VB-Dial ver 2

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
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Many thanks are sent to MicroSoft Corporation for their contributions not only to this program, but to computer users the world over. MicroSoft has demonstrated time and time again their desire to encourage others in the industry to succeed by constantly offering software for others to build upon. It is the opinion of us at UniQue Software Productions that not enough credit goes to those who desire to help others succeed. Where would we all be without MS-DOS? or MicroSoft Windows? How many aspiring young computer-programmers would have given up if not for MicroSoft QuickBasic?

And now Bill Gates has done it again with his release of <u>V</u>ISUAL <u>B</u>ASIC !

This program was written in Visual Basic.

It's in light of the above, and the fact that the author's initials are also "VB", that we derive the name for the program : "**VB-Dial**"

Thanks Bill!

DEFINITION OF SHAREWARE

Shareware distribution gives users a chance to try software before buying it. If you try a
Shareware VB-DIAL and continue using it, you are expected to register. With registration, you get
anything from the simple right to continue using the software to an updated VB-DIAL .

Copyright laws apply to both Shareware and commercial software, and the copyright holder
retains all rights, with a few specific exceptions as stated below. Shareware authors are
accomplished programmers, just like commercial authors, and the programmers are
of comparable quality. (In both cases, there are good programmers and bad ones!) The main
difference is in the method of distribution. The author specifically grants the right to copy
and distribute the software, either to all and sundry or to a specific group. For example, some
authors require written permission before a commercial disk vendor may copy their
Shareware.

Shareware is a distribution method, not a type of software. You should find software that suits
your needs and pocketbook, whether it's commercial or Shareware. The Shareware system
makes fitting your needs easier, because you can try before you buy. And because the overhead
is low, prices are low also. Shareware has the ultimate money-back guarantee -- if you don't use
the product, you don't pay for it.

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Users of VB-DIAL must accept this disclaimer of warranty: "VB-DIAL is supplied as is. The author
disclaims all warranties, expressed or implied, including, without limitation,
the warranties of merchantability and of fitness for any purpose. The author assumes no liability
for damages, direct or consequential, which may result from the use of VB-DIAL."

VB-DIAL is a "shareware program" and is provided at no charge to the user for evaluation. Feel
free to share it with your friends, but please do not give it away altered or as part of
another system. The essence of "user-supported" software is to provide personal computer users
with quality software without high prices, and yet to provide incentive for programmers to

continue to develop new products. If you find this program useful and find that you are using VB-DIAL and continue to use VB-DIAL after a reasonable trial period, you must make a registration payment of $25.00 to Victor Bradley. The $25.00 registration fee will license one copy for use on any one computer at any one time. You must treat this software just like
a book. An example is that this software may be used by any number of people and may be freely moved from one computer location to another, so long as there is no possibility of it being used at one location while it's being used at another. Just as a book cannot be read by two different persons at the same time.

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You are encouraged to pass a copy of VB-DIAL along to your friends for evaluation. Please encourage them to register their copy if they find that they can use it. All registered users will receive a copy of the latest version of the VB-DIAL system.

VB-Dial ver 2.0
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SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

You must have an IBM compatable AT (286 or better), running MicroSoft Windows 3.0 or 3.1 either in "Standard Mode" or "386 Enhanced Mode". Sorry, "Real Mode" isn't supported. You should preferably have a Hard-Disk, and possibly a SoundBlaster card or equivilent, although the latter two aren't required. VB-Dial will run from a floppy, although rather slowly.

You must have the file: **VBRUN200.DLL** in your MicroSoft Windows\ System Subdirectory. (this is a runtime library available on most Computer Bulletin Boards and major Online services such as Compuserve.) We also distribute it when you register. If this program was aquired from a mail-order shareware-vendor, then VBRUN200.DLL is in your hands... (and will be installed when you run the windows-setup file: SETUP.EXE). If aquired from an Online service, (such as Compuserve, Prodigy, or a computer BBS service), then VBRUN200.DLL was probably not included, to save time for your download.
For beginners: You must also have A HAYES-COMPATABLE MODEM connected to Com1 Com2 Com3 or Com4. You see, it MIGHT help the computer to access the phoneline so it could dial your phone for you...!

