Overview (1):
- Before We Begin
  - Some administrative details
  - Some questions to consider
- Data Types and Visual Basic
  - Data type conversion
    - String to data type conversion functions
    - Other data type to String conversion functions
- Positioning Objects on a Form
  - Example

Overview (2):
- "Live Demos" (Time Permitting)
Before We Begin

Administrative Details (1):
- Lab Exercise 3-4
  - This week, you should be working on Ex. 3-4 from your textbook
  - Follow instructions given on the course website
  - Due Monday, January 30 2005 before noon
    - Place in the assignment drop-box located on the 1st floor of the CSE building just by the elevator and CSE undergraduate offices
  - Wednesday's office hours will be held in the Glade lab

Some Questions to Consider (1):
- How do we declare a constant?
- How do we declare a variable?
- What is a variable's scope?
- Is Visual Basic case-sensitive with respect to variable declarations?
- What is a function?
- What is an argument?
Data Types & VB

Data Type Conversion (1):
- Built in VB Conversion Functions
  - Visual Basic functions to convert between data types
  - As an aside—what is a function?
  - A convenient way to encapsulate some computation that can be then used many times over without worrying about its implementation
  - Allows us to ignore how a job is done
  - All we need to know is what is done (outcome)
  - Imagine having to compute some computation many times—you can replicate the code many times or you can write the code once within a function and simply call the function

Data Type Conversion (2):
- Built in VB Conversion Functions (cont.)
  - In general these conversion functions take one or more arguments and produce a single result (called the function return value) of a particular type
  - Argument—when you call and use the function, you may have to supply it zero or more values—the values are known as arguments
  - Function return value—the value of a particular type returned by the function—the value can be used by the caller of the function where appropriate
Data Type Conversion (3):
- Built in VB Conversion Functions (cont.)
  - Arguments may be a single variable or a single value as an argument provided it is of the required type
  - Argument may also be an expression that, when evaluated, will result in a single value
  - Examples → assume a function named "myFunction" that takes one Integer argument
    - myFunction(Command1.Width)
    - myFunction(Command1.Width / 2)
    - myFunction((Command1.Width / 2) + 50)
    - myFunction(795 - Command1.Width * 10)

Data Type Conversion (4):
- Built in VB Conversion Functions (cont.)
  - Many times it is common to convert from a string to some other value
    - Usually, user input will be in the form of a string (e.g., entering data in a textbox) and we therefore must convert to the appropriate type
    - Visual Basic functions that convert a string to any other data type are widely used
    - Let's take a look at these functions...

Data Type Conversion (5):
- Converting Strings to Other Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function Name</th>
<th>Return Type</th>
<th>Argument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBool</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
<td>Any valid string of numeric expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCur</td>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>String with range of Currency values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDbl</td>
<td>Double</td>
<td>String with range of Double values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CInt</td>
<td>Integer</td>
<td>String with range of Integer values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLng</td>
<td>Long Integer</td>
<td>String with range of Long Integer values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSng</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>String with range of Single values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDate</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Any value that can be interpreted as a date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Type Conversion (6):

- **Converting Strings to Other Types (cont.)**
  - The conversion functions take one argument (the string value) and return a single value.
  - The argument can be either a previously defined String variable or entering the String directly.
  - Examples:
    - String to Double → CDbl(TextBox1.Text)
    - String to Double → CDbl("100.11")
    - String to Integer → CInt(TextBox1.Text)
    - String to Integer → CInt("100")

Data Type Conversion (7):

- **Converting Strings to Other Types (cont.)**
  - Of course, in order to be of any use, we must make use of the return type!
  - We can use the return type anywhere that particular type is used.
  - Basically, treat the “function(argument)” as a value and the type of the value is the function return type.
  - Examples:
    - Command1.Top = CInt(TextBox1.Text)
    - Command1.Top = 100 + CInt(TextBox1.Text) / 2
  - When part of an expression, the function is evaluated and its return value will replace the function call.

