

## Re: Indirect referencing in VB6

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VB/microsoft.public.vb.general.discussion/2004-04/3906.html>

---

**From:** Bonj (a\_at\_b.com)

**Date:** 04/28/04

Date: Wed, 28 Apr 2004 22:07:51 +0100

If there's any need for a user to be able to 'see into' an application, it should be decided what data is going to be need to be seen and how much informaion/in what format it needs to be presented. For instance, 'operating variables' for business rules should be able to be seen maybe, but loop counters, some tracking variables and flags, and intermediate calculations perhaps shouldn't. Group together the variables that need to be exposed, and if necessary wrap them with a class / put them into a collection or whatever. You can then add whatever information is necessary and enumerate them without needing code for each one (and possible future ones).

"Jonathan" <KingsKnight1@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:ek91OsVLEHA.1388@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...

> *Wow, this generated a whole lot of conversation. Given that I'll try to explain where I'm coming from and where I want to go.*

>

>

>

> *I have a moderate sized application to which I want to add a small runtime diagnostics module. Really nothing more than a form with a text box and a list box that will display the value of public variables (listed in the*

*list box) at a given time. What I could have done (and did do) was set up a big SELECT statement so that when a variable name was selected from the list box, its value was displayed in the text box. Finding this very inelegant*

**I**

> *was trying to think of a more compact way to do it; somehow taking the literal variable names and somehow use them to point to the value. I was a*

**C**

> *programmer before I was a VB programmer so I must have been thinking of something I had done in C and thought it was VB. Oh well. Thanks for the contributions.*

>

>

>

> *Regards,*

>

> *Jonathan*

>

>  
>  
> *"Tony Proctor" <tony\_proctor@aimtechnology\_NOSPAM\_.com> wrote in message  
> news:OrAo7SVLEHA.1644@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...*  
>> *I understand why Rick is asking those questions. There is no direct  
>> translation in VB, and so digging deeper to find what the OP really  
wants*  
> *to*  
>> *achieve is the right way to go.*  
>>  
>> *I just wanted to point out that it may be that the OP was used to a  
>> different language system, i.e. not a native VB user*  
>>  
>> *When mentioning 'other language systems' I was really think more about  
> macro*  
>> *processors than pointer-based languages. There's a strong analogy  
between*  
>> *the text indirection and macros calls of these systems with pointer  
>> indirection and procedure calls in traditional languages.*  
>>  
>> *Tony Proctor*  
>>  
>> *"Bonj" <a@b.com> wrote in message  
>> news:umnqq2ULEHA.1644@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...*  
>>> *It does use pointers though – what about when you pass a value byref,  
> this*  
>>> *is the VB equivalent of a C/C++ program passing a pointer. If VB wants  
> to*  
>>> *pass a long byref to an api, the C/C++ function has to be declared in  
> the*  
>>> *DLL with long\* (long pointer).*  
>>> *Thus, isn't it doing the same thing when it passes it to another of  
its*  
>> *own*  
>>> *functions?*  
>>>  
>>> *"Rick Rothstein" <rickNOSPAMnews@NOSPAMcomcast.net> wrote in message  
>>> news:OCY97ZTLEHA.2976@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...*  
>>>> *I know about pointers and 'C', but the whole language is structured  
> for*  
>>>> *their use (for example, access to Strings, which are not "strings"  
in*  
>>>> *'C', rather they are arrays). It is my understanding that C++ sort  
of*  
>>>> *discourages their use and doesn't suffer for it. VB, like PASCAL  
>>>> (another 'C' type derivative), doesn't use pointers at all and yet  
>>>> coding in both is not hampered by this either. My question was  
> basically*  
>>>> *for the OP to cite a example (his code requirements) where this sort  
> of*  
>>>> *indirection (in VB) would be useful and could not easily be handled*

>>>> using normal constructs.  
>>>>  
>>>> Rick – MVP  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> "Tony Proctor" <tony\_proctor@aimtechnology\_NOSPAM\_.com> wrote in  
> message  
>>>> news:O20bEPTLEHA.2736@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...  
>>>>> It's a style supported, and encouraged, in some other language  
> systems  
>>>>> though Rick. In particular, pointer-based languages such as C do  
> this  
>>>>> all  
>>>>> the time. The only difference is that the linkage uses a binary  
>>>>> address  
>>>>> rather than the symbolic name.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Tony Proctor  
>>>>>  
>>>>> "Rick Rothstein" <rickNOSPAMnews@NOSPAMcomcast.net> wrote in  
message  
>>>>> news:eVvMshSLEHA.3516@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...  
>>>>>> Please tell me if there is a way to do this in VB6.  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> I have a string variable. In this variable is the name of  
> another  
>>>>>>> variable.  
>>>>>>> Is there a way to access the contents of the 2nd variable  
> through  
>>>> the  
>>>>>> first  
>>>>>>> without using an IF or SELECT to test for all possibilities?  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> Dim strVar1 as String  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> Dim strVar2 as string  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> strVar2 = "Hello World!"  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> strVar1 = "strVar2"  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> Can I get the value of strVar2 by referencing strVar1? I could  
>>>> swear  
>>>>>>> there's  
>>>>>>>> a way to do it but I can't remember how! L  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> You must be asking something deeper than the words you used to  
ask  
>>>> this  
>>>>>>> question... doesn't simply

>>>>>>  
>>>>>> *strVar1 = strVar2*  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>> *do what you are asking? Or are you asking for some kind of*  
> *permanent*  
>>>>>> *linkage so that after changing the contents of strVar2 somewhere*  
>>>> *inside*  
>>>>>> *of your program, strVar1 will automatically mirror that change*  
>>>> *without*  
>>>>>> *making the above direct assignment? If that is what you are*  
after,  
>>>> *no,*  
>>>>>> *VB doesn't do this. However, in 20+ years of programming in*  
>>>> *BASIC/VB, I*  
>>>>>> *can honestly say I've never come across the need to do this.*  
What  
> *is*  
>>>>>> *your program doing (that is, what is it in your program's logic)*  
>>>> *that*  
>>>>>> *makes such a linkage necessary? Since I can't imagine the*  
> *situation*  
>>>>>> *requiring this, I'd really like to know.*  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>> *Rick – MVP*  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>  
>