

Re: questions about VB.NET, and uses in education

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.vb/2005-07/msg00152.html>

- *From:* "Bernie Yaeger" <berniey@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 2 Jul 2005 13:08:57 -0400
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Hi DH,

I won't begin to answer all of your questions, but vb .net is here to stay; it's robust, cutting edge, capable of anything, provides data access and oop features as effective as found in any language, and MS will be supporting it for a long, long time. It's not only in itself feature rich, but the 3rd party support is remarkable. It is the future, no less than any of the visual studio languages, namely c#.

HTH,

Bernie Yaeger

"D H" <no@spam> wrote in message news:u5-dncRxOr-kXlJfRVn-jg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

> Hi,

> Hi, I was looking for your opinion on VB.NET – its long-term prospects,

> etc. Sorry this is vague, but it's not meant to be a troll. It's a

> pro-VB.NET post actually.

>

> I haven't used VB or VB.NET really, but I have used Realbasic (a vb

> clone), Java, C#, C, and Python.

> I work in education, and I'd like something that is easy enough for

> teachers and students to use to develop real, usable applications, not

> just to learn programming for programming's sake. We used to use

> Hypercard/Supercard for this kind of stuff, and Realbasic was ok, too, but

> they are commercial, not cheap, and also lock you in to their environment.

> Nowadays most in education use Java and flash.

>

> I didn't really consider VB.NET before because it is also proprietary and

> I didn't want to force teachers or students to have to buy Visual Studio

> even if there is academic pricing. But now we have the free SharpDevelop

> IDE as well as Mono's mbas and MonoDevelop IDE for other platforms.

>

> MY QUESTIONS:

> But I'm wondering why there seems to be a lot of negative opinions about

> VB.NET when it is very well designed and much easier to learn and use than

> even python for example.

Re: questions about VB.NET, and uses in education

- > And secondly, is there a real waning interest in VB.NET, or is VB.NET's
- > long-term future in any jeopardy? Will VB.NET ever become an open
- > standard like C#? Is Microsoft going to do anything with .NET to compete
- > more with java and flash's features like easier animations, better
- > scientific/numeric libraries, and running in any browser (not just IE)?
- > Avalon seems too limiting.
- >
- > Thanks for any feedback.
- >
- >
- > I have a lot of appreciation for the design of VB.NET now.
- > When I've looked at ways to make other open source languages like python
- > or boo easier for beginners, the ideas turn out to be the same as what
- > VB.NET uses. Things like using "as" for types: "i as String" (seen in
- > boo), case-insensitivity, real division (7/4=1.75 instead of 1 like in
- > python and C#), WYSIWYG form designer, etc.
- >
- > So I'm listing some other nice features in the design of VB.NET and then
- > some drawbacks, but I don't see why VB.NET deserves so much heat.
- >
- > NICE FEATURES OF VB.NET:
- > –you can use GUI designers and code completion when coding VB in an IDE,
- > including the free SharpDevelop IDE (you have nothing as good as this for
- > python or javascript for example)
- > –uses just = for both assignment and equivalence tests, instead of = and
- > ==, which can cause errors in other languages.
- > –use of understandable English keywords like "MustInherit" instead of
- > obtuse keywords like abstract or virtual. Although I'm sure this is a
- > significant drawback when you already have learned java or C#, and the
- > upper-casing of all keywords hurts readability a little I think.
- > –case-insensitive syntax (unlike C# or python), which definitely helps
- > beginners
- > –no semi-colons at the end of the line, no curly braces for blocks
- > –don't have to worry about perfectly indenting everything like in python
- > –flexible options that let you for example not have to declare every
- > variable first if you don't want to
- > –the My.Computer stuff added for .NET 2.0
- > –default values for parameters
- >
- > DRAWBACKS:
- > –missing some advanced features that C# has, but many were added for
- > VB.NET in .NET 2.0. It even supports generics.
- > –sometimes difficult for classic VB programmers to switch to VB.NET since
- > it is quite different with its new OOP java-like features.
- > –my main reason for not considering VB.NET before was because it wasn't
- > open or free. But now we can use SharpDevelop or Mono's mbas and
- > MonoDevelop, although I believe its vb implementation is behind on .NET
- > 2.0 features.
- > –The array index thing is a bit strange, like this creates a 5 item array,
- > not 4: Dim names(4) As String
- > –the popularity of VB and VB.NET seems to be waning. Book sales have

Re: questions about VB.NET, and uses in education

- > dropped a good bit over the past couple of years. People are switching to
- > C# instead of VB.NET I guess. It seems like most every .NET code sample
- > out there is in C# too instead of VB.NET.
- > –both VB.NET and C# have no type inference. If the compiler were open and
- > flexible we could add this ourselves (see the boo language for .NET for
- > example) as well as other useful new features that may take Microsoft
- > years to add if they add them at all.
- > –event handling is clunky, "AddHandler MsgArrivedEvent, AddressOf
- > My_MsgArrivedCallback"
- >
- > GENERAL DRAWBACKS OF .NET FOR EDUCATION
- > –can't run apps in any browser like java, only IE on Windows
- > –not as geared to animations and simulations like java and flash are
- > –Mono hasn't caught on as much yet as hopefully it will

• **References:**

- ◆ **questions about VB.NET, and uses in education**

◇ From: D H

- Prev by Date: **Re: VB6 to VB.NET – Whers MDI?**
- Next by Date: **Re: Access DB questions**
- Previous by thread: **questions about VB.NET, and uses in education**
- Next by thread: **Re: questions about VB.NET, and uses in education**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **Date**
 - ◆ **Thread**