

# Infinite Data Forms

by Clark Anderson

Almost all of the programs I have ever written used Data Entry Forms for adding and modifying data. Most of these programs save their data in a database. Sometimes this list of data is so long it cannot fit on the form. The solution is an infinite scrolling form. I am not sure where the original idea came from.

The Scrolling Form is created by placing a SSPanel (a ThreeD OLE Custom Control from Sheridan Software Systems) on the form. I named it SSPanel1. Then I placed another, SSPanel2, on top of that. On top of SSPanel2 I placed a PictureBox, named PixForm. SSPanel2 is the Container of PixForm. PixForm is the container for the TextBox controls placed on it for data entry. A VScrollBar, VScroll1, is placed on the form next to SSPanel1. VScroll1 is used to slide the scrolling form up and down.

The TextBox controls are Indexed as control arrays, e.g.: txtField0(0) and txtField1(0). This way they can be loaded onto the PixForm in rows from the top of PixForm down toward the bottom.

To achieve the infinite scrolling form, the PixForm PictureBox control is Indexed as control a array, e.g.: PixForm(0). Any PixForm height must be under 32767. When the height of PixForm(0) approaches that limit, PixForm(1) is loaded to follow PixForm(0), Etc..

I use my Gastro program, with its infinite scrolling form, every day.

My SurvyMgr program uses a variety of controls (e.g.: TextBox, ComboBox, CheckBox) on its infinite scrolling form.

Developing the VB6 code to reliably support this took several years off and on.