

VBA

Notes for Professionals

Chapter 5: Declaring Variables

Section 5.1: Type Hints

Type hints are heavily discouraged. They exist and are documented here for historical and other reasons. You should use the `As [datatype]` syntax instead.

```
Public Sub ExampleDeclaration()  
    Dim someInteger As Integer  
    Dim someLong As Long  
    Dim someSingle As Single  
    Dim someDouble As Double  
    Dim someString As String  
    Dim someBoolean As Boolean  
    Dim someDate As Date  
    Dim someCurrency As Currency  
    Dim someVariant As Variant  
    Dim someObject As Object  
    Dim someError As Error  
    Dim someUserDefinedType As UserDefinedType  
    Dim someUserDefinedType2 As UserDefinedType2  
    Dim someUserDefinedType3 As UserDefinedType3  
    Dim someUserDefinedType4 As UserDefinedType4  
    Dim someUserDefinedType5 As UserDefinedType5  
    Dim someUserDefinedType6 As UserDefinedType6  
    Dim someUserDefinedType7 As UserDefinedType7  
    Dim someUserDefinedType8 As UserDefinedType8  
    Dim someUserDefinedType9 As UserDefinedType9  
    Dim someUserDefinedType10 As UserDefinedType10  
    Dim someUserDefinedType11 As UserDefinedType11  
    Dim someUserDefinedType12 As UserDefinedType12  
    Dim someUserDefinedType13 As UserDefinedType13  
    Dim someUserDefinedType14 As UserDefinedType14  
    Dim someUserDefinedType15 As UserDefinedType15  
    Dim someUserDefinedType16 As UserDefinedType16  
    Dim someUserDefinedType17 As UserDefinedType17  
    Dim someUserDefinedType18 As UserDefinedType18  
    Dim someUserDefinedType19 As UserDefinedType19  
    Dim someUserDefinedType20 As UserDefinedType20  
End Sub
```

Type hints significantly decrease code readability and encourage a legacy programming style that is not recommended.

```
Dim strFiles As String  
Dim iFiles As Integer
```

Instead, declare variables closer to their usage and name things for what they're used for.

```
Dim path As String  
Dim handle As Integer
```

Type hints can also be used on literals to enforce a specific type. By default, a number will be interpreted as an `Integer` literal, but with a type hint you can control that.

```
Dim foo As Integer  
foo = 42  
Dim bar As Long  
bar = 42  
Dim baz As Double  
baz = 42  
Debug.Print TypeName(foo) 'prints "Integer"  
Debug.Print TypeName(bar) 'prints "Integer"  
Debug.Print TypeName(baz) 'prints "Double"
```

Type hints are usually not needed on literals, because they would be assigned to a `Variant` or implicitly converted to the appropriate type when passed as a parameter. Avoided using one of the explicit type conversion functions.

```
'Calls procedure AddSomething and passes a literal 42 as a Long  
AddSomething 42L  
  
'Calls procedure AddSomething and passes a literal 42 explicitly  
AddSomething 42
```

String-returning built-in functions
The majority of the built-in functions that handle strings come in two versions: a loosely typed version that returns a `String`, and a strongly typed version (ending with `!`) that returns a `String!`. Unless you are assigning the return value to a `Variant`, you should prefer the version that returns a `String!` - otherwise there is an implicit conversion of the return value.

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Chapter 13: Converting other types to strings

Section 13.1: Use CStr to convert a numeric type to a string

```
Const zipCode As Long = 10012  
Dim zipCodeText As String  
'Convert the zipCode number to a string of digit characters.  
zipCodeText = CStr(zipCode)  
'zipCodeText = "10012"
```

Section 13.2: Use Format to convert and format a numeric type as a string

```
Const zipCode As Long = 10012  
Dim zeroPaddedZipCode As String  
zeroPaddedZipCode = Format(zipCode, "00000000")  
'zeroPaddedZipCode = "00000012"
```

