

IST 256
Lab Week 1, Day 1 – August 31, 2009

Your name: _____

Lab Exercise. Writing your first program

1. Login to lab computers

Check your directory (folder) structure and go to your H: drive on your SU space. Create a folder to hold all of your class projects; name it something like IST256Projects.

2. Open Visual Studio 2008

Go to the Program menu and find Visual Studio 2008. The **first time that you start Visual Studio**, it may ask you to choose default environment settings. Select **Visual Basic Development Settings** and click the button Start Visual Studio. Now there may be a wait while it configures your settings.

- **Start a new project:**
 - Under the File menu, select **New -> Project**, and a new project window will pop up. Make sure that the Project Type is **Visual Basic** (under Other Languages).
 - Visual Studio installed templates is **Windows Application**
 - Change the Name field to be **Hello**.
 - **IF there is a Location field**, browse to the folder that you made earlier as the location for your project. Visual Studio will automatically save your program here.
- **Visual Studio should open windows** for you to work on:
 - In the middle is the space that shows forms and programs. Initially there will be a **Form1.vb[design]** tab.
 - On the right should be the **Solution Explorer** and the **Properties** windows
 - On the left should be the **Toolbox**
 - If any of these are not open, go to the View menus and select them
- **IF there was not a Location field, Save this project on the H: drive**
 - Go to the **File menu** and do a **Save All**. Select that projects folder that you made earlier on the H: drive as the place to save your project.

3. Work on the initial form called Form1.

Now you will create the visual interface to your program:

- Change the size and shape of the form by dragging the corner with the mouse.
- Under Properties, change the **Text** property (at the bottom of the list) to be the label on the top bar of the form. Instead of Form1, it should be called something related to the project, such as “Hello” or “MyFirstProgram”. After you hit

“Enter”, the text should appear in the bar. (You can also change the Name property of the form, but for this class, we can leave it to be Form1.)

- **Add a label and a button to the form** by dragging the objects from the Toolbox. To change the properties of each object, use your mouse to select the object and its properties will appear in the Properties box. Change their Text properties. Play around with sizes, and change colors if you want to. Change the Font typeface and size (use the + to open and close the Font properties menu.)

4. To add a program to be executed when the user clicks the button, double click on the button on your form. Note that a new tabbed window pops up to hold the programs for this form. (In the tabs, the form is called Form1.vb[Design] and its programs are in Form1.vb.) In the blank space between the line starting “Private Sub” and the line “End “sub”, type the text:

```
MsgBox(“Welcome to my first Visual Basic program!”)
```

When this program is executed, MsgBox is a built-in function that will create a popup box with the message inside the quotes. (You can make this message be whatever you like.)

5. Execute this program by going under the Debug menu and selecting **Start Without Debugging**. If your menu doesn’t have this, use **Start With Debugging**. When the program executes, it should bring up the user interface form, and if you click on the button, the message box should appear. When you are done admiring your first program, be sure to close both these windows.

- At any time, if you leave Visual Studio, **use Save All** to save your project. When you start Visual Studio again, the name of the project should appear on the recently used list, and you can click on it if you want to continue working on the project.

6. To complete the lab, you must PRINT your program. This will be just the Form1.vb tab that contains the code.

Show this program to Prof. McCracken at the end of lab on Wednesday in order to get credit for doing the labs in this week.

When you are done, be sure that you saved your project to your folder on the H: drive.