

**VISNEWDA for Visual Basic**  
**Robert E. Smythe**  
**April 2, 1994**

**Background**

Microsoft packaged two sample programs with VB 3.0, Visdata and DataMgr. These were intended to provide programmers with sophisticated examples of how VB can manipulate databases. However, usage has demonstrated that both programs have serious 'bugs' and/or flaws. A good understanding of how these programs work, (or don't work) will equip the VB programmer with superior skills in database coding.

**DataMgr and Visdata**

1. **Will not** handle loading a table with over some 80 fields...you will get blown out of your system. Both Datamgr and Visdata load query names as well as tables to select from, but will only handle tables. If you load a query you'll bomb out. 2. Datamgr uses a child window to display a grid of rows and fields with command button options. If you scroll the grid, you also scroll the buttons which makes them unavailable. A terrible design flaw. Visdata's command buttons on it's grid do not scroll with the window.
3. Visdata in Query mode, **does not** bracket field names with spaces in them, such as CONTACT NAME, so if your Database has such fields, running any query will result in an error. This applies to field data as well. Visdata's filter's, find and sort **cannot** handle spaces in field names and data, an ' apostrophe in a field name, and tables from SQL server with a dbo. preface. It uses the input box for the sort and filter routines instead of the dialogue box it uses for a less used function, FIND. Visdata's filters also **cannot** handle date fields, it does not recognize them. It's handling of the size of the output browse grid leaves a lot to be desired. Try these against the NWIND.MDB and you'll see for yourself.
4. Visdata **does not** clear requisite variables before next query, giving errors.

**Corrections**

I corrected both Datamgr and Visdata to some degree. Datamgr will handle up to 255 fields using multiple child windows, but they still scroll the command buttons and are not synchronized on selected record. The windows now have a decent size scroll bar. Not yet a really useful tool except for grappling with code. Now Datamgr returns an error message if you try to load a query instead of bombing you out.

**Visdata will now properly handle all field names and field data.** If you try and load a table of more than 80 fields you will get an error message instead of bombing out. It is a much more useful tool, but still needs more work. **I have renamed the revised Visdata program to VISNEWDA.**

**MQUERY**

There is a real need for Visual Basic programs accessing databases to allow users to run 'ad-hoc' queries. No such mechanism now exists to my knowledge outside of the bad query procedures section of Visdata. I moved the query section of **VISNEWDA** into a new program called **MQUERY**. **MQUERY** will allow programmers to take **MQUERY** code, all or in part, and splice it into their program(s). **MQUERY** as of now is for ACCESS database's only. I also have a version, **MSQLQRY** for Sql-Server databases. Both are in use in mission-critical applications. I have added an additional enhancement to both **MQUERY** and **MSQLQRY** which is in Alpha test, the ability of users to store, load and run queries then have generated by names they choose.

**Limitations and concerns of MQUERY (VISNEWDA as well)**

1. Will only run queries on tables.  
Should also run queries on queries
2. Only does inner joins  
Should do inner and outer, right and left
3. Does not permit the \* as in access to select all the fields  
Should do this too
4. Does a poor job of sizing the browse grid to the data  
Should do this
5. Does not connect to other Databases via ODBC as VisData does. No hurry for this.
5. Probably more I can't think of at this minute

This download includes only the source code for VISNEWDA. If you compare it to Visdata, you will be happily surprised. MQUERY will probably be released as inexpensive share ware at a later date.

**Robert E. Smythe**  
**MICROMAGIC**  
Internet bob.smythe@channel1.com CIS 71174,430