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VB-Dial is designed to fullfill todays need for both simplicity and power that is lacking in todays communication packages.
What do we mean by "simplicity"? We're talking about "intuitiveness."   Easy to understand controls from the very start. VB-Dial is only as complex as you make it.
I.E. Should you only want to dial friends to talk, simply begin to type their name, and watch the PickList HiLight bar jump around until the name is highlighted, then press "Enter"(twice), or Double-Click with the curser on the name to dial. To add names, just click on "Add Names", or press tab until the "Add Names" button has the focus, and Press "Enter".   You can also press "F1" to get context-sensitive help on whatever control has the "focus".

What could be easier?

When we say VB-Dial fills the need for "Power", we don't mean it's more powerfull than all the "Full-Blown" communications packages such as "ProComm", "Telix", or "Qmodem". What we mean is VB-Dial's power lies in the sum of many little things that no one else is offering. It's not our intention to compete with the "Big Boys" of communications , (mentioned above), with their scripting languages, automatic logon, and session recording capabilities. We at UniQue Software feel that requiring our users to learn these sort of things takes away from the simplicity of the end product. Empowering our users with freedom from re-entering data is also part of what VB-Dial is all about. With the very first registered version, you can read any ascii file that has one phone-number per line, (such as the data files generated

by Borlands' "SideKick(tm)" and many other dialers.)
OK, so SideKick has a dialer, **BUT DOES IT REDIAL?**

Why Another Dialer?

1. Nothing out there is SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED to serve the dual-purpose of "Dialing to talk" as well as "Dialing for Data" like VB-Dial is designed to do.

2. None of those other dialers would automatically redial! What good is a dialer if it won't redial when you want to reach that busy restaurant, theater, talk show, contest, or friend? What's more, VB-Dial can be shrunk to an icon while redialing, (or transfering files for that matter), so you can return to your word-processor, spreadsheet, or accounting program. When the phone starts to ring on the other end, a message box pops up on top of whatever program you're working in, to let you know. And what's better yet: If you have Windows ver 3.1, and a sound-card, the "beep" that VB-Dial sends out when the phone finally rings will come out your stereo-speakers. Many like to set the default beep to "Ta Da", which is kind of appropriate if you've been redialing for awhile.. Of course, you may assign any .WAV file for your default "beep".

3. Because every dialer for Microsoft Windows that we tested made a separate disk-file for EACH name & number. This practice unecessarily clutters your directory and wastes precious hard-disk space.

4. VB-Dial introduces several new convienences to computer users:

Items such as **"OFFHOOK" & "ONHOOK"** , (under the "Goodies" menu), for when you don't want any phonecalls,and at the same time don't want to listen to the awful noise the telephone makes when you take it off the hook. (Of course you could always drop it in a bucket of water...)

"**LOCAL"** (also under "Goodies" menu), tells you if the number that is hilighted in the picklist is local (a toll call), or not. Of course the end-user needs to enter the prefix data from his/her phone-company white-pages book. It should go without saying that a national database supplied by us would waste both your hard-disk space and ours... So the end user really must enter this data themselves, (should they desire this feature). Nevertheless, NONE OF THE OTHER Dialer programs are concerned enough with YOUR needs to provide you these simple tools.

In addition this version supports **FULL ANSI-BBS color-codes** so you can enjoy all those colorfull online services and bulletin boards.

Why Register?
BECAUSE YOU CAN BE ADVISED OF NEW IMPROVEMENTS.
   Such as when we implement the "Link as Host" & "Link as User" buttons. Also in the near future will be a "SetClock" feature, where the program will dial the National Bureau of Standards atomic clock and set YOUR computer's internal clock.

BECAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT REGISTERED, YOU WON'T GET SUPPORT.

Unique Software provides support for it's shareware products, included in the purchase price, for three months from the date of registration. Unique Software provides support via the mail, by telephone (calls returned by us are limited to one thirty minute call, unless you accept collect charges.), or by Compuserve, (address 70322,211).

