Main Menu Form

This form is the main menu for the Form Wizard. Click on the button that you want additional information on.

Displays help on the current form.

Exits the Form Wizard.

Cancels building the current form.   All data entered to this point is lost!

Enter the name for the form you are building.   The name must follow standard VB form naming conventions.

Enter the caption for the form you are building.

Data Entry Template

Field Label

Field Label : Text2

◄◄| ◄ Enter Caption Here ► |►►

This control should be placed where you want the second data field to be located.   The relative position of the top of this control versus the Fld1 control is used to determine the positioning of data field on the generated form.

Fld1 TextBox	▼

✕ ✓		⬇
DataField	Name	⬆
DataSource	Data1	
DragIcon	(none)	
DragMode	0 - Manual	
Enabled	True	
FontBold	True	
FontItalic	False	
FontName	MS Sans Serif	
FontSize	8.25	
FontStrikethru	False	
FontUnderline	False	
ForeColor	&H80000008&	
Height	315	
HelpContextID	0	
HideSelection	True	
Index		
Left	2160	
LinkItem		
LinkMode	0 - None	
LinkTimeout	50	
LinkTopic		
MaxLength	1	
MousePointer	0 - Default	
MultiLine	False	
Name	Fld1	⬇

Title bar: **Properties**

Properties

Data1 Data

E:\VB\BIBLIO.MDB

BackColor	&H00FFFFFF&
Caption	Enter Caption Here
Connect	
DatabaseName	E:\VB\BIBLIO.MDB
DragIcon	(none)
DragMode	0 - Manual
Enabled	True
Exclusive	False
FontBold	True
FontItalic	False
FontName	MS Sans Serif
FontSize	8.25
FontStrikethru	False
FontUnderline	False
ForeColor	&H80000008&
Height	270
Index	
Left	1860
MousePointer	0 - Default
Name	Data1
Options	0
ReadOnly	False
RecordSource	Publishers
Tag	
Top	3180

Creating A Form Template

You create a <u>VB form template file</u> as you would any other VB form.   The form is used as a template for the form generated with the Form Wizard.   The form should contain the following controls:

Data Control named Data1

This data control must have a database name and recordsource specified.   The values specified do not have to be valid, but must be present.

Label (or other) control named Lbl1

This control is a template (model) for the label control for each field on the form.   The control may be a Label or SSPanel control or any other control that has a Caption property.   This control should be placed where you want the first field label to be located.

Label (or other) control named Lbl2

This control should be placed where you want the second field label to be located.   The relative position of the top of this control versus the Lbl1 control is used to determine the positioning of field labels on the generated form.

Bound Text (or other) control named Fld1

This control is a template (model) for the data field control for each field on the form.   The control may be a Text control or any other bound control.   This control should be placed where you want the first data field to be located.

Bound Text (or other) control named Fld2

This control should be placed where you want the second data field to be located.   The relative position of the top of this control versus the Fld1 control is used to determine the positioning of data field on the generated form.

In addition to the above required controls, you can include any additional controls that you want to include on the form.   For example you could include a status bar, any standard buttons you want on the form, etc.   These control definitions will be copied to the generated form exactly as entered in the template.

You may also include any standard code that you want to include on the form.   Any Subroutines and Routines defined in the template will be copied to the generated form exactly as entered in the template.

Click here to see a sample VB form template file.

A VB form that the Form Wizard uses as a template for building the form.

Properties

Fld1 TextBox

Property	Value
DataField	Name
DataSource	Data1
DragIcon	(none)
DragMode	0 - Manual
Enabled	True
FontBold	True
FontItalic	False
FontName	MS Sans Serif
FontSize	8.25
FontStrikethru	False
FontUnderline	False
ForeColor	&H80000008&
Height	315
HelpContextID	0
HideSelection	True
Index	
Left	2160
LinkItem	
LinkMode	0 - None
LinkTimeout	50
LinkTopic	
MaxLength	1
MousePointer	0 - Default
MultiLine	False
Name	Fld1

This control should be placed where you want the second field label to be located.   The relative position of the top of this control versus the Lbl1 control is used to determine the positioning of field labels on the generated form.

