

# VBnet5.WRI Tips for Using Crescent VBnet 5.0

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This document contains helpful hints on how to use VBnet 5.0. VBnet 5.0 will script your Visual Basic project with the current VBScript language. VBnet 5.0 is a tool to help save you time in developing your web application using VBScript. It puts your Visual Basic application into a framework that can be deployed to the web. If your Visual Basic application contains code or controls that are not part of the VBScript language, it will not be coded for you. Any problems encountered will generate an error message within the VBnet 5.0 Report. VBScript only handles a subset of the Visual Basic Language.

It is recommended if you are not familiar with the VBScript language that you visit Microsoft's VBScript website <http://www.microsoft.com/vbscript/> to obtain a list of Visual Basic 5.0 commands that are supported by VBScript. When you get to this site, click on the Documentation shortcut. You can also obtain a list of commands provided by VBScript that are not part of Visual Basic 5.0 but specific to VBScript. You can also download any documentation provided on this site.

## Tips for Using VBnet 5.0

### 1. Accessing Images from Databases over the Web

Your VBnet-generated application can access images from a database across the web if the image is bound to a VARCHAR or TEXT field containing the URL (the location of a .jpg or .gif file) for that image

### 2. Embedding Excel Spreadsheets and Word Documents in Web Pages

Excel spreadsheets and Word documents can be embedded in web pages using the OLE container control.

### 3. Label, Picture and Image Controls Runtime Support

The following HTML Standard Controls do not support methods, events or properties at runtime: Label, Picture and Image. If you require scripting these controls you must generate Web pages using the ActiveX only mode.

### 4. Internet Server Setup

Your Windows NT server (running Internet Information Server) must be configured with the same system data source name (e.g., "MyData source") that was used on the machine that created the VB application. In addition, after copying the directory structure generated by VBnet to your web server, you must use the Microsoft Internet Service Manager to allow Read and Execute access to the directory. Please see the Microsoft Internet Service Manager documentation for more information. See steps 5 and 6 below for details on how to get the DMV sample setup.

### 5. DMV Sample ODBC Data Source Setup

In order to run the DMV web database access sample you must create an Access ODBC Data Source with the ODBC System Data Source Name set to DMV. Make sure there is a copy of your DMV.MDB on your NT Server.

To setup an ODBC data source for your web application, perform the

following. This is based on the ODBC setup for Access 97.

- a. Go into the control panel and select the 32 bit ODBC.
- b. Select the "System DSN" tab.
- c. Click on Add
- d. Select Microsoft Access Driver (.mdb)
- e. Enter a Data source Name (i.e. MyTestDsn)
- f. The description is optional.
- g. Under the Database Panel, click on Select.
- h. The Select Database dialog should display. Go to your Winnt40 Server and find your data source. (i.e. E:\YOURNTSERVER\TESTDRV\TESTABC.MDB) Please note that the data source can be anywhere on your server.
- i. On your Winnt40 Server you need to make sure you have Microsoft's Internet Information Server and ODBC. Repeating steps 1 through 7, create an ODBC data source of the same name on your Server machine. So if you are running your project from the C drive on your client machine and the ODBC data source is on your NT Server on drive E:, that is where you will map to.
- j. Once these steps are complete run your project first to make sure you can get to the data source and access your data successfully.
- k. If step 9 passes, then select Create Web Application from your VBnet toolbar. Make sure you have a default browser selected.

#### **6. Setting up your NT Server to run the DMV Sample or any other ODBC application.**

If you are creating your application from your client machine, make sure you perform step 5 above. The ODBC data source must be defined as a SYSTEM DSN. If you are creating the web application on your server machine, you need only setup the SYSTEM DSN from the server side.

Select Options from the VBnet 5.0 toolbar. Choose Netscape Navigator 3.0 or higher as your browser and Simple HTML from the Web Site Tab. Make sure you have specified the path of your default browser from the General Tab.

Select Create Web Application from the Vbnet 5.0 toolbar. The Report Generator will be displayed. Then the Select Data Source dialog will be displayed. Select the Machine Data Source Tab. Select DMV data source Name. Make sure the type is System. If it is not you have set up the dsn incorrectly. You will then get a Login dialog. If you haven't specified a Login Name and Password, press OK to continue. VBnet will complete generating your project.

If you created your web application on a client machine the directory structure under the WebSite folder must be copied over to your NT server. The project folder for this sample is Access. Go to your server and select the Internet Information Server (common), and launch the Internet Information Service Manager. Double click on WWW. Make sure Directory Browsing Allowed is selected. Click on Add. Select the directory from the Server (in the case of the dmv sample, select Access). Give it a Virtual Name (i.e dmvsample). Set the Read/Execute permissions. Click on OK.

On your client machine run Netscape. Type in the IP address of your server machine along with the virtual directory defined above. (i.e. <http://190.18.5.15/dmvsample>). You will see a screen displaying the directory structure of the project. Click on Forms and open up the dmv form. From this screen you can Update, Query, Insert and Delete. Note the following. When you Query on a blank page the first record will be displayed unless you type something in any one of the fields to perform a search on a specific record. If you Insert a record make sure you start with a blank form to avoid duplication. If you try to insert with an already existing record displayed, an error message will be generated.

If you are creating everything from your server just make sure you have Netscape installed and your System DSN name set up properly. The above description may be applied to any ODBC application.

#### **7. Global Variables have to be Initialized**

In order to use global variables stored in module files, you must assign global variables a value prior to their first use.

#### **8. VB 5.0 Can't Link to External Access Databases via ODBC**

Due to a limitation in Visual Basic, Access databases cannot be queried using the standard Data Control in ODBC mode; however, VBnet will generate the proper Web data access scripts for Visual

Basic controls bound to an Access database via the standard Data Control.

#### **9. The Select Case command in Visual Basic is supported by VBScript but Case Is and Case x to y are not.**

This is a valid example:

##### **Select Case x**

Case a,b,c ' where a,b and c are integers

Do Some Action

Case d,e,f

Do Some Action

Case Else

Do Some Action

##### **End Select**

These Statements are valid in Visual Basic 5 but are not supported with VBScript so they will not be scripted by VBnet

##### **Select Case x**

Case is > 10 and x < 100

Case 10 to 20

##### **End Select**

#### **10. If Security levels are set to high, you may experience problems running your HTML form.**

Currently both IE Explorer and Netscape have security levels set to high by default. If you are attempting to load an ActiveX Control or some other object that your default browser detects as potentially problematic, and the security level is set to high it will load but not run. If you change the security to medium it will prompt you each time it detects a problem. Answer "yes" and the form and controls will load so you can run your web application.

#### **11. The current Grid demo is modified to use the VB5 BIBLIO.MDB.**

Make sure you have the correct path set to use this access database. If you installed VB5 using the defaults, it should be located in \Program Files\DevStudio\VB. Make sure you have the Client Data Access Object checked on the Database tab when generating the web page or application. The data will not be retrieved otherwise. You can also modify this sample use any access database you would like.

#### **12. The MSRDC Control gets changed when opened in your default browser.**

If you are using the MSRDC control it gets modified when added to an html page. It displays four buttons, Insert, Delete, Update, Modify. VBnet does not do this, it is how it is handled by your browser.

#### **13. You cannot lay multiple controls on top of one another.**

Since HTML is coordinate based you will be unable to lay multiple controls onto one another.