Unique Software will answer questions and fix serious bugs during the three month period. For problems involving a specific hardware or software environment or problem, the author may choose not to modify the program. In that case, if a problem is reported within three months after purchase, then the author will have the option to refund the user's purchase price.

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OMBUDSMAN STATEMENT:
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write to the ASP Ombudsman at 545 Grover Road, Muskegon, MI 49442 or send a CompuServe message via CompuServe Mail to ASP Ombudsman 70007,3536."

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How To Register:

The registration fee for a single copy of VB-Dial is $25.00, (Please see the file "VBD_REG.WRI" for more details.)
Checks are to be made payble to: **V. L. Bradley**, and addressed to:

UniQue Software
P.O. Box 1331
Bellflower, CA 90706

Payment of this fee entitles you to:

*	A diskette with the current version of VB-Dial. (Please specify size)

*	Discounts on future releases of VB-Dial .

*	Free support (by electronic mail or by mail) for the first 90 days after payment. This includes answers to questions and solutions to any reproducible program error(s) that interfere with the intended use of the program as outlined in this documentation.

Note: All prices are subject to change without notice.

HOW TO CONTACT UniQue Software:

The accompanying file **VBD_REG.WRI** is a registration form. If this file is missing or if you have any questions or suggestions, please contact UniQue Software at the above address,
by **Telephone   : (310) 866-1932**
or **CompuServe: 70322,211**

INSTALLATION OF THIS VERSION:

IF YOU AQUIRED THIS PROGRAM ON A DISK FROM A SHAREWARE-VENDOR: Run the Windows "setup.exe" which is on this disk, to install it.

If you aquired this program from a computer online service, or bbs, read on:

Since you're reading this document, you must know how to unzip the zip-file that everything was packed in. The question still remains: Did you get all the files? The original filename was "VBDIAL2.ZIP", and contained the following files:

```
BBS.DAT            2835   05-25-92   6:30a
CMDIALOG.VBX      16000   05-25-92   8:19p
COMMDLG.DLL       85712   05-25-92   8:22p
INSTALL.BAT         212   09-08-92   3:26a
LOCALNUM.DAT         96   05-24-92  11:34a
MHEN200.VBX      141600   08-04-92   3:51p
PDQCOMM.DLL       13824   12-02-91   1:52a
SK.DIR             9553   07-05-92   5:32p
THREED.VBX        55248   05-25-92   8:21p
TXTWND.VBX        12968   12-02-91   1:55a
VBDIAL.HLP         7381   09-08-92   4:25a
VBDIAL .NDX         263   09-08-92   4:26a
VBDIAL2.DAT         451   05-25-92   6:28a
VBDIAL2.EXE      204825   09-09-92   6:14p
VBDIAL2.INI         420   08-31-92   9:17p
VBDIAL2.WRI       23808   05-29-92   4:58p
*.WAV                     These are various named Sound files.
```

You also will need VBRUN200.DLL, which is available on most BBS's. The reason we didn't include it is because of it's size. 271,264 bytes! Quite an incentive to NOT download VB-Dial! And why would we want to deprive you of such a pleasure? [grin]
VBRUN200.DLL should be placed in your main windows\system directory
IE: C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM, (or whatever you've named it.)

The simplest installation is to place all .VBX & .DLL files in your C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory.   Place all other files in either the "WINDOWS" subdirectory, or make one called "VBDIAL", and put them there. If you must put the files somewhere else, at least keep them all together, except for "VBDIAL.INI", which needs to be in the main windows directory.

Putting VB-DIAL in a program group:
Start Windows, and double click on File-Manager.   In File-Manager, open up the C:\WINDOWS directory, (or wherever you put the program files), and scroll down until finding "VBDIAL.EXE." Now resize the window so you can see at least one of your Program Manager's program groups, or if Program manager is an icon, restore it and resize Progran Manager until both it, and File Manager are visible. Now drag the VBDIAL.EXE name over to the Program group of your choice, and close File manager.

YOU ARE NOW READY TO RUN VB-DIAL!

If you've followed the installation instructions, you should now see the VB-Dial icon. Double-Click on it to start the program.

