

## Re: Newbie scratching his head

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VisualStudio/microsoft.public.vstudio.general/2006-01/msg00069.html>

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- *From:* "Tony Sperling" <[tony.sperling@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:tony.sperling@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 11 Jan 2006 16:51:37 +0100
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When I took my first steps in this field, many years ago, I tried BASIC from the assumption that it was easier. I absolutely didn't understand enough of it to get over the initial hurdles. I had read that 'C' was not recommended for beginners, but QuicC came out and was rather un-costly, so I bought it. Actually, this was really easy – but, then I am a nuts and bolts kind of guy, everything made complete sense to me from the very start – following up on the algorithms and actually getting your stuff done, has not so much to do with the language, if it is a difficult subject, it will be a difficult job.

It all depends on the way you like to think about things, I agree with the above – I don't like BASIC, but I like having some good books around, if you are going to concentrate on something 'C -like' I recommend laying your hands on the Petzold and the Prosis, they will end up being useful whatever language you decide to use for Windows Programming.

Tony. . .

"Charlie Tame" <[charlie@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:charlie@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message

[news:%23ozfOvIFGHA.3532@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23ozfOvIFGHA.3532@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

> As a complete Newbie myself only a few months back (although I had done some

> machine code back in Amiga days and some before that) I decided to try the

> VS2005 betas and VS2003 just to see the differences. As a result, thinking

I

> should actually try to do some serious study at last, I bought books on

C++,

> VB and C# – all the .net versions I guess.

>

> Based on my almost total lack of knowledge of all 3 languages I figured that

> C# is the most likely to advance the quickest, and thus be adopted more

> while VB kinda fades out. I remain convinced that OOP is a myth, brought

> about by aliens who intend to nullify our technological advancement by

> creating confusion and placing the entire human race inside curly brackets,

> but if we're going to let them get away with it we may as well go the

Re: Newbie scratching his head

> easiest route :)  
>  
> Actually even Quickbasic can be more "Powerful" than it ever got credit for,  
> but I don't necessarily think that "Power" means the same to all people.  
In  
> terms of getting to the hardware, and speed, I maintain that machine code  
> (Well assembler of course) is the only "Powerful" language, but to use it  
> these days and see any benefit you'd have to reinvent so many wheels it  
> would be a lifetime's work to get to what most users expect to see. I mean  
> there's not much point in writing super efficient code and still having to  
> call Windows routines written in C++ to show the results :)  
>  
> Frankly I never liked Visual Basic, to me it was neither Visual nor Basic,  
> so I am kinda biased against it despite recognizing that the current  
> versions are vastly superior, but I think my hurdle is getting to grips with  
with  
> OOP rather than C#, so I can only suggest you go with what seems to sink  
in  
> best with you.  
>  
> On a totally different topic I would add that some months ago I acquired  
by  
> accident a spare PCI video card so for the hell of it installed it to see  
> what happened. Since then I have to wonder how one manages with just a  
> single monitor and desktop – since you can drag any help off to one side  
and  
> or test you code while still looking through it. It's like a cordless  
drill,  
> you wonder how the heck we ever managed before they were invented :)  
Perhaps  
> some of the hardened old "Pros" will laugh but I do seriously think it is  
a  
> very useful addition while learning.  
>  
> Good luck, I figure I'm probably quite old for a newbie but there ya go...  
>  
> Charlie  
>  
>  
>  
> "BPB" <BPB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
> [news:7DA33E03-283B-45C0-8D3E-8A1787E221FD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:7DA33E03-283B-45C0-8D3E-8A1787E221FD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>> I've been a designer for years, never getting into development since I  
>> would  
>> just hire others to do the heavy lifting. For various reasons I have  
>> decided  
>> to do development myself. However, I would like to learn one language  
>> first  
>> then move on to others. What would you recommend I start out with?  
Visual

Re: Newbie scratching his head

Re: Newbie scratching his head

>> Basic looks like it's easiest to learn, but I've read that C# is much more  
>> powerful. I haven't really found any articles to explain the differences  
>> between the 2 languages. Does anyone have any information?  
>> Thanks  
>> —  
>> BPB  
>  
>

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• **References:**

- ◆ **[Re: Newbie scratching his head](#)**  
◇ From: Charlie Tame

- Prev by Date: **[Unexpected display in VS2003 search & replace progress dialog](#)**
- Next by Date: **[Winsock Fixer for XP](#)**
- Previous by thread: **[Re: Newbie scratching his head](#)**
- Next by thread: **[Re: VB and C# code together in VS2005?](#)**
- Index(es):
  - ◆ **[Date](#)**
  - ◆ **[Thread](#)**