

Object Naming Conventions

[See Also](#)

Objects should be named with a consistent prefix that makes it easy to identify the type of object. Recommended conventions for some of the objects supported by Visual Basic are listed below.

Suggested Prefixes for Controls

Control type	prefix	Example
3D Panel	pnl	pnlGroup
ADO Data	ado	adoBiblio
Animated button	ani	aniMailBox
Check box	chk	chkReadOnly
Combo box, drop-down list box	cbo	cboEnglish
Command button	cmd	cmdExit
Common dialog	dlg	dlgFileOpen
Communications	com	comFax
Control (used within procedures when the specific type is unknown)	ctr	ctrCurrent
Data	dat	datBiblio
Data-bound combo box	dbcbo	dbcboLanguage
Data-bound grid	dbgrd	dbgrdQueryResult
Data-bound list box	dblst	dblstJobType
Data combo	dbc	dbcAuthor
Data grid	dgd	dgdTitles
Data list	dbl	dblPublisher
Data repeater	drp	drpLocation
Date picker	dtp	dtpPublished
Directory list box	dir	dirSource
Drive list box	drv	drvTarget
File list box	fil	filSource

Flat scroll bar	fsb	fsbMove
Form	frm	frmEntry
Frame	fra	fraLanguage
Gauge	gau	gauStatus
Graph	gra	graRevenue
Grid	grd	grdPrices
Hierarchical flexgrid	flex	flexOrders
Horizontal scroll bar	hsb	hsbVolume
Image	img	imgIcon
Image combo	imgcbo	imgcboProduct
ImageList	ils	ilsAllIcons
Label	lbl	lblHelpMessage
Lightweight check box	lwchk	lwchkArchive
Lightweight combo box	lwco	lwcoGerman
Lightweight command button	lwcmd	lwcmdRemove
Lightweight frame	lwfra	lwfraSaveOptions
Lightweight horizontal scroll bar	lwhsb	lwhsbVolume
Lightweight list box	lwlst	lwlstCostCenters
Lightweight option button	lwopt	lwoptIncomeLevel
Lightweight text box	lwtxt	lwoptStreet
Lightweight vertical scroll bar	lwvsb	lwvsbYear
Line	lin	linVertical
List box	lst	lstPolicyCodes
ListView	lvw	lvwHeadings
MAPI message	mpm	mpmSendMessage
MAPI session	mps	mpsSession
MCI	mci	mciVideo
Menu	mnu	mnuFileOpen
Month view	mvw	mvwPeriod
MS Chart	ch	chSalesbyRegion

MS Flex grid	msg	msgClients
MS Tab	mst	mstFirst
OLE container	ole	oleWorksheet
Option button	opt	optGender
Picture box	pic	picVGA
Picture clip	clp	clpToolbar
ProgressBar	prg	prgLoadFile
Remote Data	rd	rdTitles
RichTextBox	rtf	rtfReport
Shape	shp	shpCircle
Slider	sld	sldScale
Spin	spn	spnPages
StatusBar	sta	staDateTime
SysInfo	sys	sysMonitor
TabStrip	tab	tabOptions
Text box	txt	txtLastName
Timer	tmr	tmrAlarm
Toolbar	tlb	tlbActions
TreeView	tre	treOrganization
UpDown	upd	updDirection
Vertical scroll bar	vsb	vsbRate

Suggested Prefixes for Data Access Objects (DAO)

Use the following prefixes to indicate Data Access Objects.

Database object	Prefix	Example
Container	con	conReports
Database	db	dbAccounts
DBEngine	dbe	dbeJet
Document	doc	docSalesReport

Field	fld	fldAddress
Group	grp	grpFinance
Index	ix	idxAge
Parameter	prm	prmJobCode
QueryDef	qry	qrySalesByRegion
Recordset	rec	recForecast
Relation	rel	relEmployeeDept
TableDef	tbd	tbdCustomers
User	usr	usrNew
Workspace	wsp	wspMine

Some examples:

```
Dim dbBiblio As Database
Dim recPubsInNY As Recordset, strSQLStmt As String
Const DB_READONLY = 4          ' Set constant.
'Open database.
Set dbBiblio = OpenDatabase("BIBLIO.MDB")
' Set text for the SQL statement.
strSQLStmt = "SELECT * FROM Publishers WHERE & _
    State = 'NY'"
' Create the new Recordset object.
Set recPubsInNY = db.OpenRecordset(strSQLStmt, _
    dbReadOnly)
```

Suggested Prefixes for Menus

Applications frequently use many menu controls, making it useful to have a unique set of naming conventions for these controls. Menu control prefixes should be extended beyond the initial "mnu" label by adding an additional prefix for each level of nesting, with the final menu caption at the end of the name string. The following table lists some examples.

Menu caption sequence	Menu handler name
File Open	mnuFileOpen
File Send Email	mnuFileSendEmail
File Send Fax	mnuFileSendFax
Format Character	mnuFormatCharacter
Help Contents	mnuHelpContents

When this naming convention is used, all members of a particular menu group are listed next to each other in Visual Basic's Properties window. In addition, the menu control names clearly document the menu items to which they are attached.

Choosing Prefixes for Other Controls

For controls not listed above, you should try to standardize on a unique two or three character prefix for consistency. Use more than three characters only if needed for clarity.

For derived or modified controls, for example, extend the prefixes above so that there is no confusion over which control is really being used. For third-party controls, a lower-case abbreviation for the manufacturer could be added to the prefix. For example, a control instance created from the Visual Basic Professional 3D frame could use a prefix of fra3d to avoid confusion over which control is really being used.

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