Data Type Conversion (8):

- **Converting Other Types to Strings**
  - Functions are also available to convert from any other data type to a string.
  - Generally, when Visual Basic performs this conversion for us without explicitly calling a function, the conversion is less ambiguous than going the other way.
  - We should still explicitly call the appropriate conversion functions → failure to use the conversion functions promotes a lack of awareness of data types and leads to bad habits that may eventually lead to errors!
Data Type Conversion (9):

- **Converting Other Types to Strings**
  - The CStr function
  - Takes argument of any type and returns a String representation of the argument
  - Used as any other conversion function!
  - `Textbox1.text = CStr(100.0)`
  - `Textbox1.text = CStr(1000)`
  - `Textbox1.text = CStr(True)`
  - What happens when the argument is also a Sting → `Textbox1.text = CStr("100.0")` ???

Data Type Conversion (10):

- **The Dangers of Not Converting Types**
  - Recall that Visual Basic will attempt to perform conversion of data types but the result may not always be what you expect!
  - Take the "+" operation
    - With numeric values (e.g., Integer, Single) the addition of two such values is also a number
    - But, the "+" operator has a different meaning with strings! → **concatenation**
    - Visual Basic will not attempt to convert two strings that are to be added

Data Type Conversion (11):

- **The Dangers of Not Converting Types (cont.)**
  - Example
    - `100 + 1100 = 1200`
    - "100" + "1100" = 1001100 → Two strings will be concatenated
  - What if one arguments of the "+" operator is a string only?
    - `100 + "1100"` → what will happen here ???
**Data Type Conversion (12):**

- **The Dangers of Not Converting Types (cont.)**
  - Actual example of using the conversion functions → Exercise 3-3 revisited
    
    Interest1.Text = CDbl(Interest.Text) * CDbl(InitialCap.Text)
    Capital1.Text = CDbl(InitialCap.Text) + CDbl(Interest1.Text)

  - Above expressions are relying on Visual Basic to convert to String → in principle, we should have
    
    Interest1.Text = CStr( CDbl(Interest.Text)*CDbl(InitialCap.Text) )
    Capital1.Text = CStr( CDbl(InitialCap.Text) + CDbl(Interest1.Text) )
    
    ... (etc)

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**Positioning Objects on a Form**

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**Object Positions on a Form (1):**

- **Form "Coordinate System"**
  
  Every object we place on a form contains a position relative to the form's coordinate system
Object Positions on a Form (2):
- Form “Coordinate System” (cont.)
  - Measurements (integer numbers) are specified in twips → measurement system from the printing industry
  - One twip → 1/20 of a printer's point or 1/1440 of an inch
  - If a control's width property is 1440 twips, then it is basically 1 inch wide → of course, on the screen it may appear smaller or larger depending on your screen's resolution.

Object Positions on a Form (3):
- Form “Coordinate System” (cont.)
  - Top
    - Integer value representing the position of the top edge of the object relative to top window edge
  - Left
    - Integer value representing the position of the left edge of the object relative to left window edge
  - Object width
    - The width of the object
  - Object height
    - The height of the object

Positioning Objects on a Form (1):
- Centering a Control on a Form
  - We will add a button to a form and eventually place it in the center of the form (horizontally)
Positioning Objects on a Form (2):

- Centering a Control on a Form (cont.)
  - Lets begin by setting the width of our button (which we will call cmdCenter) to half the width of the form
    - cmdCenter.Width = Form1.Width / 2
  - Now let's center the button horizontally on the form
    - cmdCenter.Left = Form1.Width / 2
  - Is this sufficient - will this work? → no! We have to account for the button's own width as well!
    - cmdCenter.Left = (Form1.Width / 2) - (cmdCenter.Width / 2)

Positioning Objects on a Form (3):

- Centering a Control on a Form (cont.)
  - But where do these statements go in our code?
    - How about placing them in the cmdCenter_Click() method? → not a good solution since, the button must be pressed to center the button but what if we resize the window?
    - What about placing the statements in the Form1_Resize() event handler method? → a much better approach!

Positioning Objects on a Form (4):

- Centering a Control on a Form (cont.)
  - Form resize method
    - Automatically called whenever the form itself is resized → makes sense to place the code here since the code will be executed any time the form's size changes!
Positioning Objects on a Form (5):

- Centering a Control on a Form (cont.)
  - Placing the code in the Resize() methods still doesn't ensure the correct placement of the button when the form first appears for the first time
  - Can also place the code in the Load() event handler that gets called when the form is first "loaded" (e.g., just before it first appears on the display)
  - But what about centering the object with respect to the height of the form?
    - Should be the same process?
    - Experiment with this!