

twinBASIC:

Past, Present, and Future

twinBASIC is a project by Wayne Phillips
creator of vbWatchdog and other fine products at everythingaccess.com

Presented by Mike Wolfe of nolongerset.com

Outline

- **Past:** Brief history of twinBASIC
- **Present:** How you can use it today
- **Future:** What's around the corner
- **tBA Demo:** A VBA replacement?

PAST: What is twinBASIC?

- Fully Compiled Language
- 100% Backwards Compatible (VBA/VB6)
- New Language Features
 - Generics, class constructors, Return syntax, Unicode everywhere, inline initialization, AndAlso/OrElse, method overloading

Progress Update

- MDI Forms and Access-like Reports
- Compatibility: ActiveX, Forms, Events
- Static Library Support (SQLite, libdeflate)
- Community Projects ([fafalone](#): [WinDevLib](#))
- V1 [Tentative Release Date](#): 31 DEC 2024

Form Improvements

- VB6 Compatibility:
 - Support for multiple form windows (MDI)
 - Low-level event behavior sequencing
- New Features (not in VB6):
 - Control Anchoring (responsive resizing)
 - Opacity/Gradient Support (forms & controls)

Reports

- Built-in Visual Designer
- Supports bound and unbound reports
- QR Codes, Gradients, Custom Borders
- Expression evaluation service (like Access)

PRESENT: How Can You Use It?

- API Declare Examples ([WinDevLib](#))
- Developing custom components ([ActiveX](#))
- Extending Access applications ([VCS addin](#))
- Migrate complex VB6 apps ([PhotoDemon](#))
- Replacing legacy scripts (e.g., [VBScript](#))

WinDevLib: API Declare Examples

- New > Console App
- Project > References > Packages > “Windows Development Library”
- Type API function (e.g., `Sleep`)
- Press [Shift] + [F2] to see definition

Custom ActiveX Components

Create a **twinBASIC** COM Addin



TWINBASIC

HOW TO: Creating an Office COM Add-in with twinBASIC

Ever wish you could turn your VBA code into a COM add-in that would run in 32- AND 64-bit Office applications? It's easier than ever with twinBASIC.

 Mike Wolfe
Jun 13, 2022 • 5 min read

Handle **Excel** Events with a **twinBASIC** COM Addin



TWINBASIC

HOW TO: Handle Excel Events in a twinBASIC COM Addin

You can now use twinBASIC to create a COM add-in for Excel that handles Excel Application events like NewWorkbook and WorkbookOpen.

 Mike Wolfe
Aug 23, 2022 • 7 min read



TWINBASIC

HOW TO: Create a Custom ActiveX Control with twinBASIC

Did you ever wish you could build a custom control for Microsoft Access forms and reports? With twinBASIC, that's a 15-minute project.

 Mike Wolfe
Apr 23, 2022 • 5 min read

VBIDE Addins and Standard DLLs

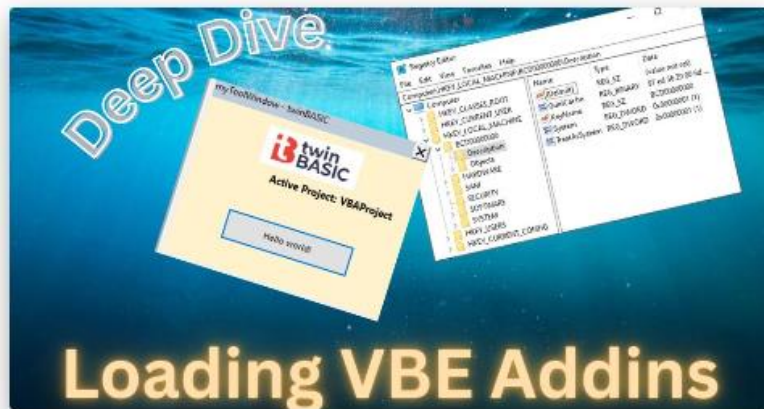


TWINBASIC

HOW TO: Create a Tool Window in the VBIDE with twinBASIC

Move over Rubberduck VBA and MZ-Tools. The next great VBE addin is going to be built with twinBASIC. Here are step-by-step instructions to get you started.

 Mike Wolfe
Apr 26, 2022 • 7 min read



COM

How VBA IDE Addins Get Loaded From the Windows Registry

A deep dive into how VBA IDE addins get loaded from the Windows Registry to help you avoid getting stuck in DLL hell.

