritten to allow access from Visual basic.

The routines supplied deal with the following functions:

- Create Database
- Open and Close Database
- Read record randomly
- Write record randomly
- Append record to end of file

Manifest

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| db3dll.dll | Dbase DLL | } MUST be in your windows |
| vbaddr.dll | Vis basic pointers DLL | } directory |

vbdem.zip Visual Basic demo

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|--------------|---|
| form1.frm | Main screen for the Visual Basic demo |
| global.bas | Declarations of the Dbase and VB address DLLs |
| project1.mak | Project file for the Visual basic demo |
| vbdb3.exe | Visual Basic Demo |

Installation

Unzip the DLLs to your windows directory.

If the Visual Basic Demo cannot find the DLLs you will not be able to escape from the demo.

Unzip the Visual Basic demo to a directory of your choice.

Usage

vbdb3.exe can be run using File Run from the Windows Program Manager.

The Visual Basic source requires a little explanation. Global.bas contains the DLL declarations. In addition to the DBase functions you need the pointer functions in the assembler DLL called vbaddr.dll. Functions included are:

Gettaddr(VarName)

Returns the address of the Visual Basic variable

PokeByt Address,Value

Pokes the byte value into the address and returns nothing

PokeBytOff Address,Offset,Value

Pokes the byte value into (Address+Offset)

PeekByt(Address)

Returns the byte contents of Address

PeekBytOff(Address,Offset)

Returns the byte contents of (Address+Offset)

MoveBytes(SourceAddress,DestAddress,NumBytes)

Returns nothing

The (general) section of the form1 code contains global variables, subroutines and procedures.

If you fire up Visual Basic, load up project1.mak and double click on the Create button you will see the code necessary to create a DBase file using the DLL. Note that the DLL uses PASCAL strings so a length byte has to be appended to the front of strings passed to the DLL.

If you double click on the Read button you will see the code necessary to read from an existing DBase file.

Picture1 is used as a very primitive output window for the demo. It does not repaint itself so the contents will disappear if you move another window across it.

Copyright

This program and its documentation are copyright Nigel Salt. You are granted the right to copy them providing that neither the program or documentation are altered in any way.

I know that it may not look like it but a lot of blood sweat and tears went into the production of these modules. If you find the program useful you should make a contribution in UK pounds to me. There is no set fee for registration. I leave it to you to assess what my efforts are worth.

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I am also accessible via the Windows international echo