Test Form Caption
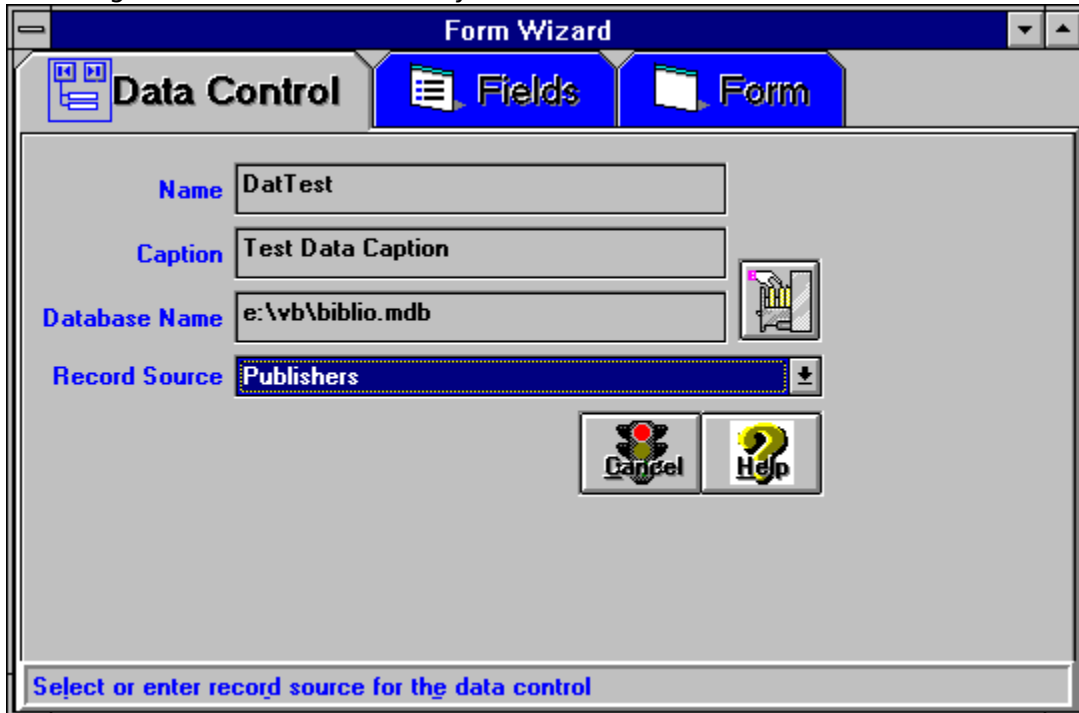
Name

Company Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Test Data Caption

Properties	
TxtName TextBox	▼

✕ ✓ DatTest	▼
DataField	Name	▲
DataSource	**DatTest**	
DragIcon	(none)	
DragMode	0 - Manual	
Enabled	True	
FontBold	True	
FontItalic	False	
FontName	MS Sans Serif	
FontSize	8.25	
FontStrikethru	False	
FontUnderline	False	
ForeColor	&H80000008&	
Height	315	
HelpContextID	0	
HideSelection	True	
Index		
Left	2160	
LinkItem		
LinkMode	0 - None	
LinkTimeout	50	
LinkTopic		
MaxLength	50	
MousePointer	0 - Default	
MultiLine	False	
Name	TxtName	▼

Data Control Specification Form

This form allows you to specify the information for the data control on the form you are building.   Click on the field that you want additional information on.

Form Wizard

Data Control   Fields   Form

Name   DatTest

Caption   Test Data Caption

Database Name   e:\vb\biblio.mdb

Record Source   Publishers

Cancel   Help

Select or enter record source for the data control

The status bar displays information on the current control, e.g. what should be entered or what function will be performed when the current control is selected.

Select the table or query that is to be the RecordSource for the data control.

Use this button to browse for a database file using the standard Windows file open dialog. The database selected will be placed in the Database Name field.

Enter the database name for the data control on the form you are building.   This value will be placed in the DatabaseName property of the form you build.

Enter the name for the data control on the form you are building.   The name must follow VB control naming conventions.

Enter the caption for the data control on the form you are building.

Click this button to abandon the changes to the current field.   Previous field changes will remain in effect.

Field Specification Form

This form allows you to specify which fields are to be included on the form you are building.   Click on the field or button you want additional information on.

Form Wizard		□ ▼ ▲

Data Control   **Fields**   **Form**

Select Fields For Form

PubID
Name
Company Name
Address
City
State
Zip
Telephone
Fax

Add

Remove

Cancel

Help

Fields On Form

Field	Label	Same Line
Name	Name	No
Company Name	Company Name	No
Address	Address	No
City	City	No
State	State	No
Zip	Zip	No

← |□   →

Add selected field[s] to the form

This grid identifies the list of fields to add to the form.   To remove fields from the form select the desired fields and click the Remove button.   You can select multiple fields by pressing the Shift key while clicking on the last field to be selected or while dragging over the fields to be selected.

To change the field label or to place fields on the same line select the fields to change and do a right click.

This is a list of the fields in the record source selected on the previous screen.   Select one or more fields from the list to add to the form and then click the Add button.   You can select multiple fields by pressing the Shift key while clicking on the last field to be selected or while dragging over the fields to be selected.