 Mike Wolfe
Apr 12, 2024 • 6 min read



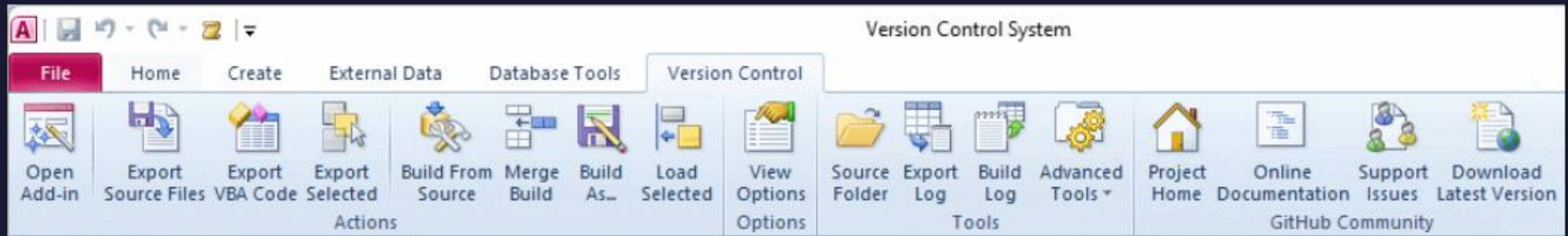
TWINBASIC

HOW TO: Creating a Standard (non-ActiveX) DLL with twinBASIC

With twinBASIC, you no longer need C++ to build a standard DLL. Call high-performance code from VBA without needing the Windows registry.

 Mike Wolfe
Jun 16, 2022 • 5 min read

Extend Access Apps: VCS Addin



“Ribbon Toolbar with 64-bit support! Thanks to some fantastic work by Wayne Phillips on the twinBASIC project, we have a practical *and easy* way to implement a user-friendly ribbon through a lightweight COM Add-in wrapper that passes commands back to the Access add-in.” -Adam Waller

Migrate VB6 Apps: PhotoDemon



FUTURE: What lies ahead?

- 12-Month Roadmap
- Other Post-v1.0 Features
- twinBASIC for Applications
- My Bold Prediction (from 23 APR 2021)

12-Month Roadmap

- LLVM Optimization
- Rename refactoring
- Test Explorer
- Full inheritance
- vbWatchdog
- Multi-thread syntax
- Linux/Mac/Android
- Other VB6 controls:
 - Winsock, MAPI, Adodc, DataGrid, MSCOMM, etc.

Post-v1.0 Features (*via Discord*)

- TypeLib Export
- ActiveX EXEs
- UInteger/ULong
- Object Browser
- Git Integration
- External Files
- Cmd Line Builds
- Out-of-process debugging

tBA: Integration Levels (*Tentative*)

- Level 1: IDE Replacement
- Level 2: “Transpilable” Syntax Support
 - Return, AndAlso/OrElse, +=, Inline Initialization
- Level 3: Full Language Replacement
 - Performance, Generics, Multi-threading
 - Deployments would require a tBA runtime

tBA: IDE Benefits

- Sticky Scrolling
- Syntax Highlighting
- CodeLens (Procedure Previews)
- Inline Code Hints (End If, Exit For, etc.)

tBA Demonstration



twinBASIC / EverythingAccess

@WaynePhillipsEA · [Follow](#)



Introducing "twinBASIC for applications" – the game-changing drop-in replacement for VBA (and VBA SDK). See our proof of concept inside MS ACCESS in action! 🚀



[#twinBASIC](#) [#VBA](#) [#Office](#)

My Bold Prediction (23 APR 2021)

- 1999: VBA6 => COM Add-in support
- 2010: VBA7 => 64-bit support
- 2025: VBA8 => 

Wayne gets paid



Licensing – Subscription-Based

Community	Professional	Ultimate
FREE	GBP £26 EUR €29 USD \$35 /mo*	GBP £39 EUR €45 USD \$52 /mo*
Create 32/64-bit EXE/DLLs	All Standard features plus:	All Professional features plus:
Splash screen for 64-bit	No splash screen on 64-bit EXE/DLL	Private product support via email
Windows only (unoptimized compilation)	Optimized compilation (still Windows-only)	Cross-platform support (Linux/Mac/Android)

* Pricing shown reflects a 35% pre-order discount (discounted forever)

- Commercial use, royalty-free license for *all editions*
- VIP Gold Lifetime License: **GBP £5000**
- Special Offer for UKAUG Attendees (thru **30 Nov**)

Questions?

Links and Resources:

nolongerset.com/ucaug-2024/