

Immediate Window Guided Tour

Overview

Every Access database includes a Visual Basic Project. The steps below will help you become acquainted with Visual Basic's Immediate Window, where you can type in a statement and have VB immediately execute it. We will use the Immediate Window extensively this semester.

Steps

1. Launch *Windows Explorer* and open `\CIS 217 Data Files\Others\Artie's List.mdb`.
2. Take a few moments to browse through its objects. There should be a five tables and three forms.
3. Press [Ctrl] + [G] to open the Visual Basic editor (VBE). The Immediate window should be at the bottom-right portion of the screen. *Access* is still running, as evidenced by its Taskbar button.



4. Type each of the following statements/expressions in the Immediate Window, then watch for the result. Be careful with punctuation. Note: the **?** symbol is shorthand for "print the value of."

Step	Statement/expression	Comment
a)	beep	
b)	? 2+5	
c)	for i = 1 to 10 : ? i : next i	Count from 1 to 10.
d)	? date()	What is today's date? (notice the default display format)
e)	?format (date(), "Dddd Mmmm dd, yyyy")	Uses the Format function to display the date differently. As you type, the Auto List feature displays command's syntax.
f)	? #12/25/2010# - date()	Performs date arithmetic to find out how many shopping days left 'til Christmas.
g)	? currentdb.name	Where is this database file stored?
h)	? pmt(.08/12,48,-25000)	What is the monthly payment for a \$25,000 loan at 8% over 4 years?
i)	? ucase("tomorrow")	Use a string function.
j)	? left("tomorrow", 3)	Use another string function.
k)	a=3	This command creates a variable (storage location in memory) named a and stores the value 3 in that memory location. There will be no response since you didn't use a ? at the beginning of the statement.
l)	b=4	This command creates a variable named b and stores the value 4 in that memory location.
m)	? a*b	Do multiplication on the values stored in the variables.
n)	fname="Evan"	This statement creates a variable named fname and stores the

		character string "Evan" there.
o)	lname="Callahan"	This statement creates a variable named lname and stores the character string "Callahan" there.
p)	? lname & ", " & fname	Do string concatenation. Include a space after the comma to improve readability.
q)	? currentdb.tabledefs.count	How many tables are in the current database? TableDefs is the name of a collection that contains information about every table in the database. In addition to the tables you see in the Navigation Pane, this database contains several hidden system tables.
r)	? currentdb.tabledefs!tblRestaurant.recordcount	How many records are stored in tblRestaurant?
s)	Right-click an open area of the Taskbar, then select Tile Windows Horizontally.	The remaining items have Access work with a form. It will be helpful to split the screen so you can watch the Access and VB windows simultaneously.
t)	? currentproject.allforms.count	How many forms are <i>saved</i> in this database? AllForms is the name of a <i>collection</i> that contains information about every saved form. Like an array, the collection is zero-based.
u)	? currentproject.allforms(0).name	What is the name of the first form in the collection?
v)	DoCmd.OpenForm "frmRestaurant"	Opens <i>frmRestaurant</i> (switch to Access to see it). You should see the <i>first</i> record. What is the name of this restaurant?
w)	? forms![frmRestaurant]![restaurant].value	Which restaurant is currently displayed?
x)	DoCmd.gotorecord acForm, "frmRestaurant", acNext	Navigates to the next record. Which restaurant is now displayed in the <i>second</i> record?
y)	? forms![frmRestaurant].AllowEdits	Check whether this form allows us to edit a record.
z)	forms![frmRestaurant]![phone]= "480-555-1212"	Set the current record's phone to a new value. Does the text box now show this phone? What does the  symbol on the left side of <i>frmRestaurant</i> indicate?
aa)	DoCmd.RunCommand acCmdUndo	Is the  now replaced by  ?
bb)	DoCmd.close acForm, "frmRestaurant"	Closes the form.

Before you quit, you'll copy the commands and results listed in your Immediate window to a new document so you'll be able to upload it for grading.

cc)	Click anywhere in the Immediate window. Now press [Ctrl] + [A] to select the window's contents. Press [Ctrl] + [C] to copy the selection to the Windows Clipboard.	
dd)	Launch a word processor (eg: Word or WordPad), then enter your full name in the first line of the new document. Now paste the Immediate window content into the new document.	
ee)	Save the document to your \CIS217 Data Files\Others folder as Immediate Window Answers- your name here .	
ff)	Return to VB by clicking its Taskbar button.	
gg)	DoCmd.quit	Quits Access (and Visual Basic).

It is important to realize that each of these statements could have been executed within a Visual Basic procedure and would have produced the same result they did here from the Immediate Window. In fact, you'll soon be writing VB procedure that will make use of these capabilities!