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Lesson 9 - Displaying Images


In this lesson you'll learn how to incorporate pictures into your programs.


Create the Directory of the MyImage Program, Start Visual Basic 4, and Save the Form and the Project Files

In this lesson you are going to create several files. So first of all, let's create a directory where the files that you'll create during the course of this lesson are saved.


 Create the **C:\VBMProg\Lesson09** directory.

 Start Visual Basic, and then select **New Project** from the **File** menu of Visual Basic.

 Select **Project** from the **View** menu of Visual Basic to display the Project window. Click the **View Form** button of the Project window to make **Form1** the selected form.


 While Form1 is the selected window, select **Save File As** from the **File** menu of Visual Basic.

Visual Basic responds by displaying the **Save File As** dialog box.

 Save the Form file as **MyImage.frm** inside the **C:\VBMyProg\Lesson09** directory.


 Select **Save Project As** from the **File** menu of Visual Basic.

Visual Basic responds by displaying the **Save Project As** dialog box.

 Save the project file as **MyImage.vbp** inside the **C:\VBMyProg\Lesson09** directory.

Set the Properties of Form1

You'll now set the properties of **Form1**.

 Make the **Form1** window the selected window, and then press the **F4** key on your keyboard to display the **Properties** window of Form1.


 Set the properties of **Form1** as follows:


Property	Setting
Name	frmMyImage
Caption	The MyImage Program
Height	3570
Width	3885
BackColor	White

 Select **Save Project** from the **File** menu of Visual Basic to save your work.


Implementing the Exit button

You'll now place the **Exit** button inside the **frmMyImage** form.

 Make sure that the frmMyImage form is the selected window, and then double-click the CommandButton icon inside the Toolbox window.

 Make the CommandButton that you placed inside the form the selected object, press F4 on your keyboard to display the Properties window, and then set the properties of the CommandButton as follows:

Property	Setting
Name	cmdExit
Caption	E&xit
Height	495
Width	1215
Top	2520
Left	1200

 Double click the **cmdExit** button to display the **Code** window, set the **Object** list box of the Code window to **cmdExit**, set the **Proc** list box of the Code window to **Click**, and then type the following code inside the **cmdExit_Click()** procedure:

```
Private Sub cmdExit_Click()
```

```
End
```

```
End Sub
```

 Select **Save project** from the **File** menu of Visual Basic to save your work.

The code that you typed is executed automatically whenever the user clicks the **Exit** button. This code causes the program to terminate itself.

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Placing the Image Control

You'll now place the **Image** control inside the frmMyImage form.


The icon of the **Image** control inside the Toolbox is shown in Figure 9.1. In Figure 9.1 the icon of the Image is shown on the left column as the second icon from the bottom. But in your Toolbox, the icon of the Image tool may be located in a different location inside your Toolbox window.



Figure 9.1. *The icon of the Image control inside the Toolbox window.*

NOTE

When you place the mouse cursor (without clicking) on the Image tool inside the Toolbox window, a yellow rectangle with the text **Image** appears.

 Make sure that the frmMyImage form is the selected window, and then double click the Image control inside the Toolbox window.

Visual Basic responds by placing the Image control inside the frmMyImage form (see Figure 9.2).

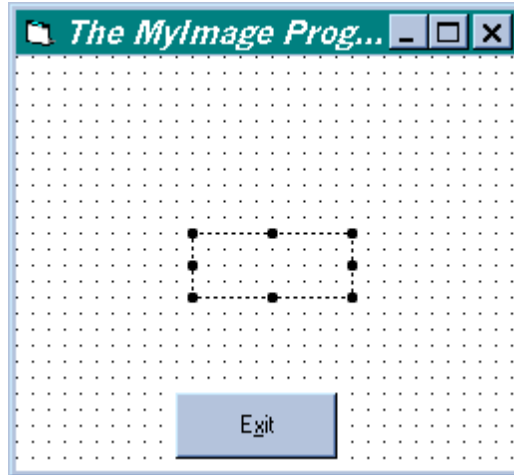




Figure 9.2. The form with the Image control in it.

Setting the Picture Property of the Image Control


The **Image** control is used for displaying images. In particular, you set the **Picture** property of the Image control with the picture that you want to display. Here is how you set the Picture property of the Image control:

 Click the Image control that you placed inside the form to make it the selected object, and then press the F4 key to display the Properties window of the Image control.


Currently, the cell to the right of the Picture property has the text **(None)** in it (that's why currently the Image control does not have any picture in it).

