

A Clean Compile

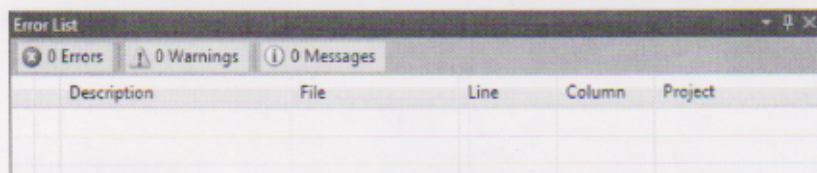
When you start executing your program, the first step is called *compiling*, which means that the VB statements are converted to Microsoft Intermediate Language (MSIL). Your goal is to have no errors during the compile process: a **clean compile**. Figure 1.53 shows the Error List window for a clean compile: 0 Errors; 0 Warnings; 0 Messages.

TIP

If you get the message "There were build errors. Continue?" always say No. If you say Yes, the last cleanly compiled version runs, rather than the current version. ■

Figure 1.53

Zero errors, warnings, and messages means that you have a clean compile.



Naming Rules and Conventions for Objects

Using good consistent names for objects can make a project easier to read and understand, as well as easier to debug. You *must* follow the Visual Basic rules for naming objects, procedures, and variables. In addition, conscientious programmers also follow certain naming conventions.

Most professional programming shops have a set of standards that their programmers must use. Those standards may differ from the ones you find in this book, but the most important point is this: *Good programmers follow standards. You should have a set of standards and always follow them.*

The Naming Rules

When you select a name for an object, Visual Basic requires the name to begin with a letter or an underscore. The name can contain letters, digits, and underscores. An object name cannot include a space or punctuation mark and cannot be a reserved word, such as Button or Close, but can contain one. For example, ExitButton and CloseButton are legal.

The Naming Conventions

This text follows standard naming conventions, which help make projects more understandable. When naming controls, use **Pascal casing**, which means that you begin the name with an uppercase character and capitalize each additional word in the name. Make up a meaningful name and append the full name of the control's class. Do not use an abbreviation unless it is a commonly used term that everyone will understand. All names must be meaningful and indicate the purpose of the object.

Examples

MessageLabel
ExitButton
DataEntryForm
DiscountRateLabel