Section 13.3: Use StrConv to convert a byte-array of single-byte characters to a string

```
'Declare an array of bytes, assign single-byte character codes, and convert to a string  
Dim singleByteChars(4) As Byte  
singleByteChars(0) = 72  
singleByteChars(1) = 100  
singleByteChars(2) = 100  
singleByteChars(3) = 100  
singleByteChars(4) = 111  
Dim strFromSingleByteChars As String  
strFromSingleByteChars = StrConv(singleByteChars, vbUnicode)  
'strFromSingleByteChars = "H00011"
```

Section 13.4: Implicitly convert a byte array of multi-byte characters to a string

```
'Declare an array of bytes, assign multi-byte character codes, and convert to a string  
Dim multiByteChars(9) As Byte  
multiByteChars(0) = 87  
multiByteChars(1) = 0  
multiByteChars(2) = 111  
multiByteChars(3) = 0  
multiByteChars(4) = 114  
multiByteChars(5) = 0  
multiByteChars(6) = 100  
multiByteChars(7) = 0  
multiByteChars(8) = 100  
multiByteChars(9) = 0  
Dim strFromMultiByteChars As String  
strFromMultiByteChars = multiByteChars  
'strFromMultiByteChars = "H0011"
```

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Chapter 14: Date Time Manipulation

Section 14.1: Calendar

VBA supports 2 calendars: Gregorian and Hijri.
The `Calendar` property is used to modify or display the current calendar.

The 2 values for the Calendar are:

Value	Constant	Description
0	<code>vbCalendarGregorian</code>	Gregorian calendar (default)
1	<code>vbCalendarHijri</code>	Hijri calendar

Example
Sub CalendarExample()
 'Change the current setting.
 Calendar = vbCalendarHijri
 Debug.Print Calendar

```
'Dates in Gregorian Calendar  
Calendar = vbCalendarGregorian  
Dim Sample As Date  
'Create sample date of 2018-07-28  
Sample = DateSerial(2018, 7, 28)  
Debug.Print "Current Calendar : " & Calendar  
Debug.Print "Sample Date : " & Sample  
  
'Date in Hijri Calendar  
Calendar = vbCalendarHijri  
Debug.Print "Current Calendar : " & Calendar  
Debug.Print "Sample Date : " & Sample  
  
'Reset VBA to default value.  
Calendar = vbCalendarGregorian
```

This Sub prints the following:

```
Current Calendar : 0  
Sample Date = 2018-07-28  
Current Calendar : 1  
Sample Date = 1437-10-23
```

Section 14.2: Base functions

VBA supports 3 built-in functions to retrieve the date and/or time from the system's clock.

Function	Return Type	Return Value
<code>Now</code>	Date	Returns the current date and time
<code>Date</code>	Date	Returns the date portion of the current date and time
<code>Time</code>	Date	Returns the time portion of the current date and time

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Contents

About	1
Chapter 1: Getting started with VBA	2
Section 1.1: Accessing the Visual Basic Editor in Microsoft Office	2
Section 1.2: Debugging	3
Section 1.3: First Module and Hello World	4
Chapter 2: Comments	6
Section 2.1: Apostrophe Comments	6
Section 2.2: REM Comments	6
Chapter 3: String Literals - Escaping, non-printable characters and line-continuations	7
Section 3.1: Escaping the " character	7
Section 3.2: Assigning long string literals	7
Section 3.3: Using VBA string constants	7
Chapter 4: VBA Option Keyword	9
Section 4.1: Option Explicit	9
Section 4.2: Option Base {0 1}	10
Section 4.3: Option Compare {Binary Text Database}	12
Chapter 5: Declaring Variables	14
Section 5.1: Type Hints	14
Section 5.2: Variables	15
Section 5.3: Constants (Const)	18
Section 5.4: Declaring Fixed-Length Strings	19
Section 5.5: When to use a Static variable	20
Section 5.6: Implicit And Explicit Declaration	22
Section 5.7: Access Modifiers	22
Chapter 6: Declaring and assigning strings	24
Section 6.1: Assignment to and from a byte array	24
Section 6.2: Declare a string constant	24
Section 6.3: Declare a variable-width string variable	24
Section 6.4: Declare and assign a fixed-width string	24
Section 6.5: Declare and assign a string array	24
Section 6.6: Assign specific characters within a string using Mid statement	25
Chapter 7: Concatenating strings	26
Section 7.1: Concatenate an array of strings using the Join function	26
Section 7.2: Concatenate strings using the & operator	26
Chapter 8: Frequently used string manipulation	27
Section 8.1: String manipulation frequently used examples	27
Chapter 9: Substrings	29
Section 9.1: Use Left or Left\$ to get the 3 left-most characters in a string	29
Section 9.2: Use Right or Right\$ to get the 3 right-most characters in a string	29
Section 9.3: Use Mid or Mid\$ to get specific characters from within a string	29
Section 9.4: Use Trim to get a copy of the string without any leading or trailing spaces	29
Chapter 10: Searching within strings for the presence of substrings	30
Section 10.1: Use InStr to determine if a string contains a substring	30
Section 10.2: Use InStrRev to find the position of the last instance of a substring	30
Section 10.3: Use InStr to find the position of the first instance of a substring	30

