MapInfo® MapBasic®

**OVERVIEW**

MapBasic is a robust, structured, BASIC-like language enabling both the novice and experienced programmer to create powerful new desktop mapping applications. Whether creating applications for resale or designing applications for use within your own organization, MapBasic will prove an indispensable tool.

**BUILD CUSTOM USER INTERFACES**

As desktop mapping applications become more widespread in organizations, the need to build custom applications becomes greater. Custom programs deliver powerful features in an easy-to-use package as the power of desktop mapping can be focused on the particular task. MapBasic can customize menus, tool bars, and dialogues to make turnkey solutions and solve specific business tasks.

**INTEGRATE MAPINFO PROFESSIONAL**

Desktop mapping is most useful when integrated with other business tools. MapBasic supports the ODBC database connectivity standard for connecting to databases. It supports OLE automation and DDE so you can easily communicate with other applications. For example, using Integrated Mapping techniques, you can integrate a map window into your Visual Basic application with only five lines of code.

**EXTEND THE FUNCTIONALITY OF MAPINFO PROFESSIONAL**

Unlike a scripting language, MapBasic is a procedural, event-driven, compilable programming language built around MapInfo Professional. The architecture allows you to create additional features such as adding a sophisticated model for planning cellular antenna locations. MapBasic has powerful built-in geographic statements and functions. A subset of the full ANSI structured query language (SQL) set is built-in so you can use industry-standard commands to manipulate data.

**EASY TO LEARN**

Built on BASIC, MapBasic has familiar functions and statements. See MapBasic

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commands being generated as you use MapInfo Professional’s menus—or try out your own commands. This allows you to easily learn MapBasic commands and even cut and paste them into your application.

**Development Environment**

MapBasic is a compiled language so programs you create are run inside MapInfo Professional or special MapInfo runtimes.

The development environment provides a text editor used to write programs or, if you prefer, you can use any other editor. MapBasic has facilities to handle significant programming efforts. It supports project files allowing you to compile and link separate modules.

**Statements and Functions**

The MapBasic language contains over 300 statements and functions including:

- **Flow control** - Looping, branching sub-procedures, user-defined functions, event handlers, error handling.
- **Connectivity** - Call routines from DLLs. Communicate with other applications using DDE. Control MapInfo Professional using DDE or OLE Automation. Access remote data sources through ODBC.
- **User Interface** - Create new menu bars, menus or menu items, remove items from existing menus. Create or modify buttons on tool bars. Create custom dialogue boxes with text boxes, drop down lists, buttons, check-boxes, radio buttons, style pickers, select boxes. Show or hide standard windows, control events on selection, map window changes, window closure, window focus change, button push, or application termination.
- **Variables** - Local, global, numeric, string, logical, dates, and object variable types: arrays and custom data structures.
- **Table and File Manipulation** - Use Excel, Lotus® 1-2-3®, xBASE and ASCII files directly. Built-in SQL commands to query, sort, aggregate, join, and create derived data. (Supports select statements with FROM, WHERE, ORDER BY, GROUP BY clauses with sub-selects). Supports equi-joins and geographic joins. Commit changes, roll-back changes. Connect to data via ODBC. Open, close, read, write to ASCII and binary files.
- **Functions** - String, data conversion, math, date, time, and geographic functions.
- **Geographic object manipulation** - Create points, lines, polylines, text, polygons, buffers, etc. Edit and manipulate objects including reshape, object conversions, split, combine, erase. Calculate area, perimeter, length, centroid, area overlap. Modify object styles. Display maps from multiple layers, control display settings, create thematic maps. Find and geocode objects. Supports multiple coordinate systems.

**Version Compatibility**

Newer versions of MapInfo Professional can run applications created with older versions of MapBasic, however, new features in MapInfo Professional can only be accessed with a matching version of MapBasic.

**System Requirements**

MapBasic requires MapInfo Professional and is available for Windows® 95/98 and Windows NT® 4.0.

**For More Information**

Call 1.800.327.8627 or visit us at www.mapinfo.com.

As we look to improve our products, and better serve you, our web site contains the most current information available on this product. Please refer to www.mapinfo.com for the latest updates and features.