 Click inside the cell to the right of the Picture property, and then click the three dots icon that appears inside the cell to the right of the Picture property.

Visual Basic responds by displaying the **Load Picture** dialog box.

 Use the **Load Picture** dialog box to load a picture file. The picture file can be a BMP file for example. The **Files of type** list box that is located at the lower portion of the **Load Picture** dialog box lets you select different types of picture files. For now, set the **Files of type** list box to **All Picture Files**, and select a BMP picture. For example, you can select the **Bird0.BMP** picture that resides inside the **C:\TegoVB4\VBMyProg\BMP** directory.

Visual Basic responds by filling the Image control with the picture of the Bird0.BMP file.

 Drag the Image control upward so that the form will look as shown in Figure 9.3.

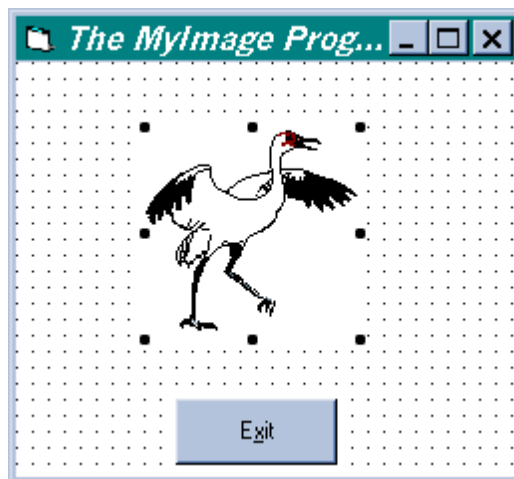


Figure 9.3. *The Image control contains the Bird0.BMP picture.*

NOTE

Note that by default, the Image control automatically changed its size so that the size of the Image control has the same as the Bird0.BMP picture.

The reason the Image control did not stretch the BMP picture to fit the picture in the original size of the Image control is because one of the properties of the Image control is the **Stretch** property, and the default value of this property is **False**. If you set the **Stretch** property of the **Image** control to **True**, the BMP picture will be stretched/shrunk to fit inside the original area of the Image control.

Let's see the MyImage program in action:

 Select Start from the Run menu of Visual Basic.

Visual Basic responds by executing the MyImage program, and the window of the program appears as shown in Figure 9.4.

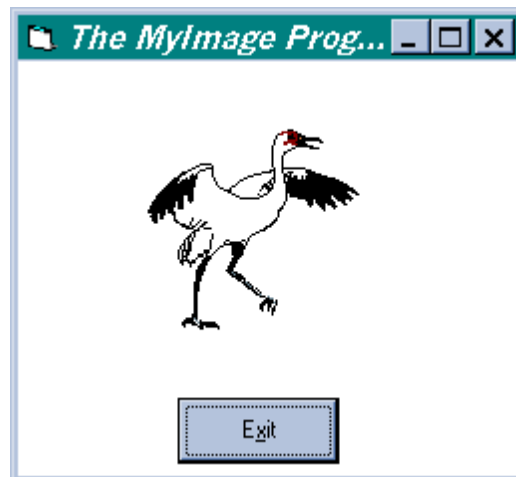



Figure 9.4. *The MyImage program with the Bird0.BMP picture in it.*

 Click the Exit button of the MyImage program to terminate the program.

What You Accomplished in This Lesson

An Icon file is a picture file that contains a small picture. These small pictures are used for example as program icons. A program icon file has the file extension ICO as in MyIcon.ICO.

An icon file can also represent the picture that is used for the mouse cursor. In this case, the file has the file extension CUR as in MyCursor.CUR.

You need a special program to generate ICO and CUR files.

In any case, you can use the **Load Picture** dialog box to load a BMP picture, a metafile picture, or an Icon picture.

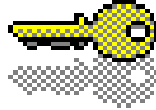
Exam



1. When the **Stretch** property of the **Image** control is set to **False**:
 - (a) The BMP picture will stretched/shrunked itself to fit inside the original size of the Image control.
 - (b) The BMP picture will not be stretched. Rather, the BMP picture will be shown in its original size, and the Image control will automatically adjust its own size so that the Image control has the same size of the original BMP picture.

