

Visual Basic Naming Conventions

Cheat Sheet

Prefix Control Type Description

ani	Animation button
bed	Pen Bedit
cbo	Combobox and dropdown Listbox
chk	Checkbox
clp	Picture Clip
cmd(3d)	Command Button (3D)
com	Communications
ctr	Control (Used within procs when the specific type is unknown)
dat	Data
db	ODBC Database
dir	Directory List Box
dlg	Visual Basic Pro Common Dialog
drv	Drive List Box
ds	ODBC Dynaset
fil	File List Box
frm	Form
fra	Frame
gau	Gauge
gpb	Group Push Button
grd	Grid
hed	Pen Hedit
hsb	Horizontal Scroll Bar
img	Image
ink	Pen Ink
key	Keyboard key status
lbl	Label
lin	Line
lst	Listbox
mdi	MDI Child Form
mpm	MAPI Message
mps	MAPI Session
mc	MCI
mnu	Menu
opt	Option Button
ole	Ole Client
opt	Option Button
out	Outline Control (VB3)
pic	Picture
pnl	3d Panel
rpt	Report Control (VB3)
shp square)	Shape (circle, square, oval, rectangle, rounded rectangle, and rounded square)
spn	Spin Control
txt	Text/Edit Box
tmr	Timer
vsb	Vertical Scroll Bar

Prefix Variable Use Description (precedes Control prefix and body)

b	Boolean	vb type = %
c	Currency - 64 bits	vb type = @
d	Double - 64 bit signed quantity	vb type = #
db	Database	
ds	Dynaset	
dt	Date+Time	vb type = variant
td	TableDef	
f	Float/Single - 32 bit signed floating point	vb type = !
h	Handle	vb type = %
i	Index	vb type = %
l	Long - 32 bit signed quantity	vb type = &
n	Integer (sizeless, counter)	vb type = %, &, or #
s	String	vb type = \$
u	Unsigned - 16 bit unsigned quantity (must use &)	
ul	Unsigned Long - 32 bit unsigned quantity (must use #)	
vnt	Variant (big and ugly to discourage use and make sure it gets the	
readers	attention)	
w	Word - 16 bit signed quantity	vb type = %
a	Array	
g	Global	
m	Local to module or form	
st	Static variable	
v	Variable passed by value (local to a routine)	
r	Variable passed by reference (local to a routine)	

Short Menu Names

<u>Menu Handler Name</u>	<u>Menu Caption Sequence</u>
mnuHContents	Help.Contents
mnuFiOpen	File.Open
mnuFoCharacter	Format.Character
mnuFSFax	File.Send.Fax
mnuFSEmail	File.Send.Email

Long Menu Names

mnuHelpContents	Help.Contents
mnuFileOpen	File.Open
mnuFileSendFax	File.Send.Fax

This list was compiled from the Visual Basic manuals and white papers provided from Microsoft. These naming conventions are provided as guide lines for programmers to standardize and decode the structure and logic of an application. To provide readable and unambiguous variable names. Also to be consistent with other language conventions (most importantly the Visual Basic programmers guide and standard Windows Hungarian C)

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