

CE94930 — Introduction to Visual BASIC

- Introduction
- Tour of VB
- Lab procedures (using Watstar)

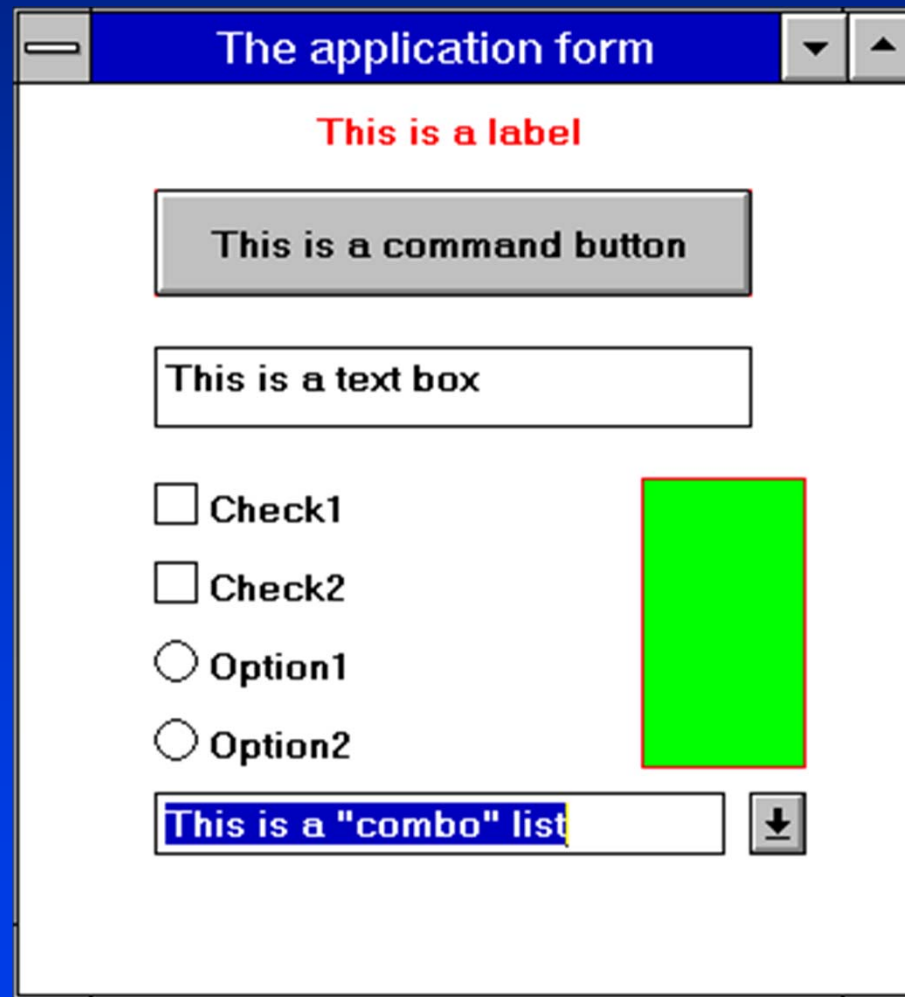
Introduction

- Visual BASIC: what & why
- alternatives?
- workstation requirements
- standard vs professional version

A tour of VB

- Components of VB
 - GUI interface
 - “behind the scenes” code (actions)
 - project management
- Starting VB
- A first program

