

Simple Demonstration Application – VB .NET Version

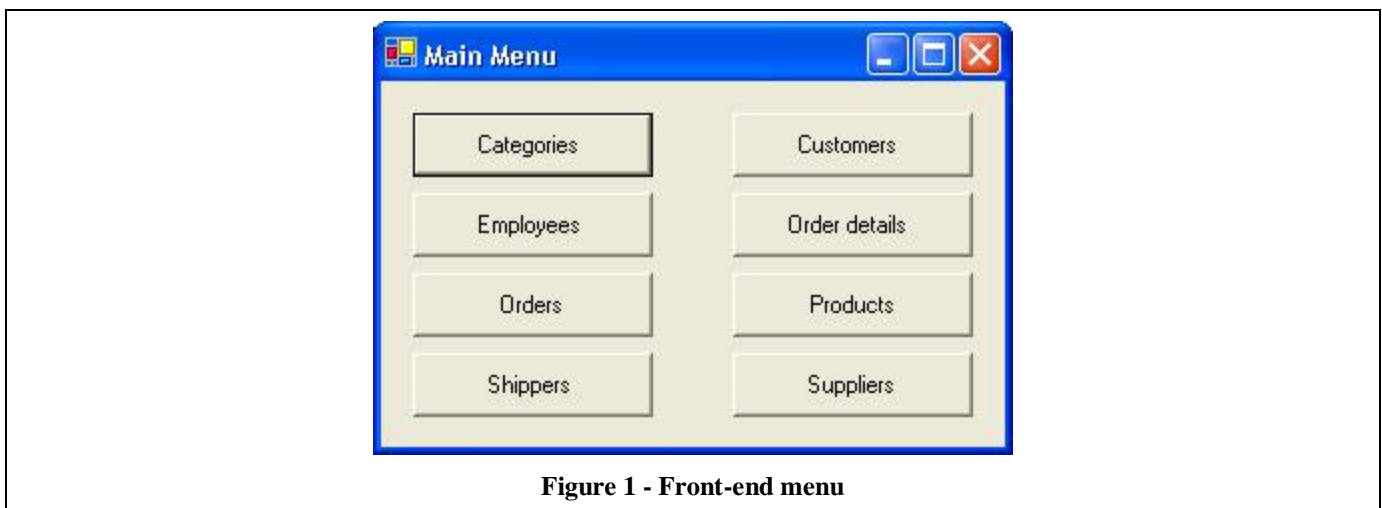
Quickstart Guide

This Guide is designed to help you build your own VB.Net database applications using Westfaro Corporation's VB.Net Scripts as the starting point. If you follow the steps outlined in this guide you will be able to create the equivalent application for your databases very quickly.

A preview

The screen shots (Figures 1 and 2) show a simple front-end menu form and a typical form displayed when one of the menu buttons is clicked.

Note that the script can deal with the pictures stored in the NWind database.



The table maintenance form supports adding, deleting and editing rows. The grid on the left allows you to select the record to be displayed on the right.