Click this button to remove the fields selected in the list to the right (fields on the form) from the form.

Click this button to add the fields selected in the list to the left to the form (the list on the right).

Form Generation Dialog

This form is used to specify the name and caption of the form you are going to build, the name of the <u>VB form template file</u> and the name of the form file to generate.   You can then generate the form file.   Click on the field or button that you want additional information on.

Enter the name of the <u>VB form template file</u>.   This is a   VB form that is set up to be a template for the Form Wizard.   You can also use the file drawer to the right to browse for the file.

<u>Click here to get information about creating a VB form template file.</u>

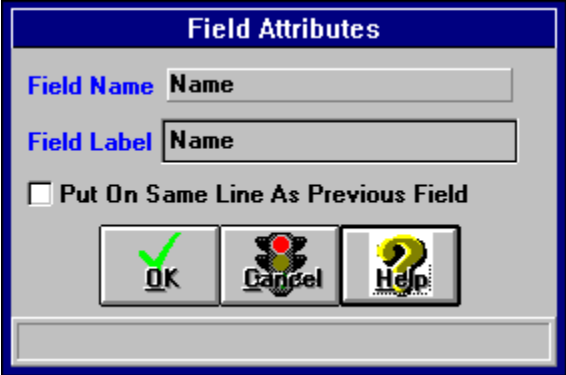Click this button to browse for a <u>VB form template file</u> using the standard Windows file open dialog.

Clicking this button will generate the form specified using the <u>VB form template file</u> and the information from the previous dialogs.   To use the generated form use the VB File Add File function and select the generated form file.

Enter the file name for the form that you want the Form Wizard to build.   The Form Wizard will build a text format form file using the information specified in this and the previous dialogs.   The file name should end in .FRM.   You can also use the file drawer at the right to browse for a form file.

Click on this button to browse for a form file using the standard Windows file save dialog. The file name selected will be placed in the form name field.

Field Attribute Change Form

This form allows to change the label for a field and indicate that a field should be placed on the same line as the previous field.   Click on the field or button that you want more information on.

Field Attributes

Field Name   Name

Field Label   Name

☐ Put On Same Line As Previous Field

✓ OK   Cancel   Help

Click this button to make the changes for the field.   The next field will be displayed if multiple fields were selected.

Check this box if the field should be placed on the same line as the previous field.   The Form Wizard will place this field, and it's label, to the right of the previous field.   No checking is done to insure that the field and label will fit on the form.

Enter the label on the form for this field.   This value will be placed in the Caption property of the label control for the field.

This field contains the field name.   It can not be changed.

Table Of Contents

The Form Wizard allows you to automatically build a data aware form using a template you supply.   Click on the blue dot associated with the topic you want more information on.

Known Limitations

This version is an initial version that has undergone limited testing.   I am sure it is possible to "break" it or make it malfunction if things are not done as expected or the expected input is not received.   Below is a list of known limitations,   problems, or areas that have not been tested extensively.   Many of these will be addressed in future versions. If you find problems, please inform me as indicated below.

Limited input validation

Limited validation of template form

Template formats not tested

How to notify me of errors

Limited Input Validation

There currently is limited input validation.   Particularly in the area of varifying that all required data control and field data is present.   It is probably very possible to create an invalid form or encounter other problems if the required data is not present.

Template Validation

There is currently very limited validation of the form template.   If required fields are missing it is probably very possible to build an invalid form or at least a form that doesn't do you much good.

Reference the help section on building the form template for details on what is needed in the form template.

Template Formats Not Tested

I have not tested very many variations of form templates.   Basically I have tested for templates with Label controls for label fields and Text box   controls for data fields.   I believe the technique used should work for any type of control, but I haven't verified that.

I have not tested using label and data field controls within other controls.   I believe it should work, however the indentation of the definition created may not be as expected.

I have not tested using the same line feature with any format other than the label located to the left of the data field.   Using other orientations of the label to the data field may result in the labels and/or the data fields being located in incorrect locations.   You can always position the controls after you Add the form into a project.

How To Contact Me

To contact me to ask questions regarding the program, report errors, suggest enhancements, etc. address your message to CompuServe Id 70042,1001.   I would also be interested in knowing what you think of the viability of selling a shareware version (with enhancements) of this program.

It is probably best to send me a public message in the forum where you downloaded the program from, that way others will see the information about errors that you may find.   I frequent the VBPJFORUM Beginner's Section (1) and Database Warehouse Section (12) on a regular basis.   I also frequent the MSBASIC Data Objects, Data Control and Programming Issues sections (the names and/or numbers of these sections may be changing soon).