

# eAnswers

All Your Tech Problems Solved

## Apple's Leopard is Light As Air

Apple has excelled itself yet again with the latest range of stylish machines and notebooks running Mac OS X Leopard. Pictured to the far right is the new iMac. Entry level versions of this start at £799, but for that you get the assurance of a reliable and powerful machine running the hugely intuitive Mac OS X Leopard—but what really gets to people is one question, “Where’s the case?”, to which Mac fans (such as myself) can

take great joy in pointing and saying, “It’s in the monitor”, which always gets a jaw-dropping response. The first



iMacs had huge monitors because of this, but the iMac is ridiculously thin, and comes in 20” and 24” size—and you really do get great value for money.

In terms of notebooks, the Macbook Air (pictured left) is ridiculously powerful, but also ridiculously thin and light—but at the same time manages to be sturdy—there’s yet to be a case of one snapping in half!

Considering the latest successes of the iPod and iPhone (and the gradual loss of DRM content from the iTunes music store), these latest machines show Apple’s still ripe—and not a trace of worms in site...!



*The iMac is hugely space saving—there’s no base unit as it’s all in the monitor. It makes a stylish addition to any home or office*

## Workshop 2 - Ridiculously Easy Programming

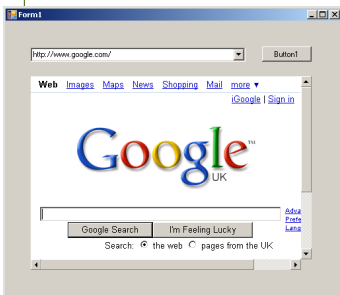
Ever wanted to code your own working app? Want to do it in just five minutes? Well, this is the workshop for you on VB.NET, one of the easiest languages to learn. I’ll show you how to make a web browser in VB.NET using RAD (Rapid Application Development). First, open

Visual Studio (2005+) and choose the VB.NET environment. Start a new project, then choose to create a new Windows application, and you’ll see a gray box appear. This is what we’ll work on! Enlarge this box (to about twice the size). On the left (you may need to move your mouse over to show it) there should be a pane. Add a ‘ComboBox’, ‘Button’ and ‘Browser Control’. The image to the left shows how you should lay it out. Now, double-click on your Button and enter the following code:

```
Browser1.Navigate  
(ComboBox1.Text)
```

That would all be on one line between a ‘Private Sub’ and ‘End Sub’ clause. Save your work then press the ‘play’ icon at the top. Now type ‘http://www.google.com/’ into your ComboBox, press your button and watch it navigate!

There are plenty of improvements you can make but in short, you’ve made your first working app! We’ll enhance your app in future workshops, so watch this space!



## GET INVOLVED!

*Do you have a tech problem that needs solving? Do you have any suggestions for future workshops or articles?*

**EMAIL BOB MOSS  
ON THE COLLEGE  
NETWORK**

## GET INTERACTIVE!

Why not visit Bob’s Tech site?

[www.bjm1904.741.com](http://www.bjm1904.741.com)

## Ultimate Vista FAQs Answered!

Vista is strange and mysterious beast, but it’s not untamable! I hope my answers help you make Vista helpful...

### “Why Won’t Vista Work on My PC?”

This is a question I get almost continuously. There is usually one answer: **HARDWARE**. Vista demands a lot of horsepower, and most manufacturers bundle Vista with low end systems. I wouldn’t recommend going for Vista unless you’re getting Home Premium+, have 2GB RAM and 256MB Graphics .

### “Can I Use ReadyBoost?”

ReadyBoost grabs memory from a flash drive (a compatible USB will do this—and your files are unaffected) and uses it as a cache to boost performance. This only really has an effect on PCs with less than 1GB of RAM. After that, I’d recommend an upgrade.

### “What is SuperFetch?”

It’s something that Vista does at startup (notice how your Vista startup will gradually get slower) so your apps launch a few seconds earlier. It’s a good idea, but you’ll probably want to strike a balance between

quick quick

startup and app-launch. It is possible to disable SuperFetch and ReadyBoost, and I’ll cover this in future columns.

### “Why Does My Desktop Go Dark & Ask Me if I Want to do Things?”

That’s the secure desktop and a UAC prompt. This is Vista’s way of keeping everyone a standard user for security purposes. It’s a good idea and gives responsibility to the user, but it’s still annoying, especially on a slow machine. Again, you can disable UAC prompts, but this requires a registry hack—so it’s not for the squeamish...

