

A TUTORIAL TO CLARIFY THE ACRONYM SOUP OF VB 6

AND THE WEB

TUTORIAL PRESENTATION

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In looking at the advanced features of Visual Basic 6.0, even the most seasoned applications-oriented teacher is overwhelmed. VB 6 includes applications support for Windows programs, network programs, DHTML web pages, ActiveX controls and Microsoft Transaction Server (MTS) business objects. Even with good documentation and lots of Wizards it is hard to really get a handle on the totality of applications supported in VB 6.0.

As you start to use VB you are also amazed by the large number of acronyms that are used to describe various applications. Just look at the above paragraph. I used VB, which is well enough known to not need explanation as Visual Basic. But the D of DHTML stands for Dynamic, and DHTML has a lot of features not found in HTML. MTS is a new acronym but it represents a major switch in server programming for those using Windows NT Server 4.0 and IIS (NT's web server) and you need to understand what MTS stands for if you want to develop server-side ActiveX controls.

In the second paragraph I used three new acronyms to help explain the three in the first paragraph. So many acronyms! Is it hopeless? The tutorial says that the answer is no. It shows that it is possible to get a good overview of all of the features of VB 6, and to some extent Visual Studio 6, by learning the concepts embodied in a key set of acronyms.

The acronyms are introduced in a carefully constructed order so that the tutorial participants see why the various features have been added. For each acronym the tutorial includes:

- An expansion of the acronym to computer English
- A historical perspective of the concepts behind acronym
- A key **diagram** that "explains all" of the concepts behind the acronym
- A short paragraph to explain the ideas of the diagram
- A computer demo to tie everything together

The tutorial has four parts, each corresponding to a major area of functionality of VB 6. An outline of the tutorial with most of the acronyms to be explained is:

VB as a Windows Programming Language (1 unit)

- IDE for VB 6.0
- VB 6 Hello World is just like VB 5
- VB and Run-Time Objects

VB 6 Support for Web Browsers (1 unit)

- HTML and VB 6
- IE 4, DOM and VB 6
- DHTML and VB 6

VB 6 Support for OLE (1 unit)

- Automation and VB 6
- ActiveX controls and VB 6
- Document Objects and VB 6

VB 6 Support for Web Servers (2 units)

- HTTP, CGI, and forms
- ASP, Server Objects, and forms
- ISAPI
- MTS, Business Objects and Visual Modeler
- ASP, ODBC, OleDb, and ADO
- DNA

The tutorial will be paced so that participants can ask lots of questions and really absorb the key technologies behind the new functionality of VB 6. The PowerPoint presentation will include lots of animation. Participants will be provided with a copy of the PowerPoint file and an Acronym Handbook for VB 6.