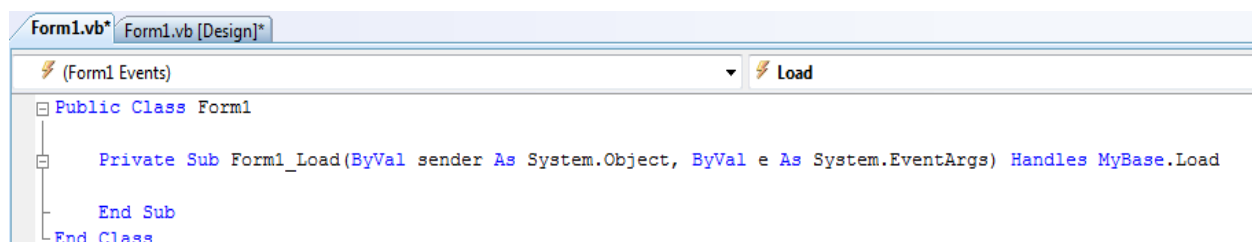


## What is a Form?

In Visual Studio, a form is the primary element or window onto which you can add controls and program code. A single project may contain one or many forms, depending on its complexity and scope.

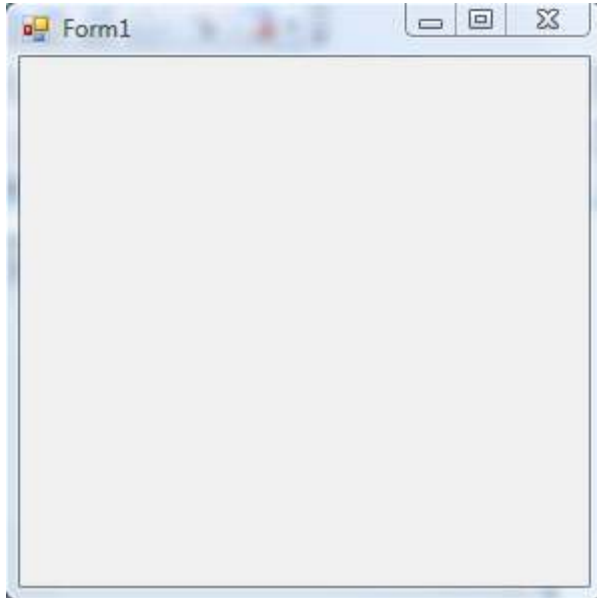
You encounter forms constantly while running applications in windows. Any time you change the background of your desktop through the Properties windows, you're using forms. Even every time you pull up an instant messenger, you're utilizing one or more forms.

Open a new Windows Form project in Visual Studio, and name it whatever you'd like to. Notice that you're beginning with a blank form. But even at its inception, this blank form has some characteristics. Firstly, it has a name, and even if that name is merely Form1, knowing its name allows you to further alter its properties and actions in the Code Explorer. Furthermore, this "blank" form already has its own code and is a fully capable program in its own right. Double click any part of the form to view the Code Explorer, and you'll see the following already there.



```
Form1.vb* Form1.vb [Design]*
(Form1 Events) Load
Public Class Form1
    Private Sub Form1_Load(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load
    End Sub
End Class
```

Press F5 to debug the application. As you can see, it runs—meaning that it is a fully functional program, even if a fully functional program not capable of doing anything yet.



A Project in Visual Studio may contain just one form, or it may contain many. Just think of a Word document, for instance—it contains many forms; some let you change the Font size, some let you alter paragraph spacing, and some allow you to print this document! Forms allow you to create an environment in which a user can access different features, input new information, or even download data.

Congratulations! You've successfully created your first Windows form!

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