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Visual Basic 2015 Unleashed

Visual Basic 2015

UNLEASHED

Alessandro Del Sole

Foreword by Anthony D. Green, Program Manager, Visual Basic, Microsoft

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Using Visual Basic 2015, developers can build cutting-edge applications that run practically anywhere: on Windows desktops, new Windows 10 devices, in mobile and cloud environments, and beyond. Visual Basic 2015 Unleashed is the most comprehensive, practical reference to modern programming with VB 2015. Long-time Visual Basic MVP Alessandro Del Sole walks you through the latest version of the language, helping you thoroughly master its most valuable features, most powerful programming techniques, and most effective development patterns. Next, he shows how to use Visual Basic 2015 to build robust, effective software in a wide range of environments. Extensively updated for Visual Basic 2015’s major improvements, this guide covers both Visual Basic 2015 Professional Edition for professional developers and the free Community Edition for hobbyists, novices, and students. Del Sole has added detailed coverage of building new universal Windows apps for Windows 10 and using new Visual Studio 2015 capabilities to supercharge your productivity as a developer. If you want to leverage all of VB 2015’s power, this is the book you need. Detailed information on how to...

**Synopsis**

**Book Information**

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I rarely review books on - even though I have purchased hundreds. I felt this book definitely needed another positive review because it is really a well written book. Also, the lack of current books on VB.NET makes this book a treasure. The first language I learned was C# but I quickly moved to Python, and had to do some web languages (PHP) out of necessity of projects but found myself doing some VBA because of different simple apps that our organization has that require customization. At that point I went back and looked at VB.NET and created an MVC web app for fun - piecing the old knowledge I had of C# and my current understanding of MVC in general. I have to admit, I got the web app done but could really have used this book before hand because my true understanding of the way the .net framework and VB.NET works was greatly furthered because of this book. To build the app I found myself on stack exchange hourly to connect my swiss cheese of knowledge together to get the app to function properly. After reading this book - and reading it thoroughly, I have a much broader understanding of the way different .net objects work and behave and how to get the best out of my code and utilize much of the work that has been done by Microsoft and the .net framework. I have to admit that I really enjoy coding in about 5 different languages and my "goto" language has been python for a long time - mostly because we are a data driven organization and python's libraries allow me to quickly write simple code that gets complex problems solved. However, (and with as much flak as VB.NET gets online) I am starting to find myself going towards VB.NET (and I am sure C# since I understand it as well) for things I used to go to python for, because the more I learn the .net framework - the easier it is for me to create a more secure script or app, compile it, and run it to get my job done. I never thought there would be a day when I would be singing microsofts praises, but with Azure and the fact that they are adopting python tools heavily into Visual Studio - I am liking microsoft more and more on a weekly basis. This book made most of that growth happen for me and has opened my eyes to how good the .net
framework and vb.net can be. This all coming from a MAC/python-django/ror/ person, which is saying a lot for this book and what it represents.

I had pre ordered this book as I already knew as a long time follower of Alessandro that this book would be another must have for a VB.Net developer, I started with buying Core reference guides with "Programming Microsoft Visual Basic 6" from Francesco Balena, at some point Francesco stopped Writing his excellent VB / VB.Net series and I found that Alessandro Del Sole had stepped in this gap. The book is a must have for anyone taking VB.Net serious, beginner, experienced or expert developer all will benefit from this book. Having the book now physically in my hand I can only say that I was right in my decision to pre order it, as I am probably one of the first who has read it and have learned some new insights and thoughts on how I can improve my software even with my on the moment of writing 15 years of .Net experience (pre beta early adaptor) I am happy to learn something new every day, and books like this sure help to ease the understanding of some ...

If you are just learning Visual Basic or a beginning or mid level programmer, this book will be very difficult for you to understand. There are no step by step examples of the concepts and no opportunity to work through examples for hands on learning. If you are already an experienced programmer with a late version of visual basic.net, then there is good material in the book, but to benefit you must already have a strong background in late versions of the language.

This is a book for professional software developers. It assumes you are already intimately familiar with fundamental programming concepts as well as previous versions of Visual Basic and Microsoft .NET "ecosystem". It focuses on the advanced concepts of programming with Visual Basic 2015 and .NET 4.6 and rightly so, despite its size the book is a mere reference, where every chapter can be further addressed in a separate book. As a professional developer this book will allow you to understand Microsoft's motivation behind technologies it introduces or extends in VB 2015 / .NET 4.6, the rest you can always find in MS white papers. When it comes to the level of competence, Alessandro Del Sole is outstanding. In the entire book there are literally only two places I find things amiss: his explanation of polymorphism lacks one extra sentence to be complete (but this is something you should already know from the Computer Science theory anyway) and in my opinion his event-based asynchrony sample is unnecessarily forced into a synchronous code pattern - I understand the point he was trying to make when comparing it to Async/Await - but to be "honest" about the event-based asynchrony one should note that synchronous logic patterns are not the best
way to approach it and that example should be "flattened" with the DataContext being assigned
directly from the callback (and for clarity you should use the delegates rather than lambdas with
callback events, then it does not look that messy to call UI elements from callback delegate
function). Everything else in the book is basically perfect.
Now, why one less star? As somebody
spoiled by Microsoft Press I am used to books written with a specific version of technical English,
that practically "read themselves". Reading Alessandro takes an extra step of effort, not to just
understand the content, but also his sentences. Now, this is a highly subjective criterion and a
person who is already used to his style from reading his other books may not have the same
problem I had.

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