

Screen Saver

in Visual Basic¹

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Suppose you want to make a simple “screen saver” showing a fixed number of images. At first, you have to find or draw the images you like, then you have to make a simple “Visual Basic” project; a single form is enough. Your form should have background colour in black, the property Border-style must be set to “0 - None”, the property “WindowState” must be set to “2 – Maximized”, the property “StartPosition” must be set to “2 – CenterScreen”, the property “ScaleMode” must be set to a “3 – Pixel”. In your form, you have to insert a vector of “Image” object, as many items as many images you chose; for each of these object you have to select one of your images in the property “Picture” and you have also to set the property “Visible” to “False”. At last, insert a “Timer” object of which you will set the property “Interval” to the time interval you want each images remains in the screen, for example 5000 milliseconds.

At the fixed interval your program must clear the form (**Form1.Cls**) and must show an image (**Form1.PaintPicture Image1(contatore).Picture ...**). In the attached project I chose to show all images in the centre of the form and always in the same sequence. If you want to show images in random order, simply change the instructions

contatore = contatore + 1

If contatore > Image1.UBound Then contatore = Image1.Lbound

with the following

contatore = Int(Rnd(Timer) * Image1.UBound)

If you want show the images in a variable position and not always in the centre you have to change the computation of the coordinates in the instruction **Form1.PaintPicture Image1(contatore).Picture, dx, dy**.

Mouse pointer was hidden by setting the property “MouseIcon” to “99 – Custom” and selecting from the property “MouseIcon” a transparent icon. At last, remember to save the executable file with the extension “.scr”.

¹ Visual Basic is a trade mark of Microsoft Corporation