Chapter 11: Assigning strings with repeated characters	31
Section 11.1: Use the String function to assign a string with n repeated characters	31
Section 11.2: Use the String and Space functions to assign an n-character string	31
Chapter 12: Measuring the length of strings	32
Section 12.1: Use the Len function to determine the number of characters in a string	32
Section 12.2: Use the LenB function to determine the number of bytes in a string	32
Section 12.3: Prefer `If Len(myString) = 0 Then` over `If myString = "" Then`	32
Chapter 13: Converting other types to strings	33
Section 13.1: Use CStr to convert a numeric type to a string	33
Section 13.2: Use Format to convert and format a numeric type as a string	33
Section 13.3: Use StrConv to convert a byte-array of single-byte characters to a string	33
Section 13.4: Implicitly convert a byte array of multi-byte-characters to a string	33
Chapter 14: Date Time Manipulation	34
Section 14.1: Calendar	34
Section 14.2: Base functions	34
Section 14.3: Extraction functions	36
Section 14.4: Calculation functions	37
Section 14.5: Conversion and Creation	39
Chapter 15: Data Types and Limits	41
Section 15.1: Variant	41
Section 15.2: Boolean	42
Section 15.3: String	42
Section 15.4: Byte	43
Section 15.5: Currency	44
Section 15.6: Decimal	44
Section 15.7: Integer	44
Section 15.8: Long	44
Section 15.9: Single	45
Section 15.10: Double	45
Section 15.11: Date	45
Section 15.12: LongLong	46
Section 15.13: LongPtr	46
Chapter 16: Naming Conventions	47
Section 16.1: Variable Names	47
Section 16.2: Procedure Names	50
Chapter 17: Data Structures	52
Section 17.1: Linked List	52
Section 17.2: Binary Tree	53
Chapter 18: Arrays	54
Section 18.1: Multidimensional Arrays	54
Section 18.2: Dynamic Arrays (Array Resizing and Dynamic Handling)	59
Section 18.3: Jagged Arrays (Arrays of Arrays)	60
Section 18.4: Declaring an Array in VBA	63
Section 18.5: Use of Split to create an array from a string	64
Section 18.6: Iterating elements of an array	65
Chapter 19: Copying, returning and passing arrays	67
Section 19.1: Passing Arrays to Procedures	67
Section 19.2: Copying Arrays	67
Section 19.3: Returning Arrays from Functions	69