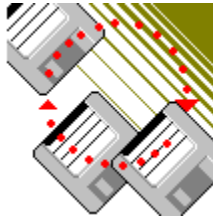
Answers to Exam

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1. (b) When the **Stretch** property of the **Image** control is set to **False**, the BMP picture will not be stretched/shrunked. Rather, the BMP picture will be shown in its original size, and the Image control will automatically adjust its own size so that the Image control has the same size of the original BMP picture. If you want the BMP picture to stretched/shrunked so that the picture will fit in the original size of the Image control, set the Stretched property to True.

Project




Currently, the image that is displayed by the MyImage program does not have a frame around the picture. Modify the MyImage program so that the Bird0.BMP picture will have a frame around it.

The preceding is very easy to implement as follows:

 Set the **BorderStyle** property of the **Image** control that you placed inside the form to: **1- Fixed Single**

 Select Save Project from the File menu of Visual Basic to save your work.

 Select Start from the Run menu of Visual Basic to execute the MyImage program.

The window of the MyImage program now looks as shown in Figure 9.5.



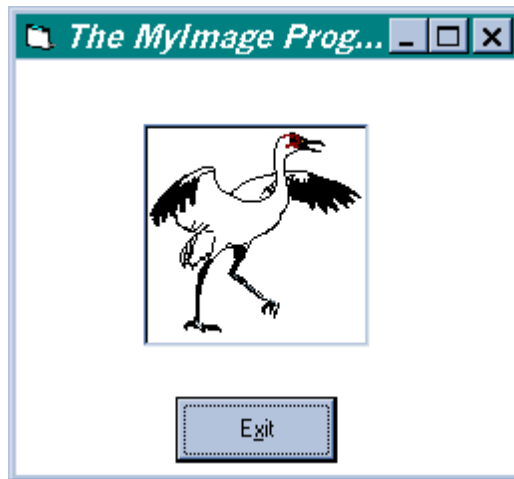



Figure 9.5. *The MyImage program with the BorderStyle property of the Image control set to 1-Fixed Single.*

 Click the Exit button to terminate the program.

Now modify the MyImage program so that the Bird picture will appear smaller:

 Set the **Stretch** property of the Image control to **True**.

 Use the mouse to drag the edges of the **Image** control to make it smaller.

 Select Start from the Run menu of Visual Basic.

Visual Basic responds by executing the MyImage program, and the window of the MyImage program looks as shown in Figure 9.6.

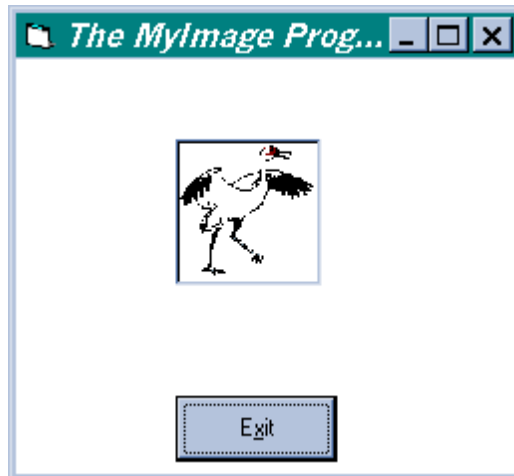



Figure 9.6. *The Image control with a shrunk version of the Bird picture in it.*

The **Name** property that Visual Basic set for the **Image** control that you placed inside the form is **Image1** (you can verify this by examining the **Name** property of the image control inside the Properties window).

The Image control has all the "standard" properties and events that most controls have. Let's see this in action. In particular, let's see the **Click** event of the Image control in action:

 Double click the **Image1** control that you placed inside the form to display the Code window. Set the **Object** list box to **Image1**, and set the **Proc** list box to **Click**.

Visual Basic responds by displaying the **Image1_Click()** procedure as follows:

Private Sub Image1_Click()

End Sub

 Type the following code inside the **Image1_Click()** procedure:

Private Sub Image1_Click()


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MsgBox "You clicked the bird"


End Sub

 Select Save Project from the File menu of Visual Basic to save your work.

The **Image1_Click()** procedure is automatically executed whenever the image is clicked. The code that you typed inside the Image1_Click() procedure displays a message box that has the in it the text: **You clicked the bird.**

 Select Start from the Run menu of Visual Basic to execute the MyImage program.

 Click the bird picture and notice the message box that pops up.

 Experiment with the MyImage program, and then click its Exit button to terminate the program.

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USA

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Company (if applicable): _____
Your phone number: _____
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Country (if not USA): _____
State (if inside USA): _____

Operating System used: _____
Programming language and version : _____

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My technical question is:

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