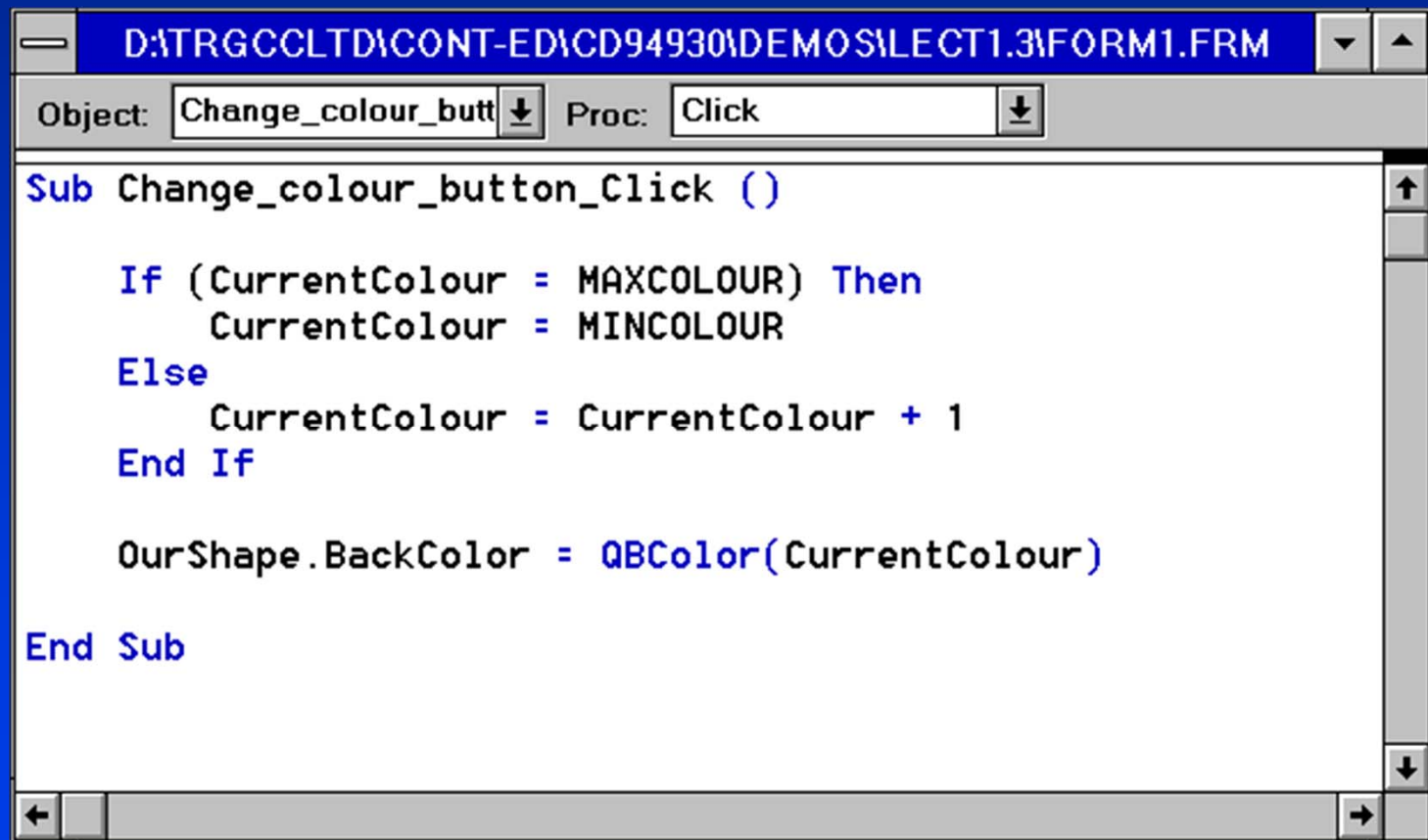
GUI objects



Adding actions

- Built-in code development system (“IDE”)
- typing assist for automated indentation, spacing
- automatic syntax checking

IDE environment



The screenshot shows a Visual Basic IDE window. The title bar at the top reads "D:\TRGCCLTD\CONT-ED\CD94930\DEMOS\LECT1.3\FORM1.FRM". Below the title bar, there is a toolbar with "Object:" and "Proc:" dropdown menus. The "Object:" menu is set to "Change_colour_buttn" and the "Proc:" menu is set to "Click". The main text area contains the following VBA code:

```
Sub Change_colour_button_Click ()  
    If (CurrentColour = MAXCOLOUR) Then  
        CurrentColour = MINCOLOUR  
    Else  
        CurrentColour = CurrentColour + 1  
    End If  
  
    OurShape.BackColor = QBColor(CurrentColour)  
  
End Sub
```

The code is written in a monospaced font. The "Object:" and "Proc:" dropdown menus have small downward arrows next to them. The main text area has a vertical scrollbar on the right and a horizontal scrollbar at the bottom.

Project management

- Applications composed of:
 - forms containing GUI objects and associated event code
 - code-only modules (utility functions and non-visual code)
- Code made up of procedures and functions
- VB organizes compilation & linkage (“make” process)

Visual BASIC language

- “C” or “Pascal”-ish
- retains some peculiarities of old-style BASICs
- generally free-form (no line numbers), but single-line statements
- some object-oriented capabilities

Lab

- Watstar -- see handout
- log on; change password; start Windows
- follow “Exercises” handout

Wrapup

- Visual BASIC: *expedient* development system for Windows applications
- GUI design, code and project management
- Wide range of applicability