Chapter 20: Collections	71
Section 20.1: Getting the Item Count of a Collection	71
Section 20.2: Determining if a Key or Item Exists in a Collection	71
Section 20.3: Adding Items to a Collection	72
Section 20.4: Removing Items From a Collection	73
Section 20.5: Retrieving Items From a Collection	74
Section 20.6: Clearing All Items From a Collection	75
Chapter 21: Operators	77
Section 21.1: Concatenation Operators	77
Section 21.2: Comparison Operators	77
Section 21.3: Bitwise \ Logical Operators	79
Section 21.4: Mathematical Operators	81
Chapter 22: Sorting	82
Section 22.1: Algorithm Implementation - Quick Sort on a One-Dimensional Array	82
Section 22.2: Using the Excel Library to Sort a One-Dimensional Array	82
Chapter 23: Flow control structures	85
Section 23.1: For loop	85
Section 23.2: Select Case	86
Section 23.3: For Each loop	87
Section 23.4: Do loop	88
Section 23.5: While loop	88
Chapter 24: Passing Arguments ByVal or ByRef	89
Section 24.1: Passing Simple Variables ByRef And ByVal	89
Section 24.2: ByRef	90
Section 24.3: ByVal	91
Chapter 25: Scripting.FileSystemObject	93
Section 25.1: Retrieve only the path from a file path	93
Section 25.2: Retrieve just the extension from a file name	93
Section 25.3: Recursively enumerate folders and files	93
Section 25.4: Strip file extension from a file name	94
Section 25.5: Enumerate files in a directory using FileSystemObject	94
Section 25.6: Creating a FileSystemObject	95
Section 25.7: Reading a text file using a FileSystemObject	95
Section 25.8: Creating a text file with FileSystemObject	96
Section 25.9: Using FSO.BuildPath to build a Full Path from folder path and file name	96
Section 25.10: Writing to an existing file with FileSystemObject	97
Chapter 26: Working With Files and Directories Without Using FileSystemObject	98
Section 26.1: Determining If Folders and Files Exist	98
Section 26.2: Creating and Deleting File Folders	99
Chapter 27: Reading 2GB+ files in binary in VBA and File Hashes	100
Section 27.1: This have to be in a Class module, examples later referred as "Random"	100
Section 27.2: Code for Calculating File Hash in a Standard module	103
Section 27.3: Calculating all Files Hash from a root Folder	105
Chapter 28: Creating a procedure	109
Section 28.1: Introduction to procedures	109
Section 28.2: Function With Examples	109
Chapter 29: Procedure Calls	111
Section 29.1: This is confusing. Why not just always use parentheses?	111
Section 29.2: Implicit Call Syntax	111

Section 29.3: Optional Arguments	112
Section 29.4: Explicit Call Syntax	112
Section 29.5: Return Values	113
Chapter 30: Conditional Compilation	114
Section 30.1: Changing code behavior at compile time	114
Section 30.2: Using Declare Imports that work on all versions of Office	115
Chapter 31: Object-Oriented VBA	117
Section 31.1: Abstraction	117
Section 31.2: Encapsulation	117
Section 31.3: Polymorphism	121
Chapter 32: Creating a Custom Class	124
Section 32.1: Adding a Property to a Class	124
Section 32.2: Class module scope, instancing and re-use	125
Section 32.3: Adding Functionality to a Class	125
Chapter 33: Interfaces	127
Section 33.1: Multiple Interfaces in One Class - Flyable and Swimable	127
Section 33.2: Simple Interface - Flyable	128
Chapter 34: Recursion	130
Section 34.1: Factorials	130
Section 34.2: Folder Recursion	130
Chapter 35: Events	132
Section 35.1: Sources and Handlers	132
Section 35.2: Passing data back to the event source	134
Chapter 36: Scripting.Dictionary object	136
Section 36.1: Properties and Methods	136
Chapter 37: Working with ADO	138
Section 37.1: Making a connection to a data source	138
Section 37.2: Creating parameterized commands	138
Section 37.3: Retrieving records with a query	139
Section 37.4: Executing non-scalar functions	141
Chapter 38: Attributes	142
Section 38.1: VB_PredeclaredId	142
Section 38.2: VB_[Var]UserMemId	142
Section 38.3: VB_Exposed	143
Section 38.4: VB_Description	144
Section 38.5: VB_Name	144
Section 38.6: VB_GlobalNameSpace	144
Section 38.7: VB_Createable	145
Chapter 39: User Forms	146
Section 39.1: Best Practices	146
Section 39.2: Handling QueryClose	148
Chapter 40: CreateObject vs. GetObject	150
Section 40.1: Demonstrating GetObject and CreateObject	150
Chapter 41: Non-Latin Characters	151
Section 41.1: Non-Latin Text in VBA Code	151
Section 41.2: Non-Latin Identifiers and Language Coverage	152
Chapter 42: API Calls	153
Section 42.1: Mac APIs	153

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