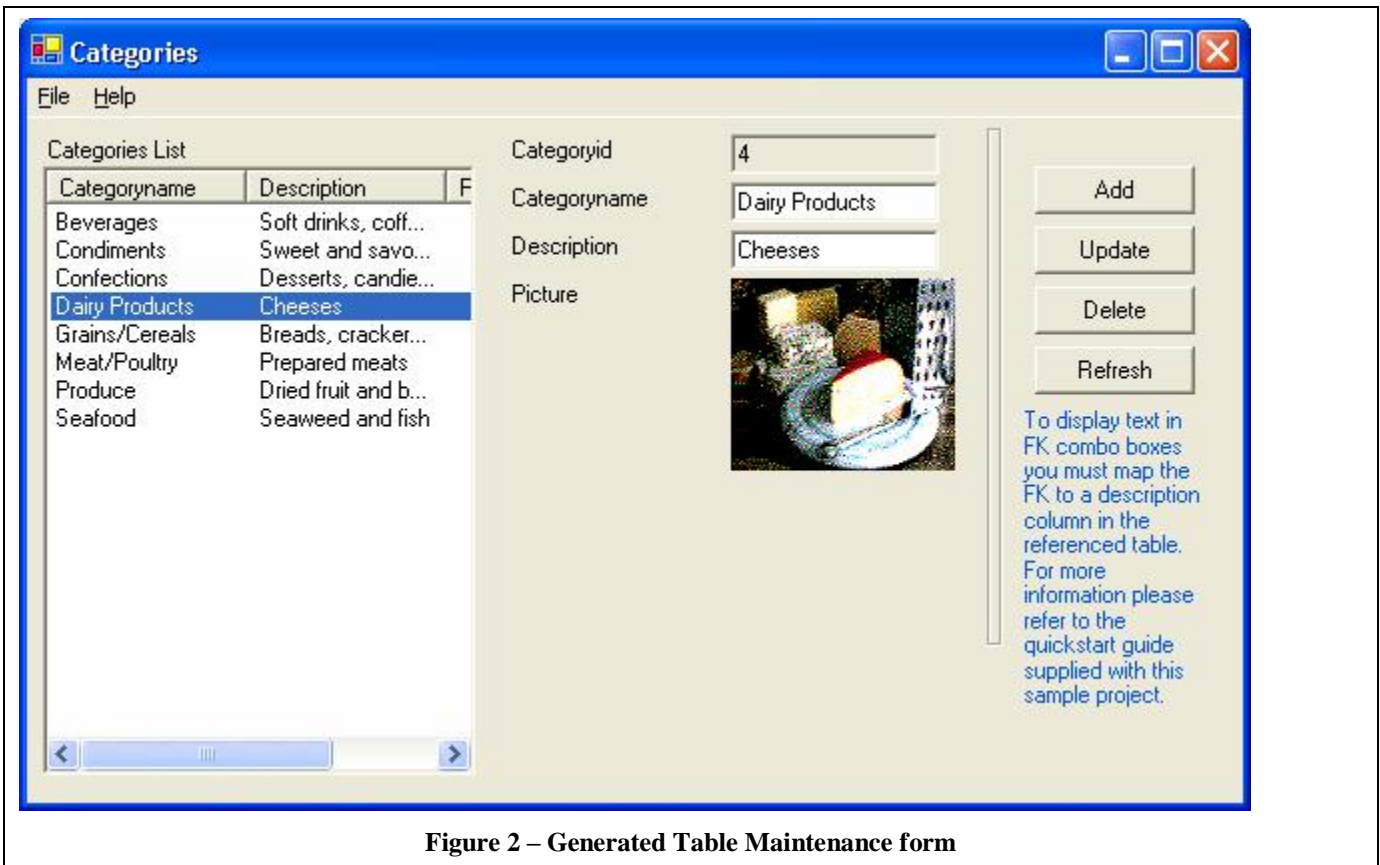


Figure 2 – Generated Table Maintenance form

Creating the application

1. Download the SimpleVBNet01.zip file and extract the scripts (.ksc extension).
2. Extract the Northwind database Nwind.mdb. Note that it should be placed in a folder called "bin".
3. Connect to that Northwind database using Kickstart.
4. Select the Script IncludeAll.ksc
5. Select the same "bin" destination folder as you used for the Northwind database Nwind.mdb
6. Click the Generate button
7. Start VB.NET and open the solution "SimpleVBNet01"

Next steps

The raw generated code could obviously do with some cleaning up. The biggest problem is the way it displays foreign keys (lookups). Since the Database doesn't know which columns in the **Categories** and **Suppliers** tables should be displayed to the user, Kickstart uses the referenced column by default. However, you can use Kickstart to choose which columns should be displayed in a foreign key relationship. For **Categories**, you might choose **Categoryname** or **Description** or both.

Customizing the generated code

Some application generators attempt to generate working applications but they are often difficult to customize. Others generate source code only a computer could like.

The thinking behind Kickstart is different. Lots of database and application code is repetitive. Programmers develop a template that works for one table and then cut and paste that code for the next table. Kickstart automates that grunt work. Write your best code for one table, convert that code into a Kickstart script and you've written the code for every table. When you have a large database with dozens or hundreds of tables, being able to replicate your best database code at the touch of a button is awesome.