First, the opening screen comes up. Press Enter, and you'll see a picklist of some popular software vendors.

If all you see is "Firstname LastName   1-222-333-4444" , then the program couldn't find the file "VBDIAL.DAT" in your current directory, and therefore made you a new one. At this point, if you notice any digits on the right side of the phone numbers to be cut off, simply resize the VB-Dial screen to make it wider (drag it sideways). The PickList will widen at the same time. The program will always remember how wide you set it the last time you used it. Some monitors display fonts in different sizes, (depending on their resolution), so it's up to you to set your preference here. By pulling down the "Settings" menu, and choosing "Fonts", you may choose your Fontname, Fontsize, and FontItalic settings. By pulling down "Settings", and choosing "Color", you may choose your favorite foreground and background colors for the PickList, and Editor window.

To add more names & numbers: Click on the "Add Names" button, and follow the prompts.

To select a number to dial: Simply begin to type the name of the name you want until it's highlighted, OR use your cursor-arrow-keys to scroll, OR use your mouse cursor on the scrollbar Up/Down arrows. Which ever is easiest for you.

BEFORE DIALING FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU MUST SET UP COMPORT PARAMETERS: This tells the computer just where you have connected your Hayes-Compatible modem. VB-Dial at first will think it's on Com1, so if that isn't so, you should pull down the "Settings" menu, select "Comm Settings", and enter in the correct ComPort number, and Baud-rate (modem speed). The other settings should work as-is with most Online-services, and/or Bulletin boards. Next, pull down the "Settings" menu again and choose "Save Settings". Now whenever you use VB-Dial, it will remember your setup. OK, we're ready to dial.

DIALING: Before dialing, you need to make a decision: Are you dialing to "Talk to someone", or calling a computer BBS, or other Online service? The latter we call "Dialing for Data". The "default" dial mode is "Dial to Talk", which means if you press "Enter", (or Double-Click on the name), it will dial, (and keep re-dialing if busy), assuming you want to talk to someone. If you want to connect to a computer BBS, or other Online-service, you must click on "Dial for Data". For those without a mouse, press the "Tab" button on your keyboard until the "Dial for Data" button has the highlight, then press "Enter".

"BUSY" SIGNAL: If the number is busy, VB-Dial will hang up and try

again. IT WILL KEEP ON RE-DIALING UNTIL YOU STOP IT: (so don't forget about it!) You may busy yourself with another program while you wait for the connection to be made. You may press "Enter" or "Escape" at any time to abort the dialing.

WHEN IT FINALLY RINGS:

 During "Dial to Talk", a message pops up over whatever program you're in to alert you. Optionally, if you've installed your Soundcard and drivers correctly, your chosen "Windows Beep" will emanate from your stereo speakers at this point also, (Windows 3.1 only).
PICK UP THE PHONE and Press "Enter", or click the "OK" button on the message box.

 During "Dial for Data", the same things occur, however the Ansi-Terminal window also pops up over your current application. This is so you don't miss any online data that is being sent to you from the host computer.
Click on "OK", (or press "Enter"), and continue logging onto your Online service.   Don't forget to answer the prompt: "Color?" with a "Y", or the prompt "Graphics" also with a "Y". You don't want to miss out on all the fun colors out there in BBS-Land!

TO HANG UP: Simply press "Enter" again, OR press the "Escape" key. This will put you back at the PickList, (opening screen).   If in the Terminal window, first tell the host computer to hangup, (usually by pressing "G" for Goodbye at one of their menues.)   Then press "Escape" to return to the PickList.

Other Features:

Editing Phone Numbers: Under the "File" menu, select "Edit Phone File". It runs similar to Window's Notepad.

Opening another phone file, (& saving settings to memorize):   To open another phone file, look under the "File" menu, select "Open New Phone File". You may choose a new drive, directory, and file. If you wish this new file to be the one used from now on, then pull down the "Settings" menu and choose "Save Settings."

Creating a new phone file: Easy! Follow the directions for editing phone numbers, and save it under the name of your choice.   This creates a new phone file with the name of your choosing.

OffHook & OnHook: Under the "Goodies" menu, choose "OffHook" to disable your telephone ringer.   Choose "OnHook" to return it to normal. Note: this will only work for the ringers connected to the same phoneline as your modem.

Setting Up & Using "Local":   Before using this feature, you must enter the prefixes listed in your phonebook under "Local & Nearby Calling".   To enter this information, look under the "Settings" menu, and select "Setup Local".
 Note: AS SOON AS YOU SELECT THIS IT ERASES ALL CURRENT DATA FOR THIS FEATURE, so be prepared with your list to enter in the new data for your area!
Begin entering in the new set of prefixes (the first 3 numbers in a phone number) as listed in your phonebook, pressing "Enter" between each prefix. When done entering your list, pressing "Enter" one last time will complete this process and save your new data to disk for future use. To find out if a phone number is a free call or not, hilight it in the picklist, and from the "Goodies" menu select "Local?".

Uploading / Downloading (send & receive): These features are only used during a "Call for Data" session when connected to a remote (or "Host") computer. The commands are only available when in the "Terminal-Window". First tell the remote computer what you want to do, then from the "Transfer" menu, choose "Send File" (upload), or "Receive File" (download). A dialog box will let you choose which drive, directory, and file you want to send from, or receive to.

Program won't run at all: You're probably missing a file, or you're in "Real-Mode"

Picklist Flickers and the Program won't do anything else: You're going to have
to edit c:\windows\vbdial2.ini file with Notepad to get out of this one. Sorry. What causes this is the Picklist's width is less than the Text that is trying to fit into it. When it is greater, (which it NORMALLY will be), you can adjust the width by dragging the side of the main form with your mouse cursor. But If it is too small, the program never gets to the point where you have control. Therefore you have to use notepad to edit the lines:
"VBFormWidth= 7635"
 and the line:
"SKFormWidth= 8550"   to a higher number. Try raising it by 1000 at a time.

The line "VBFormWidth" determines the width for the default datafile-type
The line "SKFormWidth" determines the width for if you have chosen to use SideKick datafiles.
Don't forget to save the notepad file (vbdial2.ini) with the new values before trying to run VBDIAL again. (or the same thing will happen).
Since different monitors have different resolutions, we have no way of knowing what your system's needs are.
The program is originally set to standard VGA settings.

One other cause could be you chose too large of a Font. In that case, you must still use the above-described notepad routine just to regain control of the program, THEN run the program, and choose a smaller font.

Right side of phonenumbers are cut off: Resize the program window as described above, or choose a smaller font size.

**The Name I just entered doesn't show up when I choose
"EDIT PHONE FILE":** You probably have a sorted picklist, and so are looking in the wrong place in the editor for that new name. When you go into the editor, LOOK AT THE VERY BOTTOM for any new names.

Won't redial, or gives false "Ring" message: Try using notepad to edit the "VBDIAL.INI" file (found in your c:\windows directory) edit the line that says "SlowModemDelay=12000". Try changing the number to 13000, or 14000. Some modems are slower than others in returning the "busy" signal when it comes down the phoneline. Also, telephone service varies from area to area. It may take longer to get a dial-tone and dial than in another area. Also dialing outside of your area code requires the modem to dial 4 extra digits, which takes a little more time.   All   these   contribute   toward   the   need   for   a   longer

"SlowModemDelay". Feel free to experiment. For more detailed info on this, run the program, click on "SETTINGS" then on "MODEMSETTINGS", press "TAB" until the focus is on the "SlowModemDelay" box and press F1, for Help on that subject.

Won't dial at all: Be sure no other program is using the same comport, (such as a mouse driver, or other communications program.) Also be sure you have set up the comport number properly, as mentioned above.

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Funny Line breaks: Maybe you have commas "," in your datafile between the names. Remove the commas.

Won't dial at all: You probably have another program using your CommPort, or else you chose the wrong CommPort. Of course you may have forgotten to turn on your external modem..

The screen flickers, and jumps: Either you chose a font that is too big, or your Program window is too narrow. Widen it out, and the problem should go away.